



VECAN

VERMONT ENERGY & CLIMATE
ACTION NETWORK

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July 2020 E-News

Dear Local Energy Leaders,

While the fall and Button Up season are creeping up on us, there are still plenty of opportunities, resources and important news stories to take in before then. We hope the opportunities below will help support the important work you do to ensure Vermont does its part in combating the climate crisis.

- **Energy Action Network to Host Climate Policy Webinar with Legislative Leadership - This Wednesday, August 5th at NOON.** Don't miss the opportunity to hear directly from Senate President Pro Tem Tim Ashe and House Speaker Mitzi Johnson about what climate priorities might make it over the finish line in the 2020 session. Register [here!](#)
- **House Climate Crisis Action Plan to Include Nine Welch-Sponsored Bills** - Find out more about what the U.S. House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis is doing [here](#).
- **Vermont Natural Resource Council Holding Art Contest for Kids and Teens** - Find out how your kids can get their Vermont-based art in this new contest [here!](#)
- **Lake Champlain Sea Grant Holding Webinar on Science Storytelling in the Digital Age** - Don't miss this August 10th webinar focused on learning strategies to tell your science story in new and engaging ways. Find out more and register [here!](#)
- **Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission Holding Energy Data Webinar** - Want to better understand what your local energy data is telling you about your municipality? Register for this August 19th webinar [here](#).
- **Vermont Joins Agreement to Electrify Buses and Trucks** - Find out more the regional effort Vermont recently joined focused on how to electrify buses and trucks by 2050 [here](#).
- **Virginia and North Carolina Join Vermont and Other States in the Money-Saving, Pollution-Reducing Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative** - Find out how the addition of these states could strengthen this important cap-and-invest program [here](#) and [here](#).

As always, thanks for all that you do.

Best,

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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

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

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

Energy Action Network Hosting Climate Policy Webinar with Legislative Leaders -- Wednesday, August 5th at NOON



ENERGY ACTION NETWORK

The Energy Action Network (EAN) has announced an exciting new opportunity to engage with legislative leaders on climate. EAN is hosting a webinar this **Wednesday, August 5th at noon on climate policy possibilities featuring Senate President Pro Tem Tim Ashe and House Speaker Mitzi Johnson**. The Legislature is set to reconvene on August 25th. While focused largely on finalizing a 2021 budget, a limited number of policy priorities will be considered – including the climate action accountability framework of the Global

Warming Solutions Act (H.688). This webinar will provide a critical, timely opportunity to get a brief update from Senator Ashe and Speaker Johnson, ask any questions you might have and discuss potential opportunities. Please register by the end of the day Tuesday, August 4th. [Register here today!](#)

House Climate Crisis Action Plan to Include Nine Welch-Sponsored Bills



Nine bills to boost energy efficiency and promote clean energy authored by Rep. Peter Welch were included in the [comprehensive congressional climate action plan](#) unveiled last month by the U.S. House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis. Below are the nine energy efficiency and renewable

energy bills introduced by Rep. Welch:

- * The **Renewable Energy Certainty Act (H.R. 932)**: A bipartisan bill to improve the federal government's ability to procure renewable energy resources.
- * The **Smart Building Acceleration Act (H.R. 2044)**: A bipartisan bill to facilitate the transition to energy-saving smart buildings by supporting research and documenting the costs and benefits of emerging technologies in private and federal government buildings.
- * The **Energy Savings Through Public Private Partnerships Act (H.R. 3079)**: A bipartisan bill to require federal agencies to implement energy savings projects identified by mandatory energy audits to improve efficiency and save tax dollars. These projects could be paid for by Energy Savings Performance Contracts or Utility Energy Savings Contracts.
- * The **Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act (H.R. 3962)**: A bipartisan bill to create model energy efficient building codes, train the next generation of energy efficiency workers, and reduce federal energy usage.
- * The **Federal Energy and Water Management Performance Act (H.R. 5650)**: A bipartisan bill to formally reauthorize the Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) and establish energy and water usage reduction goals for federal buildings.
- * The **E-Access Act (H.R. 5796)**: A bill to require the Department of Energy to issue guidelines that establish model data sharing standards and policies for states to provide electric consumers, gas consumers, and third-party designees with access to retail energy information.
- * The **Electric CARS Act (H.R. 2042)**: A bill to extend the electric vehicle (EV), fuel cell vehicle, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure tax credits for 10 years. It would also allow consumers to claim the EV credit at the time of purchase by transferring the credit to a dealer's financing arm, making the credit a more attractive option for low and moderate-income individuals.

* The **HOMES Act (H.R. 2043)**: A bipartisan bill to provide rebates to homeowners who invest in energy efficiency improvements.

* The **Smart Manufacturing Leadership Act (H.R. 1633)**: A bipartisan bill to improve the efficiency and global competitiveness of American manufacturers by establishing a smart manufacturing plan and providing assistance to small and medium-sized manufacturers in implementing smart manufacturing technologies in their facilities.

* The **HOPE for HOMES Act (H.R. 7325)**: A bipartisan bill to pair the HOMES Act rebate program with a grant program for online workforce training designed to prepare workers to conduct comprehensive home energy efficiency retrofits eligible for HOMES rebates.

Read more about what the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis is doing [here](#).

Vermont Natural Resource Council Holding Art Contest for Kids and Teens



This summer, The Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC) is holding the [Visualize Vermont Art Contest](#) for kids and teens! **The deadline for submissions is August 30th.** VNRC hopes the contest will be an engaging activity for kids and families to express their favorite Vermont activities and

locations during a time when many of our normal routines have been disrupted, and as a way to visualize the future Vermont we'd like to see.

Contest Details:

Children and teens from throughout Vermont are invited to submit original artwork responding to one of three prompts:

- Show us your favorite place in Vermont (any season)
- Show us your favorite outdoor activity (any season)
- Show us what you want the future to look like

Submissions are considered for a chance to appear in our 2020 year-end brochure, which is sent to thousands of Vermonters who care about our natural environment. In addition to appearing in our brochure, winners and runners-up in each age category will receive a \$50 or \$25 gift certificate to a local bookstore, art supply store, or bakery of their choice! The deadline is August 30, 2020.

Read more at <https://vnrc.org/artcontest/>. Submissions can be made [here](#). Contact Colin Keegan with any questions at ckeegan@vnrc.org.

Lake Champlain Sea Grant Hosts Webinar on Science Storytelling in the Digital Age



The Lake Champlain Sea Grant is [hosting a webinar](#) with Lisa Tossey, Assistant Director of Communications and Outreach with Maryland Sea Grant College Program, who will share her expertise in science storytelling in the context of the digital world in which we live. The webinar will be held on **Monday, August 10th from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.** The webinar will look to provide techniques for creating engaging storytelling while also using innovative approaches using emerging digital technologies. The webinar will also look at the basics of

capturing and sharing interesting imagery and footage of your work and cover which digital tools and online platforms are the best choice to use to engage your audience. Find more information and register for the webinar [here](#).

Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission Holding Energy Data Webinar



The Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) is [holding a webinar](#) to help Vermonters increase their knowledge of the data available to them for understanding how energy use is trending in their municipality. The webinar will be held on **Wednesday,**

August 19th from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Melanie Needle and Taylor Newton, the CCRPC energy planners, will be the speakers for a free one-hour webinar event with time for Q+A. The presentation will focus on the nuts and bolts of the energy data report provided by Efficiency Vermont. Presentation topics include status of energy planning, an overview of data measures available to you for quantifying energy usage and project types, and a look at regional energy usage over time. Find more information and register for the webinar [here](#).

Vermont Joins Agreement to Electrify Buses and Trucks



Vermont has joined 14 states and the District of Columbia [to commit to having all medium and heavy-duty vehicles sold in the state be electrified by 2050](#). The agreement was facilitated by the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM) who asks signatories to encourage the adoption of electric vehicles through incentive programs and other

infrastructure projects. Medium and heavy-duty vehicles make up 14% of Vermont's annual emissions attributed to the transportation sector and while nationally they represent the fastest growing source of greenhouse gas emissions. Read more about the new agreement and what it means for Vermont [here](#).

Virginia and North Carolina Join Vermont and Other States in the Money-Saving, Pollution-Reducing Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative



Virginia and North Carolina have joined the [Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative \(RGGI\)](#) and [Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management \(NESCAUM\)](#) respectively. The addition of these states strengthens their respective

groups, ones that Vermont is also a part of. Virginia joins Vermont and 9 other states in the RGGI which looks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from power plants. North Carolina joins Vermont, 13 states and the District of Columbia in the NESCAUM which looks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector. Find out more about what RGGI does [here](#) and what NESCAUM does [here](#).

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