

VECAN

VERMONT ENERGY & CLIMATE
ACTION NETWORK

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July 2021 E-News

Dear Local Energy Leaders,

We hope summertime in Vermont (or wherever your travels may have taken you...) finds you well! Despite the recent news and harrowing climate reality hitting home for so many as of late – including [record-breaking heatwaves and droughts](#) sweeping across the Pacific Northwest and Canada – we remain focused on long-overdue progress. The imperative for climate action here in Vermont has never been more clear.

Below, please find a list of events, funding and employment opportunities, news and more that we hope will help support the critical work you do in your communities and beyond to fight the climate crisis. Stay tuned to the ensuing opportunities for you to weigh in on the Comprehensive Energy Plan update, the work of the Vermont Climate Council and its initial Climate Action Plan and so much more. Until then, stay safe, well and in touch with news and events you'd like us to share...

EVENTS

- **Peacham Energy Committee “All-Electric Future” Event - July 11th, 12 - 3 PM** - Stop by the Peacham Energy Committee's (PEC) table this Sunday to learn about the “all-electric future.” There will be a range of super-efficient, electric yard equipment and e-vehicles on display. Find more information about this event below.
- **Building a Resilient Path to Vermont's Lower Carbon Future - July 27, 12- 2 PM** - VT Clean Cities Coalition and VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets present a workshop showing current fuels, applications, and emissions in Vermont, demonstrating low- carbon options and energy transitions, and helping construct resilient pathways that strengthen our economy and fast track decarbonization. [Register to attend here.](#)
- **Save the Date for the EAN 2021 Summit and Submit a Pitch!** - Energy Action Network (EAN) will be holding its annual Network Summit on September 15, 2021 at the Sugarbush Resort. EAN is requesting [pitch submissions](#) between now and August 15 for promising opportunities to help Vermont rapidly, cost-effectively, and equitably reduce fossil fuel use and greenhouse gas pollution. [Learn more here](#) and below.

NEWS & OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

- **Small Grants Available for Innovative Local Climate and Energy Projects Up to \$4,000!** - Do you have an innovative local climate or

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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

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

energy project that could benefit from a small grant? Check out the newly launched Climate Catalysts Innovation Fund Grant Program - grants up to \$4,000 with a deadline of July 22. [More information and an easy application for the program can be found here](#) and below.

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

- **Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) Seeks Regional Energy Planner/Project Manager** - The CCRPC is looking to hire a Regional Energy Planner to address climate change and Vermont's clean energy goals by helping municipalities implement projects from their adopted Energy Plans. Interested in applying? [Learn more about the position, including how to apply here](#) and below.
- **New Online Tool Helps Homebuyers and Sellers Assess Home's Energy Performance** - A diverse group of partners has come together to tighten the connection between energy efficiency and home value, with a [free new tool](#) available to current homeowners, home sellers and prospective buyers alike. [Learn more about this new tool here](#) and below.
- **Vermont Agency of Transportation Will Add Electric Buses With \$1 Million Grant** - [The Vermont Agency of Transportation announced](#) it will buy four electric buses to traverse the central part of the state with a \$1 million "Low and No Emissions" grant from the Federal Transit Administration.
- **Scientists Say US Heatwave Is Potentially the Worst Drought in 1,200 Years** - The heatwave gripping the US west is simultaneously breaking hundreds of temperature records, exacerbating a historic drought and priming the landscape for a summer and fall of extreme wildfire. [Read what researchers have to say about this record-breaking heatwave here.](#)
- **Rising Global Temperatures Move Closer to Climate Change Tipping Point** - [A recent U.N. report](#) shows that there is now a 40% chance that global temperatures will reach 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels in the next five years — and these odds are rising.

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

Peacham Energy Committee "All-Electric Future" Event - July 11th



Get plugged in and ready to learn about the "All-Electric Future," July 11, 12-3 pm at "[Sundays in Peacham](#)" by the Farmers' Market. The [Peacham Energy Committee](#) (PEC) will have a range of electric vehicles and yard equipment on display (like a Chevy Bolt, RadWagon e-bike, e-chainsaw, e-lawnmower, and more). Bring your questions and curiosity!

The first 10 parties to visit PEC, will receive a \$5 coupon redeemable with any Farmers' Market vendor participating on July 11.

[HEAT Squad](#) will also be there to talk about home energy audits. **A handful of \$50 Energy Audits are still available for Peachamites (\$100 discount)!** Already had an audit done? The Squad's Sally Ayers will be present to demonstrate the tools of her trade and answer audit follow-up questions (first come-first served).

Save the Date for EAN's 2021 Summit and Submit a Pitch!



Energy Action Network will be holding its annual Network Summit on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at the Sugarbush Resort in Warren, Vermont.

The annual summit is a time to:

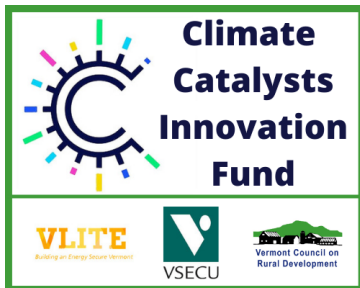
- Get the latest data and analysis on where Vermont stands relative to our renewable energy and emissions reduction commitments.
- Hear visionary, strategic proposals about how we can rapidly, cost-effectively, and equitably reduce fossil fuel use and greenhouse gas pollution.
- Connect and network with other leaders working on and passionate about energy and climate issues.

Visit the [2021 Summit page here](#). Additional information and registration details will be available by early August.

EAN is requesting pitch submissions between now and August 15. Once again, they want to hear your pitch for promising opportunities to help Vermont rapidly, cost-effectively, and equitably reduce fossil fuel use and greenhouse gas pollution. [Learn more about how to submit a pitch here](#).

NEWS & OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Small Grants for Innovative Local Climate and Energy Projects Up to \$4,000!



The Vermont Council on Rural Development announced the launch of a new small grant program designed to support local innovators with projects that move Vermont closer to its climate and energy goals. The Climate Catalysts Innovation Fund is capitalized with \$20,000 from the Vermont Low Income Trust for Electricity (VLITE) and VSECU. This grant program is intended to support innovative local projects for which a small grant could have a meaningful impact.

Municipalities, schools, businesses, non-profit organizations, and town energy committees are all eligible to apply. Four to 10 grant awards will be made ranging in size from \$500 to a maximum of \$4,000.

[Find more information about the grant, including criteria to apply, here](#).

A short grant application can be found [here](#). The deadline to apply for this grant is July 22.

For questions about this grant and how to apply, contact Jon Copans at jon@vtrural.org or (802) 272-0162.

Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) Seeks Regional Energy Planner/Project Manager

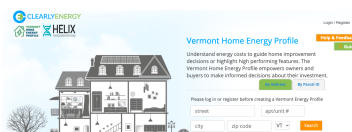


The Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) is seeking a person highly motivated to address climate change and Vermont's clean energy goals by helping the municipalities implement projects from their adopted Energy Plans.

The [Regional Energy Planner](#) will be supervised by the CCRPC Planning Program Manager and work on projects with several municipalities. These projects will include those that reduce overall energy use through conservation/efficiency measures and to shift energy use from fossil fuels to renewable sources (primarily electricity and biomass). These projects will provide quantifiable benefits to communities in terms of cost savings and in terms of carbon reductions. This position may also work in other program areas including, but not limited to regional planning and land use planning. [Read the full job description here.](#)

To apply, please send a letter of interest and resume (with three references and contact information) in a single pdf to Charlie Baker, Executive Director, at: cbaker@ccrpcvt.org. They will begin reviewing applications on July 15th. This position will remain open until filled.

Online Tool Helps Homebuyers and Sellers Assess Home's Energy Performance



A diverse group of partners has come together to tighten the connection between energy efficiency and home value, with a new tool available to current homeowners, home sellers and prospective buyers alike.

The [Vermont Home Energy Profile](#) is a free, voluntary assessment tool that draws from publicly available data sources and homeowner inputs to provide valuable energy performance information to potential buyers in an energy profile. The Vermont Home Energy Profile allows homebuyers and sellers to assess a home's energy performance and to factor it into the valuation of a home.

Vermont Home Energy Profiles aren't just for homebuyers. For current owners, the Vermont Home Energy Profile can also be a handy way to decide where to prioritize improvements to make their home more efficient, less costly to operate, and more appealing to energy-conscious buyers when the time comes to list their home.

[Learn more about this new tool here.](#)

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