



VECAN

VERMONT ENERGY & CLIMATE
ACTION NETWORK

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Late March 2022 E-News

Dear Local Energy Leaders,

March has been a busy month for climate action here in Vermont! We want to keep you abreast of so much going on and offer ideas on how you can get engaged. Read below for more information on the following events, including several related to the Climate Action Plan, as well as updates on key climate bills moving through the Legislature.

EVENTS

- **Climate Action and Resilience in Vermont: Mid-Session Legislative Update - March 30th, 12:00 PM** - Join VNRC and VCV policy experts on Wednesday, March 30th at noon for an update on where key environmental bills stand now that we're through the mid-point of the 2022 legislative session. They will provide an inside scoop on what's happening with priority bills, and there will be an opportunity for Q&A. [Register for the webinar here.](#)
- **Electrify Everything Town Hall with Mayor Miro Weinberger, Saul Griffith, PhD, and VECAN - March 30th, 5:00 PM** - Join VECAN on Wednesday, March 30th, 5:00-6:15pm, as we co-host a Town Hall Meeting with Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger and Co-founder and Chief Scientist of Rewiring America, Saul Griffith, Ph.D to discuss the road to become a Net Zero Energy City by electrifying everything. [Register here](#), and learn more below.
- **Virtual Happy Hour & Climate Chat with Olympian Susan Dunklee - March 31st, 6:00 PM** - Join the [Keep Vermont Cool](#) campaign next Thursday, March 31st at 6pm for a special conversation and Q+A with Vermont Biathlete Susan Dunklee, a 3x Olympian and 2x World Championship Silver Medalist! [Register here.](#)
- **Transportation in the Climate Action Plan: The Current Gap and Potential Strategies to Fill It - April 1st, 12:00 PM** - Join members of Climate Council, Friday, April 1st from 12:00-1:30pm, for a webinar to learn about where Climate Action Plan stands vis-a-vis transportation, pathway modeling, and potential approaches to meet the emission reduction requirements for transportation in the Global Warming Solutions Act. [Use this link](#) to join the webinar, and find more information below.
- **Exploring a Clean Transportation Standard for Vermont Webinar - April 5th, 1:30 PM** - Join the Vermont Clean Cities Coalition and experts from across the country to learn about a Clean Transportation Standard as a potential strategy to help Vermont reduce climate pollution in the

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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

transportation sector, as legally required by the Solutions Act. [Register here](#), and learn more about the event below.

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

- **Learn About the Climate Action Plan and Provide Your Input at 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.

UPDATES & OPPORTUNITIES

- **Watch This Week’s Climate Dispatch for a Legislative Update** - Don’t miss this week’s [Climate Dispatch](#) for a deep-dive overview and look forward on the legislative landscape for climate action this year, as VNRC’s Johanna Miller and VCV’s Lauren Hierl are joined by the Climate Solutions Caucus Co-Chairs, Senator Chris Pearson and Representative Sarah Copeland Hanzas. Get more information on the:
 - **Environmental Justice Bill (S.148)** - The Vermont Senate took a critical step forward in addressing a long history of undue environmental harm by advancing Vermont’s first statewide [Environmental Justice bill, S.148](#), with a unanimous voice vote on second reading of the bill. The bill will be up for its third reading vote in the Senate next week, and then will head to the House for their consideration.
 - **Vermont FY23 Budget Update** - The Vermont House passed the [FY23 budget, H.740](#), with unprecedented investments in climate action and resilience, which will help Vermonters reduce their energy costs, their reliance on expensive, imported and polluting fossil fuels and much more. The Budget will next head to the Senate.
- **Share Your Feedback: Climate Toolkit Focus Group Survey - Responses Due by April 7th** - The Rural Resilience and Adaptation Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council is seeking input on the needs of municipalities taking climate action to help inform the development of a toolkit. [Please fill out this survey](#) to share your input by Thursday, April 7th. Read below for more information.

IN THE NEWS

- **Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) and Efficiency Vermont Partner to Expand Municipal Energy Efficiency Program** - VLCT and Efficiency Vermont have launched a new partnership to lower municipal energy costs and climate impacts. Municipalities can sign up for a free energy consultation to identify cost-effective solutions to lower energy costs. [Read more here](#).
- **In Case You Missed It: VPR’s Vermont Edition: *How the proposed Clean Heat Standard could transform how Vermonters heat buildings*** - On Thursday, March 24th VPR’s Vermont Edition highlighted the proposed Clean Heat Standard legislation currently making its way through the Vermont Legislature, which has the potential to transform how Vermonters heat their homes, businesses and other buildings. [Listen here](#).
- **Reaching Energy Equity Goals with GreenSavingSmart** - [GreenSavingSmart](#) is a new service administered by Vermont’s five community action agencies that connects financial coaching with energy savings for low- and moderate-income Vermonters to ensure a cleaner,

greener Vermont. [Learn all about this initiative here](#). And, if you missed VECAN's March 2nd webinar about this program, you can [watch the recording here](#).

As always, thanks for all that you do.

Best,

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

Electrify Everything Town Hall with Mayor Miro Weinberger, Saul Griffith, PhD, and VECAN - March 30th, 5:00-6:15 PM



How might we rewire America – and Vermont? Join VECAN, Wednesday, March 30th from 5:00-6:15 p.m., as we co-host a Town Hall Meeting with Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger and Co-founder and Chief Scientist of Rewiring America, Saul Griffith, Ph.D to discuss the road to become a Net Zero Energy City by electrifying everything!

Rewiring America is a national, growing nonprofit working to launch a movement to electrify everything to achieve national emissions goals, improve public health, lower monthly bills, and create millions of clean energy jobs. As Vermont embarks on achieving its necessarily ambitious pollution reduction requirements – and Burlington pursues its Net Zero targets – this can't-miss workshop will highlight the benefits of strategically and significantly leaning into clean electrification.

[Register here!](#)

Transportation in the Climate Action Plan: The Current Gap and Potential Strategies to Fill It - April 1st, 12:00 PM



Vermont's initial, adopted Climate Action Plan (CAP) lacks a significant carbon-cutting policy or regulatory tool in the transportation sector – 40% of Vermont's greenhouse gas emissions – because of the last-minute cratering of the regional Transportation & Climate Initiative program. The Cross-Sector Mitigation Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council is back to work to identify strategies to make

certain, stepped, equitable progress in the transportation sector at the pace legally required by the Global Warming Solutions Act.

[Join members of the Vermont Climate Council by Zoom for the first public forum on this topic April 1, Noon-1:30 p.m.](#)

This webinar is intended to articulate what we expect the current policies in the CAP will mean for reductions in the transportation sector and the gap we need to fill to meet our emission reductions requirements, particularly in 2025 and 2030. The Council is tasked with adopting recommendations in the transportation space this fall and those recommendations must be informed by robust public and stakeholder input and an in-depth technical analysis of potential options.

Vermont Clean Cities Coalition (VTCCC): Exploring a Clean Transportation Standard Webinar - April 5th, 1:30-3:00 PM



Join VTCCC to learn about one of the policy options the Climate Council is considering to serve as the CAP's new primary emissions reduction policy framework for the transportation sector. During this webinar, presenters will explain the policy mechanisms of a Clean Transportation Standard and demonstrate how the policy can support clean energy investments and jobs, and help Vermont meet its

climate commitments and energy goals.

Speakers include:

- Jared Duval, VT Climate Council Member
- Cory Ann Wind, Oregon Clean Fuels
- Colin Murphy, Policy Institute at UC Davis
- Eileen Tutt, California Electric Transportation Coalition
- Carolyn Berninger, Great Plains Institute

[Register to attend this webinar here.](#)

Upcoming Climate Action Plan Public Forums – April 12th, 6:00 PM & 13th, 12:00 PM



The Vermont Climate Council is holding virtual public forums on April 12 at 6:00 p.m. and 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 split into smaller groups to discuss

any feedback you and other Vermonters want to share with the Council.

[Register here for one or both of the forums here.](#)

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.

UPDATES & OPPORTUNITIES

Share Your Feedback: Climate Toolkit Focus Group Survey - Submit by April 7th



The Rural Resilience and Adaptation Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council is working to develop a toolkit to provide a centralized source for the information relevant for designing and implementing climate action measures or strategies at the municipal and regional level, as well as information on financial resources and technical assistance.

The Subcommittee is seeking input on the needs of Vermont municipalities in taking climate action, to inform the development of the toolkit. If you are interested in providing your thoughts on what would be most helpful to Vermont communities in addressing climate change, **please fill out this survey** by April 7th. The results will be reviewed and used by the Climate Toolkit Task Group of the Rural Resilience and Adaptation Subcommittee to guide the direction and scope of the toolkit.

If you have any questions, please reach out to GWSA Coordinator, Marian Wolz: marian.wolz@vermont.gov.

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