



VECAN

VERMONT ENERGY & CLIMATE
ACTION NETWORK

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April 2022 E-News

Dear Local Energy Leaders,

With Spring now underway, we hope you are able to get out into your communities to enjoy this warmer weather. This month, there are many exciting climate and energy updates to share, including public engagement opportunities on the state's Climate Action Plan, an environmental film festival, a Rally for the Planet, and more! Please know, too, that our hope is to do this work as collaboratively as possible with you all and so many others we have yet to engage. If we can communicate or otherwise do this hard work better, or differently, please let us know! [You may submit any thoughts, questions, comments and feedback here.](#)

Until then, below, please find more about the following in-person and virtual events, resources, and important climate action updates and opportunities this month.

EVENTS

- **Learn About the Climate Action Plan and Provide Your Input at an Upcoming Public Forum – April 12th, 6:00 PM & April 13th, 12:00 PM** - Join the Vermont Climate Council for one or both virtual public forums – Tuesday, April 12 or Wednesday, April 13 – to learn about the Council's ongoing work and share your feedback. [Register here](#), and read below for more information.
- **Vermont Interfaith Power & Light (VTIPL) In-Person Conference - April 24th** - [VTIPL](#) is hosting its in-person conference, *Limits to Growth: Finding Pathways to a Sustainable Future*, on Sunday, April 24, from 1:30 - 7:00 p.m., at Norwich Congregational Church, in Norwich, VT, featuring keynote speaker Dr. Jon Erickson, UVM's David Blittersdorf Professor of Sustainability Science & Policy. [Learn more and register here.](#)
- **SAVE THE DATE: VNRC's Annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival - April 28, 6:30 PM** - Join VNRC for a night of inspiring short films, from the safety and comfort of your own home! The film festival will be held virtually for the third year in a row. [Find the film lineup, raffle items, and get tickets here!](#)
- **Engaging with Municipal Leadership in Your Community Workshop - April 29, 10:00 AM** - Join VCRD's Vermont Community Leadership Network for a workshop, on Friday, April 29th from 10:00-11:30 a.m., to hear from community and municipal leaders and discuss effective ways to communicate and coordinate with municipal leadership and work together for the future of your community. [Register here.](#)

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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

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

- **Join Youth Lobby for This Year's Rally for the Planet - April 29th** - Youth Lobby's annual Rally for the Planet is back! The rally will be held on [Friday, April 29th at the Statehouse Lawn](#). Students from around Vermont are encouraged to join to engage in conversation with peers and legislators and learn about sustainable careers in Vermont. [Learn more here](#) and below.
- **In Case You Missed It: Electrify Everything Town Hall with Rewiring America, Burlington Mayor Weinberger, Burlington Electric Department & VECAN** - [Click here to watch a recording](#) of the latest webinar in the VECAN 2022 Workshop Series, where we explored the path to becoming a Net Zero energy city by electrifying everything with Co-Founder and Chief Scientist of Rewiring America, Dr. Saul Griffith, Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger and Burlington Electric Department.

RESOURCES

- **Get to Know the Energy Planner at Your Regional Planning Commission (RPC)** - Did you know that Vermont's 11 RPCs have hired energy staff? [Click here to find out who the energy planner in your region is](#), and read below to learn how they can support your town in reaching its climate & energy goals.

UPDATES & OPPORTUNITIES

- **New Community Solar Array to be Built in Brattleboro – Limited Membership Availability** - Integrated Solar Applications (ISA) has announced a limited opportunity to join a new community solar array entitled "ISA Exit 1 Solar." [Learn more here](#) and below.
- **VNRC Accepting Nominations for 2022 Arthur Gibb Award for Individual Leadership** - VNRC is now accepting nominations for the 2022 Arthur Gibb Award for Individual Leadership in honor of former Vermont legislator Arthur Gibb, who dedicated much of his life to public service to ensure that Vermont is a better place for future generations. [Find more information here](#) and below.
- **Watch the Latest Climate Dispatch with Addison County Senator Christopher Bray** - In the latest [Climate Dispatch](#), VNRC's Johanna Miller and VCV's Lauren Hierl were joined by Addison County Senator Christopher Bray, chair of the Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee (SNRE) to discuss several key climate-action initiatives advancing in the final weeks of the legislative session, including the Clean Heat Standard (H.715).
- **Vermont House Passes Clean Heat Standard** - Lawmakers in Vermont's House of Representatives on Wednesday voted 96 to 44 to advance a bill that would create the state's first ever Clean Heat Standard. The bill goes next to the Senate. [Learn more here](#).
- **Green Mountain Power (GMP) Launches Sun Match Program to Help Income-Eligible Customers Save** - GMP launched the Sun Match Pilot Program, to connect more low- and moderate-income customers with solar power, without having to build their own systems. [Read more here](#) and below.
- **Vermont Energy Education Program (VEEP) Updates** - Read below for some exciting updates on [VEEP's](#) Summer Institute 2022, Small Grants Program and Information Sessions.

OP-EDS OF NOTE

- **VTDigger: Rep. Katherine Sims: A more predictable and affordable energy future for Vermont** - “Everyone deserves to be safe and warm in their homes, not just those who can afford expensive upgrades. If passed, the Clean Heat Standard bill will provide a variety of pathways to lower-cost, clean heating solutions that will save Vermonters money.” [Read Rep. Sims' full commentary here.](#)
- **VTDigger: Tyler McGuire: Give our kids the chance to enjoy Vermont's natural wonders** - “Put together, almost two-thirds of our total carbon pollution comes from the fuels we use in our vehicles and our buildings. The Transportation Innovation Act, the Clean Heat Standard, and the Environmental Justice bill, which are part of Vermont's Climate Action Plan, all being considered by the Legislature, would address these challenges.” [Read McGuire's full commentary 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 Climate Action Plan Public Forums – April 12th, 6:00 PM & 13th, 12:00 PM



The Vermont Climate Council is holding public forums on **Tuesday, April 12 at 6:00 p.m. and Wednesday, April 13 at 12:00 p.m.** to share information about its ongoing work and to hear from Vermonters across the state. Come learn about Vermont's Climate Action Plan, the legislative initiatives it has inspired, and the Council's plans for

this year. You'll also split into smaller groups to discuss any feedback you and other Vermonters want to share with the Council.

[Register for either of the forums here.](#)

As Vermont ramps long-overdue climate action, your voice will be essential to ensure that we make significant, stepped, equitable progress. We hope you can join one of the upcoming events on April 12th and 13th!

Please note, these meetings will be in English, but the Council is continuing to explore ways to reach more Vermonters by offering future engagement events in multiple languages. If you want to learn more about this ongoing work, please feel free to email Jane Lazorchak at Jane.Lazorchak@vermont.gov.

Youth Lobby's Rally for the Planet Is Back – April 29th at the Statehouse Lawn

Youth Lobby is excited to announce that their annual Rally for the Planet is back – after a two-year hiatus! The rally will be held on Friday, April 29th at the Statehouse Lawn. Students from around Vermont are encouraged to join to help contribute and discuss political issues that are most important to them with their legislators and make some real change happen!

During the tabling portion of the rally, Youth Lobby will be hosting a Green Jobs Fair, where students will have an opportunity to learn about sustainable careers in Vermont. If you have



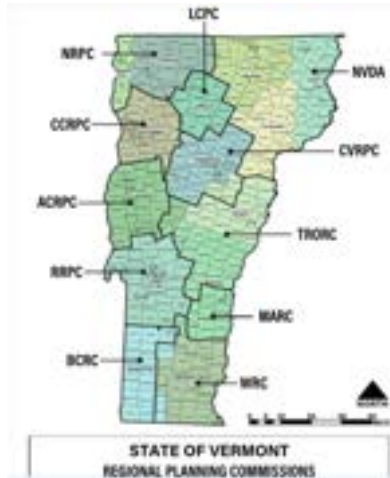
any questions or would like to know more information, please visit <http://www.youthlobby.org/rally-for-the-planet-2022/> or email YouthLobbyVT@gmail.com.

RESOURCES

Learn How Energy Planners at Regional Planning Commissions Can Support Your Work

As you likely know, the state appropriated funds for each of the Regional Planning Commissions (RPC) to hire a regional energy planner in service of helping to meet our climate goals and implement enhanced energy plans. All of Vermont's 11 RPCs have now hired or designated existing staff to work on energy, including supporting energy committees' efforts. RPCs now assist with the implementation of energy plans, including:

- Technical assistance including grant writing
- Help identify and advance strategic energy investments
- Project management support



Reach out to the energy planner at your RPC to see how they can help support your work. [Find their contact information here.](#)

UPDATES & OPPORTUNITIES

New Community Solar Array To Be Built in Brattleboro – Limited Membership Availability



Integrated Solar Applications (ISA) has announced a limited opportunity to join a new, 500-kilowatt ground-mount community solar array entitled "ISA Exit 1 Solar" serviced by Green Mountain Power (GMP). Members will pay an upfront cost for the panels, with ISA assuming all responsibility for permitting, installation, insurance, and maintenance.

Members will receive energy credits directly on their GMP monthly utility bill and will have the ability to transfer their net metering credits to another home or business anywhere in GMP's service territory. Pending availability, members may purchase Energy Credit Shares in an amount up to that which will zero out their GMP annual energy cost.

ISA says Exit 1 Solar "is fully designed and permitted; sitework has commenced, and the project will be completed during this 2022 construction season. Membership in ISA Exit 1 Solar is limited and will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis; interested parties are encouraged to contact ISA at their earliest opportunity."

[Learn more here.](#)

For more information, contact: Katrina Wilson, kwilson@isasolar.com 802-257-7493, or news@isasolar.com.

VNRC Accepting Nominations for 2022 Arthur Gibb Award for Individual Leadership



VNRC is now accepting nominations for the [2022 Arthur Gibb Award for Individual Leadership](#) in honor of former Vermont legislator Arthur Gibb, who dedicated much of his life to public service to ensure that Vermont is a better place for future generations. VNRC seeks to honor an individual whose leadership has brought about positive and lasting change in the way that individual's community integrates growth and conservation.

If you know a land use leader in Vermont who you want to recognize, we encourage you to [submit a nomination by May 9, 2022](#). All nominees will be considered for the award based on qualities exemplified by Arthur Gibb, including their commitment to public service, leadership, vision, humility, creativity, balance and integrity.

[Read more for further information and the official nomination form.](#)

Green Mountain Power Launches Sun Match Pilot Program to Help Income-Eligible Customers Save



[Green Mountain Power](#) (GMP) launched the Sun Match Pilot Program, to connect more low- and moderate-income customers with solar power. The Pilot Program provides solar power to low-and-moderate income customers, without having to build their own systems. The Sun Match Pilot will offer up to 500 eligible customers the opportunity to sign up for a new solar rate, designed to encourage energy use at times when solar is plentiful. GMP is using an

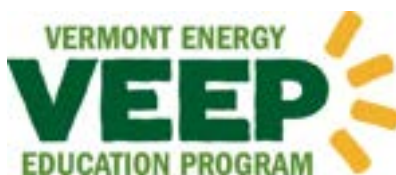
existing solar array, which allows for participants to have access to that generation to realize savings.

Over the course of a year, the average customer in the program will save about \$150, and the amount can be even more if additional energy use is shifted to the daytime hours, when there is a lot of solar. The savings will appear as a bill credit, and customers can opt out at any time. The program is free to join, and to be eligible customers must meet the eligibility requirements for seasonal fuel assistance and have a gross household income at or below 185% of the federal poverty level.

Customers interested in signing up for the program or learning more can contact GMP at sunmatch@greenmountainpower.com or [sign up here](#).

[Read more about the program here.](#)

Vermont Energy Education Program (VEEP) Updates



[VEEP](#) has some exciting updates about its programs! Read all about it below.

[Summer Institute 2022](#): VEEP is excited to announce this year's Summer Institute theme: Jumping from Joy to Action: Empowering energy and climate changemakers through play, hope, and wonder. We are inviting all educators to join VEEP as we inspire change through play, wonder, and joy. [Learn more and register here.](#)

Small Grants Program: We invite proposals for grants up to \$1,000 for school-based projects that address climate change and improve environmental literacy among students in VT. **Fill out this short application by April 19th.**

Information Sessions: We are also here to help you get a headstart on planning for the next academic year. Join one of our virtual information sessions (April 20th or May 5th) and learn directly from our educators how we can support you in the upcoming academic year! These sessions will also be the perfect time to get all your questions answered. [Register here.](#)

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