



# VECAN

VERMONT ENERGY & CLIMATE  
ACTION NETWORK

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## October 2020 E-News

Dear Local Energy Leaders,

We hope you are enjoying the changing colors and colder weather. Cozy up with a cup of hot tea and read about some exciting events, opportunities, and resources below.

- **REV2020: Power to Renew Conference Begins This Week – October 21st!!** - [Register here](#) for Renewable Energy Vermont's virtual series. Find out far more below.
- **Building a Green Future Together – Endorsing Environmental Groups Host Town Hall with David Zuckerman on October 23rd** - Register for this [Zoom webinar here](#) and learn more below.
- **Zero Energy Now is Back!** - Find out more below about how this [comprehensive energy retrofit program](#) can help cut your home's fossil fuel use up to 100%.
- **New Harvard and Vermont Studies Show Clean Transportation Options Improve Public Health** - Read more about these important findings below.
- **Join VEIC's Upcoming Clean Energy Calls!** - Attend the next set of calls on October 21st and October 28th. Learn more and register below.
- **"Green Up" Your Life with [LiveGreenVT.org](#)** - Explore this great, free new online guide to climate and renewable energy resources in your town and across the state.
- **Are You a Local Leader Looking to Build a Local Project? Join Vermont Community Leadership Network Workshops** - Learn more about the Network and the workshop series [here](#).

As always, thanks for all that you do.

Best,

Bekah Kuster, Community Energy Coordinator, AmeriCorps Member, VECAN  
802-223-2328 ext. 116 - [rkuster@vnrc.org](mailto:rkuster@vnrc.org)

## REV2020: Power to Renew Conference Begins This Week!

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## 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 [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



**REV2020: Power to Renew** begins this week – October 21st – with a series of morning sessions scheduled throughout the fall!

Join hundreds of others from across the clean energy sector for in-depth discussions of connectivity, resilience, the future of transportation, and equity. This virtual event series will feature keynotes from FERC Commissioner Richard Glick (Oct 21), Kelly Speakes-Backman CEO of the US Energy Storage Assoc. (Nov 18), Mass. Energy and Environment Secretary Kathleen Theoharides (Dec 2) and Coreina Chan, Principal of Rocky Mountain Institute's e-Lab Leap project (Dec 9)!

REV is offering a discounted registration rate of \$25 for volunteer energy committee members not employed in the clean energy sector! [Learn more and register here.](#)

We hope to see you there!

### **Building a Green Future Together – Town Hall with David Zuckerman on October 23rd 12-1 pm**



Vermont Conservation Voters, VPIRG Votes, and the Vermont Sierra Club have all endorsed Lt. Governor David Zuckerman in his run for Governor. For years, these three groups have been advocating and fighting for clean air and water and healthy communities in Vermont. They know the ins and outs of statewide policy debates, the champions and leaders, and who's been putting in the important work – both at the podium and behind-the-scenes.

Come hear from these organizations this Friday, 10/23, from 12-1 pm on why they have each chosen David Zuckerman as the best leader to move Vermont forward at this critical time, as we recover and rebuild from the interlocking public health, economic, racial justice, and climate crises.

There will be a Q&A, where you can ask David your questions on his vision for our state, and why he believes he's the right leader for Vermont.

[Register for the Zoom webinar here!](#)

### **New Harvard and Vermont Studies Show Clean Transportation Options Improve Public Health**



Two recent studies show that transportation and energy policies are much more important to our health than we might think.

A new [Harvard study](#) shows that the Transportation Climate Initiative (TCI) plan to modernize transportation in Northeast & Mid-Atlantic states would yield up to \$11 billion in annual health benefits, reducing racial health disparities and avoiding up to 1,100 deaths and 4,700 childhood asthma cases. The report makes a case for investing in clean transportation solutions such as enhanced transit, safe and bikeable streets, and vehicle electrification, states in the region to not only experience lower greenhouse gas emissions, but also reduce local air pollution. Read more about the study's findings [here](#).

A similar [study by the Vermont Department of Health](#) found that if we meet our transportation goals in Vermont's Comprehensive Energy Plan we could prevent 2,000 early deaths and save \$1.1 billion in health care costs and lost productivity. The study's health impacts were

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

based on changes in physical activity, air quality, and traffic safety. According to the study, the greatest benefits to health would come from more walking and biking. Vermonters spend nearly 500 minutes traveling via various forms of transportation each week, but only about 50 of those minutes are spent walking or biking. Vermont Health Commissioner Mark Levine, MD said a focus on reducing barriers to walking and biking will make it easier for people to make the healthier choice of physical activity. Read more about that study [here](#).

## Zero Energy Now is Back!



The home energy retrofit program “Zero Energy Now” (ZEN) is back! Vermont homeowners can once again participate in a comprehensive energy retrofit program providing weatherization, efficient heating systems and renewables such as solar PV and advanced wood heating systems. The ZEN incentives make bringing your home to as close to zero energy even more possible (up \$5,000 depending on the energy saved, and an additional \$3,000 for low- to moderate-income homeowners). This program is first-come, first-serve, and contracts must be signed by December 31, 2020 so take advantage of this opportunity now.

Click [here](#) to learn more and help spread the word!

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## Register Now for VEIC's Upcoming Clean Energy Calls



VEIC's Clean Energy Calls are a virtual briefing series that brings together industry leaders across the country to discuss and unpack the challenges, opportunities, and innovative approaches critical to making clean energy core to post-pandemic recovery.

Join the next set of Clean Energy Calls:

- **Improving indoor air quality in schools: A Vermont case study – October 21st at 1pm.** Learn how Vermont developed a coordinated approach to improving indoor air quality in schools across the state. [Register for the call here](#).
- **Can solving climate change revive the American Dream? – October 28th at 1pm.** Learn how the clean energy supply chain can act as a catalyst for true economic development. [Register for the call here](#).

Can't make the calls? Register anyway to receive a link to the recording.

## "Green Up" Your Life With Newly Launched LiveGreenVT



LiveGreenVT is a new free guide to climate and renewable energy resources. It is a comprehensive digital database of businesses and organizations searchable by location or categories such as green building, transportation, gardening/homesteading, electric, renewable energy, resourceful living, and more.

LiveGreenVT provides Champlain Valley residents and businesses with direct ways to transition to renewable energy and to “green up” their daily lives. The guide also features timely articles, informational resources, and interviews with community members who are passionate about alleviating the effects of the climate crisis.

Click [here](#) to explore the site!

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## Register for Vermont Community Leadership Network Workshops



The [Vermont Community Leadership Network \(VCLN\)](#) was launched to connect and support local leaders as they build local projects, organizations, and systems that serve their communities and Vermont's urgent and long-term needs. The Network supports members with online workshops on community development initiatives, skills training, and the sharing of best practices and inspiring success stories. The Fall 2020 series of workshops will be held bi-weekly on Tuesdays from 10-11:30am.

Registration for the upcoming workshops below:

Oct. 27 – Projects: [Building and supporting local food solutions](#)

Nov. 10 – Skills: [Growing participation through effective outreach](#)

Learn more about VCLN and the workshops [here](#).

## Donate

### Connect With Us:

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802-223-2328 ext. 112

9 Bailey Ave.

Montpelier, VT 05642

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