



VECAN

VERMONT ENERGY & CLIMATE
ACTION NETWORK

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September 2021 E-News

Dear Local Energy Leaders,

It's crunch time for climate action, both in the development of the Climate Action Plan here in Vermont and also in the uncertain but essential efforts to advance an infrastructure and "Build Back Better" legislative package in Congress. This is an all-hands-on-deck moment to help ensure the success of both of these pivotal efforts! Read below for opportunities to get connected with your fellow Vermonters in key conversations, get engaged in the Climate Action Plan development and the federal "Build Back Better" push, and find information about some upcoming public engagement opportunities you might not want to miss.

EVENTS

- **Last Day to Register for Energy Action Network's Annual Summit - Wednesday, September 15th** - EAN is hosting its annual Network Summit next Wednesday, September 15th at Sugarbush Resort in Warren, VT with a virtual option available. Featuring updates on VT's progress towards our energy goals and climate commitments, strategic pitches for how to reduce fossil fuel use and greenhouse gas pollution, and more. [Register today, and find more information here](#) and below.
- **Rural Communities Stakeholder Event to Inform Climate Action Plan - September 15, 6:00-8:00 PM** - The [Rural Resilience and Adaptation Subcommittee](#) of the Vermont Climate Council will be leading a stakeholder event to discuss developing strategies for rural communities for the state's emerging Climate Action Plan. [Register for this meeting here](#), and learn more below.
- **Weigh In! Upcoming Climate Council Public Engagement Events - Ongoing through September 21 - October 6** - This fall, the Vermont Climate Council is hosting public engagement events for members of the public to weigh in on the emerging Climate Action Plan. These are important opportunities to share your ideas and provide feedback on the strategies being developed. [Learn more about the upcoming events and the Climate Action Plan here](#) and below.
- **SunCommon's Annual SunCARNival Returns! - September 25th, 1-5 PM** - In celebration of [National Drive Electric Week](#), [SunCommon](#), [Drive Electric Vermont](#) and the [Vermont Chapter of the Sierra Club](#) have partnered to host an Electric Vehicle Ride, Drive, and Explore event. [Find more details about the event here](#) and below.

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Get involved

[Events](#)
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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

- **Save the Dates! REV2021 Conference: Climate Action, Equity & Resilience - October 18, 19, and 26** - Renewable Energy Vermont (REV) invites you to join them for their 2021 conference happening online October 18, 19 and 26 featuring in-depth conversations about what it will take to grow our clean energy economy and advance renewable energy. [Learn more about the conference here!](#) Registration coming soon.
- **In Case You Missed It — Climate Town Meeting with Senator Sanders Webinar Recording** - On August 25, VECAN was joined by Senator Sanders and a panel of municipal energy committee leaders to discuss local efforts to address the climate crisis and hear about potential federal investments to support this work in Vermont and beyond. [View a recording here](#), and read more below.

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

NEWS & OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

- **20 Groups Call on Congress To Pass the ‘Climate Test’** - 20 major climate advocacy organizations are [calling on Congress to pass the Climate Test](#): A budget that cuts planet-warming pollution in half by 2030 while creating good jobs and a more equitable economy. [Read more in this CNN news article](#), and find more information below.
- **Bill McKibben Launches ‘Third Act’ to Rally Older Americans Around Climate Change** - Bill McKibben, world-renowned environmental activist, writer and Vermonter, recently announced the launch of his new organization, [Third Act](#), which is aimed at engaging older generations to more actively engage in the climate movement. [Read more about this new initiative in this VTDigger article](#).
- **Capstone Community Action Seeks Financial and Energy Coaching Program Team Lead** - Capstone is looking to hire a program team lead to supporting a statewide pilot program focused on financial coaching around energy products. Position open until filled. [Learn more here](#) and below.

As always, thanks for all that you do.

Best,

Johanna Miller, VECAN Coordinator and VNRC Energy and Climate Program Director

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EVENTS

We Hope to See You at Energy Action Network's 2021 Summit - September 15



Today's the last day to [register for the Energy Action Network's 2021 Summit](#) happening this coming Wednesday, September 15 at Sugarbush Resort in Warren, Vermont, with a virtual option available. The Summit is a key moment each year to connect, strategize, and learn from one another as we work to achieve

Vermont's climate and energy commitments in ways that create a more just, thriving, and sustainable future for Vermonters. The agenda will include:

- Updates on VT's progress towards our energy goals and climate commitments and activities relating to the Climate Council and Comprehensive Energy Plan,

- A focus on centering equity in energy and climate work,
- A chance to hear visionary, strategic pitches for how we can rapidly, cost-effectively, and equitably reduce fossil fuel use and greenhouse gas pollution – and to weigh in on which should receive support from the Network,
- Updates on the Network Action Teams that came out of winning pitches at the 2020 summit,
- Legislative updates.
- And time to connect and reconnect with people you may not have seen in person in a long time.

[Register today, and find more information here!](#)

Rural Communities & Climate Resilience Stakeholder Virtual Workshop - September 15, 6-8 PM



You are invited to a virtual workshop to discuss developing strategies for rural communities for the state's emerging [Climate Action Plan](#). The workshop is co-sponsored by VT Climate Council – [Rural Resilience and Adaptation Subcommittee](#), Association of VT Conservation Commissions, VT League of Cities and Towns, VT Association of Planning and Development

Agencies, and VT Planners Association.

The members of the Rural Resilience and Adaptation Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council will share the draft strategies and actions for helping Vermont rural communities be more resilient and adaptable in the face of climate change impacts and will engage stakeholders in a conversation on what tools and resources are needed to ensure rural municipalities are prepared to be part of the climate solution. The input from this workshop will help the Subcommittee refine its recommendations due to the full Climate Council this fall.

[Register in advance for this meeting here.](#) After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

[You may find more information about the Subcommittee's work here.](#)

Vermont Climate Council Launches Series of Public Engagement Events - Ongoing through September 21-October 6



This fall, state officials, local leaders and members of the [Vermont Climate Council](#) invite the public to attend one of several events to learn about the development of the state's [Climate Action Plan](#) and help prioritize approaches.

There are multiple opportunities to join an upcoming event either online or in person to discuss how climate change is affecting you and your community and offer feedback on proposed strategies for the Climate Action Plan.

“Your perspective matters. The Climate Action Plan will serve as the State’s roadmap for lessening the impacts of climate change, and the ideas and feedback you share with us will inform the Action Plan” said Agency of Natural Resources Secretary Julie Moore.

[Find more information about the following events here:](#)

- Tuesday, September 21, 5:00-7:00pm: Elmore State Park Pavilion | 856 VT-12, Elmore, VT

- Wednesday, September 22, 5:00-7:00pm: Emerald Lake State Park Pavilion | 65 Emerald Lake Ln, East Dorset, VT
- Thursday, September 23, 5:00-7:00pm: Lakeside Park Pavilion | 32 Mill St, Island Pond, VT
- Sunday, September 26, 3:00-5:00pm: Airport Park Pavilion | 500 Colchester Point Rd, Colchester, VT
- Thursday, September 30, 6:00-7:30pm: Virtual event via Zoom
- Tuesday, October 5, 6:00-7:30pm: Virtual event via Zoom for BIPOC communities
- Wednesday, October 6, 6:00-7:30pm: Virtual event via Zoom

Please consider attending and weighing in, as you are able, and stay tuned for more details.

For more information about the Climate Action Plan, please visit its newly launched website: <https://climatechange.vermont.gov/>.

SunCommon's Annual SunCARnival Returns! - September 25th, 1-5 PM



In celebration of [National Drive Electric Week](#), [SunCommon](#), [Drive Electric Vermont](#) and the [Vermont Chapter of the Sierra Club](#) have partnered to host an Electric Vehicle Ride, Drive, and Explore event. This free event is about helping Vermonters explore the EV options that are available today, learn about available EV

incentives, and hear from EV drivers who have already made the switch. And let's have fun while we do it!

The event will take place at the old Hannaford (next to Lowes), Hannaford Drive in South Burlington, VT, September 25th, from 1-5 pm. There will be live music, yard games, and free ice cream for everyone to enjoy.

Interested in showing off your EV, [register here for EV driver sign-up](#).

Here's What You Missed — Virtual Climate Town Meeting with Senator Bernie Sanders and Municipal Energy Committees



We were privileged to be joined by Senator Sanders and a panel of municipal energy committee leaders to discuss local efforts to address the climate crisis and hear about potential federal investments to support this work in Vermont and beyond.

[Read more, and view a recording here!](#)

The event featured a panel discussion and Q&A with members of Vermont Town Energy Committees on the federal climate investments in the [\\$3.5 trillion reconciliation bill working its way through Congress](#).

- Check out this recent [opinion piece from Senator Sanders](#) that was published in the Guardian for an overview of the climate priorities in the reconciliation package.
- To stay in touch with Senator Sanders, [subscribe to his "Bernie Buzz" newsletter](#).
- [Subscribe to VNRC's Climate Dispatch](#) to stay tuned to developments here in Vermont. The development of the Climate Action Plan by the [Vermont Climate Council](#), update to [Vermont's Comprehensive Energy Plan](#), and conversations about how to prioritize investments in the State Budget all offer the potential to accelerate climate action at the state level.

NEWS & OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

20 Organizations Call on Congress to Pass the “Climate Test” to Meet the Moment for Bold Climate Action



Earlier this week, 20 national environmental, public health, and climate advocacy organizations called on Congress to pass the “Climate Test”: advancing the Build Back Better Act to put the country on a clear path to cutting planet-warming pollution in half by 2030.

The message to Congress clearly lays out the investments that must be included to achieve this science-backed goal, while also creating good-paying jobs, reducing costs for families, and building a more equitable clean energy economy. Anything less doesn’t pass the test.

[Read their letter to Congress here](#), and find more information in [this CNN article](#). And, if you haven’t already, [weigh-in](#) and urge action at this pivotal moment.

Bill McKibben Launches ‘Third Act’ to Rally Older Americans Around Climate Change



It’s time for Baby Boomers and members of the Silent Generation to organize against climate change, according to veteran environmental activist and writer Bill McKibben. That’s why he is launching a new initiative called ‘[Third Act](#)’ aimed at engaging activists over age 60.

McKibben, who is 60 years old himself, said he’s become convinced that his generation should more actively join the climate movement, following in the footsteps of a galvanized youth. He noted that Americans his age and older have a large share of the country’s financial assets and a tendency to vote in high numbers, giving them political power.

McKibben says he hopes to form local chapters of Third Act, which might be particularly relevant in Vermont, where 20% of people are age 65 or older.

McKibben announced a “very soft launch” of the organization on Twitter last week and has already had thousands of people sign up. They aim to launch the project within the next few months. If you’re interested in getting involved, [sign up to receive updates at the Third Act website here](#).

[Read more about this project in this VTDigger article here](#).

Capstone Seeks Financial and Energy Coaching Program Team Lead



[Capstone Community Action](#) is initiating a 3-year state-wide pilot program for integrating energy and financial coaching for low and moderate-income Vermonters. This

program, funded through the State of Vermont’s Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) will support 5 full time Financial and Energy Coaches who will work directly with income-eligible Vermonters to increase financial wellbeing and self-sufficiency.

Capstone is seeking to hire a statewide Financial and Energy Coaching Program Team Lead to manage the program. The Program Team Lead will be responsible for launching and overseeing the program, including: organizing staff training, program outreach and marketing, partnership building, informing senior leadership and statewide Community Action Executive Directors, and working with coaches to meet program deliverables. The Team Lead will also be a member of the Energy Savings Counseling Group and contribute to

the activities outlined in the plan for coordinated and enhanced delivery of statewide counseling services related to energy efficiency.

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

Donate

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