



# VECAN

VERMONT ENERGY & CLIMATE  
ACTION NETWORK

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## Late September 2020 E-News

Dear Local Energy Leaders,

Colors, colors everywhere. Wow! We hope you have been enjoying these amazing fall days as much as we have. We wanted to share a few timely news items and put some interesting events and (funding!) opportunities on your radar. Find far more information below about:

- **Vermont Enacts Climate-Action Accountability Framework** - Last week, overcoming a gubernatorial veto, legislators made the Global Warming Solutions Act law. Find out far more about this needed planning framework – and critical step forward – below...
- **Reminder: Don't Miss Energy Action Network's Annual Summit on October 1st** - [Click here to register](#).
- **Got a Great Community Project? Apply for a "Spark Connecting Communities" Grant – The Vermont Community Foundation is now accepting applications** - Find out more about eligibility and how to apply below or [here](#).
- **New MileageSmart Capstone Program Helps Low Income Earners Buy Their Next Car** - Find out how MileageSmart can help you or one of your neighbors buy the next car [here](#)!
- **The Vermont Energy Education Program Offers Remote Learning Resources for Teachers and Students** - Learn more below...
- **It's National Drive Electric Week!** - Learn more below about events happening this week -- until October 4 -- and how you can participate.

As always, thanks for all that you do.

Best,

Bekah Kuster, Community Energy Coordinator, AmeriCorps Member, VECAN  
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## Great News! The Vermont Global Warming Solutions Act Is Now Law

Last week, Vermont legislators overrode Governor Phil Scott's veto of [H.688 – the Global Warming Solutions Act](#). Now enacted, the law requires Vermont to create a planning process

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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 [rkuster@vnrc.org](mailto:rkuster@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



and framework to ensure stepped, strategic action on climate change. It sets deadlines for the state to cut harmful climate pollution, with the 26 percent Paris Climate Accord reduction target as the first milestone and achieving net zero by 2050. The Solutions Act sets in place guideposts for how Vermont must meet these targets. It requires a focus on a just transition; reducing energy burdens and minimiz-

ing negative impacts on rural and marginalized communities, as well as rebuilding and growing the State's economy while protecting public health, enhancing community resilience and harnessing the power of the State's natural systems to store and capture carbon.

Fundamentally, the Solutions Act is an action framework. It will require state government to lead in the advancement and implementation of job-creating, pollution reducing climate solutions and, as a last remedy, create a venue for Vermonters to hold the State accountable through the courts if further action is needed to hit the targets. The State has 60 days to appoint members to a 23-member climate council that will serve as the lead entity to craft the required Climate Action Plan to achieve the targets. Massachusetts, Connecticut and, more recently, Maine are among the states that have a Solutions Act framework in place; a framework that has enabled them to make far more climate progress than Vermont to date. This new law sets the stage for Vermont, finally, to make much-needed, job-creating progress. Stay tuned for more information about the process and plans to ensure the success of this new framework! And, in the meantime, learn more about it [here](#) or read [the bill, as passed, here](#).

leadership or contact info to [rkuster@vnrc.org](mailto:rkuster@vnrc.org)

### Don't Miss Energy Action Network's Annual Summit on October 1st



Don't forget! Energy Action Network's Annual Summit is happening this Thursday, October 1st. We highly recommend you attend if you can. [Click here to register](#) if you haven't already. The Summit will feature the presentation of pitches to rapidly, cost-effectively, and equitably reduce fossil fuel use and greenhouse gas pollution, and well as offer an update of the status of energy transformation in Vermont and opportunities to network.

You can find more information about the event [here](#).

### Spark Connecting Communities Grants – Now Accepting Applications!



The Vermont Community Foundation is currently accepting applications for its [Spark Connecting Communities grant](#) – from now until Thursday, October 15th at 5:00 pm. This small grant (awards in the range of \$500-\$3,000) seeks to fund work that builds social capital and connection within communities and among community members. This grant opportunity is perfect for groups and organizations, including energy committees looking for funding to support projects or programs in their communities.

If you have any ideas for community-led projects where a small dollar amount could make a big difference, [click here to learn more and apply](#).

For more information, reach out to VCF at [grants@vermontcf.org](mailto:grants@vermontcf.org) or 802-388-3355 ext. 222.

### New MileageSmart Capstone Program Helps Low Income Earners Buy Their Next Car

**mileagesmart** ●●●● Capstone Community Action has developed a program to subsidize the purchase of used efficient cars for income-eligible Vermonters. This new program, called MileageSmart, is part of Capstone's climate justice work to support the dual goals of addressing social equity while fighting climate change. MileageSmart offers an incentive worth 25% of the purchase price, up to \$5,000. This program allows people to invest in a high-efficiency vehicle that will cut their monthly and long-term transportation costs and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

This is an exciting new program that you – or perhaps others you know! – can take advantage of to begin saving far more money at the pump with a high-efficiency car that gets more miles to the gallon. It's also a potential funding foundation to explore going electric, considering, fully-electric vehicles, while sometimes higher priced upfront, require less maintenance over their lifetime, resulting in even more long-term savings. This innovative program aims to make it easier for people to save money and reduce climate pollution by lowering the upfront cost of more efficient vehicles. [Find out more here](#), including eligibility information and a link to apply, and remember to spread the word about this exciting program.

### The Vermont Energy Education Program Offers Remote Learning Resources for Teachers and Students



The Vermont Energy Education Program (VEEP) has developed new [remote learning resources](#) for teachers and students. These resources are still interactive and NGSS-aligned but include many different formats adapted to fit virtual, hybrid, or in-class models. Teachers can also connect with a [VEEP Energy Teaching Partner](#) who provides support, guidance, virtual presentations, and more for their classes. VEEP also offers [free professional development](#), which they have adapted to a virtual platform.

Visit [VEEP's website](#) to learn more about their work and new resources. Don't hesitate to reach out to Anna Hamilton at [anna@veep.org](mailto:anna@veep.org), with any questions.

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### It's National Drive Electric Week! – September 26th - October 4th



Vermont National Drive Electric Week is a nationwide celebration of all-electric and plug-in hybrid cars, trucks, motorcycles, and more. Here's what Vermont has in store for this year's Drive Electric week:

#### Vermont Sierra Club Drive Electric Week Community Conversation - September 30th

The Vermont Sierra Club will be hosting a community conversation from 7-8 pm on Wednesday, September 30th. The conversation will feature proud Vermonters discussing their experience with electric vehicles. The event is designed to share information about the advantages and challenges of electric vehicles, allow folks to ask questions to current owners, and see which electric vehicles might fit your needs.

Interested in finding out how much an electric vehicle costs? Curious to hear how far electric vehicles can take you on a single charge? Then this event is for you. [Click here to register to attend](#).

#### Let's Talk EVs - October 2nd

Burlington Electric Department's Energy Services Director, Chris Burns, and City of Burlington Sustainability Director, Jennifer Green, will discuss and take your questions on making the move to electric vehicles including the many rebates and advantages. Don't miss this

event happening Friday, October 2 at 12 pm. A link for this webinar will appear [here](#) on the day of the event.

## Donate

### Connect With Us:

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