

VECAN

VERMONT ENERGY & CLIMATE
ACTION NETWORK

[Take Action](#)

[Visit Our Website](#)

[Energy Committees](#)

August 2022 E-News

Dear Local Energy Leaders,

August brings with it lots of opportunities for leadership development, community building, climate action, and more! **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.** Read on to find out more about all of the upcoming events, opportunities, recent news and updates in the climate and energy space.

EVENTS

Waterbury LEAP Electric Vehicle Fest – Wednesday, August 17th – The Waterbury LEAP Electric Vehicle Fest will take place on Wednesday, August 17 from 5:30 to 7:00 PM at the Crossett Brook Middle School in Duxbury (5672 VT-100, Duxbury, VT). This free event includes: 1) 15- 20 electric vehicles on display; 2) a Q&A with Drive Electric Vermont; 3) the opportunity to talk with experts and owners about the EVs; 4) information about incentives, tax credits, charging, operating costs, vehicle ranges, etc. [Find more information here](#), or contact alaynahoward@gmail.com or 603-748-9564. No RSVP required.

Button Up Vermont: Virtual Kick-off with Efficiency Vermont – Wednesday, August 31st, 12-1:00pm – We are excited to be co-hosting a virtual kick-off of this year's Button Up Vermont campaign with Efficiency Vermont, on August 31st, from 12:00-1:00pm. You'll hear all about this year's campaign, including how you can sign up to participate in helping to Button Up Vermont this fall. Mark your calendars or [register here for the August 31st kick-off](#) and stay tuned for much more coming soon. And, if you have any questions, please reach out to your Efficiency Vermont Community Manager. As a reminder, these are the Community Managers and the territories they cover:



- Brad Long, blong@veic.org – Washington, Addison, Windham, and Lamoille counties
- Bekah Kuster, bkuster@veic.org – Bennington, Rutland, Windsor, and Orange counties
- Michelle McCutcheon-Schour, mmschour@veic.org – Chittenden, Franklin, Grand Isle, Orleans, Caledonia, and Essex counties

Connect

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

Get involved

[Events](#)

[Join or Start an Energy Committee](#)

[Find and Connect with Other Energy Committees](#)

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.

Vital Communities' Upper Valley E-bike Lending Library Coming to Woodstock! –

September 2nd-4th – Vital Communities' Upper Valley E-bike Lending Library will be in Woodstock Friday, September 2nd through Sunday, September 4th. Borrowers will be able to "check out" an e-bike from the lot outside the Norman Williams Public Library. The fleet includes a variety of bikes at different price points, including a cargo bike with a rear rack and several standard bikes, all with an electric assist! [Learn more and reserve a bike ahead of time here.](#)

Energy Action Network 2022 Annual Summit – September 22, 2022 – The EAN 2022 Network Summit will be on September 22, 2022 at the Vermont College of Fine Arts Alumna Hall in Montpelier. The event will begin at 9am, with all attendees invited to stay through a reception and dinner. The EAN Summit is a great opportunity to hear updated information about where Vermont stands relative to our energy and emissions reduction commitments, learn about State level initiatives to equitably reach our climate and energy goals, discuss EAN Network Action Team progress, and help choose Network priorities from pitches. [Learn more and register here.](#)

In Case You Missed It: VECAN & Vermont Department of Public Service Webinar: RFI for Vermont's Electricity Policies and Programs – On Friday, July 29th VECAN and the Vermont Department of Public Service held a webinar for local energy leaders to learn more about the recently issued Request for Input (RFI) on Vermont's Renewable & Clean Electricity Policy and Programs and participate in a facilitated Q&A. [Find a recording of the webinar and all related materials here.](#) Responses to the RFI are due August 15.

UPDATES

Upper Valley Climate Change Leadership Academy – Vital Communities is looking for Upper Valley residents to join the Climate Change Leadership Academy (2CLA) and discover their own capacity to spark positive local change. The 2022 class aims to bring together a diverse group of 25 Upper Valley community members to learn about climate science, mitigation, adaptation, and justice. Participants will also build their own skills to lead and support equitable, community-based climate projects and connect with existing climate action groups and build supportive networks of like-minded people. A \$200 stipend will be available to participants to recognize the time, energy, and lived experiences they bring to the group. Applications for the 2CLA Class of 2022 close August 15. Learn more and apply at vitalcommunities.org/2cla

Efficiency Vermont is Seeking Feedback on Programs for Demand Resource Plan – Efficiency Vermont is primarily funded by an Electric Efficiency Charge (an amount that appears on your electricity bill each month), and it supports programs that reduce Vermont's overall electric costs for all ratepayers through various programs and services. Every three years Efficiency Vermont creates a plan for rebates and services Vermont needs to help save money on energy, and lower greenhouse gas emissions in our state. This document is called the Demand Resources Plan (DRP), and it is overseen by the Public Utility Commission (PUC). To develop this plan, [Efficiency Vermont wants to hear from you!](#) Complete the survey and you'll be entered into a raffle to win one of three \$100 Visa gift cards!

VCRD Climate Catalysts Innovation Fund: Small Grants for Innovative Local Climate and Energy Projects – Apply by September 18th – The Vermont Council on Rural Development, in collaboration with the Vermont Low Income Trust for Electricity (VLITE) and Vermont State Employees Credit Union (VSECU) invites applications for small grants to support local innovators developing solutions that move Vermont closer to its climate and energy goals. Grant awards will range from \$500-\$4,000, and can be awarded to a municipality, school, non-profit organization or business. VCRD is also open to working with potential grantees that lack the organizational infrastructure to accept funds directly. [Learn more here.](#)

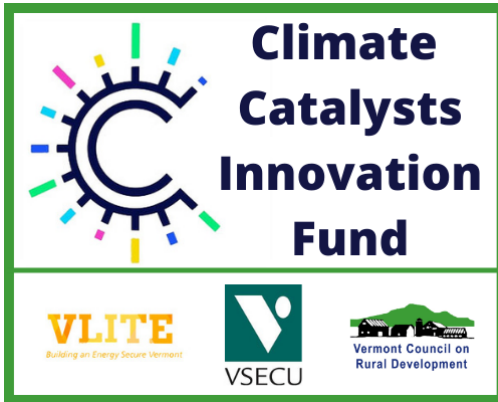
Committee Changes?

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!](#)

NEWS



Valley News: Seven Vermont Towns Join Forces for Energy – Seven Upper Valley towns have formed an “energy district” – Barnard, Bradford, Norwich, Sharon, Strafford, Thetford and Woodstock. Each town continues to have its own energy committee, but a stronger emphasis on collaboration is intended to make tackling energy challenges — a task that requires specialized knowledge and sustained attention — easier and more

effective. [Read more here.](#)

Hope for Climate as Inflation Reduction Act Passes the Senate – The Senate has reached a deal on and passed a new reconciliation package known as the Inflation Reduction Act. While it’s disappointing that the package includes some giveaways to the fossil fuel industry, the overall package is an overwhelming win for climate action, with impartial analyses showing pollution reductions that finally give us a shot at hitting our Paris Accord climate commitments. This is critical climate legislation that will invest \$369 billion in climate, clean energy, and environmental justice work, and is projected to help cut planet-warming pollution roughly 40% by 2030 and protect our communities from future devastation. [Find out more here.](#)

VTDigger: Vermont to Receive Millions in Federal Funds for Climate Resilience Transportation Projects – The U.S. Department of Transportation recently announced that over the next five years, Vermont is set to receive \$37 million in federal funding for transportation projects that would make the state’s infrastructure more resilient to a changing climate. The new program is designed to “help communities protect their transportation infrastructure from extreme weather and improve routes that first responders and firefighters need during disasters, and Vermont is set to receive \$7 million this fiscal year. [Read more here.](#)

New Study Shows Big Lifetime Emissions Benefits of Electric Cars Over Gas and Diesel – The Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) [published a new study](#) that finds the total [lifetime emissions](#) from an electric vehicle are 50% less than those from a comparable vehicle equipped with a gasoline or diesel engine. “Over its lifetime — from manufacturing to operation to disposal — the average new battery electric vehicle produces more than 50% less global warming pollution than a comparable gasoline or diesel vehicle. Based on the most recently available data on power plant emissions and EV sales, driving the average EV in the United States produces global warming emissions equal to a gasoline vehicle that gets 91 miles per gallon.” The study also found that, depending on the cleanliness of the electric portfolio powering those EVs, the miles per gallon can be far greater than that too. Read [UCS’ full analysis here](#) and find a [CleanTechnica summary of it here.](#)

Donate