

VECAN

VERMONT ENERGY & CLIMATE
ACTION NETWORK

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August 2021 E-News

Dear Local Energy Leaders,

As we enjoy these lovely August days (and hope you are too!), there are several important events and opportunities to put on your radar in our collective mission to advance climate action.

Below, please find more information on select events, opportunities, and important news.

EVENTS

- **Comprehensive Energy Plan Electric Sector Workshop - August 10, 10 AM - 2 PM** - The Department of Public Service will host a series of sector-specific technical workshops in the coming weeks, to support the development of the Comprehensive Energy Plan and Climate Action Plan. The first of these workshops, the Electric Sector, is on August 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. [Find more details here](#) and below.
- **Waterbury LEAP Electric Vehicle Festival - August 18, 5:30 - 7 PM** - Join Waterbury LEAP and Drive Electric Vermont at the Crossett Brook Middle School on Wednesday, August 18th from 5:30-7:00 pm for their annual EV Fest. [Learn more here](#) and below.
- **Register for a VECAN Lunch & Learn on This Year's Button Up Campaign - August 25 at Noon** - Join VECAN and Efficiency Vermont on August 25th for a noon webinar to learn about what this year's Button Up Campaign will look like! [Register here](#) and find more details below.
- **Get Your Ticket Today for the EAN 2021 Annual Network Summit!** - Registration is now open for Energy Action Network's (EAN) 2021 Network Summit happening September 15, 2021, at Sugarbush Resort in Warren, Vermont (with possible virtual and/or hybrid options to be determined). [Register here](#) and [find more information here](#) and below.
- **In Case You Missed It — EAN Pathways Webinar Recording and Materials** - [Click here for a recording](#) of EAN's August 3rd "Emissions Reductions Pathways Model" Lunch & Learn, and find all [other materials, including the slidedeck here](#).

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

- **VNRC is Hiring an Energy and Climate Program Associate!** - The Vermont Natural Resources Council is seeking an Energy and Climate Program Associate to help shape public understanding of the value of reducing fossil fuel consumption, and to inspire individual, community,

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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

program and policy solutions to the challenge. [Find the job description here](#) and learn more below.

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

- **VCRD Seeks a Working Communities Challenge Program Coordinator** - VCRD is hiring a Working Communities Challenge Program Coordinator to provide frontline support to diverse local teams as they tackle complex challenges facing their communities. [Click here](#) to learn more and view the full job description.
- **Help Create Better Transportation Options in the Upper Valley** - The Upper Valley Transportation Management Association (convened by Vital Communities) is calling all Upper Valley residents to take this 10-minute survey about your transportation habits for a chance to win a \$25 gift Co-op Food Stores gift card! Survey open until Aug 16. [Click here to take the survey.](#)

NEWS

- **Vermont Climate Council Subcommittees Present Draft Strategies** - “The Vermont Climate Council reached a milestone Monday morning when three subcommittees presented their first iteration of a road map designed to drastically reduce carbon emissions and prepare the state for climate change.” Read about what was covered in [last week’s meeting here](#) and below.
- **Time Magazine Recognizes Green Mountain Power’s Work to Fight Climate Change** - Check out *Time*’s overview of GMP’s efforts to lead on clean energy innovation solutions as a utility, including its recent work in Panton to create a microgrid. [Read it here.](#)
- **Montpelier’s MyRide is Your Ride for a More Livable Community** - In this month’s [People, Places, and Transportation](#) blog, VNRC’s Stephanie Gomory highlights MyRide, a flexible-route, flexible-schedule transit service that’s bringing on-demand convenience to Montpelier—and aims to improve land use downtown. [Read it here.](#)
- **Bipartisan Infrastructure Plan Leaves Out Key Climate Priorities** - The \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure package revealed by the Senate last week falls far short of meeting the climate crisis. Vermont’s Congressional delegation— Senator Bernie Sanders, Senator Patrick Leahy and Congressman Peter Welch—are working hard to change that. [Thank them for their work today!](#) And [learn more about the plan here](#) and below.
- **The Northeast’s Largest Renewable Natural Gas Digester Begins Operations in Salisbury** - According to Vermont Secretary of Agriculture Anson Tebbetts, “The digester is an important step in reducing the state’s dependence on fossil fuels and in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the agricultural industry, which currently produces more than 10% of the state’s emissions.” [Learn more about this project here.](#)

OP-EDS OF NOTE

- **Check Out a Commentary by Johanna Miller Urging Leadership on Climate, Like Vermont Led on Covid-19** - “We can demonstrate that a small state with a clear focus can tackle big issues, benefitting Vermonters while also owning our obligation to act on a global issue,” writes Johanna Miller, VNRC’s Energy & Climate Program Director and VECAN Coordinator. [Read her full commentary in VTDigger 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

EVENTS

Upcoming Comprehensive Energy Plan Sector-Specific Workshops - August 10, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM



The Department of Public Service will host a series of sector-specific technical workshops, in partnership with members of the Cross-Sector Mitigation subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council to support the development of the Comprehensive Energy Plan and Climate Action Plan. These forums will be held virtually on Zoom with an in-person option at the Department of Public Service.

Each workshop will include a mix of presentations and facilitated discussion sessions.

Please consider attending the forum if you are interested in discussing policies, programs, and strategies currently in place or that should be in place to meet renewable energy and climate goals in each sector and the decision-making criteria that should be employed when assessing policy options.

The first of these workshops, the Electric Sector, is scheduled for August 10 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. You can find the [agenda here](#), which includes information on how to join.

Waterbury LEAP Electric Vehicle Festival - August 18, 5:30 - 7 PM



Join Waterbury LEAP and Drive Electric Vermont for an evening of free food and fun at the Crossett Brook Middle School (5672 VT Route 100, Duxbury) on Wednesday, August 18th from 5:30-7:00 pm.

There will be experts and owners available to cover the basics and answer questions about plug-in electric

vehicles (EVs) in Vermont.

The LEAP EV Fest is a free event and will include:

- Free pizza, ice cream, drinks for all attendees
- 15+ electric vehicles on display, including the Tesla Model Y, Ford Mustang Mach-E, Chevrolet Bolt, Toyota RAV4 Prime, Subaru Crosstrek plug-in hybrid, and more
- A brief overview discussion on electric vehicles in Vermont from Drive Electric Vermont, including updates on available incentives
- Time for people to tour the cars and talk to owners
- Rain or Shine!

For more information call Duncan at 477-2968 or duncan@clifonline.org. No RSVP required. Masks are required for anyone unvaccinated. And, if you're interested in bringing your electric car, or have any questions, please contact Alayna Howard at alaynahoward@gmail.com.

VECAN Lunch & Learn: What to Expect From This Year's Button Up Campaign - August 25 at Noon



Please join VECAN and Efficiency Vermont on August 25th for a noon webinar to learn about what this year's Button Up Campaign will look like!

Each year, communities across Vermont participate in Button Up Vermont, a fall weatherization campaign to

help cut energy use and keep families warm and healthy. A lot has changed in our world since the campaign last year, so things are looking a little different this year with a shorter one-month campaign happening in October and the option for in-person components.

Becca White, Community Engagement Manager at Efficiency Vermont, will discuss the ways that participating communities can get involved in this year's campaign, including supporting and hosting different virtual and in-person events, promoting free virtual home energy visits offered by Efficiency Vermont, and more! Plus, she'll share the promotional materials to help you get the word out and other resources to ensure that you have all the support you need!

Please bring your questions about Button Up, and join us on August 25th at noon.

Register for the webinar here!

Already think your community would be interested in participating? Reach out to Becca White at bwhite@veic.org.

Get Your Ticket for EAN's 2021 Network Summit - September 15



Registration is now open for the [EAN 2021 Network Summit](#) on September 15, 2021 at Sugarbush Resort in Warren, Vermont (with possible virtual and/or hybrid options to be determined).

The EAN Summit is your opportunity to join other

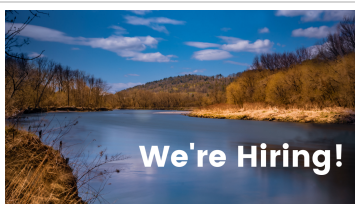
Network members and public partners to hear pitches on opportunities to make breakthrough energy progress while creating a more just, thriving, and sustainable future for Vermonters and to identify priorities to organize network action and resources around over the next year.

In-person, early-bird registration starts at \$125 (rising to \$145 after August 27). This includes lunch, snacks, and an afternoon reception. Virtual, early-bird registration starts at \$50 (rising to \$75 after August 27). [Click here to register today!](#)

EAN is still seeking pitches until August 15 for promising opportunities to help Vermont rapidly, cost-effectively, and equitably reduce fossil fuel use and greenhouse gas pollution. [Find more details here.](#)

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

VNRC Is Hiring an Energy and Climate Program Associate!



The Vermont Natural Resources Council is seeking an Energy and Climate Program Associate to help shape public understanding of the value of reducing fossil fuel consumption—through efficiency, conservation, renewable investments, and smart land use practices—and to inspire individual, community, program and policy

solutions to the challenge.

This individual will coordinate the Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network (VECAN) and will assist VNRC's partner organization, Vermont Conservation Voters, to help elect climate leaders to the Vermont Legislature and statewide offices during election years.

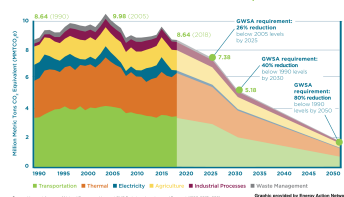
VNRC is committed to a process of centering equity, environmental justice, diversity, and inclusion in our work through such values as humility and reciprocity, collaboration and power sharing, and integrity and accountability. Applicants should share a commitment to this effort.

[Find the full job description here.](#) **Applications are due on August 30.**

NEWS

Vermont Climate Council Subcommittees Present Draft Strategies

Vermont's historical GHG emissions and future requirements



On Monday, July 26th, the [Vermont Climate Council](#) reached a milestone when three subcommittees presented their initial strategies for achieving the goals of the Global Warming Solutions Act. In rapid-fire, three of the council's subcommittees — [Rural Resilience and Adaptation](#), [Agriculture and Ecosystems](#), and [Cross-Sector Mitigation](#) — presented high-level pathways and

previewed some more specific strategies to the council and members of the public. Read more about what was covered during this meeting in this [VTDigger article](#). You can also view each of the [presentations here](#).

Over the coming months, the subcommittees will continue to develop and refine their recommendations for inclusion in an initial Climate Action Plan, due in December. Stakeholders and the public will have an opportunity to weigh on potential strategies outlined in this plan — and why and how actions should occur — in some upcoming public engagement opportunities. We will keep you updated on when and how to weigh in on the recommendations as events are scheduled.

If you have input on these initial recommendations or other work of the Council and its subcommittees, you can also submit that through the [public portal](#) or during the public comment period during the [meetings](#), [posted here](#).

Bipartisan Infrastructure Plan Falls Short on Climate



The Senate unveiled a [\\$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure package](#) last week. While the plan includes more than \$150 billion to boost energy and promote “climate resilience,” [it falls far short of meeting Biden’s promise to address the climate crisis](#).

[In a statement](#), League of Conservation Voters (LCV) Senior Vice President of Government Affairs Tiernan

Sittenfeld writes, “It is clear that the deal does not meet the moment on climate or justice.”

Notably, the deal omits mention of a Clean Electricity Standard, a key element of Biden’s climate plan that would require the electric grid to replace fossil fuels with renewable sources, as well as a mention of a Civilian Climate Corps, a Biden favorite.

The White House says the bipartisan deal is just the first step, with a proposed \$3.5 trillion, Democratic-only package following close behind. LCV and others say they will work to ensure this package includes the necessary investments to cut carbon pollution by at least half by 2030 and put our nation on the path to 100% carbon-free energy by 2035.

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