



VECAN

VERMONT ENERGY & CLIMATE
ACTION NETWORK

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Late April 2022 E-News

Dear Local Energy Leaders,

We are hoping this warmer weather and these longer days bring with them the opportunity to get outside and connect with your fellow Vermonters! There are several upcoming events both virtually and in-person, including many to help get folks out of their cars and into cleaner, more affordable transportation options. We hope you will consider joining and sharing these events and opportunities with your communities.

As always, 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.](#)

Below, please more information about the following events, updates and opportunities – including some important events happening in the next few days!

EVENTS

- **Lunch Chat with Fellow Energy Committee Leaders – Come Connect and Learn! – Today at Noon** - Join VECAN and fellow energy committee leaders from across the state today, Wednesday, April 27th at noon, for an informal lunchtime chat to connect with and learn from each other. [Learn more and register here.](#)
- **2022 Better Buildings by Design Conference: Pathways to Decarbonization – April 27-28th** - The annual Better Buildings by Design conference sponsored by Efficiency Vermont brings together top talent in building technology and design from across the country, and helps keep Vermont-area professionals at the forefront of their fields. You can still register for tomorrow's session, which will be held in South Burlington from 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. [Find more information, including registration here](#) and below.
- **VNRC's Annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival – April 28, 6:00 PM** - Tune in this Thursday at 6:00 p.m. for an inspiring evening of short films that celebrate efforts across the globe to harness grassroots power, protect our natural resources and build a resilient future. The film festival will be held virtually for the third year in a row and all proceeds benefit VNRC. [Find the film lineup, raffle items, and get tickets here.](#)
- **Rally for the Planet at the Statehouse Lawn – April 29th** - Youth Lobby's annual Rally for the Planet is this Friday, April 29th at the Statehouse Lawn. Students from around Vermont are encouraged to join to

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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

engage in conversation with peers and legislators, and learn about sustainable careers in Vermont as part of a Green Jobs Fair. [Learn more here.](#)

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

- **2022 Vermont Walk/Bike Summit Is Just a Few Weeks Away** - This year's Vermont Walk/Bike Summit will take place on May 6th at the Town Hall Theater in Middlebury. The event focuses on how to transform our state's way of life and create more livable, healthy communities. Register for this event at VTWalkBikeSummit.com, and learn more below.
- **Upper Valley Virtual Local Energy Action Showcase 2022 – May 12th, 7-8:30 PM** - Join Vital Communities on Thursday, May 12th at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom for an evening of stories to inspire, connect, and re-energize anyone working to promote clean, efficient energy and address climate change at the local level. [Learn more and register here.](#)
- **Try a Different Way of Getting Around During “Park Your Carbon” Week – May 16-20** - Park Your Carbon is a week-long initiative to help change Vermonters' transportation and commuting habits by encouraging green ways of travel. Do it for a day, a week, or make it a habit. Bike. Walk. Share Your Ride. Bus. Work from Home. [Learn more here.](#)
- **2022 Resilience Vermont Conference at Norwich University – May 20th, 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM** - The Resilient Vermont conference brings together community leaders, neighbors and groups that are working to strengthen Vermont's resilience to climate change and other challenges. It will be hosted at Norwich University on Friday, May 20th and open to anyone interested in making Vermont communities more resilient! [Learn more and register by May 5th here.](#)
- **Energy Action Network (EAN) Pre-Summit Event – May 24th** - [Registration](#) is now open for the EAN Pre-summit, which will bring together Network members and public sector partners for structured discussions around our Network priorities, and will jumpstart pitch and Network Action Team planning before EAN's Summit in September. [Learn more here](#) and below.

UPDATES & OPPORTUNITIES

- **Strafford Community Solar Opportunity** - Don't miss your chance to become a member of the locally-owned, locally-sited Strafford Community Solar array, initiated by the Strafford Energy and Climate Committee, Vermont Law School, and TRORC. [Learn more about this opportunity here](#) and below.
- **VNRC Accepting Nominations for 2022 Arthur Gibb Award Until May 9th** - 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.
- **VNRC Wins Efficiency Vermont's 2022 Best of the Best Award** - VNRC has been selected as the Small Renovation Award for this year's Efficiency Vermont's Best of the Best Competition for the completed renovation of our new office at 11 Bailey St. in Montpelier. VNRC will be honored at Efficiency Vermont's annual Better by Design conference today, Wednesday, April 27th.

- **Tune into the latest Climate Dispatch with Representative Kari Dolan on the Environmental Justice Bill** - [In the latest Climate Dispatch](#), VCV's Lauren Hierl is joined by Representative Kari Dolan and VPIRG's Sebbi Wu for an update on key components of and coalition work to support [S.148, the Environmental Justice bill](#), which is currently making its way through the Vermont House after recently passing the Senate with a strong 28-1 vote.
- **A More Accountable and Equitable Clean Heat Standard in the Senate** - The Senate Appropriations Committee is taking testimony on [H.715, the Clean Heat Standard](#), and will vote on the bill very soon. The latest version includes important improvements to the bill's greenhouse gas accountability, equity provisions, and to help ensure it will reduce climate pollution in line with our state's mandatory climate commitments. [Watch VNRC/VCV's new video on the Clean Heat Standard to learn more about the latest version of the bill.](#)
- **Request a FREE Energy Savings Kit from Efficiency Vermont** - To encourage more Vermonters to take steps to use less energy in their homes, Efficiency Vermont is offering free Energy Savings Kits to its customers. The kits contain easy-to-install energy saving measures, including LEDs and water-saving devices, and for a limited time also include wildflower seed packets for customers to support pollinator habitat around their homes. [Find more information and request a kit here.](#)

OP-EDS OF NOTE

- **Times Argus Editorial: Now or Never** - "It is up to us as individuals to be mindful of the decisions we make relative to our carbon footprint. We need to recycle. We need to compost. We need to support groups and initiatives that support sustainability. We need to educate young people to be better planetary citizens than we have been. And we need to put a shoulder into debating and persuading policy makers — on select boards, in the Legislature, and in Congress — to act in our best interests now and for the generations to come." [Read Steve Pappas' full editorial in the Time Argus here.](#)
- **Jeff Forward: We're running out of time to adopt clean heat standard** - "Big policy ideas like the Clean Heat Standard don't typically happen in the first year of a biennium. So if we miss this chance now, it could be another two years before we even have another shot. What I like about the Clean Heat Standard is that it sets up a structure to regulate carbon impacts from the notoriously difficult-to-regulate fossil fuel heating industry." [Read Forward's full commentary in VT Digger here.](#)
- **Linda Gray: Clean heat needed for climate and for pocketbooks** - "The bill, H. 715, makes a fundamental change to a historically scattered sector and—for the first time—gives us a lever to steer it in the right direction: toward greater adoption of low-carbon heating options. The Clean Heat Standard sets up clear and increasing requirements for emission cuts...We know that we have to make this transition, so let's do it with a program that provides predictability, clarity, and stability to both customers and suppliers." [Read Gray's full commentary in Vermont Business Magazine here.](#)
- **Spence Putnam: Climate Matters: When climate change gets personal** - "Successfully turning the tide calls for continued individual actions combined with an intensified effort in the public arena — political campaigns, advocacy with our elected leaders for much more forceful policies, increased support of environmental groups, and all kinds of

pressure; publicity, boycotts, and direct action — to hold corporate leaders accountable and force them to make meaningful changes in the effort to save our planet.” [Read Putnam’s full commentary in the Addison Independent here.](#)

As always, thanks for all that you do.

Best,

Bekah Kuster, Community Energy Coordinator, AmeriCorps Member, VECAN
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EVENTS

2022 Better Buildings by Design Conference: *Pathways to Decarbonization* – April 27-28



Better Buildings by Design is the region's premier design and construction conference, which features interactive learning about building durability, efficiency, and value for both residential and commercial projects.

This annual not-for-profit conference sponsored by Efficiency Vermont brings together top talent in building technology and design from across the country, and helps keep Vermont-area professionals at the forefront of their fields. The 2022 Better Buildings by Design Conference kicked off today in-person in

South Burlington, and will continue tomorrow, **Thursday, April 28th from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

[Register for tomorrow’s session here.](#)

[Find workshop details here](#) and [attendee registration pricing here.](#)

2022 Vermont Walk/Bike Summit is Just a Few Weeks Away – May 6th in Middlebury, VT



After a long two years of virtual conferences, the Vermont Walk/Bike Summit is back in person! The Summit will take place on **May 6th at 8:30am at the Town Hall Theater and various locations across Middlebury.** The Summit is an opportunity to connect and share how our local communities are creating more livable, healthy, and bike, pedestrian, and public-transit friendly places.

The event will include interactive demo workshops, peer exchanges, a highly-acclaimed keynote, and a variety of dynamic presentations and topics including advocacy and education, safe and healthy communities, economic development, and the built environment.

Registration is now open and is only \$50 dollars for a day of learning and sharing.

For more information and to register for this exciting event, visit vtwalkbikesummit.com.

2022 Resilience Vermont Conference at Norwich University – May 20th, 8:00AM - 5:30PM



A Resilient Vermont conference will bring together community leaders, neighbors and groups that are working to strengthen Vermont's resilience to climate change and other challenges. The conference will help people connect, learn about success stories and best practices, and gain skills and resources to boost resilience on the ground.

Geared toward municipal leaders, organizations and agencies working on resilience, the conference will address social, environmental, economic and physical strategies for helping our communities reduce impacts on people, places and property and recover faster after disasters. This conference is open to anyone interested in making Vermont communities more resilient!

The conference will take place in person at **Norwich University on May 20th from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.** [Learn more and register by May 5th here.](#)

Energy Action Network Pre-Summit - May 24th, 9:30AM-3PM



EAN is trying out a new model for its Annual Summit this year, with a 'Pre-Summit' in-person event in May in order to start developing connections and ideas before the Summit itself in September. This year's Pre-

Summit event will be held on **May 24th, 2022 from 9:30am-3pm at the Vermont College of Fine Arts' Alumna Hall**, located at 45 College Street in Montpelier. No virtual option will be offered.

The EAN Pre-Summit is your opportunity to:

- See a sneak preview of the 2022 EAN Annual Progress Report
- Hear updates and next steps from current EAN Network Action Teams
- Engage in facilitated brainstorming to surface potential new priorities for the Network over the coming year
- Begin crafting pitches and forming Network Action Teams for the 2022 Network Summit.

Tickets are \$50 for individuals until May 6th, or \$65 afterwards. There is also a no/low cost option for legislators or those whose employer cannot cover the cost, which is \$0 until May 6th, or \$15 afterwards.

[Register to attend here.](#)

UPDATES & OPPORTUNITIES

VNRC Accepting Nominations for 2022 Arthur Gibb Award for Individual Leadership – Nominate Someone You Know

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.](#)

Strafford Community Solar Opportunity



Have you wanted to go solar, but don't own your property, or don't have a suitable roof? Or maybe you have gone solar, but need more credits to cover additional electricity demand from heat pumps or an electric vehicle? Strafford Community Solar, LLC could be the answer! Don't miss your chance to become a member of the locally-owned, locally-sited Strafford Community Solar array, initiated by the Strafford Energy and Climate Committee, Vermont

Law School, and TRORC.

The permit application (Certificate of Public Good) was approved by the Public Utilities Commission in March, meaning the array is ready for construction as soon as enough members have joined.

Strafford residents will get top priority to join the array, but it is likely there will be enough room for other residents to participate. As long as you have an account with Green Mountain Power, you are eligible to join this array. Participation will be on a first-come, first-served basis, so don't wait to find out more! This is an excellent opportunity to lower your energy costs AND your carbon footprint, all from an off-site location!

[Find a detailed overview of the project and its economics here.](#)

If you have questions or would like to receive an estimate based on your electricity usage or future projected usage, **email Doc Bagley at docbagley@gmail.com.**

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