



# VECAN

VERMONT ENERGY & CLIMATE  
ACTION NETWORK

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## May 2022 E-News

Dear Local Energy Leaders,

It's springtime and lovely in the Green Mountain State and there's a lot happening – and likely a lot to celebrate as the 2022 legislative session draws to a close next week. Stay tuned for that update soon. As we embark on this Mother's Day weekend, we wanted to send our best to you and yours – and send our thanks to you too for all you do to help protect Mother Earth.

Below, find information about some important climate action opportunities, updates and several upcoming educational, networking and storytelling events, which are now all posted to our recently relaunched events calendar on vecan.net. [Check it out here!](#) And, if you have an event you want others to know about, you can submit it to be included in the calendar.

### EVENTS

- **Vital Communities' Virtual Local Energy Action Showcase – May 12th, 7:00 PM** - Join Vital Communities on Thursday, May 12th from 7:00-8:30 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. [Register here](#), and learn more below.
- **Regional Strategies for Reducing Transportation Emissions and Investing in Communities Webinar – May 13th, 12:00 PM** - Join the Vermont Clean Cities Coalition and members of the Vermont Climate Council on Friday, May 13th from 12:00-1:30 p.m. for an overview and discussion of how regional cap and invest programs in the transportation sector could lower GHG emissions and accelerate the deployment of more cost-effective, efficient, and multi-modal transportation solutions for all Vermonters. [Register here](#), and find more info below.
- **Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) Energy Round Table – May 18th, 12:00 PM** - Join Energy Committees and Energy Coordinators from across Central Vermont and CVRPC's new Climate & Energy Planner for an Energy Round Table on Wednesday, May 18th from 12:00-1:30 p.m. Come meet other energized folks from across the region, ask questions, share best practices and form productive collaborations. [Register here](#).
- **Planning for EV Charging Infrastructure in Vermont – May 18th, 1:00 PM** - Join Vermont Clean Cities Coalition, Drive Electric Vermont, and VTrans on Wednesday, May 18th from 1:00-3:00 p.m., for a webinar about electric vehicle charging infrastructure in Vermont. [Register here](#), and find more information below.

## Connect

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## 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](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

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

- **In Case You Missed It: Engaging with Municipal Leadership in Your Community** - Watch a recording of VCRD's Vermont Community Leadership Network workshop to learn about effective ways to communicate and coordinate with municipal leadership and work together for the future of your community. [Find the workshop recording and follow-up materials here.](#)

## RESOURCES

- **Climate Change and Land Use Guide** - Check out Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission's new [Climate Change and Land Use guide](#). This guide is intended to provide municipalities with guidance on how to amend land use regulations to limit low density sprawl, enable compact walkable neighborhoods, and protect the working and natural landscape to ensure climate change resilience.
- **Events Calendar Relaunch at VECAN.NET!** - Many of you know that VECAN used to have a calendar feature on our website where people could see what events were happening across the state and submit their own. With all the great climate and energy events happening in your communities and beyond, we recently relaunched this feature – [Check it out!](#) If you have an event that you think other energy leaders would be interested in attending, [please submit your event here.](#)

## UPDATES & OPPORTUNITIES

- **VNRC/VECAN Seeks 'Community Energy Coordinator' AmeriCorps Member** - Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC) is seeking a motivated individual with interest and expertise in community engagement, communications, clean energy and climate action to help support the VECAN network as our next Community Energy Coordinator. [Learn more about this opportunity here](#) and below.
- **Vital Communities Seeks 3 Full-Time Program Managers - Vital Communities** is hiring for three, full-time Project Managers: one in Place-Based Education and two as a "team hire" in Climate, Economy, Energy, and Agriculture. Know anyone who might be interested? [Find full job descriptions here](#) and more information below.

## IN THE NEWS

- **VPR's Vermont Edition: Will more EV charging stations and incentives lead Vermonters to buy more electric vehicles?** - On Wednesday, May 4th, VPR's Vermont Edition highlighted the EV landscape in Vermont as the state is gearing up to spend millions in federal and state dollars to improve the electric vehicle charging infrastructure. [Listen here](#) for more information.
- **Vermont's Proposed Environmental Justice Bill Clears the House** - The Vermont House took a critical step forward in addressing a long history of undue environmental injustice by passing Vermont's first statewide [Environmental Justice bill, S.148](#), with a strong vote in support. The bill is now headed back to the Senate for final approval before it goes to the Governor's desk. [Learn more here.](#)
- **Vermont expanding electric vehicle incentive programs** - The State of Vermont Agency of Transportation has selected the Center for Sustainable Energy to develop and administer a suite of clean transportation incentive programs for state residents to help curb greenhouse gas emissions. [Learn more about these programs here.](#)

- **VTBiz: Vermont Ranks 3rd in Electric Car Demand** - Nationwide, search interest for electric cars spiked 300% between February and March of 2022 and Vermont ranks third in the country on the highest interest in electric or hybrid cars. [Learn more 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)

## EVENTS

### Vital Communities' Local Energy Action Showcase – May 12th, 7:00 PM

Join Vital Communities (virtually) for the Local Energy Action Showcase 2022, Thursday, May 12, 7-8:30 pm featuring inspiring stories of local energy action in the Upper Valley.

You'll hear:

- How Sustainable Hanover (NH) has energized the values of equity, inclusion, and justice in its work
- How Cornish and Plainfield (NH), Windsor, and Hartland (VT) joined together for a successful residential "Solarize" campaign, across town – and state – borders
- How Bradford, NH, came back from a "Covid pause" stronger than before to successfully weatherize the town library
- Plus much more about the Upper Valley's 35+ energy committees!



[Learn more and register here!](#)

### Regional Strategies for Reducing Transportation Emissions and Investing in Communities Webinar – May 13th, 12:00 to 1:30 PM



The technology and tools exist to get Vermonters where they need to go via more affordable, convenient, and clean transportation options.

Join the Vermont Clean Cities Coalition and members of the Vermont Climate Council for a virtual webinar providing an overview of and discussion of opportunities on how regional cap and invest programs covering the transportation sector could lower greenhouse gas emissions and accelerate the deployment of more cost-effective, efficient, and multi-modal transportation solutions for all Vermonters.

Hear from, ask questions of and provide input to:

- James Bradbury, Georgetown Climate Center, on the Transportation & Climate Initiative Program
- Michael Pizziferri, Province of Quebec, on the Western Climate Initiative
- Members of the Vermont Climate Council

**Register to join the May 13th webinar at noon via Teams here.**

Please reach out with any questions to Jane Lazorchak at [Jane.Lazorchak@vermont.gov](mailto:Jane.Lazorchak@vermont.gov).

## **Planning for EV Charging Infrastructure in Vermont – May 18th, 1:00 PM**



Join Vermont Clean Cities, Drive Electric Vermont, and VTTrans on Wednesday, May 18th from 1:00-3:00 p.m. for a webinar about Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure in Vermont.

Hear about funding opportunities, including the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program included in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) passed in November 2021, federal and state EV charging goals, and more. Share your thoughts on expanding charging availability in Vermont.

This free webinar is open to anyone interested in accelerating EV adoption in Vermont.

**Register to attend here!**

This session will be recorded and shared with all registered attendees.

## **UPDATES & OPPORTUNITIES**

### **VNRC/VECAN Seeks ‘Community Energy Coordinator’ AmeriCorps Member**



Looking for a meaningful, unique and engaging opportunity to collaborate with diverse stakeholders and local leaders to help Vermont transition to a clean, equitable energy future? JOIN US!

The [Vermont Natural Resources Council \(VNRC\)](#), which coordinates the Vermont Energy & Climate Action Network – over 100 town energy and climate action committees and the organizations that support them – seeks a motivated individual with interest and expertise in community engagement, communications, clean energy, and climate action.

The AmeriCorps Member (ACM) will work with partners and independently to help inform, connect and strengthen Vermont’s network of approximately 130 all-volunteer town energy committees and support their energy-innovation priorities.

Position begins September 7th, 2022 and ends August 11th, 2023

Learn more and APPLY TODAY:

[https://vhcb.org/sites/default/files/programs/ameriCorps/VNRC\\_2.pdf](https://vhcb.org/sites/default/files/programs/ameriCorps/VNRC_2.pdf)

**Early applications appreciated. Deadline to apply is June 27, 2022.** VNRC is an EOE.

### **Vital Communities Seeks Three Project Managers – You or Someone You Know?**

Vital Communities, a regional nonprofit located in White River Junction, VT, – and a VECAN partner organization – seeks:



- Two full-time project managers with passion and experience in one or more specific issue areas (climate change, community-scale economic development, clean energy, and agriculture) who are excited about working collaboratively at the community level for community-scale, community-driven change in the Upper Connecticut River Valley of Vermont and New Hampshire.
- One full-time project manager with teaching experience who has a passion for and commitment to Place-Based Education (PBE) to lead the Farm to School programming and to be part of a PBE team to support learners of all ages in deepening their connection to community through the history, ecology, culture, and stories of place.

Full job descriptions at [vitalcommunities.org/join-our-team](https://vitalcommunities.org/join-our-team)

## Donate

### Connect With Us:

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