



VECAN

VERMONT ENERGY & CLIMATE
ACTION NETWORK

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July 2020 E-News

Dear Local Energy Leaders,

We hope you are enjoying these high-season summer days!

This is a quick note to share updates on some great new resources, timely events and interesting opportunities. Find far more information below about:

- **Button Up 2020 and Heat Pumps** - If you missed either or both of these recent webinars, watch them [here](#) to learn far more about this year's Button Up weatherization campaign and the benefits of -- cost and climate! -- of cold climate heat pumps.
- **Weigh In On Your Community's Recovery Strategy** - Don't miss the Vermont Council on Rural Development-facilitated Community Recovery Visit happening near you sometime this summer or fall. Find out more about and register for your county's Community Recovery Visit [here](#).
- **Save the Date and Submit a Pitch for the 2020 Energy Action Network Summit: October 1st and 2nd** - Find out more about this important annual summit, focused on the opportunities in energy innovation, and submit a pitch for what you'd like to see Vermont undertake [here](#).
- **Interested in Weatherizing an Older Building?** - Join experts at Preservation Trust of Vermont and Efficiency Vermont for a three-hour workshop on July 30th at 9 a.m. for a deep how-to dive. Find out more and register [here](#).
- **Apply Now! Energy Action Network Seeks Project Manager** - Are you -- or is someone you know -- looking for a great gig? Find out more about and apply for the Vermont Energy Dashboard and EAN Data Manager position [here](#).
- **Join the Virtual SolarFest this Weekend - July 25th and 26th!** - Experience online music, workshops and presentations at this renewable energy and the arts festival! Learn more and register [here](#).
- **Times Argus/Rutland Herald: "Racial Justice Must Include Climate Justice"** - We highly recommend folks read this recent editorial outlining the need for both racial and climate justice in our state and country. Check it out [here](#).
- **Efficiency Vermont Enacts New Program to Help Schools Reopen this Fall** - Find out how you can help your local schools improve air quality and energy efficiency [here](#).

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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

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

- **Vermont Bans Food Scraps in Trash to Eliminate Waste and Combat Climate Change** - Find out more about the new law and how it will help mitigate the effects of climate change [here](#).

As always, thanks for all that you do.

Best,

Johanna Miller, VECAN Coordinator and VNRC Energy Program Director
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Watch Our Recent Webinars on Button Up 2020 and Heat Pumps



Did you miss our recent webinars on [Button Up 2020](#) and [Is a Heat Pump Right For Your Home?](#) Fortunately enough, both webinars are now available for viewing. You can watch the [Button Up 2020 Webinar](#) where Becca White from Efficiency

Vermont and Ian Hitchcock from VNRC/VECAN discussed the ways that participating communities can get involved in this year's virtual campaign. If your community wants to participate in this year's campaign, you can [sign up as a Participating Community](#) by August 15th. If you have any more questions about this year's Button Up Campaign or how your community can get involved, contact Efficiency Vermont Community Engagement Manager Becca White at bwhite@veic.org or (802)-734-3227.

You can also watch [Is a Heat Pump Right for Your Home Webinar](#) where experts from Efficiency Vermont provide an overview of how heat pump and cooling systems work, while heat pump owners from across the state shared their first hand experiences with using them. [For contact information for presenters from this webinar, click here.](#)

Vermont Council on Rural Development Facilitating Community Recovery Visits in Each Vermont County this Summer and Fall



The Local Support and Community Action Team of the Governor's Economic Mitigation and Recovery Task Force, in partnership with regional and local leaders, and with coordination from the Vermont Council on Rural Development, is hosting [Community Recovery Visits](#) in counties throughout Vermont in the summer and fall of 2020.

Join Recovery Visit Forums in your county to:

- Share challenges and ideas -- including climate resilience and job- and justice-creating energy innovation! -- in a strategic community response and recovery effort in Vermont.
- Connect to others working to respond, recover, and build long-term resilience.
- Meet with a "visiting team" of state, federal, business, and non-profit leaders who will share recovery strategies from across the state and ideas for resources and support.

Find out more about the Community Recover Visits and register for your county's visit [here](#).

Save the Date and Submit a Pitch for the 2020 Energy Action Network Summit: October 1st and 2nd

The [2020 Energy Action Network \(EAN\) Summit](#) will be held virtually this year on two half-day sessions on October 1st and 2nd. EAN is also continuing their tradition of hearing pitches from Vermonters for promising opportunities to help Vermont rapidly, cost-effectively, and



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equitably reduce fossil fuel use and greenhouse gas pollution, especially from the transportation and thermal sectors and especially with public policy, public engagement, and workforce development/workforce transition, and energy equity-building strategies. Pitch topics could be new policies or regulations, programmatic ideas, proof-of-concept pilot projects or something else entirely.

In order to ensure that selected pitches lead to concrete actions, EAN staff will provide network members with support,

from organizing and facilitation of meetings to financial resources, to form Action Teams.

Those who submit a pitch are committing to work on moving it forward throughout the year, with support from EAN staff. Stipends will be available to support the leaders of this work.

Find out more about pitches, action teams, selection criteria, and submit your pitch [here](#).

Weatherizing Older Buildings: Join Preservation Trust of Vermont and Efficiency Vermont for Tips on How-To



Join this three-hour session on July 30 from 9 a.m. to noon with top state experts on how to reduce the energy costs and carbon footprint of your non-profit or municipally-owned historic building. Learn the hows and whys of getting an energy audit, strategies and funding sources for efficiency upgrades, and basic and advanced techniques for weatherizing leaky windows, doors, attics and cellars.

This online Zoom session will include a presentation of resources and plenty of opportunity to ask questions and

discuss issues you currently face. For non-profits and municipalities. This session will be limited to 25 participants and encourages participation by all. Cost: \$25. Find out more and register [here](#).

Apply Now! Energy Action Network Seeks Project Manager



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The Energy Action Network (EAN) is seeking a Vermont Energy Dashboard and EAN Data Manager with applications due August 7th. The EAN's Dashboard and Data Manager will be responsible for managing and developing the EAN energy dashboard as well as collect and analyze data for the energy dashboard and annual progress report. To apply for this position, submit a resume and cover letter conveying your interest in the work of EAN and what you would bring to this position to EAN's Executive Director, Jared Duval, at

jduval@eanvt.org. You can also find more information about the position and what the ideal candidate looks like [here](#).

Join the Virtual SolarFest this Weekend - July 25th and 26th!



Are you looking for a fun way to learn more about renewable energy and a sustainable future? Then join the [Virtual SolarFest](#) this Weekend on July 25th and 26th. The 2020

SolarFest will be free this year and will include presentations, workshops and music performances that you can enjoy from your own home. Workshops on electric cars, regenerative agriculture, and living off the grid will be offered this weekend as well as a presentation by Storm Cunningham, a global thought leader in community revitalization and natural resource restoration. Find out more about SolarFest and register for the events [here](#).

Times Argus/Rutland Herald: "Racial Justice Must Include Climate Justice"



A recent op-ed in *Times Argus/Rutland Herald* by Vermont Conservation Voters Executive Director Lauren Hierl makes the case why climate justice work needs to include racial justice. Find it [here](#). And because this is so important, we wanted to share a few other resources we've found helpful to better understand and explore these issues further.

- Ayana Elizabeth Johnson: "I am a Black Climate Expert. Racism Derails Our Efforts To Save The Planet" (*Washington Post*) or [listen to this brief interview on NPR](#).
- Leah Thomas: "Why Every Environmentalist Should Be Anti-Racist" (*Vogue*)
- [Black Environmentalists Talk About Climate and Anti-Racism](#) (*New York Times*)
- [Bill McKibben: "Racism, Police Violence, and the Climate Are Not Separate Issues"](#) (*New Yorker*)

Efficiency Vermont Enacts New Program to Help Schools Reopen Safely This Fall



In order to improve indoor air quality in schools for their reopening in the fall, Efficiency Vermont is launching the [School Indoor Air Quality Grant Program](#). Through federal Coronavirus Relief Funds, Efficiency Vermont was able to enact this new program to help improve the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems in Vermont's K-12 public and independent schools. This program will not only upgrade schools' air quality systems to help prevent the spread of the Coronavirus, but it will also improve the energy efficiency of

the school by upgrading to newer models. In order to have the fullest impact they can have, Efficiency Vermont is trying to complete as much work as possible before schools open in September, and all projects must be completed by the end of the year. To find out more and how to get your school involved, go [here](#).

Vermont Bans Food Scraps in Trash to Eliminate Waste and Combat Climate Change



Vermont recently became the first state in the nation to enact a [food waste ban](#) on July 1st. Residents and businesses in Vermont are no longer allowed to throw food scraps into their trash cans. Instead, Vermonsters are encouraged to compost, feed food scraps to livestock, isolate the waste for trash pickup, or take it to a designated drop off site. Vermont is also hoping that the ban on food scraps in landfills will help to reduce food waste and combat climate change. Vermont officials said that they hoped the ban would make food

producers and consumers think twice about the amount of food they let go to waste. In a phone interview with *weather.com*, Anne Bijur, an environmental analyst with Vermont's Department of Environmental Conservation said that, "when organic materials get into a landfill they give off methane which is a very powerful greenhouse gas, so we're trying to reduce greenhouse gas emissions." Find out more about the new law and how it will help [here](#).

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