



VECAN

VERMONT ENERGY & CLIMATE
ACTION NETWORK

[Take Action](#)

[Visit Our Website](#)

[Energy Committees](#)

March 2022 E-News

Dear Local Energy Leaders,

The [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's \(IPCC\)](#) most recent report makes clear that we need to be doing more to prevent the most catastrophic impacts of climate change. Thank you all for your continued commitment to doing your part on climate at the local level. Let's keep pushing for more ambitious action so we can ensure a sustainable and equitable energy future. Read below for more information about upcoming educational and networking events, important news, and more that we hope will support your efforts in reaching our collective goal.

NEW RELEASE

- **U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Releases Free Toolkit for Planning and Funding Rural Electric Mobility Infrastructure** - Last month, the DOT released a free toolkit, *Charging Forward: A Toolkit for Planning and Funding Rural Electric Mobility Infrastructure* to help rural communities across the country take full advantage of federal funding for electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. [Check it out here!](#)

EVENTS

- **The Results Are In! A Post-Survey Session for Energy Committees to Learn, Connect & Collaborate - March 16th at 6 PM** - Join VECAN on Wednesday, March 16th at 6:00 pm to get an overview of VECAN's 2022 survey results, as well as guidance on how energy committees can ready themselves to utilize funding, in order to make strategic investments in cost-saving and carbon-cutting improvements in their communities. [Register here](#), and learn more below.
- **Electrify Everything Town Hall with Mayor Miro Weinberger, Saul Griffith, PhD, and VECAN - March 30th, 5:00-6:15 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.
- **Green Justice Zones Community Forum - March 23rd at 6 PM** - Join Rights & Democracy Institute, Vermont Renews coalition partners, and the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies (VAPDA) for an evening of visioning how Vermont communities can become Green Justice Zones. [RSVP here](#), and learn more below.

Connect

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

Get involved

[Events](#)

[Join or Start an Energy Committee](#)

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

- **Vermont Clean Cities Coalition (VCCC) Medium and Heavy Duty Electric Vehicles Series: Electric School Buses - March 24th & 31st** - Join VCCC for the next installment in their Electric Medium and Heavy-Duty Webinar Series, focusing on electric school buses! [Register for Part 1 on March 24th here](#) and for [Part 2 on March 31st here](#).
- **In Case You Missed It: Weatherization and the Windows Conundrum Webinar** - In this February 24th webinar, hosted by the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, Efficiency Vermont discussed the reasons why it may be better to weatherize your home before you replace your windows, and other ways to mitigate commonly experienced issues around windows. [Watch the recording here](#), and view the [presentation slides here](#).

UPDATES

- **Does the VECAN Website Look a Little Different To You?** - We've updated and added new resources to our website so it is easier for you to navigate. What's new? We've added an Events tab for conferences and workshops/webinars, as well as a News & Stories tab to keep you up to date on the latest climate news. [Check it out here](#). And, please know we are always open to input on news, resources or tools we can host on VECAN.net that would be helpful to you and your community!

IN THE NEWS

- **UN Sounds Dire Warning on Climate Change** - The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) latest report, "Is a dire warning about the consequences of inaction," said Hoesung Lee, Chair of the IPCC. "It shows that climate change is a grave and mounting threat to our wellbeing and a healthy planet. Our actions today will shape how people adapt and nature responds to increasing climate risks." [Read the report here](#).
- **Bill McKibben on Russia's fossil-fueled aggression** - In the latest Vermont Conversation, Bill McKibben talks about the confluence of war and climate change, and ways to confront both urgent crises. "If you want to stand with the brave people of Ukraine, you need to find a way to stand against oil and gas," McKibben says. [Listen here](#). And also, be sure to check out his recent piece on [Heat Pumps for Peace and Freedom](#).
- **Get an Update on Important Climate Bills Moving Through the Legislature** - [Watch VNRC's latest Climate Dispatch](#), a special edition that streamed live from the State House, for a quick update on several must-pass climate priorities from some of the advocates that have been working hard to make major strides on climate this legislative session.
- **Vermont Gas Utility Offers New Service to Help Electrify Customers' Homes** - Vermont Gas Systems (VGS) announced that it would begin selling, leasing, installing and servicing electric heat pump water heaters for customers in a move that it expects to be neutral to its bottom line. [Learn more here](#).
- **Norwich Solar Develops 2.2 Megawatt Solar Project in St. Johnsbury** - Norwich Solar announced the completion of a 2.2 megawatt solar project in St. Johnsbury, VT. In just its first full year of operation, the Golden Solar project is expected to offset approximately 3,795,000 kilowatt hours of electricity that otherwise would have come from fossil fuel power plants. [Read more about this project here](#).

- **People Power: Hawaii utility wants to pay households to share clean energy** - For the clean energy revolution we need, innovation will be essential. In Hawaii, an electric utility and rooftop solar installers have agreed on a proposal to reward customers for using batteries to deliver clean electricity when the grid actually needs it. [Learn more about this innovative initiative here.](#)

OP-EDS OF NOTE

- **VTDigger: Gina Campoli: Driving is a key factor in Vermont's climate efforts** - It [the Transportation Innovation Act] does what the Climate Council determined is necessary to start reducing the state's transportation carbon footprint — get electric vehicles into the hands of more Vermonters, especially those who would benefit most from the energy savings, provide more and better public charging, and support programs such as expanded transit and grants to municipalities to plan and build vibrant downtowns and village centers." [Read Campoli's full commentary here.](#)
- **TimesArgus: Robb Kidd: Reimagining and electrifying our transportation** - "Vermont needs steady, bold, consistent progress if we are to meet our climate, equity and public health commitments. The [Transportation] Innovation Act is an undertaking that is exactly what is needed to create jobs, revitalize communities, fix historical inequities and get our economy back on track." [Read Kidd's full commentary here.](#)
- **Vermont Business Magazine: Jared Duval: Reducing heating costs and cutting climate pollution: The clean heat standard** - "Quite simply, if enacted, the Clean Heat Standard will likely be the most important and effective policy to reduce climate pollution in Vermont's history." [Read Duval's full commentary here.](#)
- **VTDigger: Maura Collins: Making homes affordable through the Clean Heat Standard** - "Recommended by the Vermont Climate Council, the Clean Heat Standard is a powerful tool for reducing the cost of heating for Vermonters through less fossil fuel dependence and by making clean heat options more accessible and affordable." [Read Collins' 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

The Results Are In! A Post-Survey Session for Energy Committees to Learn, Connect and Collaborate - March 16th at 6:00 PM

VERMONT ENERGY & CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK

2022 WORKSHOP SERIES

BIWEEKLY ON WEDNESDAYS

MARCH 16TH, 6-8PM

The Results Are In! A Post-Survey Session for Energy Committees to Learn, Connect and Collaborate



As you likely know, VECAN recently sent out a significant survey to energy committee leaders across Vermont to help us – and key partners – better understand the challenges, needs and energy priorities for communities. We heard you, we thank you and we want to share the highlights!

LEARN MORE & REGISTER AT VECAN.NET

During this workshop, we will provide energy committee leaders with an overview of the survey results, as well as guidance on how energy committees can ready themselves to utilize American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and other available state or federal funding, in order to make strategic investments in cost-saving and carbon-cutting improvements in their communities. Hear from ARPA expert Katie Buckley of Vermont League of Cities and Towns, from Ann Janda of Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission and join small group conversations to strategize more on potential energy-saving and innovation investments. And, we will also be awarding one energy committee with a \$1,000 reward for full completion of the survey, which we hope will serve as an investment in their important local energy work!

[Register here!](#)

Green Justice Zones Community Forum - March 23rd at 6 PM



Join Rights & Democracy Institute, Vermont Renewals coalition partners, and the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies (VAPDA) on March 23rd from 6-7:30 pm, for an evening of visioning how Vermont communities can become Green Justice Zones.

Green Justice Zones are an initiative that uses data mapping, community design and a participatory budgeting process to support community revitalization in places that have been most harmed by the current climate crisis.

Learn from regional partners about existing examples of Green Justice Zones in places including Providence, and join a conversation as we work towards a shared understanding of what this exciting approach to environmental justice could look like in Vermont.

[RSVP to attend here.](#)

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, 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!

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!](#)

Donate

Connect With Us:

Facebook

Twitter

802-223-2328 ext. 112

11 Baldwin St.

Montpelier, VT 05642

(Unsubscribing is not supported in previews)