



VECAN

VERMONT ENERGY & CLIMATE
ACTION NETWORK

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July 2020 E-News

Dear Local Energy Leaders,

This is a quick note to share some great resources, upcoming webinars and important policy updates. Find far more information below about:

- **Crucial Progress on the Global Warming Solutions Act!** - Find out the latest on H.688 -- a policy that turns our longstanding climate *goals* into *requirements* [here!](#)
- **We're Hiring! VECAN Seeks Americorps Community Energy Coordinator** - [Apply or please pass along](#) this exciting opportunity before the July 19th application deadline.
- **Efficiency Vermont and VNRC Partner on Button Up Webinar - July 6th at 1:00 p.m.** - Learn about the 2020 Button Up initiative and some new, interesting opportunities [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](#).
- **Learn More about the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's State and Local Planning for Energy Platform - Join a Webinar July 14th at 1:00 p.m.** - Learn about new tools to help with town energy planning [here](#).
- **Vermont Electric Co-op Doubles Incentives for Cold Climate Heat Pumps** - Find out how you can take advantage of these new incentives [here](#).
- **Bennington County E-Bike Online Workshop - July 8th at 7:00 p.m.** - Learn more about E-bikes and which one is right for you at the webinar [here](#).
- **Vermont Law School Offering Weekly Environmental Livestreams** - Learn more and watch these weekly livestreams [here](#).

As always, thanks for all that you do.

Best,

Johanna Miller, VECAN Coordinator and VNRC Energy Program Director
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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

Exciting News on the Global Warming Solutions Act



Last week, the Vermont Senate overwhelmingly passed the **Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA) on a bipartisan vote of 23-5 in its final reading!** This critical piece of climate legislation now returns to the House for needed action before heading to Governor Scott's desk. [Learn more here.](#)

See how your Senators voted on this bill by using [VCV's online Environmental Scorecard](#). (Click on the Senator who corresponds to your district. Their GWSA vote will appear first on their list of votes. And, please [THANK those Senators](#) who stood up in support of an equitable, clean energy economy.)

GWSA will require Vermont to meet its climate pollution reduction targets while mapping out a plan that aims to ensure our transition to clean energy is equitable, resilient, [strengthens our economy](#), and supports sustainable farms and forests.

Stay tuned for further updates on how we can work to ensure Vermont joins neighboring states in moving beyond talk into action and enacting this much-needed accountability and strategic planning framework...

We're Hiring! VECAN Seeks Americorps Community Energy Coordinator



Are you -- or is someone you know -- looking for an interesting, meaningful opportunity to collaborate with diverse stakeholders and local leaders to help Vermont transition to a clean energy future? The Vermont Natural Resources Council, coordinator of the Vermont Energy & Climate Action Network, is seeking a motivated individual with interest and expertise in community engagement, communications, clean energy and climate action.

Applications are due July 19, 2020. VNRC is an EOE. Find out

more and apply [here](#).

Efficiency Vermont and VNRC Host Button Up Webinar - July 6th



On July 6th at 1:00 pm, please join VNRC and Efficiency Vermont for a [webinar about what the Button Up Vermont campaign in 2020](#) will look like!

[Click here to register to attend.](#)

Similar to last year, the campaign will happen between mid-September and mid-November. Yet so much is different in our world since the campaign last year, and COVID-19's impact is reflected in changes made to Button Up Vermont 2020.

The theme of Button Up Vermont 2020 is **Neighbors helping Neighbors**, and in the time of COVID-19 we are working to make this campaign online and socially distant.

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

We've got a lot of ideas for how to encourage people to weatherize their homes (more on that below), but we really want to know what we could offer that would make you excited to participate. Energy Committees are the heart of the Button Up campaign and we want to build this around what you need. With those goals in mind, we are asking participating communities to:

* Weekly "Weatherization Wednesday" online video series featuring trivia, Q&As, DIY-videos, and tips for weatherization in a short 20-30 minute blast every week throughout September-November.

* To support the spirit of regional events, this year Regional Planning Commissions will be able to host custom Step Up to Button Up Webinars with special information for your communities. This is a great opportunity to combine forces and support an online activity for your neighbors in town and in surrounding communities.

* Efficiency Vermont is offering Free *Virtual* Home Energy Visits to people across the state who are interested in learning how their home could benefit from weatherization. This year every Vermonter can access this offer, but as a participating community, you get resources to spread the word to your residents. There will also be plenty of support coming your way in terms of materials, marketing, and help explaining Efficiency Vermont incentives and DIY-project offers.

* Support for low income weatherization needs, where individual communities can support Weatherization Agencies throughout Vermont. *Look out for more on this!*

Already think your community would be interested in participating? Reach out to Becca White at bwhite@veic.org. Becca is the newest Efficiency Vermont's Community Engagement Manager, and will be coordinating Button Up this year.

Join 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.

Don't Miss National Renewable Energy Laboratory's State and Local Planning for Energy Platform Webinar - July 14th at 1:00 p.m.



The Clean Energy States Alliance is [hosting a webinar](#) introducing the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's [State and Local Planning for Energy Platform \(SLOPE\)](#) Platform Beta. The webinar will include other tools and data that support state and local clean energy planning. The

demonstration will include an introduction to SLOPE's components that include electricity consumption, energy efficiency potential, renewable energy technical generation potential, levelized cost of energy, and more. You will also learn how to access and apply SLOPE's data on energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainable transportation opportunities and potential for the state. The webinar will be held on Tuesday, July 14th from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.. Register and learn more about the webinar [here](#).

Vermont Electric Co-op Doubles Incentives for Cold Climate Heat Pumps



The Vermont Electric Co-op (VEC) is [doubling its bill credit incentive for customers for cold climate heat pumps](#) from \$300 to \$600 per outdoor unit. VEC is also increasing its bill credit incentives for heat pump water heaters from \$150 to \$250. The incentives are available for purchases made on or after June 1st. Besides the credits for cold climate heat pumps and heat pump water heaters, VEC is also offering bill credits to customers who purchase electric vehicles, electric vehicle charging equipment, pellet stoves, electric forklifts, electric

lawn mowers, and even highly-efficient homes called Zero Energy Modular Homes, or ZEM Homes. Learn more about these opportunities on [VEC's Energy Transformation incentives page](#) or by calling 1-800-832-2667.

Bennington County E-Bike Online Workshop - July 8th at 7:00 p.m.



Are you E-Bike curious? Want to learn more about electric bikes, which ones are available locally, and the incentives currently available? Want to hear from some E-Bike owners

who are using their bikes for recreation and transportation?

Join an [online workshop](#) next Wednesday, July 8, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

The Dorset Tomorrow Energy and Transportation Task Force and the Bennington County Regional Commission have come together to co-sponsor this event for area residents interested in learning more about this fun and low-impact way to travel. You will hear from and be able to ask questions of:

- Dave Cohen, VBike

- Barrack Evans, Battenkill Bikes
- E-Bike owners sharing from their experience

Register for this Zoom Meeting by going [here](#).

Vermont Law School Offering Weekly Environmental Livestreams



Vermont Law School (VLS) is offering [free livestreams](#) each week through the month of July on a wide range of environmental topics. Starting on the 7th of July and running through the 28th, these weekly livestreams from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. cover topics such as alternative transportation fuels, implications of sustainability, and prioritizing equity amidst the COVID-19 crisis. Each topic is presented by professors and experts and is freely accessible to the public. Learn more and watch the livestreams [here](#).

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