



# VECAN

VERMONT ENERGY & CLIMATE  
ACTION NETWORK

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## September 2022 E-News

Dear Local Energy Leaders,

There are so many exciting and important developments in clean energy and climate action work this month! Congress has passed the most significant legislation in U.S. history to tackle the climate crisis and strengthen our national energy security, National Drive Electric Week brings many regional opportunities to join your communities in supporting electric vehicles, and the 2022 Button Up Campaign kicked off with a bang! Read on for many more events, opportunities to engage, updates and climate and energy news.

### **EVENTS**

**Accessible Electric Vehicle Public Engagement Events with the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources** – Transportation is the single largest contributor to climate pollution in Vermont, and cleaning up our transportation sector to meet our state's climate requirements will mean, in part, increasing access to zero-emission vehicles. Fortunately, we have an opportunity to make these clean options much more accessible thanks to new rules that Vermont is poised to adopt this December.

Advanced Clean Cars II and Advanced Clean Trucks are the logical next steps in delivering Vermont clean, more efficient vehicles for years to come – and every voice of support will matter in bringing these rules across the finish line. These rules are essential; they will set the foundation for Vermonters and Vermont businesses to access more clean, cost-effective vehicles – putting the onus on the manufacturers to deliver these options every year.

Throughout the month of September, the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources will be hosting a series of public engagement events around the state. Come learn about the benefits and impacts of the rules, find information about existing programs and resources to support the transition to EVs, and importantly, participate in a discussion about what policies are needed to ensure all Vermonters can benefit. It will be critical that all who support



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### **Get involved**

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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.

accessible and affordable vehicle electrification show up and show support for the adoption of these rules.

- [Burlington: 9/14/22 6:00 pm Burlington Old North End Community Center](#)
- [Bellows Falls: 9/15/22 6:00 pm Bellows Falls Opera House](#)
- [Barre: 9/21/22 5:00 pm Aldrich Public Library](#)
- [Virtual: 9/23/22 12:00 pm](#)

**GreenSavingSmart Workshops in September: Weatherization, Solar, Heat Pumps, and Financial Management** – Join GreenSavingSmart for a series of free, virtual and in-person workshops throughout the month of September! Hear from experts on a variety of energy efficiency, renewable energy, and financial management topics. All dates and times below. [Click here to learn more and register.](#)

- Solar for All Vermonters – Wednesday, September 14th from 3-4:30pm
- Heat Pumps – Wednesday, September 21st from 10-11:30am
- NEK Fall Financial Check Up – Monday, September 26th from 1-2:30pm (in person!)
- Crank Up The Savings – Wednesday, September 28th from 3-4:30pm

**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 Alumnx 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.](#)

**National Drive Electric Week – September 23-October 2, 2022** – National Drive Electric Week is a nationwide celebration to raise awareness of the many benefits of all-electric and plug-in hybrid cars, trucks, motorcycles, and more. Are you considering going electric? Drive Electric Vermont has lots of great resources to check out and you can [find an upcoming in-person or online event to learn more!](#)



**Danville Electric Vehicle & Transportation Fair – September 17, 2022** – Join the Danville Energy Committee for an exciting Electric Vehicle (EV) and Transportation Fair! Beginning at 9:45am, there will be a parade of EVs. From 10am-1pm, stay for a variety of EVs, e-bikes, and electric lawn equipment on display, the opportunity to talk with experts and owners about EVs, information about incentives, tax credits, charging, operating costs, and vehicle ranges, and more! Everyone will be entered in a free raffle for an electric weed whacker, and if you bring your EV you can receive a \$25 gift card to Marty's courtesy of Green Mountain Power!

**Bethel Energy Show – September 24, 2022** – Come out for the Bethel

Energy Show is a waypoint for White River Valley drivers who are getting ready to "take the leap" to an electric vehicle. Locally owned electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids will be on display. You can sit in an EV, share experiences with EV owners, and go for a test ride! [Learn](#)

### 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!](#)

[more here.](#)

**Manchester Electric Vehicle Drive-In – September 24, 2022** – Join the Manchester Energy Committee and 350Vermont from 10am-12:30pm for an electric vehicle drive-in at the Rec Center in Manchester! There will be electric cars, lawnmowers, weed whackers, bikes and more! Talk to folks who own, drive and use these electric options and find out what it's like to own and use one yourself. For more information, contact Carl Bucholt at 802-362-4619.

### **UPDATES**

#### **In Case You Missed It: VECAN & Efficiency Vermont: Button Up Kick-Off 2022**

**Webinar** – On Wednesday, August 31st, VECAN and Efficiency Vermont co-hosted a webinar for local energy leaders to learn more about the 2022 Button Up Campaign! This year's campaign will feature Weatherization Wednesdays, with webinars on a range of topics, as well as coordination with Regional Planning Commissions for material pick up and support, and many more exciting opportunities to come! [Watch the recording and find all related materials here.](#)

#### **The Inflation Reduction Act Delivers Affordable Clean Energy for Vermont –**

Congress recently passed the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), and it is the most significant legislation in U.S. history to tackle the climate crisis and strengthen our national energy security. The IRA will lower energy costs for households and businesses, providing expanded incentives and rebates for energy efficiency, electric vehicles, funding for rural electric cooperatives, workforce development dollars to support increased clean energy generation and storage, and more.

- [Learn more about what this legislation means for clean energy here.](#)
- [Calculate potential incentives for household electrification here.](#)
- [See an overview of the role of states in implementing IRA dollars here.](#)
- [Find out what the IRA means for electric vehicle incentives.](#)

#### **Department of Energy – Community Geothermal Heating and Cooling Design and Deployment Funding Opportunity Announcement**

– The U.S. Department of Energy recently announced the Community Geothermal Heating and Cooling Design and Deployment Funding Opportunity Announcement, which will award \$300,000–\$13 million for projects that help communities design and deploy geothermal district heating and cooling systems, create related workforce training, and identify and address environmental justice concerns. The funding will support the formation of community coalitions that will develop, design, and install community geothermal heating and cooling systems that supply at least 25% of the heating and cooling load in communities. Applications are due October 11, 2022. [Find more information here.](#)

#### **Efficiency Vermont is giving away free Energy Savings Kits full of LEDs and water-saving devices to eligible Vermonters while supplies last! – Visit**

[efficiencyvermont.com/kits](https://efficiencyvermont.com/kits) to learn more and sign up to get a free kit, and make sure to spread the word to your friends and neighbors! Efficiency Vermont can provide copies of a 4x6" informational card with instructions on how to sign up for kits, which may be useful for your upcoming events. To receive cards, just email Efficiency Vermont's Customer Support at [info@efficiencyvermont.com](mailto:info@efficiencyvermont.com) or call (888) 921-5990 with your mailing address and desired quantity.

### **NEWS**

#### **Green Energy Times: VNRC & Partners: Vermont's Opportunity to Ensure**

**Accessible Electric Vehicles – for Consumers and Climate** – “With gas prices yet again making it hard for Vermonters to make ends meet, more Vermonters are clamoring for more affordable, efficient and electric vehicles, and the rules are essential to meeting that growing

demand. And, given that transportation in Vermont accounts for about 40% of the greenhouse gas emissions we collectively generate in this state, the rules are also fundamental to substantially reducing climate pollution and creating a more resilient, equitable and clean transportation system in our rural state.” [Read more here.](#)

**Brattleboro Reformer: Transitioning to renewables while protecting vulnerable communities** – “We can’t get to zero carbon without building transmission to connect remote renewables with customers,” said Janet Gail Besser, who leads the Smart Electric Power Alliance’s Regulatory and Business Innovation program. “Sure, we can get to carbon free no problem ... as long as we build transmission, billions of dollars of transmission.” Besser said New England is particularly well positioned to transition to carbon free energy resources, “But there’s a lot of work to be done to make that happen.” [Read more here.](#)

**Bennington Banner: Peter Sterling: The Inflation Reduction Act shattered the ceiling for clean energy in Vermont** – “We are finally looking at a future where renewable energy and other pro-climate technologies will benefit from a level of government support comparable to what the fossil fuel and nuclear industries have received for decades. For the first time, there will be an energy storage tax credit, a comprehensive electric vehicle tax credit, a long-term commitment to a solar tax credit for homeowners, and extra incentives for renewable energy businesses that pay prevailing wages and help to build solar equipment in the U.S.” [Read more here.](#)

**Williston Observer: Hinesburg community solar project seeks investors** – A community-owned solar project in Hinesburg, under development by the Acorn Renewable Energy Co-op of Middlebury, is ready to start offering public shares. The 150-kilowatt solar array will be located on the capped former municipal landfill located at 179 Observatory Rd. Residents will need an electric meter in the Vermont Electric Cooperative (VEC) service territory to be eligible. Shareholders will receive the project’s net metered credits on their VEC bills, and ultimately take ownership of the project. [Read more here.](#)

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