



VECAN

VERMONT ENERGY & CLIMATE
ACTION NETWORK

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April 2020 E-News

Dear Local Energy Leaders,

With summer officially upon us, we are starting to see the fruits of our labor spring from the metaphorical ground with new programs, trainings and opportunities to recover and grow stronger as we move through -- and out of -- the Covid-19 pandemic. We hope the opportunities below -- including some great new incentives -- will support the important work you do to ensure Vermont does our part to help combat the climate crisis. Find far more below about:

- **Efficiency Vermont, Vermont Gas and Burlington Electric Department's Biggest-Ever Weatherization Incentives** - Take advantage now of these new incentives that expire August 31st [here](#).
- **Join Upcoming Heat Pump Webinar with Experts and Customer Testimonials** - Register for this upcoming heat pump webinar, Tuesday July 14th at 6:00 p.m., [here](#).
- **Several New Incentives from Green Mountain Power** - Green Mountain Power customers can take advantage of their new programs [here](#).
- **A Push for a Green Amendment - June 26th at 5 p.m.** - Tune in for a virtual presentation on how you can protect your environmental rights [here](#).
- **Join the Climate Reality Leadership Corps: Global Training - July 18-26** - Apply now for this climate advocacy training before the June 26th deadline [here](#).
- **Zero-Emission Electric Lawn Care Services Now Available in Montpelier and Chester** - Find out which new lawn care services have switched to electric equipment and why it is important they did [here](#).

As always, thanks for all that you do.

Best,

Johanna Miller, VECAN Coordinator and VNRC Energy Program Director
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Electric Department Offering Highest-ever Weatherization Incentives

To help Vermonters cope with the economic crisis, Efficiency Vermont, Vermont Gas, and Burlington Electric Department are teaming up to offer [higher-than-ever incentives](#) to help

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We are always looking for great stories of local action for our blog, social media and as helpful resources for our network. Please consider sending along anything you or others have accomplished or are working on by responding to this email or emailing abaad@vnrc.org

About Us

VECAN is a network of statewide Vermont organizations helping communities across the Green Mountain State to reduce energy costs and climate impacts through conservation, increased energy efficiency and conversion to renewable energy sources.

VECAN's mission is to start, support and strengthen town energy committees.

Committee Changes?

Help us keep our network up to



Vermonters reduce their home energy costs, make their homes healthier and more resilient in the future, and encourage investments that support the local economy.

Moderate- or low-income Vermonters can get 75% of home weatherization costs covered, up to \$5,500, now through August 31st or until funds run out. For loans started by October 31st, Efficiency Vermont will cover the first six months of payments, up to \$900, for customers who choose to break

the remaining upfront cost into monthly payments using the recently enhanced [Home Energy Loan program](#). This means that most Vermonters can now complete a comprehensive weatherization project for around \$40 a month, with the first six months of payments waived. Higher-income Vermonters can also receive 50% off their weatherization projects up to \$2,000.

Efficiency Vermont is also offering moderate and low-income Vermonters \$50 [rebates on qualifying efficient products](#) that support healthier, more resilient homes, now through August 31st. The 0% interest Home Energy Loan can also be applied to these purchases. To find out more and to see if you qualify for these incentives, check out Efficiency Vermont's website [here](#).

Join Us for Upcoming Heat Pump Webinar with Experts and Customer Testimonials



Have you been wondering if a heat pump is right for your home?

Join us on Tuesday, July 14th at 6:00 pm for an informative webinar presentation on heat pump technologies with experts from Efficiency Vermont co-hosted by the Vermont Natural

Resources Council and Northeastern Vermont Development Association.

[Click Here to Register To Attend.](#)

We'll also have first-hand insights from individuals who have installed heat pumps in their own homes. If you've been curious about heat pump technologies -- or you've been receiving some conflicting advice, don't miss this webinar!

While heat pumps have been regularly touted as a highly energy efficient option for heating and cooling the home, recent advances in technologies have expanded their utility. You're now likely to see ductless mini-splits, water heaters, clothes dryers, and now even-whole house installations that feed into heating ducts! But how well do they perform? What will happen to your electricity bill? Who can install them? Can you afford one? And, of course, how well do they stand up to Vermont's notoriously cold winters?

Register at this link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6229669463515333392>

Contact Ian Hitchcock at ihitchcock@vnrc.org with any questions.

Green Mountain Power Offering Several New Incentives

Green Mountain Power (GMP) is offering [several new programs](#) to increase energy savings and costs for their customers. The first two of these programs revolve around home energy

date! Email changes in committee leadership or contact info to abaad@vnrc.org



storage, where GMP customers can [receive reduced costs to install Tesla powerwall batteries](#) or [receive rebates from GMP](#) in exchange for allowing them to draw on stored energy from already installed home batteries. GMP has also started the new [Go, Save & Share program](#) where customers can help local businesses and nonprofits around the state. The program

includes increased rebates for heat pumps, electric bikes, and electric mowers which will increase sales for local businesses and installers. The second part of the program allows customers to share their excess solar credits, which will go towards helping pay off electric bills for local businesses and nonprofits. Find out more about all the new incentives on GMP's website [here](#).

Virtual Presentation on the Green Amendment - June 26th at 5 p.m.



Join [Living Earth Action Group](#) for a [virtual presentation and discussion](#) with activist, attorney, author and founder of the Green Amendment movement, Maya van Rossum, on environmental rights. The presentation will be held this

Friday, June 26th at 5 p.m. where Maya van Rossum will

discuss her book, *The Green Amendment: Securing Our Right to a Healthy Environment*, and the growing efforts to secure constitutional protection of our environmental rights here in Vermont. There will also be a discussion on how you can take action and be a part of the movement to protect your environmental rights. Register for the presentation [here](#).

Join the Climate Reality Leadership Corps: Global Training - July 18-26



This July, The Climate Reality Project and former Vice President Al Gore will host their first every [virtual climate advocacy training](#). The training will take place for one to two hours each day between July 18th and July 26th, registration ends June 26th. Participants will go through five modules over

the nine days that incorporate compelling content on the science of climate change, customization to fit your interests, and community building with like minded individuals from around the world. Participants who finish the training will become members of the Climate Reality Leadership Corps, a global network of over 20,000 Climate Reality Leaders worldwide. Find out more about the training and apply before June 26th [here](#).

Zero-Emission Electric Lawn Care Services Now Available in Montpelier and Chester



Two companies, [Granite City Landworks](#) in Montpelier and [Green Bee Lawn and Garden](#) in Chester, are offering new electric lawn care services. These companies have become the seventh and eighth lawn care contractors in Vermont to make the switch to electric lawn care services, reducing the environmental impacts caused by lawn care equipment. These companies are able to use incentives offered by 17 of the 18

electric utilities in Vermont to reduce the up-front costs of electric lawn care equipment.

Vermonters who use these services can send a clear message to other lawn care providers that they demand zero-emission lawn care services in Vermont. Read more about the importance of switching to electric lawn care equipment [here](#).

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