



# VECAN

VERMONT ENERGY & CLIMATE  
ACTION NETWORK

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## July 2022 E-News

Dear Local Energy Leaders,

July brings lots of important and exciting news, community leadership and action opportunities, updates and several upcoming events for you to enjoy and share.

**We're also beginning to look ahead and plan for VECAN's annual conference this winter – and we'd love your input! [Thank you for considering spending a few minutes to share your thoughts with us](#), so that as we evaluate important questions about the logistics of convening energy leaders from all over Vermont, we can collect all of your input and organize a conference for everyone.**

And stay tuned, as many of the investments and programs for energy and climate work funded by this legislative session continue to take shape, there will be even more opportunities for engagement, action and leadership, as we all work together to continue advancing climate progress in Vermont.

Until next time, read more below – and enjoy the long, beautiful summer days!



### EVENTS

**VECAN & Vermont Public Service Department Webinar: RFI for Vermont's Electricity Policies and Programs – Friday, July 29th at Noon** – Join VECAN and the Vermont Department of Public Service (PSD) for a webinar to learn more about the PSD's recently issued [Request for Input on Vermont's Renewable & Clean Electricity Policy and Programs](#) and participate in a facilitated Q&A. As we move to reduce our reliance on imported fossil fuels, it will be imperative that Vermonters' electricity is clean and reliable – and the PSD is opening up the process for input on how to best deliver and deploy more renewable clean electricity in Vermont. In the RFI, the Department is specifically asking for input on the timeline for policy review and stakeholder engagement, the criteria for evaluating policies and programs, and key issues for consideration. This is a great opportunity for local energy leaders to learn about this nascent and needed effort, ask questions, and for the PSD to hear directly from communities about important considerations as we work 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 [ghasler@vnrc.org](mailto: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.

modernize and improve our electricity policy and programs in Vermont. [Click here to learn more and register.](#)

**Bike the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail from Jeffersonville to Johnson's Tuesday Night Live – July 26th, 5-9:00pm** – Join Bootlegger Bikes, the Sierra Club, and crew for a family-friendly ride on the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail from Jeffersonville to Johnson to attend a free live music event, Tuesday Night Live, which draws families from surrounding towns and yummy local food trucks. [Click here to learn more and register.](#)

**Vermont Law School Energy Clinic's Community Decarbonization Technical Assistance Webinar – Thursday, August 4th, 6-7:00pm** – The Vermont Law School's Institute for Energy and the Environment invites you to participate in a webinar explaining the services available through their energy clinic. Faculty will discuss projects including net-zero housing development, community solar ownership aggregation, agriculture-friendly renewables and electric vehicle adoption. They'll also explain how towns in Vermont can make use of the clinic's pro-bono services to decarbonize their communities. [Click here to learn more and register.](#)

**Vermont Council on Rural Development's 2022 Community Leadership Summit – Wednesday, August 10th** – Registration is now open for Vermont Council on Rural Development's 2022 Community Leadership Summit on August 10th at Vermont Technical College. The Summit agenda will include skills workshops, networking opportunities, community project panels, and forum discussions. Anyone who is serving on local commissions, taking the lead or taking a stand in their community, or who is engaged in advancing a positive future for their town, city, or state is encouraged to join the conversation. [Click here to learn more and register.](#)

### UPDATES

**NEW! Vermont Law School & Hartford Energy Commission - Driving Electric in Vermont's Upper Valley Guide** – "Driving Electric in Vermont's Upper Valley" is a go-to guide for everything related to electric vehicles. It brings a special focus on how to access financial incentives up to \$14,000 for both new and used vehicles, as well as types of electric vehicles and their features, charging at home and away, maintenance and more. The newly published guide is [free online here](#) and [your copy can be requested here](#).



### **Summer Session Deep Dive on Climate with VNRC and partners –**

This legislative session saw an unprecedented amount of federal dollars coming into Vermont – and over \$200 million committed to climate action. This is the foundation we must build on and it's worth both celebrating and understanding. Throughout the summer, VNRC and partners will be sharing more

in-depth summaries of all the important work that happened and what it means for Vermont communities and advancing our state's climate progress. [Check it out here!](#)

### JOB OPPORTUNITIES

**VNRC Seeks Community Energy Coordinator (AmeriCorps)** – 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! We're looking for a motivated individual with interest and expertise in community engagement, communications, clean energy, and climate action. Position begins September

### **Committee Changes?**

Help us keep our network up to date! Email changes in committee leadership or contact info to [ghasler@vnrc.org](mailto: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!](#)

7th, 2022 and ends August 11th, 2023. [Learn more and APPLY TODAY.](#) Deadline to apply is August 24th, 2022.

**Vermont Conservation Voters is Hiring a Political Outreach Director** - Vermont Conservation Voters is hiring a full-time Political Outreach Director to manage electoral activities and coordinate issue advocacy campaigns. This role provides a unique opportunity to connect with Vermont voters about the important issues facing our state, and to help elect pro-environment champions that will advocate for better protections for our environment and healthy communities. [Find the full job description here.](#)

### **NEWS & OP-EDS OF NOTE**

**VT Digger: State Pushes Forward with California Car Emissions Rule, But That Won't Close the 2030 Emissions Gap** – State officials are moving forward with a suite of transportation regulations adapted from California's Advanced Clean Cars II (ACCII) and Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT) rules. ACCII would prohibit car manufacturers from selling new internal combustion vehicles, such as passenger cars and light-duty trucks that run on gasoline, in Vermont by the vehicle model year 2035. ACT would require manufacturers of medium and heavy-duty trucks to begin phasing in electric vehicles over a certain period of time. [Read more here.](#)

**VT Digger: Hanzas & Pearson: Leadership needed at every level of government to combat climate crisis** – “Recently, as required, the Vermont Legislative Joint Fiscal Office published its analysis of what the state’s new Climate Action Plan means for Vermont. Its “Brief Report on the Climate Action Plan” explains “if emissions are reduced as outlined in the CAP, Vermont’s economy and people are expected to reap net benefits of approximately \$6.4 billion over 30 years, primarily in avoided costs, relative to the business-as-usual case.” In other words, investing now is the smart move. Which is why we need a reliable partner at the federal level.” [Read Copeland-Hanzas and Pearson’s full commentary here.](#)

**Manchester Journal: Arlington Select Board Brings Energy Committee Into the Fold** – Arlington’s Energy Committee has been meeting twice a month and conducting a survey of the town’s carbon footprint, but since its formation, the committee has been working independently of the Select Board. However, the Select Board recently approved bylaws bringing the committee into the fold of town government, making



its members appointees of the Select Board, setting its membership at seven residents, and ratifying the rules under which it operates. [Read more here.](#)

**WCAX: Green Mountain Solar Press Conference with Rep. Peter Welch** – Green Mountain Solar recently held a press conference with Rep. Peter Welch to discuss the Biden administration decision to suspend tariffs on imports of solar panels from Southeast Asia for 24 months. The Trump administration decision to implement tariffs has effectively frozen new solar installations across the country and here in Vermont. [Read more here.](#)

**VT Digger: Vermont Environmentalists Condemn Latest Supreme Court Ruling, Though Vermont Impact Will be Minimal** – Environmentalists in Vermont decried a new U.S. Supreme Court decision that will limit the federal Environmental Protection Agency’s power to regulate carbon emissions from power plants, though the ruling is not likely to touch Vermont’s companies and institutions. In the United States, the energy sector makes up about a quarter of greenhouse gas emissions and the ruling will hamstring the federal agency’s power to curb the sector’s contribution to climate change. [Read more here.](#)

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