

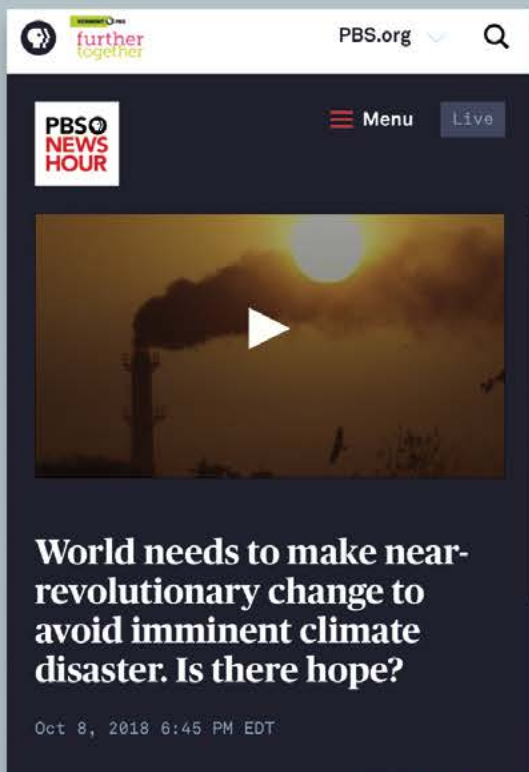
Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network and  
University of Vermont Extension present

Saturday, December 1, 2018  
Fairlee, Vermont

# Mobilizing Leadership to Make Bold Progress

11th Annual

## Community Energy & Climate Action Conference



#ActOnClimateVT





**Vermont Energy & Climate Action Network**, VECAN, is a network of organizations working to help start, support and strengthen town energy and climate action committees and their efforts to advance a sustainable, clean energy future. VECAN is coordinated by the Vermont Natural Resources Council, in collaboration with Efficiency Vermont, Energy Action Network, New England Grassroots Environment Fund, Net Zero Vermont and Vital Communities. **VECAN.NET**

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## CONFERENCE HOSTS

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**Vermont Natural Resources Council** has been the Green Mountain State's leading environmental education, policy and advocacy organization since 1963. Working from the grassroots to the legislature, VNRC advances policies and programs that Vermonters care about — vibrant, walkable communities, clean and abundant water, working farms and forests, and an efficient, clean, renewable energy future. VNRC serves as the coordinator for VECAN.



**Efficiency Vermont** is Vermont's statewide efficiency utility, helping Vermonters reduce energy costs, strengthen local economies and protect the environment by making homes and businesses energy efficient. EVT provides technical assistance, rebates and other financial incentives to help Vermont households and businesses reduce their energy costs. The Vermont Energy Investment Corporation operates EVT.



**Energy Action Network** is a diverse group of energy stakeholders working to end Vermont's reliance on fossil fuels and create clean, affordable and secure electric heating and transportation systems for the 21st century.



**New England Grassroots Environment Fund** inspires, connects and supports local change from the ground up. To date, New England Grassroots Environment Fund has provided seed grants and helpful resources to over 1,600 community groups in more than 50 percent of New England's cities and towns.



**University of Vermont Extension's** mission is to improve the quality of life of Vermonters by providing research-based educational programs and practical information concerning Vermont communities, families and homes, farms, businesses and the natural environment. Located throughout the state, UVM Extension links Vermonters to the University of Vermont, providing timely, research-based information and education to individuals and families, supporting agriculture and the environment and strengthening communities.



**Vital Communities** brings together citizens, organizations and municipalities in the Upper Connecticut River Valley of Vermont and New Hampshire to take on issues where an independent voice and regional approach are essential. Working together, Vital Communities makes the Upper Valley region a better place to live, work and play.



**Net Zero Vermont** is dedicated to advancing sustainable, vibrant people-centered downtowns, transforming our transportation and energy systems to low carbon alternatives and raising public awareness about the importance of moving to a post-carbon future.

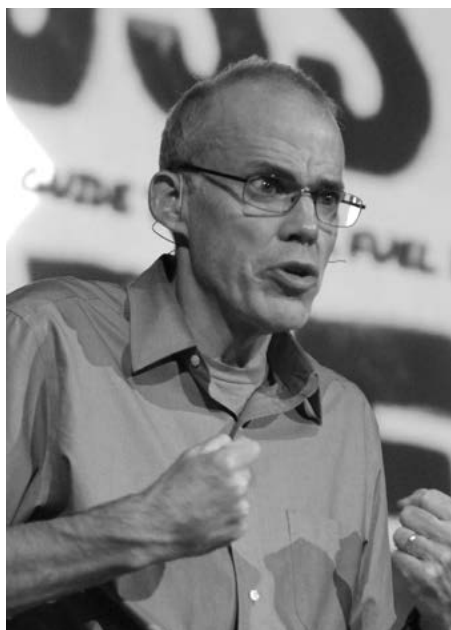
# Conference Agenda

8:00 – 9:00 AM	<b>Registration</b> Join our sponsors and exhibitors in the Morey Lounge for coffee and light refreshments.
9:00 – 10:45 AM	<b>Welcome</b> (Terrace Ballroom)  <b>Setting the Frame: Where We Are, Where We Need to Go...</b> <b>Opening Keynote with Bill McKibben: <i>A Global Crisis: A State and Local Fight</i></b> Where Does Vermont Stand on Its Climate and Clean Energy Goals? <i>Presentation by Energy Action Network</i> Focus and Discuss: Where are the High Impact Opportunities?
10:45 – 11:00 AM	<b>Break</b>
11:00 AM – 12:15 PM	<b>Concurrent Workshop Session A</b> <i>The 2019 Legislative Look Forward</i> <i>Energy Committee Boot Camp</i> <i>Municipal Solar: Opportunities and Challenges</i> <i>Land Use, Transportation and Housing for Low Carbon Communities</i> <i>Harnessing the Power of Digital Tools to Advance Climate and Energy Goals</i> <i>Fuel Switching! Moving to Advanced Wood Heat and Heat Pumps</i> <i>Energy Burden: What It Is, How It's Felt and What You Can Do to Help</i>
12:15 – 1:45 PM	<b>Lunch</b> (Dining Room) *** <b>Browse Sponsor Exhibits</b> (Morey Lounge)
1:45 – 3:00 PM	<b>Concurrent Workshop Session B</b> <i>Ramping Up Weatherization: A Cost, Climate, Comfort Solution</i> <i>Beneficial Electrification: A Key Decarbonization Strategy</i> <i>Economy Wide Solutions to Spur Vermont's Energy Transformation</i> <i>Communicating Beyond the Choir: Persuading Policy Makers &amp; More People to Act</i> <i>Making Solar Accessible to Vermonters with Low Incomes</i> <i>Transportation Efficiency &amp; Electrification: New Tools, Programs and Funds</i> <i>Finding the Funds: Financing Community Energy Improvements</i>
3:00 – 3:15 PM	<b>Break</b>
3:15 – 4:30 PM	<b>Keynote Address</b> (Terrace Ballroom) <b>Michael Shank: <i>From Apathy to Action: Motivating the Masses on Climate</i></b>
4:30 – 5:30 PM	<b>Post Conference Reception</b> Keep the networking going and celebrate a solid day of climate action work! Gather in the Steamboat Lounge for light hors d'oeuvres and cash bar.

## Keynotes

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### MORNING KEYNOTE: 9:00 AM



#### Bill McKibben

#### ***A Global Crisis: A State and Local Fight***

**B**ill McKibben is an author and environmentalist who in 2014 was awarded the Right Livelihood Prize, sometimes called the ‘alternative Nobel.’ In 1989, Bill wrote *The End of Nature* – regarded as the first book for a general audience about climate change – and he is the author of over a dozen more books. He is a founder of 350.org, the first planet-wide, grassroots climate change movement – incubated in Vermont – which has organized 20,000 rallies around the world in every country save North Korea, spearheaded the resistance to the Keystone Pipeline, and launched the fast-growing fossil fuel divestment movement. Bill, also a Schumann Distinguished Scholar in Environmental Studies at Middlebury College, was named by *Foreign Policy* to their inaugural list of the world’s 100 most important global thinkers, and the *Boston Globe* has said he is “probably America’s most important environmentalist.”

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### AFTERNOON KEYNOTE: 3:15 PM



#### Michael Shank

#### ***From Apathy to Action: Motivating the Masses on Climate***

**M**ichael Shank, Ph.D., is the Communications Director for the Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance, a group of international cities committed to achieving aggressive long-term carbon reduction goals, and the Urban Sustainability Directors Network, a peer-to-peer network of local government professionals from cities across the US and Canada dedicated to creating a healthier environment, economic prosperity, and increased social equity. His professional career includes leading press shops at the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Climate Nexus and far beyond. Michael’s work to successfully engage some of the biggest cities across the nation to make clean energy and climate action a priority is a great example of what’s possible.



## Workshop Session A

11:00 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.



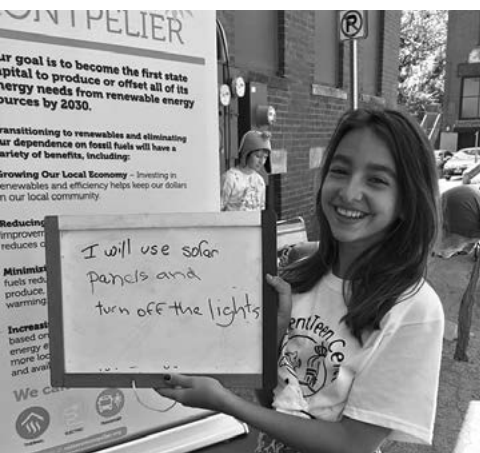
### A1 The 2019 Legislative Look Forward

Now, more than ever, strong state policy is required to do our part to mitigate against a warming world and ensure Vermonters can access more affordable, efficient, and renewable technologies for all their energy needs. This workshop will provide an overview of likely policies in play in the 2019 legislative session, including a platform shared by low-income, business, faith, public health and environmental advocates. Expanding weatherization. Deploying more electric cars and buses. Expanding renewable opportunities. Examining and advancing pollution pricing that works for Vermont. Get the scoop and find out what's needed to make much-needed progress this year.

*Senator Becca Balint*

*Senator Christopher Bray*

*Lauren Hierl, Vermont Conservation Voters*



### A2 Energy Committee Boot Camp

Join veteran energy committee and grassroots leaders for a peer-to-peer discussion on the tips, tools, and best practices that will help any local group — advanced or new! — hit the ground running in 2019. Hear about successful day-to-day organizing approaches, low cost technology tools, strategies for setting priorities and much more — all in the name of dramatically expanding the efficiency, renewable, transportation, and energy innovation outcomes in your community.

*Kate Stephenson, Montpelier Energy Advisory Committee*

*Sarah Brock, Vital Communities*

*Ashley Strobbridge, Vermont Energy & Climate Action Network*



### A3 Municipal Solar: Opportunities and Challenges

Municipal solar energy is an important cost- and carbon-saving option for many municipalities. This workshop will cover the current state policy framework and lay-of-the-land for municipal solar in Vermont, including an update on the state's net metering rule and the state's preferred siting criteria. Hear how communities have — and can — structure municipal solar projects that save money and reduce climate pollution. And, get an in-depth overview of how and why one Vermont town made a significant commitment to generating its power from the sun.

*Olivia Campbell Andersen, Renewable Energy Vermont*

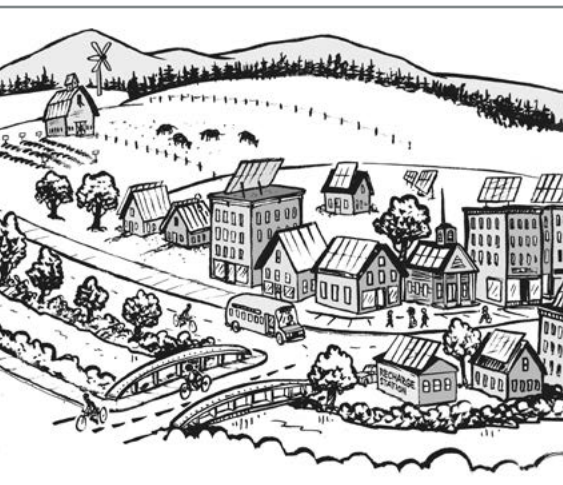
*Chad Farrell, Encore Renewable Energy*

*Geoff Urbanik, Town of Colchester*

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## Workshop Session A

11:00 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.



### A4 Land Use, Transportation, and Housing for Low Carbon Communities

Smart growth approaches to land use are a cornerstone to decarbonizing our communities. At the center of climate friendly communities is the integration of good land use policies, the creation of transportation choices, the consideration of location efficiency and, importantly, housing, including affordable housing. This workshop will focus on these important solutions and policies communities can and should put in place to help accelerate the transition to vibrant zero net energy communities.

*Kate McCarthy, Vermont Natural Resources Council*

*Deb Sachs, EcoStrategies*

*Eileen Peltier, Downstreet Housing*

### A5 Harnessing the Power of Digital Tools to Advance Climate and Energy Goals

Learn why – and how – to effectively use digital tools to attract new people to the cause. This training will overview the latest techniques for engaging and mobilizing Vermonters using social media tools like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and video. Learn how we can amplify our collective impact by coordinating efforts under the #ActonClimateVT umbrella and through a weekly “Climate Dispatch.” And get an overview of a powerful new data-tracking tool on the Vermont Energy Dashboard that will give communities a sense of how they stack up in terms of transforming the electric, thermal and transportation sectors.

*Bob Farnham, Bob the Green Guy*

*Rob Fish, Energy Action Network*

*Ian Hitchcock, Vermont Natural Resources Council*

### A6 Fuel Switching! Moving to Advanced Wood Heat and Heat Pumps

Even in cold Vermont, we no longer have to be reliant on fossil fuels to heat our homes. We have the technology at our fingertips today to make different choices. Electric and wood heat in particular can be great options for Vermonters, as they get more efficient and affordable every year. Learn about how and why these options work and how you can help your community members make the switch. Also, hear about the policies and programs already in place – or needed – to help far more Vermonters make this beneficial cost-saving, climate action investment.

*Adam Sherman, Biomass Energy Resource Center*

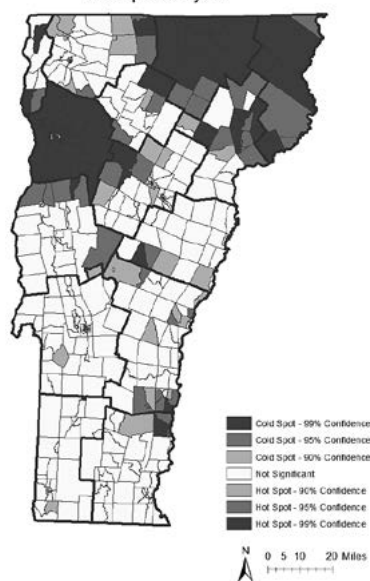
*Val Stori, Clean Energy States Alliance*

*Sarah Wolfe, Energy Action Network*

## Workshop Session A

11:00 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.

Total Energy Burden (% Median Income)  
Hot Spot Analysis



### A7 Energy Burden: What It Is, How It's Felt, and What You Can Do to Help

What is energy burden? We will explore how energy burden is felt by all Vermonters, particularly the disproportionate energy costs that saddle Vermonters earning lower incomes. What resources are available to alleviate some of the stress associated with energy costs? Attendees will leave with a better understanding of the process to apply for energy assistance programs, including supplemental fuel, crisis fuel, electricity, and weatherization assistance.

*Paige Heverly, Vital Communities*

*Angela Zhang, LISTEN Community Services*

## Workshop Session B

1:45 – 3:00 P.M.



### B1 Ramping Up Weatherization: A Cost, Climate, Comfort Solution

Vermont is struggling to meet its statutory weatherization goals. The result? Many Vermonters are wasting money, burning a lot of fossil fuels and suffering uncomfortably in leaky homes. This workshop will provide an update on the status of weatherization efforts in Vermont and identify current gaps and barriers in our efforts to expand services, especially to the most vulnerable Vermonters. It will also explore innovative efforts, including creative new offerings from key partners, and highlight what policies are needed — and what you can do to help — to dramatically increase Vermont's commitment to weatherization.

*Sarah Brock, Vital Communities*

*Kelly Lucci, Efficiency Vermont*

*Paul Zabriskie, Capstone Community Action*

*Continued on next page*

## Workshop Session B

1:45 – 3:00 P.M.



**90%**  
**RENEWABLE BY**  
**2050**



### **B2 Beneficial Electrification: A Key Decarbonization Strategy**

Beneficial electrification (or strategic electrification) is a term for replacing direct fossil fuel use with clean electricity in a way that reduces overall emissions and energy costs, such as conversion to electric vehicles and heat pumps. This workshop will look at the state's aggressive total energy goals and Vermont's progress toward meeting them. It will also explore the long-term implications of electrification, and the key role of efficiency, distributed renewable energy and energy storage for achieving beneficial electrification. Also, hear how one Vermonter has made the whole-lifestyle transition to 100% renewable energy for meeting their total energy needs.

*Jeff Monder, Green Mountain Power*

*Anne Margolis, Vermont Public Service Department*

*Jock Gill, Peacham Energy Committee, low-carbon lifestyle homeowner*

### **B3 Economy Wide Solutions to Spur Vermont's Energy Transformation**

There are several different — and desperately needed — ways to transform Vermont's economy away from dirty, imported fossil fuels. In this workshop, get an in-depth overview of some of the different and successful approaches to carbon pricing — from cap and trade to carbon pollution taxation. Experts will outline how different pricing approaches are working well in jurisdictions across the world, including in neighboring Quebec, where a successful cap and invest program is helping to grow their economy and reduce carbon pollution — and why and how to make a strong policy work for all Vermonters.

*Jon Erickson, UVM Gund Institute*

*Johanna Miller, Vermont Natural Resources Council*

*Michael Pizziferri, Québec Government in Boston*

*Ben Walsh, VPIRG*

### **B4 Communicating Beyond the Choir: Persuading Policy Makers and More People to Act**

Want to learn to make the choir sing but also dramatically expand the chorus on climate action? Want tested tips and strategies on how to make this happen? This workshop offers a unique opportunity to get an in-depth training from a leading national communications expert about what works to inspire far more people — especially those who hold the purse strings — to invest in clean energy and act on climate. Find out what has worked to motivate municipal officials across the nation to take dramatic action — and what you and your community can do to catalyze that kind of leadership.

*Michael Shank, Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance/  
Urban Sustainability Directors Network*



## Workshop Session B

1:45 – 3:00 P.M.



### **B5** Making Solar Accessible to Vermonters with Low Incomes

Solar energy is — and increasingly must be — a powerful tool in the fight against energy poverty. In October 2018, the Southeast Vermont Community Action Agency commissioned a community solar project that will serve Vermonters who often cannot afford to access power from the sun. In partnership with Minnesota-based RREAL, this “Community Solar for Community Action” model employs the use of community solar subscriptions to provide long-term, low-carbon energy assistance to Vermonters with lower incomes. Come learn about this innovative program and how this model, or other innovative approaches, might be expanded in Vermont.

*Jason Edens, Rural Renewable Energy Alliance (RREAL)*

*Steve Geller, Southeast Vermont Community Action*



### **B6** Transportation Efficiency & Electrification: New Tools, Programs and Funds

There is much buzz about leveraging the state’s VW settlement funds to expand electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure and buses. Paired together with Go! Vermont’s new incentive based online tools designed to increase transportation efficiency, communities can become far more sustainable and accessible to all. Learn how to support and expand transportation choices — from deploying more EV cars and buses to tapping into new tools, including an online, incentive-based carpool matching program.

*Dave Roberts, Drive Electric Vermont*

*Ross MacDonald, Go! Vermont*



### **B7** Finding the Funds: Financing Community Energy Improvements

Finding the dollars to make projects happen can often be a barrier to improving energy use and investing in renewable energy solutions. This workshop will provide an overview of current financing and funding options, including highlighting a great new resource communities and Vermonters can access to explore those options. It will also overview an innovative effort happening in Montpelier that puts the savings from energy efficiency and renewable projects into funds to pay for future investments.

*Richard Faesy, Energy Futures Group*

*Mike Davey, Energy Efficient Investments*

*Kate Stephenson, Montpelier Energy Advisory Committee*

## Presenters

**Becca Balint** represents Windham County in the Vermont Senate, where she serves on many committees – including Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs – as well as the Senate’s Majority Leader. Becca received her BA from Smith College, a Masters in Education from Harvard and a Masters in History from UMass Amherst. Becca has spent much of her career teaching in public and private schools in New England, as well as at the Community College of Vermont. Becca has also served on many municipal boards, often focused on economic and workforce development, and currently writes a popular weekly op-ed column in the *Brattleboro Reformer*. She lives with her wife, attorney Elizabeth Wohl and their two children in Brattleboro.

**Christopher Bray** represents Addison County, Huntington, and Buel’s Gore in the Vermont Senate, where he serves as Chair of the Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee. He has led the Senate’s work on Act 174 (Energy Siting), Act 56 (Renewable Energy Standard), and Act 64 (Clean Water Act), amongst other bills. Earlier, as a member of the House Agriculture Committee, he was lead sponsor of Vermont’s Farm to Plate Program and the Biomass Energy Development Working Group. Chris is also a former UVM trustee, chair of the College of Agriculture Board, chair of the Middlebury Area Land Trust and a director of the United Way of Addison County Board. Chris runs a publishing company, and his family operates an 82-acre farm in New Haven.

**Sarah Brock** manages the Energy Program at Vital Communities, a nonprofit organization based in White River Junction, Vermont, serving the entire Upper Valley region. Sarah led the development and successful launch of Solarize Upper Valley and Weatherize Upper Valley, partnering with over 30 towns and 18 contractors to help over 570 residents go solar or weatherize their homes. Prior to joining Vital Communities in 2013, Sarah was a fellow with the High Meadows Fund at the Vermont Community Foundation. Sarah lives in Warner, NH.

**Olivia Campbell Andersen** serves as Executive Director of Renewable Energy Vermont, the state’s non-profit clean energy trades, advocacy and education organization. Prior to that, Olivia served as Assistant Chief of Staff to Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley, advising the Governor on environmental, sustainability, energy, budget and transportation issues, as well as six years at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Olivia also worked for Congressman Steny H. Hoyer during his time as Majority Leader and for the National Wildlife Federation, working to reduce mercury and carbon pol-

lution. Olivia holds degrees from Vermont Law School and Gettysburg College. Olivia explores rivers and forests, bikes rail trails and digs in the garden with her daughter and husband in their latest homebase in Montpelier.

**Mike Davey** is the Business Development Manager for Energy Efficient Investments (EEI). EEI is a midsized performance contractor that focuses on energy efficient and renewable solutions. The EEI team has recently completed comprehensive performance contracts for Bennington School District, BROOC, and Addison Northwest School District. Mike has been in the energy efficiency and construction industry for more than 15 years. He holds a bachelors degree from Wentworth Institute of Technology and a masters from University of Massachusetts Lowell.

**Jared Duval** is the Executive Director of the Energy Action Network (EAN). Jared is vice chair of the Montpelier Energy Advisory Committee, co-chair of the Clean Energy Development Fund, and is a board member of both the Orton Family Foundation and the Public Assets Institute. Before moving back to Vermont, Jared was an author and fellow with Demos, the New York based think tank. Jared holds degrees from Princeton University (Master in Public Affairs – Domestic Policy), University of Cambridge (MPhil, Modern Society and Global Transformation), and Wheaton College (Bachelor of Arts, Summa Cum Laude – Economics and Political Science). A ninth-generation Vermonter, Jared lives in Montpelier with his wife, the Reverend Joan Javier-Duval and their son, Liam.

**Jason Edens** is the founder and Executive Director of the Renewable Energy Alliance (RREAL), a national non-profit organization dedicated to fighting energy poverty with solar power. Founded in 2000, RREAL has served nearly 1000 low-income families with solar energy and is integrating low-income community solar into the federal energy assistance service delivery model. Jason has a Master’s of Science in Environmental Policy and is a licensed building contractor. Jason currently lives in a solar powered home in northern Minnesota with his wife and a small pack of dogs.

**Jon Erickson** is the David Blittersdorf Professor of Sustainability Science & Policy at UVM’s Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources. Before that, Jon was the Interim Dean from 2012-2014 and the Managing Director of UVM’s Gund Institute for Ecological Economics from 2009-2012. Jon has published widely on energy & climate change policy, land conservation, watershed planning, environmental public

health, and the theory and practice of ecological economics. His books include *Frontiers in Ecological Economic Theory and Application* and *Ecological Economics: A Workbook for Problem-Based Learning*. Jon is also an Emmy award-winning producer of films, including the recent *Waking the Sleeping Giant: The Making of a Political Revolution*.

**Richard Faesy** is a principal and co-founder of Energy Futures Group in Hinesburg, Vermont. As a Certified Energy Rater, LEED Accredited Professional, and DOE Home Energy Score Assessor, he specializes in residential buildings, technologies and markets, with expertise in residential new construction and retrofits, energy rating and labeling, building codes, financing, green building, the integration of renewables and energy efficiency, and effective energy efficiency policy, program design and implementation. He currently works with clients throughout the U.S. and Canada.

“**Bob Farnham** is the digital ages’ equivalent of a charismatic itinerant preacher blended with Johnny Appleseed. Bob effectively uses his considerable skill for leveraging the power of digital media to ‘spread the word’ and his timeless dedication to ‘showing up’ at any event or gathering where there might be the opportunity to gently bend someone’s ear about the value of clean renewable energy. Through his own effort, he has become knowledgeable in all the latest green technologies and he can talk about them in plain compelling language that wins over even the most skeptical. Bob is fearless in talking to anyone and absolutely committed to doing everything he can to promote the widespread adoption of conservation, energy efficiency, sustainability and ending our reliance on fossil fuels.” – Andrea Stander

**Chad Farrell** is the founder and CEO of Encore Renewable Energy, a leading integrated clean energy project development company focusing on commercial-scale solar PV systems and 21st century solutions for underutilized property. Chad is a member of the Board of Directors for Renewable Energy Vermont, Vermont’s renewable energy trade organization and serves on the Board of Directors for the Vermont Natural Resources Council, a statewide environmental advocacy organization. Mr. Farrell is also a member of the Vermont Climate Economy Action Team.

**Rob Fish** is the Dashboard Manager for Energy Action Network. In this role, he manages Vermont’s one-stop-shop for energy information and resources: the Vermont Community Energy Dashboard. Rob has a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Vermont. He previously worked for the Vermont Council on Rural Development’s Digital Economy Project training non-

profits on the effective use of new online technology and he co-founded the nonprofit Food for Maine’s Future. Rob has been involved in community outreach and organizing in varying capacities for almost 20 years.

**Steve Geller** has been the Executive Director of Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) – the anti-poverty agency serving Windham and Windsor counties in Vermont – since October 2004. He currently serves as the President of the Vermont Community Action Partnership and the state association of Community Action Agencies. SEVCA operates low-income Weatherization Assistance Programs and other energy efficiency initiatives. SEVCA also recently completed Phase 1 of the installation of its “Community Solar for Community Action” project in partnership with the Rural Renewable Energy Alliance (RREAL) to provide no-cost electricity to vulnerable low-income residents with high energy cost burdens.

**Jock Gill** has been working in the biofiber and solar energy sectors since 2005 to promote economic development, a healthy environment and energy independence. He is also working on carbon negative solutions. Before committing himself to the renewable energy movement, Jock was a consultant whose work focused on new media communications, marketing, and strategic planning. In 1993, Jock took a break from consulting to join the Clinton Administration as the Director of Special Projects in the Office of Media Affairs at the White House. Jock is married to Johanna Branson and together they have three grown daughters. They split their time between northern Vermont and Boston, Massachusetts.

**Paige Heverly** works in the energy, transportation, and climate change adaptation programs at Vital Communities. After completing a Master of Energy Regulation and Law degree at Vermont Law School, Paige stayed in the Upper Valley, finding a passion bringing people together to work on local issues like community resilience, energy burden, and alternative transportation.

**Lauren Hierl** is the Executive Director of Vermont Conservation Voters, starting in 2014 as VCV’s Political Director. Prior to that, Lauren worked as an environmental advocate at VPIRG, and in Washington, DC at the National Audubon Society. She also ran the campaign to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge at the Alaska Wilderness League. She conducted climate change research in Kruger National Park in South Africa, and oversaw an endangered species conservation program at San Diego State University. Lauren received her Master of Environmental Management and Master of Public

Policy degrees at Duke University, and a Bachelors in Environmental Science at Dartmouth College.

**Ian Hitchcock** serves as the community organizer for the Vermont Natural Resources Council where he focuses largely on energy and climate-related initiatives, as well as engaging the public on broader environmental campaigns. He served for a year as VECAN's AmeriCorps Member and Community Energy and Climate Action Coordinator, helping to start and strengthen town energy committees across the state. Ian holds a B.A. in Environmental Studies from Marlboro College, and previously worked in Senator Bernie Sanders' office, with Renewable Energy Vermont, and as a canvasser with the Vermont Public Interest Research Group.

**Kelly Lucci** is Director of Strategic Initiatives & Engagement at the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation, where her current focus is on re-visioning Efficiency Vermont's efforts to support home weatherization. Prior to joining VEIC, she served on the staff of U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders for six years, and was his Vermont lead on energy and environmental issues. A lifelong Vermonter, Kelly holds a degree in Political Science from Middlebury College and currently resides in her hometown, Fletcher, with her husband and two sons.

**Ross MacDonald** started his career in state government after 12 years of working for international manufacturing companies. In 2004 he joined the NJ Department of Environmental Protection and contributed to land-use policies and transportation-oriented design projects. Ross and his family moved to Vermont in 2007 where he became a Public Transit Program Coordinator and created the successful Go! Vermont program for the Vermont Agency of Transportation. The combination of business, environmental, and transportation experience contributes to his understanding of transportation demand management (TDM) projects and opportunities. In October 2018, Ross received the Rural Transit Champion award from the National Transportation Research Board.

**Anne Margolis** is the Renewable Energy Development Manager at the Vermont Department of Public Service, where she works on policies, programs, and tools to advance the goals of Vermont's Comprehensive Energy Plan. Anne has served on the Corinth energy committee and conservation commission and is currently an alternate on the District 3 Environmental Commission.

**Paul Markowitz** is Community Energy Account Manager with Efficiency Vermont where he promotes partnerships with non-profit organizations, businesses, and municipi-

palities to implement community-based energy efficiency programs. Paul has 36 years experience in energy and environmental project management, community planning, leadership training, and facilitation in non-profit institutions, state government, and academia. He has an MS in Resource Economics from the University of Vermont.

**Kate McCarthy, AICP**, is a land use and environmental planner at the Vermont Natural Resources Council where she focuses on building sustainable communities that provide residents with housing and transportation options, while supporting open space and working lands. Her work includes promoting smart growth and helping towns reduce forest fragmentation and maintain wildlife connectivity. Prior to VNRC, she worked at the Windham Regional Commission in Brattleboro. Kate holds a Master of Regional Planning from Cornell University.

**Johanna Miller** is the Energy and Climate Program Director at the Vermont Natural Resources Council and also serves as the coordinator of the Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network. In these roles, Johanna works from the grassroots to the Legislature to help advance clean energy and climate action programs and policies. Johanna also serves on the Clean Energy Development Fund board, the Vermont Energy Education Program board, the Vermont System Planning Committee and the Montpelier Energy Advisory Committee. Johanna also served on Governor Scott's Climate Action Commission.

**Jeff Monder** has over 26 years experience working in the utility industry and is currently at Green Mountain Power. Jeff has been on a journey through the core mission of the utility business as a leader in innovation development, devising and introducing new programs to help residential, commercial and industrial customers increase efficiency and productivity, reduce their carbon footprint, and save money. Jeff is passionate about the environment and is deeply engaged in the evolution of the utility model to meet new opportunities and challenges while satisfying the highest standards for reliability, cost-effectiveness, environmental stewardship, and social responsibility.

**Michael Pizziferri** is the Public Affairs Attaché at the Québec Government Office in Boston. He is responsible for government relations and policy analysis in the six New England States with a focus on energy, climate change and sustainable transport. Recently, Michael has been working with state governments and regional organizations to promote carbon pricing, particularly the Western Climate Initiative, Québec's joint cap and trade system with California. Michael also works to promote



Québec's other climate policies including transportation electrification and renewable energy development. Outside of work, Michael is the Board Chair of the Boston Network for International Development.

**Eileen Peltier** became Executive Director of Downstreet Housing and Community Development in April 2008 after serving as the agency's Director of Finance and Administration. Eileen was the 2016 recipient of the Michael M. Richardson Award from Housing Vermont in recognition of outstanding leadership and commitment to social equity. She serves as the co-chair of the Hunger Council of Washington County and as a board member of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont. Eileen is a regional administrator of Vermont's statewide SASH (Support and Services at Home). Eileen holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Eileen lives in Montpelier with her daughters Marta and Olivia.

**David Roberts** is a senior consultant at the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation with more than 20 years of experience in transportation efficiency research and program implementation. He has developed incentive programs to increase auto dealer interest and consumer sales of plug-in electric vehicles (EVs) and worked with communities, utilities, government agencies and other organizations to advance electric vehicle market transformation and charging infrastructure development. David coordinates the Drive Electric Vermont program, a public-private partnership working to increase adoption of electrified transportation in Vermont. He has a B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Virginia and a M.B.A. from the University of Vermont.

**Debra Sachs** is Executive Director of Net Zero Vermont and a native Vermonter. She has managed nonprofits, and consulted and advanced numerous planning and sustainability projects in the commercial and transportation sectors, including the Sustainable Montpelier 2030 Design Competition, Capital Commuters program, Way to Go! School Challenge, and Go! Vermont. Deb oversees a consulting firm, EcoStrategies, LLC providing government, business, and NGO clients with technical assistance in sustainability, planning, public engagement, transportation efficiency, and renewable energy generation. She serves on the boards of Vermont Rail Action Network, Vermont Transportation Efficiency Network, Sustainable Transportation Vermont, and is a co-founding partner of Vermont Energy & Climate Action Network.

**Michael Shank, Ph.D.**, is the Communications Director for the Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance, a group of international cities committed to achieving aggressive long-term carbon reduction goals, and the Urban Sustainability Directors Network, a network of local government professionals from across North America dedicated to creating a healthier environment, economic prosperity, and increased social equity. Michael's professional career includes leading press and/or policy shops for the United Nations, the U.S. Congress, and various national and international nonprofits. Michael is adjunct faculty at New York University, where he teaches graduate courses on sustainable development. Michael lives in Brandon, Vermont where he chairs the town's energy committee and serves on the planning commission.

**Adam Sherman** is a manager of the Biomass Energy Resource Center (BERC) housed at the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC). Adam has more than 15 years of experience in the wood heat sector and has directed BERC's technology and wood fuel supply activities for over 12 years. His work focuses on wood energy program design and delivery for various state and federal government agencies and technical consulting services for assessing wood fuels and energy project feasibility. Adam consults frequently for institutions and communities exploring the feasibility of district heating throughout North America. Adam serves on the Advisory Board for the Alliance of Green Heat, as the chairman of the Northeast Biomass Thermal Working Group and also serves on the editorial board of *Biomass Magazine*.

**Kate Stephenson** is the chair of the Montpelier Energy Advisory Committee, which leads the Net Zero Montpelier initiative. She is a partner in HELM Construction Solutions, which works with owners, designers and builders to create high performance and sustainable buildings and businesses. Kate has long worked with established and emerging businesses and nonprofits to achieve triple bottom line metrics, develop business systems, and plan for a dynamic and resilient future. She has deep experience in post-secondary education, and led the Yestermorrow Design/Build School for over 13 years. Kate also manages the Vermont Farm Fund, a revolving loan fund providing low interest loans to farmers and helped to develop and is a facilitator for NESEA's Building Energy Bottom Lines peer networking program for builders and architects.

**Val Stori** serves as a Project Director for Clean Energy States Alliance and Clean Energy Group. Val mainly leads CESA's Renewable Thermal and Offshore Wind projects. Her offshore work includes managing the Northeast

Wind Resource Center and co-directing a multi-state initiative focused on reducing offshore wind costs and other barriers. She works with a Northeast group of states on collaborative approaches to community bulk-purchasing strategies for renewable thermal technologies. Prior to joining CESA, Val worked for several conservation non-profits, including the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. She has a Master of Studies in Environmental Law from Vermont Law School and a B.A. from Middlebury College in Environmental Studies/Conservation Biology.

**Ashley Anne Strobbridge** became VECAN's Americorps Member & Community Energy Coordinator in September 2018, serving at the Vermont Natural Resources Council. In this role, she focuses primarily on helping to start and strengthen town energy committees and community energy initiatives. In 2016, Ashley graduated with honors from George Mason University in Fairfax, VA with a B.A. in Environmental and Sustainability Studies, concentration in Policy, and Minor in Women's Studies. Previous roles include over two years at the Center for Climate Change Communication as a communications and research intern, several years in the English, journalism, teaching, photography, and artistic fields, and three years volunteering with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A native Vermonter, Ashley has returned to her home state to live in Montpelier with her cat Tibbolt to passionately pursue her environmental and creative career goals.

**Geoff Urbanik** is the Deputy Town Manager for Colchester and managing the installation of the town's first two 150kw solar projects. Mr. Urbanik has over 20 years of public administration experience in three states and has lived and worked in Vermont since 2010.

**Ben Walsh** has run VPIRG's climate and energy program since 2012, leading campaigns to expand Vermont's precedent setting CLEAN Contracts and net metering programs. At VPIRG, Ben works to research, identify and advance clean energy policy solutions. Prior to this role, Ben was VPIRG's Field Director, engaging and mobilizing thousands of Vermonters in support of VPIRG's campaigns. He learned the organizing trade in Green Corps, working with National Environmental Trust, Environment America and the Oregon Natural Desert Association, and later serving as Green Corps' recruitment director. Ben holds a B.S. in Environmental Studies and B.A. in Political Science from UVM.

**Sarah Wolfe** is the Network Director for Energy Action Network (EAN), working with EAN members and partners to expand their collective impact on clean

energy action and emissions reduction in Vermont. Sarah comes to EAN from the Vermont Public Interest Research Group (VPIRG), where she was the Clean Energy Advocate. A native Vermonter, she spent four years in California working for Sunrun, a national residential solar company. At Sunrun, she was the Senior Manager for National Campaigns, focused on managing campaigns to support state level residential solar policy across the country. Sarah graduated from Wesleyan University in 2012 with high honors.

**Paul Zabriskie** manages energy efficiency programs at Capstone Community Action, including the low-income Weatherization Assistance Program, EnergySmart of Vermont, and 3E Thermal. He advocates for progressive energy policy and social justice as part of an active response to climate challenges.

**Angela Zhang** is the Programs Director at LISTEN Community Services, a social services agency that helps to meet the critical needs of Upper Valley individuals and families. After volunteering at WISE as a crisis line advocate, she was inspired to pursue a Master of Social Work program through the University of New England. In 2017, Angela began working at LISTEN to help alleviate poverty in the Upper Valley area.



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