



# VECAN

VERMONT ENERGY & CLIMATE  
ACTION NETWORK

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## November 2021 E-News

Dear Local Energy Leaders,

As the Climate Council works to draft the Climate Action Plan in the coming weeks, we want to take a moment to thank you for showing up and making your voice heard throughout the process. Your input is critical to ensuring the plan meets the moment and sets Vermont up to meet the requirements established by the Global Warming Solutions Act. We will continue to keep you abreast of the process and ways you can continue to add your critical input and on-the-ground perspective, even after the initial plan is delivered in December.

We also know that in order to reach these ambitious targets, we will need to invest in capacity at the state, regional, and town level. We are encouraged that the state and other partners are ramping up, hiring several energy positions to implement programs and projects to help our state reach our climate and energy requirements. Read below to learn more about several of these energy position openings as well as other important opportunities and resources, including upcoming events, job opportunities, and more!

### NEW RELEASE

- **Town Energy Committee Communications Toolkit is Live!** - Check out our new [Communications Toolkit](#) with templates, tools and strategies to take your committee's outreach and communications to the next level. The toolkit was developed by the VECAN partners and a cohort of your fellow energy committees. [Learn more here](#) and below.

### EVENTS

- **Planning for a Just, Prosperous, and Resilient Future with Climate Change Migration - Nov. 9, 6 PM** - Join Vital Communities virtually via Zoom on Nov. 9 from 6 to 8 pm, for a conversation to explore how the Upper Valley can meet both the opportunities and the challenges of migration to the region. [Learn more and register here.](#)
- **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) & Energy Information Session - Nov. 10, 12-1 PM** - Join Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) and Katie Buckley, Vermont League of Cities and Towns' (VLCT) Director of ARPA Assistance and Coordination Program, to learn about how your town could use ARPA funds to support local energy initiatives. [Join the Zoom meeting here](#) and find more information below.
- **The Transportation & Climate Initiative: Investing in an affordable, reliable, and clean transportation future - Nov. 12, 12-**

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[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](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

**1 PM** - Join VBSR and Energy Action Network for a webinar exploring how Vermont can transform our transportation system to reduce pollution, lower energy burdens for vulnerable Vermonters, promote public health, and spur local economic development. [Register to attend here](#) and read more below.

date! Email changes in committee leadership or contact info to [rkuster@vnrc.org](mailto:rkuster@vnrc.org)

- **Join Us for 14th Annual VECAN Conference Starting December 4th!** - The 14th Annual Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network (VECAN) Conference will be held virtually for the second year in a row (sigh...here's hoping for next year but virtually it will still be great!). Featuring an overview on federal, state and local climate action. Find more details below and at [vecan.net](http://vecan.net).

## NEWS & OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

- **Vital Communities is Hiring for Two Full-Time Housing and Transportation Positions** - Vital Communities is seeking two full time additions to their Housing and Transportation Team. [Find the full job descriptions here](#) and more information below.
- **PSD Seeks Part-Time Clean Energy Program Specialist - Deadline Nov. 14** - The Department of Public Service is looking to hire a Clean Energy Program Specialist to help with the \$15M of ARPA-funded clean energy programs that the PSD/CEDF will be administering over the next couple of years. [Learn more about the position here](#) and below.
- **VBSR Seeks Communications Manager and Education & Events Manager - Deadline Nov. 15** - Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility (VBSR) has two exciting full-time positions opening up — [Education & Events Manager](#) and [Communications Manager](#). If you or someone you know is interested in leveraging the power of businesses to create positive social and environmental change, [click here](#) and read below for more.
- **Ann Janda Hired as CCRPC's Senior Energy Project Manager** - Ann was recently hired as Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission's Energy Project Manager, working to help municipalities implement projects from their adopted Energy Plans. Learn more about Ann, including how she can support your energy committee's efforts below.
- **Winning Pitches from the EAN Summit Announced!** - Energy Action Network has announced the winning pitches from their October Summit! [Read more about the winning pitches here](#).
- **New Climate Maps Show a Transformed United States** - [Check out this new map](#) in the *New York Times Magazine* to see how places across North American will shift as a result of climate change and what changes are in store for your county.
- **6 Aspects of American Life Threatened by Climate Change** - It's no surprise, to most, that our lives will look a lot different as the impacts of climate change intensify. A recent *New York Times* article outlines the top six aspects of American life that are threatened by climate change. [Read the full article here](#).

## IF YOU MISSED: OP-EDS OF NOTE

- **Fowler & Gill: Climate Emergency Requires Energy System Redesign** - "The urgent need to adapt our energy system to mitigate climate effects requires a revision of the regulatory and accounting practices that guide investment decisions," writes Brandon Fowler of St. Johnsbury and Jock Gill of Peacham. [Read their full commentary in VTDigger here](#).

- **Richard Watts: To Solve Transportation Emissions, Create a New Agency** - “Each year, Vermonters travel many hundreds of millions of these miles. Yet there is no Vermont agency with a mission to reduce VMT [vehicle miles traveled],” writes Richard Watts, former director of research at the Transportation Research Center at the University of Vermont and co-founder of Sustainable Transportation Vermont. [Read his 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](mailto:rkuster@vnrc.org)

## NEW RELEASE

### Town Energy Committee Communications Toolkit



Communications and outreach lie at the center of work for many Town Energy Committees. With deep local knowledge and relationships, committees are in a unique position to reach more deeply into communities than statewide or regional organizations.

To help support committees' outreach and communications efforts, the VECAN Partners, along with a cohort of your fellow energy committees, created a [Communications Toolkit](#) through a collaborative process this summer. The toolkit includes templates to inventory your local communications resources and develop a plan, and short guides for effective use of various communications tools.

This toolkit is designed to support TEC's in being more effective and efficient communicators. The steps and related templates serve as a guide so that your committee doesn't need to "reinvent the wheel" every time you work to engage your community. These tools are also intended to capture your group's collective wisdom and document your resources so that they can be shared from year to year and project to project.

[Check out the toolkit here!](#) We hope you find this toolkit valuable in supporting your committee's critical work.

## EVENTS

### ARPA and Municipal Energy Opportunities Webinar - Nov. 10, 12-1 PM



Join the team of TRORC and Katie Buckley, Vermont League of Cities and Towns' (VLCT) Director of ARPA Assistance and Coordination Program, to learn about how your town could use American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funds to support local energy initiatives.

Your town may be able to use ARPA funding to support energy efficiency projects in municipal buildings, or fund weatherization for income-qualified residents. Whether you have a project in mind or are just looking for inspiration, this information session will be an opportunity to ask all your questions related to ARPA and energy.

Join the Zoom meeting with this link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81399589843>

## The Transportation & Climate Initiative: Investing in an affordable, reliable, and clean transportation future - Nov. 12, 12-1 PM



Fossil-fueled transportation makes up roughly 40% of Vermont's greenhouse gas emissions. The **Transportation & Climate Initiative Program (TCI-P)** would not only reduce our region's pollution from

on-road transportation but also provide Vermont with at least \$19 million per year to invest in clean transportation solutions.

Join EAN and VBSR to hear from community leaders from across the state about their efforts to make transportation more affordable, reliable, green, and accessible for all Vermonters and how TCI-P dollars can take their work to new heights.

The discussion will focus on how we can spend program revenues on projects that directly benefit our climate, communities, and our shared economy.

[Click here to register for the webinar.](#)

## Join Us for the 14th Annual VECAN Conference Starting Dec. 4!



The 14th Annual VECAN Community Energy and Climate Action Conference will take place virtually for the second year in a row. This event centers and celebrates the critical role that Vermonters in every community play in moving our state to a more clean, efficient, affordable and equitable energy future. This year's event will feature an overview of the federal, state, and local context for climate action, including the soon-to-be-delivered Climate Action Plan, federal legislation, and local success

stories. Starting December 6th, we will host workshops on four key topics throughout the week. Find more information below and at our website [VECAN.net](https://vecan.net).

### The five-day online series will take place December 4th, 6th, 7th, 8th & 9th:

- Saturday, December 4th, 9 AM - 12 PM via Hopin — Overview of Federal, State and Local Climate Action via Hopin. [Register for the Saturday session here.](#)

[M-Th Workshops via Zoom \(More details and registration coming soon\).](#)

- Monday, December 6th, 12 PM - 1:15 PM — Environmental and Climate Justice in Vermont: Issues and Opportunities
- Tuesday, December 7th, 12 PM - 1:15 PM — Build Back Better, the Vermont Climate Plan and a Legislative Look Forward
- Wednesday, December 8th, 12 PM - 1:15 PM — Creating Resilient Communities in the Face of Climate Change
- Thursday, December 9th, 12 PM - 1:15 PM — Tips, Tools & Strategies for an Effective Energy Committee

[Stay tuned for more information at VECAN.net](#)

We hope you will join us, once again, for another great series of events, starting December 4th!

## NEWS & OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

## Vital Communities Seeks Two Full-Time Additions to Housing and Transportation Team



Vital Communities, a regional nonprofit located in White River Junction, VT (and VECAN partner), seeks two full-time additions to their Housing and Transportation Team to develop and implement

integrated, community-based projects that work toward affordable, safe, efficient, reliable, and equitable transportation and housing in the Upper Connecticut River Valley. Successful candidates will have a passion for working collaboratively with community members, volunteers, and peer organizations. Qualifications include excellent project management, communication, and collaboration skills, and an understanding of transportation and home creation as complex, dynamic systems.

Full job description at [vitalcommunities.org/join-our-team](https://vitalcommunities.org/join-our-team). Email resume and cover letter to [hr@vitalcommunities.org](mailto:hr@vitalcommunities.org). Vital Communities will begin reviewing applications on November 1, 2021. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

## Department of Public Service Seeks Part-Time Clean Energy Program Specialist - Deadline Nov. 14



The Department of Public Service is recruiting for a part-time Clean Energy Program Specialist to support the design and administration of clean energy programs. The position will primarily work on

the Affordable Community-scale Renewable Energy Program for low-income Vermonters and may assist with other programs developed by the Clean Energy Development Board. Duties include developing renewable energy programs, administration of grants and contracts, database management, program monitoring, data collection, evaluation, and reporting. This position will work 20 hours per week and is funded through 6/30/2022.

This is a great opportunity for someone to get a foot in the door at the State Energy Office & CEDEF, get experience in the VT renewable energy sector, and work with some great people and clean energy policy experts at Public Service.

The deadline to apply is November 14. [Learn more about the position here.](#)

## VBSR Seeks Communications Manager and Education and Events Manager - Deadline Nov. 15



Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility, a statewide, nonprofit business association with a mission to leverage the power of business for positive

social and environmental impact, is seeking two full-time positions. Read below for more information about these opportunities.

The [Communications Manager](#) is responsible for defining VBSR's value proposition and communications strategies, and for promoting, enhancing, and protecting VBSR's value proposition and brand reputation to ensure that the organization's external communications are aligned with organizational goals, effective, and coordinated.

The [Education and Events Manager](#) will provide leadership and implementation for VBSR's educational and events programming, including strategy, planning, coordination, development, fundraising, logistics, and facilitation.

Applications and inquiries may be sent to [search@vbsr.org](mailto:search@vbsr.org). Applications for both positions will be accepted through Monday, November 15.



## Ann Janda Supports Chittenden County as Energy Project Manager

In early September, Ann Janda began serving as the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission's Energy Project Manager. Ann's work is focused primarily on helping municipalities implement projects from their adopted Energy Plans. So far, Ann has been working on:



- Helping Energy Committees review their mission statements
- Proposing ideas for municipal solar projects
- Answering questions about available funding
- Providing electric vehicle resources to municipal department heads
- Developing EV charging station cost estimates for inclusion in Municipal Capital Plans
- Understanding energy building code compliance and advocating for solutions
- Drafting public outreach pieces
- Supporting Energy Committee weatherization outreach events

As grant funding becomes available, Ann can also help municipalities in Chittenden County with grant writing as well as research and vendor information. If projects, vehicles, and equipment are already in a municipality's capital plan, Ann thinks the process will be easy! Ann is also planning a Chittenden County Energy Committee roundtable meeting. Stay tuned.

[Learn more about Ann here.](#) If you haven't connected with Ann yet, you can reach her at [ajanda@ccrpcvt.org](mailto:ajanda@ccrpcvt.org) or (802) 846-4490 ext. 133.

## Donate

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802-223-2328 ext. 112

9 Bailey Ave.

Montpelier, VT 05642

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