

VECAN

VERMONT ENERGY & CLIMATE
ACTION NETWORK

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Late June 2022 E-News

Dear Local Energy Leaders,

The summer is kicking off with historic, long-overdue investments in climate action! The Legislature crafted and Governor Scott recently signed the FY23 budget, with over \$200 million in climate priorities, including investments in weatherization services for low- and moderate-income Vermonters, help to ready homes and our state's grid for electrification, investments in our climate workforce, cost- and carbon-cutting aid to municipalities, electric and high efficiency vehicle incentives, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, expanded public transit, micro-transit and bike and pedestrian infrastructure – and more! [Find a more in-depth summary of the specific climate-focused FY 23 budget programmatic investments - and resources for tapping into them here.](#)



[Check out VNRC and partners' statement on the unprecedented climate investments in the FY23 Budget here.](#)

Below we outline lots of exciting recent news, important climate action opportunities, updates and several upcoming events for you to dig into and share. **Before you dig in though, let us know if you – or other local energy leaders you know – may be interested in sharing their personal stories of adopting low- to zero-carbon technologies!** If you live in Vermont, and are happily enjoying the money-saving, health-enhancing benefits of EVs, heat pumps, renewable energy, weatherization, heat pump hot water heaters or other climate-friendly technologies, we want to hear from you! Let us

know if you'd be willing to share your story on video or know someone who may. Please reach out to Greta Hasler at ghasler@vnrc.org to start that conversation... and thank you in advance.

Until next time, read more below – and enjoy these lovely almost-summer days!

EVENTS

Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission Heating and Cooling with Heat Pumps Webinar – June 29th, 12:00pm – Join Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission for a webinar on everything you need to know about switching to heat pumps! Since heating is Vermont's second highest source of carbon emissions, switching to cleaner heating can make a big difference. This webinar will review the different types of heat pumps

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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 ghasler@vnrc.org.

About Us

VECAN is a network of statewide Vermont organizations helping communities statewide 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.

available, their associated costs and benefits, and current rebates and incentives. [Click here to learn more and register.](#)

In Case You Missed It: VNRC and VCV's 2022 Congressional Forum – On June 2, VNRC and VCV co-hosted a Congressional Forum with the leading candidates for Congress. The forum was moderated by Steven Pappas, publisher and executive editor of the Times Argus/Rutland Herald. Candidates shared varying perspectives on some of the most pressing environmental and social issues facing Vermont. [Check it out here.](#)

UPDATES & OPPORTUNITIES

VNRC Seeks 'Community Energy Coordinator' AmeriCorps Member – Are you or someone you know 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 seeks a motivated individual with interest and expertise in community engagement, communications, clean energy, and climate action. Position begins September 7th, 2022 and ends August 11th, 2023. [Learn more and APPLY TODAY.](#) The deadline to apply is June 27, 2022.

Montpelier is Hiring a Sustainability Coordinator - Could you or someone you know be Montpelier's first ever Sustainability Coordinator? This new full-time staff position will focus on the City's commitment to reducing energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, ecological impact, and overall costs; strengthening reliability, resiliency, and sustainability; sustaining investments in facilities, and employing new technologies and energy infrastructure. Applications are due by July 8th. [Find more information and apply here.](#)

Peacham Has a New, Public EV Charger – Peacham's newly installed public electric vehicle (EV) charging station located at the Peacham Library is ready for action! This Level 2 EV charger offers two charging ports and is available to everyone, for a suggested donation. Total project cost (including equipment, installation, and signage) came in under \$1,000 – after the electric utility's \$750 incentive per port. [Learn more about Peacham's new EV Charger here.](#)



Efficiency Vermont Issues RFP for Weatherization Workforce Development Program – Efficiency Vermont is seeking proposals from professionals or organizations for programs that increase the number of people working in or supporting the weatherization field in Vermont. Responses to this Request for Proposals (RFP) must be delivered electronically to afode@veic.org by 5:00 pm EDT on Friday, July 18th, 2022. Please submit your response with "RFP Submittal for Weatherization Workforce Development Program" in the subject line. [Learn more here.](#)

NEWS

Weathersfield Uses Town Garage Land to Host Community Solar Array – Weathersfield has welcomed solar electric generation by hosting a 500 kW AC solar array at the Town Garage, offsetting nearly 750 tons of CO2 emissions annually and saving the Town more than \$100,000 off its electric bills over the life of the project. The solar project was permitted, financed, engineered, and installed by Norwich Solar of White River Junction. [Read more here.](#)

A Climate Report Card for Our Schools: Transportation – The latest edition of VTDigger's Underground Workshop Climate Report Card series is spotlighting transportation –

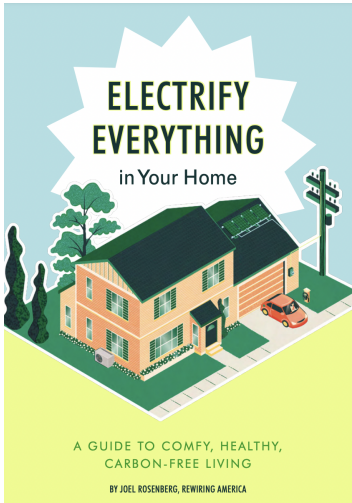
Committee Changes?

Help us keep our network up to date! Email changes in committee leadership or contact info to ghasler@vnrc.org.

Event to Share?

If you have an upcoming climate action opportunity, update or event you want others to know about, you can submit it to be included in the calendar. [Check it out here!](#)

Vermont’s largest emissions sector. Check it out to learn about how students around Vermont are tackling reducing vehicle miles traveled, championing the switch to electric buses, and thinking big picture about Vermont’s transition away from fossil fuels. [Read more here.](#)



Electrify Everything Home Action Plan – When we have to replace a car, a hot water heater, or a heating system, we lock ourselves into reliance on a fuel source for 10-20 years. Most of us will choose what is familiar, which will likely involve fossil fuels—unless we have a plan and have done some research on clean energy options. An Electrify Everything Home Action Plan will help you focus your efforts and maximize the benefits. With yours, you can decide how to reduce your household emissions by 50% or more by 2030. [Learn more here thanks to Norwich Energy Committee.](#)

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