



# VECAN

VERMONT ENERGY & CLIMATE  
ACTION NETWORK

[Take Action](#)

[Visit Our Website](#)

[Energy Committees](#)

## May 2020 E-News

Dear Local Energy Leaders,

As the state and country slowly start to re-open in the coming months, we know that much work needs to be done to safeguard public health as well as ensure a resilient recovery of our communities. While we prioritize essential needs, it is also critical to **invest in rebuilding our communities and economy in a manner that increases our resilience and strategically responds to another crisis -- climate change.** We are engaging with partners, policy makers and local leaders like you to understand how we can collectively undertake this recovery work well. We look forward to staying connected to you to understand this better. In the meantime, to help you stay connected, informed and inspired, we wanted to share information below about these resources and opportunities:

- **Efficiency Vermont's Blog and New Appliance Program to Help Recovery Efforts** - Check out Efficiency Vermont's [blog](#) and renewed [appliance program](#).
- **May 7th -- Two Great Opportunities!**
  - **Don't miss the opportunity to hear from -- and ask questions of -- Vermont's Congressional Delegation** - Register for VBSR's digital town hall this Thursday at 1 p.m [here](#).
  - **Attend VNRC's 12th Annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival that same evening at 7 p.m.** - Find the inspiring films showing at this incredible environmental film festival [here](#).
- **Vermonters Look Towards Local Agriculture as Recovery and Resilience Practices** - Check out how Vermonters are using local agriculture for resilience efforts [here](#) and [here](#).
- **Drive Electric Vermont and Waterbury LEAP Host Electric Vehicle Webinar** - Register for this upcoming electric vehicle webinar on May 20th [here](#).
- **Climate XChange Hosts Weekly Climate Webinars** - Check out this series aimed at connecting climate optimists -- including one this week with climate action leader Bill McKibben. Learn more and register [here](#).
- **Vermont Energy Education Program Creates Online Education Program** - Check out at this incredible trove of at-home energy learning resources for students [here](#).
- **Antioch University Climate and Diversity Webinar Series** - Register for Antioch University diversity and climate webinars [here](#), starting

## Connect

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

## Get involved

[Events](#)

[Join or Start an Energy Committee](#)

## Share

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](mailto: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 date! Email changes in committee leadership or contact info to [abaad@vnrc.org](mailto:abaad@vnrc.org)

tomorrow!

- **Sharing the Benefits of Net Metered Clean Energy** - Read this important, recent [commentary](#) from local energy committee leader (and national climate expert) Michael Shank on a potential powerful way to share the benefits of local renewable energy.

As always, thanks for all that you do.

Best,

Johanna Miller, VECAN Coordinator and VNRC Energy Program Director  
802-223-2328 ext. 112 - [jmiller@vnrc.org](mailto:jmiller@vnrc.org)

## Efficiency Vermont's Blog and Appliance Program to Help Recovery Efforts



Are you looking for ways to save energy during the COVID-19 pandemic? If so, Efficiency Vermont's [blog](#), a consistent fixture over the years, looks to help Vermonters with at home energy saving tips and tricks. The blog looks to help Vermonters by having experts answer questions on a myriad of energy issues. Recent posts about smart homes, heat pumps, and other topics help Vermonters save energy, which can help with recovery and resilience efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. Efficiency Vermont is also starting back up their [appliance recycling program](#). For a limited time, Vermonters

can get cash back and free no-contact pickups of window air conditioners, dehumidifiers, standalone freezers, and secondary refrigerators. These cash back rebates allow Vermonters to buy more energy efficient appliances that will save homeowners money and will reduce the release of harmful greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Learn more about the appliance program and get your appliance picked-up today on Efficiency Vermont's website [here](#). Read Efficiency Vermont's blog about energy saving topics [here](#).

## May 7th -- Two Great Opportunities!



### VBSR Hosts Digital Town Hall with Vermont's Congressional Delegation -- 1 pm

The Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility (VBSR) is hosting a free [digital town hall](#) this Thursday, May 7th from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. The town hall will give updates on the latest federal COVID-19 response measures from Senators Leahy and Sanders and Representative Welch. The congressmen will also give updates on what lies ahead on the path to recovery. This town hall will give Vermonters the opportunity to ask questions on the latest policy changes that impact their lives as well as give ideas of how the federal government can rethink our society and develop a new model of prosperity going forward. Learn more and register for VBSR's digital town hall [here](#).

### VNRC Hosts 12th Annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival -- 7 pm

The Vermont Natural Resource Council has proudly co-hosted the [Wild & Scenic Film Festival in Vermont](#) for over a decade. This year is no exception! VNRC is pleased to offer this year's FREE screening virtually, in partnership with Patagonia Burlington.

The day of the showing, a link will be made available on [vnrc.org](http://vnrc.org).

The 2020 short films highlight the importance of equitable access to open spaces and public lands.

VNRC is [accepting donations in lieu of ticket sales](#). [Click here to donate](#).

Any donation amount includes automatic raffle entry to win a duffel from Patagonia Burlington (see pic) and a basket of goodies from City Market! A donation of \$20 or more also includes a one-year VNRC membership.

[Learn more here](#), and stay tuned for the LIVE screening link on May 7th at 7 p.m.

## Vermonters Look Towards Local Agriculture as Recovery and Resilience Practices



Vermonters have been looking for more ways to help with resilience and recovery efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. One big practice has been turning towards local agriculture as a homegrown, healthy option that boosts critical local businesses and reduces the need to truck in food products from far flung places -- saving energy and reducing pollution. Farms such as Maple Wind Farm in Richmond and Bread and Butter Farm in Shelburne are [seeing more business](#) as Vermonters look to get their food locally. At Maple Wind

Farms, they have seen an 800% increase in home deliveries since the COVID-19 pandemic. Bread and Butter Farm had 20 community-supported agriculture shares purchased in one week alone. The [Vermont Community Garden Network \(VCGN\)](#) is another resource that Vermonters have been using to help learn how to grow their own food during the COVID-19 pandemic. These resources include their [community gardening toolkit](#) and [weekly garden chats](#). The [Vermont Gleaning Collective](#) is another resource as a state-wide partnership of community-based programs that glean and work in solidarity to support farmers, residents, and the food system.

## Drive Electric Vermont and Waterbury LEAP Host Electric Vehicle Webinar -- May 20



Drive Electric Vermont and Waterbury LEAP are hosting a [free webinar](#) on electric vehicles (EVs), Wednesday, May 20th from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. The webinar will cover a range of topics including: what to consider when switching over from a gas-powered car, the different types of EVs, current charging options, EV incentives, and stories from Vermonters who have

already made the switch. While Vermont has EV incentives at the moment, budget issues from COVID-19 could lead to uncertainty for them in the future. Learn more about the free webinar and register for it [here](#). If you have any questions, please contact Duncan McDougall from Waterbury LEAP at [duncan@clifonline.org](mailto:duncan@clifonline.org).

## Climate XChange Hosts Weekly Climate Webinars

Climate XChange is hosting a [weekly webinar series](#) that focuses on bringing the stories of climate activists who are committed to creating a livable and equitable future for life on this planet to the foreground. These webinars are hosted every Friday at 3:00 p.m., including this Friday where author and environmental advocate, Bill McKibben discusses, *The Nature of*



### *Crisis & the Downfall of Giants: Is Oil (Finally) Past its Peak?*

If you are unable to watch the webinar in real time, all of Climate XChange's climate webinars will be posted to their website for future viewing. Check out past webinars and register for upcoming webinars on their website [here](#).

### **Vermont Energy Education Program Creates Online Education Program**



The Vermont Energy Education Program (VEEP) has created an [online learning portal](#) for students, teachers and parents to access clean energy educational resources during the COVID-19 pandemic. These at-home lesson plans allow students to

stay engaged on energy subject matters and even increase engagement with their parents.

These classes also have students look at their own energy use and take part in other at-home projects. Courses are available for students from kindergarten to 12th grade and range in topic from electricity and the environment to home heat transfer. These courses and activities are available on VEEPs website [here](#).

### **Antioch University Climate and Diversity Webinar Series -- Next One is Tomorrow!**



Antioch University's Center for Climate Preparedness and Community Resilience is hosting a new webinar series entitled *Diversity and the Environment*. The series looks at diversity in environmental studies including the barriers minorities face in the environmental field and strategies for improving diversity and inclusion in research, education and practice. The series has two upcoming webinars in May and June. The first webinar, titled *Diversity in Higher Education: Creating Equity in Evaluation of Faculty*, looks at the history of

discrimination and possible solutions for increasing minority inclusion in environmental studies faculty. This webinar will be hosted on Wednesday, May 6th from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. The second webinar, titled *Race and the Environmental Movement: History and Legacies*, looks at the history of discrimination in the conservation and environmental movements. This webinar will be hosted on Thursday, June 4th from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. You can learn more about the webinars, register and watch previous webinars on diversity in the environmental movement on Antioch University's website [here](#).

### **Sharing the Benefits of Net Metered Clean Energy**



Michael Shank, the Brandon Energy Committee Chair, wrote a [commentary](#) in *VT Digger* recently about a potential opportunity to help in the resilience and recovery of Vermonters in the age of COVID-19. Shank's idea is for Vermonters who produce extra solar and wind power to donate their extra credits to help households, nonprofits and businesses that are hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. Shank explains how many utilities already have "net meter banks" such as Green Mountain Power that allow Vermonters

with solar and wind power to save up extra power they create to either sell or to save up during times of less power generation. Shank explains it would require the creation of a donating system, but with that it would allow Vermonters to assist their fellow Vermonters who pay on average \$100 per month for electricity. Shank call on Vermont utilities to create

these donating platforms, enabling more financially stable Vermonters to help neighbors in need and has pledged, himself, to donate some of his credits to the local non-profit [Kinder Way Farm Sanctuary](#) who rescues abused farm animals. Kinder Way Farm Sanctuary is usually funded by the revenue from their Castleton-based coffeehouse which is now closed, increasing the strain from monthly electricity costs. Read Shank's *VT Digger* commentary [here](#).

## Donate

### Connect With Us:

Facebook

Twitter

802-223-2328 ext. 112

9 Bailey Ave.

Montpelier, VT 05642

(Unsubscribing is not supported in previews)