

VECAN

VERMONT ENERGY & CLIMATE
ACTION NETWORK

[Take Action](#)

[Visit Our Website](#)

[Energy Committees](#)

April 2021 E-News

Dear Local Energy Leaders,

Per usual, as of late, a LOT is happening. That includes big news and potentially transformative opportunities with significant federal funding coming into Vermont in the form of \$1 billion+ American Rescue Plan Act dollars and a potential ensuing infrastructure bill too. This huge funding influx is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in Vermont's future and the well-being of all Vermonters and could include the potential for meaningful funding for key climate priorities such as weatherization, grid modernization, efficient, affordable housing, electric vehicle infrastructure and more.

Read much more about this, as well as find out about interesting events and opportunities coming up, including:

EVENTS

- **TONIGHT! The 2021 Wild & Scenic Film Festival – 6:30 PM** - Join VNRC for a night of inspiring short films about the resilience of nature and the people who care for it. Tickets are by donation. \$10 or more includes entry into a raffle for local prizes. [Get tickets and check out the silent auction.](#) Learn more below.
- **Climate Solutions for Vermont Panel Discussion - April 13 at 7:00 PM** - Join Middlebury College Franklin Environmental Center for a panel discussion and Q&A on local paths to a sustainable and just energy transition in Vermont, featuring panelists Johanna Miller of VNRC, Cara Robeck of Energy Action Network, and Kate Holly Middlebury College '21. [Learn more](#) and [register here](#).
- **“Your Vermont Climate Council” Webinar: Economic Impacts, Stories, & Solutions - April 14 at Noon** - Join VBSR and the Nature Conservancy to learn about the economic impacts of climate change, opportunities climate action presents, and how Vermont's Climate Council offers opportunity in forging needed solutions. [Register for the webinar](#) and learn more below.
- **Register for Our Next VECAN Lunch and Learn: Assessing the Potential for Climate Action in Federal Stimulus Dollars - April 19 at Noon** - Hear from Vermont's Congressional delegation staffers about what's on the horizon for federal stimulus dollars and share your ideas about how these dollars might support important climate, recovery, equity and economic investments! [Register to attend here](#) and find more information below.

Connect

[Facebook](#)
[Twitter](#)

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

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 rkuster@vnrc.org

- **Thinking About Making the Switch to a Heat Pump?** - Join the Norwich Energy Committee for a webinar to learn about heat pumps from the experts at Efficiency Vermont. [Click here](#) to register for the Wednesday, 4/21, 12-1 pm session, or [click here](#) to register for the Wednesday, 4/28, 7-8 pm. Find more details below.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

- **The Climate Council Launches Public Portal for Comments and Input** - Have you been waiting to weigh in on the work of the Vermont Climate Council? The public portal for comment, feedback, document-sharing, and more is NOW LIVE! [Find it here](#).
- **Want to Help on Vermont Climate Action? The State Seeks GWSA Coordinator** - If you or someone you know wants to work directly with the GWSA Director to support the work of the Climate Council and its Subcommittees, [learn more here](#) and below, and plan to apply by April 14.
- **Investment Opportunity in Local Community-Owned Solar Generation!** - A new Bristol Community Solar (BCS) project is now accepting subscriptions. [Learn more about this opportunity, including how you can become an investor here](#).
- **Want To Be a Climate Economy Model Community?** - The Vermont Council on Rural Development is seeking the next community for its Climate Economy Model Communities Program, which focuses on strengthening community and tackling climate change. Letters of interest will be accepted through April 26. [Click here for more details](#) and find more information below.
- **WindowDressers Will Re-Open in 2021!** - WindowDresser's Community Build program is back on this year! Several energy committees and towns across Vermont have taken part in the initiative to help their neighbors cut carbon and increase comfort. Read more about the initiative, including some incredible stories of neighbors helping neighbors [here](#). And [find program details here](#) and below.
- **HEAT Squad Offering Home Energy Audits - Special Offer for Peacham Residents** - HEAT Squad provides low-cost energy audits for homes and businesses throughout Vermont. If you are a Peacham homeowner, you may be eligible to receive a home energy audit for \$50 (\$100 discount!). Contact (802) 438-2303 or visit heatsquad.org to take advantage of this offer – or potential other opportunities. Find more information below.
- **Watch the Webinar Recording to Learn About Buying and Owning an Electric Vehicle!** - If you missed the webinar on electric vehicles hosted by Vermont Law School's Institute for Energy and the Environment and the Hartford Energy Commission, you can now [watch the recording here](#). The webinar de-mystifies electric vehicles and helps Vermont residents understand how affordable and fun owning an electric vehicle can be!

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

EVENTS

13th Annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival - Tonight, April 8th at 6:30 PM

VNRC's [Wild & Scenic Film Festival](#) is tonight! Join us at 6:30 pm for an evening of inspiring short films from the safety and comfort of your own home. [Read about this year's films here](#), which explore efforts to protect public lands, preserve biodiversity, promote environmental justice, and conquer outdoor challenges.

[The silent auction is open—and entirely online!](#) You can view the items and bid here. The auction will be open through April 11. Start your bidding today.

While admission to view the films is free, a donation to VNRC of \$10 or more through the ticketing system enters you into a raffle to win items from sponsors like Klean Kanteen, Lake Champlain Chocolates, and many others.

[Click here to get tickets and make your donation.](#)

Climate Solutions for Vermont Panel Discussion - April 13 at 7:00 PM

Middlebury College Franklin Environmental Center is hosting a public webinar on April 13 from 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM on behalf of "[Solve Climate By 2030](#)," a global teach-in designed to accelerate local solutions to climate change.

Panelists Johanna Miller of VNRC, Cara Robeck of Energy Action Network, and Kate Holly will offer their

perspectives on pursuing a just and sustainable energy transition in Vermont, presenting three ongoing class projects designed to support a diverse climate-economy workforce, affordable clean-energy methods of transportation for low-income households, and zero-net energy housing for migrant workers on dairy farms.

[Find the agenda and panelist bios here.](#)

[Click here](#) to learn more about this webinar and [register here!](#)

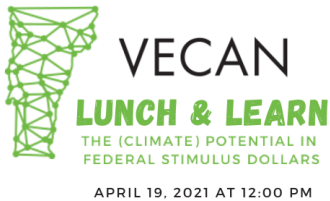
“Your Vermont Climate Council” Webinar: Economic Impacts, Stories, & Solutions - April 14 at Noon

If you haven't heard about the Council or are eager to learn more about their work and how you might engage, this webinar is for you. All are welcome to attend a community discussion with VBSR and the Nature Conservancy to learn about the cost of climate impacts, the economic opportunities climate action presents, and how to engage in the Vermont Climate Council's work to chart a path toward a just, green, resilient economy.

[Register for this free webinar here!](#) Details to join will be sent via email to all who register in advance of the event.

If you have questions, please reach out to VBSR Public Policy Manager, Jordan Giaconia at Jordang@vbsr.org.

Register for the Next VECAN Lunch and Learn: Exploring the Climate Potential in Federal Stimulus Dollars - April 19 at Noon



Join us Monday, April 19 at noon to learn about what's on the horizon for federal stimulus dollars!

We know that millions of dollars will be coming into Vermont from the federal government — in the form of the American Rescue Plan — for critical emergency and pandemic response measures. There is also a strong

possibility of funding targeted toward infrastructure and climate coming a bit further down the road.

We want to ensure that you are kept informed about the opportunities this funding represents and create an opportunity for you to connect with federal staffers to better understand what this opportunity might mean for Vermont and your community! [Join us on Monday, April 19th at noon for this exciting conversation!](#)

Tom Berry from Senator Patrick Leahy's Office, Haley Pero from Senator Bernie Sanders Office, and Rebecca Ellis from Representative Peter Welch's Office will join us for this conversation. There will also be small-group sessions for you to connect with other local energy leaders and a federal staffer to ask questions and share your ideas.

[Register to attend here!](#)

PS: Even if you aren't able to attend the event live, please register anyway to make sure you receive the recording and follow-up email!

Heat Pumps Webinars Hosted by the Norwich Energy Committee



Heat pumps for both space and water heating can play a big role in your home – making it more efficient, reducing your household emissions, and saving you money.

But how exactly do they work? What's involved in switching from oil or propane to a heat pump? Can they really keep your home warm on a ten-degree night? How much do they cost? What incentives are there?

The Norwich Energy Committee is hosting online sessions with the experts from Efficiency Vermont that will cover basic heat pump FAQs and include plenty of time for Q&A. The sessions are being offered at two different times to accommodate different schedules:

- Wednesday, 4/21, 12-1 pm - [Register in advance for this webinar here.](#)
- Wednesday, 4/28, 7-8 pm - [Register in advance for this webinar here.](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

The State of Vermont Seeks GWSA Coordinator to Support Climate Council



Interested in – or know someone who might be interested in – helping the important charge of the new [Vermont Climate Council](#) succeed? Check out this exciting opportunity to serve as the Global Warming Solutions Act Coordinator, with primary responsibilities including helping to administer the work of the Vermont

Climate Council and the Subcommittees to advance the development of the Vermont Climate Action Plan and, ultimately, the implementation of the statute that requires significant pollution-reducing progress.

This position will work most closely with the GWSA Director to support the Vermont Climate Council and its Subcommittees, including taking meeting minutes, gathering and preparing documents for future meetings, and other administrative support tasks related to the work of the Climate Council.

[Learn more about the position, including how to apply here.](#)

New Bristol Community Solar (BCS) Project Accepting Subscriptions!



The Acorn Renewable Energy Co-op recently announced a new community solar project in Bristol. A limited number of subscriptions are now available for the community solar array planned for the closed landfill on Pine Street in Bristol. You can find an overview of Bristol Community Solar on [Acorn Energy Co-op's website here](#).

Until May 6th, subscription priority will be given to Bristol residents, businesses and organization, Acorn Energy Co-op members, and the Interfaith Climate Action Network and Vermont Interfaith Power and Light.

If you'd like to learn more about becoming an Acorn Energy Co-op member to be part of this initial offering, or would like to learn more about this opportunity, email Mary Mester, Acorn's Coordinator at info@acornenergycoop.com. Please include your full name, address, and phone number.

Opportunity to Become a Climate Economy Model Community



Since 2017, six different communities have participated in the Vermont Council on Rural Development's Climate

Economy Model Communities Program. Through this process, they've done deep public engagement, prioritized key actions, and worked on implementation, all around the theme of strengthening community and tackling climate change.

VCRD is welcoming communities interested in participating in this program for 2021. Letters of interest will be accepted through April 26. [Click here for more details.](#)

WindowDressers Will Reopen This Year!



INSULATING WINDOW INSERTS

[WindowDressers](#), a volunteer-led initiative to make low-cost insulating window inserts, is moving forward with re-opening their innovative Community Build program in 2021! After a full year of being shut down due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the staff and volunteers are eager to get back to the work of warming homes, helping the environment, and building community.

In 2019, Charlotte and several other towns throughout Vermont took part in WindowDressers. Volunteers had fun getting to know their neighbors better while helping them cut carbon and increase comfort. [Read more about the initiative, including some incredible stories of neighbors helping neighbors here.](#)

Is your energy committee interested in participating in WindowDressers this year? [Learn more about the 2021 program here.](#)

HEAT Squad Offering Home Energy Audits - Special Offer for Peacham Residents



HEAT Squad, a service of NeighborWorks of Western Vermont, provides low-cost energy audits for homes and businesses throughout Vermont. HEAT Squad has recently expanded its services to the Northeast Kingdom and now serves homeowners in Essex, Orleans, and Caledonia counties.

To schedule your energy audit or to find out more about HEAT Squad's services, visit heatsquad.org or call (802) 438-2303.

If you are a Peacham homeowner, in particular, you may be eligible for this special offer! The Peacham Energy Committee (PEC) recently partnered up with HEAT Squad to offer \$50 energy audits (\$100 discount) for up to 20 households. Priority will be given to low and moderate-income households.

Contact HEAT Squad at (802) 438-2303 or heatsquad.org to take advantage of this offer and get started right away.

Questions? Please contact peachamenergycommittee@gmail.com.

Donate

Connect With Us:

Facebook

Twitter

802-223-2328 ext. 112

9 Bailey Ave.

Montpelier, VT 05642

(Unsubscribing is not supported in previews)