



Five Things Your Town Energy Committee Can Tackle Right Now!

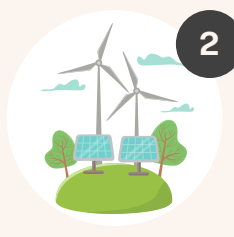


1 Transportation

The transportation sector accounts for 40% of Vermont's GHG emissions!

While the rural nature of Vermont means that many residents rely on their cars to get where they need to go, there are opportunities to expand other transportation options and help reduce emissions in our largest sector. Energy committees can help reverse this growth in emissions by identifying ways to encourage use of clean and creative transportation options. See some examples below, or visit [the transportation page of VECAN's website](#) for more information.

1. Electric Vehicle (EV) and EV charging promotion
 - a. Host an EV Fair! Waterbury LEAP has had a very successful EV Festival each year, which [you can find more info about here.](#)
2. Dig into Vital Communities' [Town Transportation Toolkit!](#)
 - a. A resource to support communities and volunteers at the town level interested in tackling transportation emissions reduction, this toolkit provides tangible projects, resources, background info and more to inspire your energy committee to get to work on transportation!



2 Thermal

The thermal sector accounts for 34% of Vermont's GHG emissions!

Vermont homes and businesses rely heavily on imported fossil fuels to keep warm, and that reliance means that our thermal sector is the second largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in our state. Efficiency in the thermal sector can save Vermonters money by lowering energy bills, reducing greenhouse emissions, and supporting local economic development through the creation of clean energy jobs. Energy committees can initiate many activities to help local residents, businesses, and municipalities reduce energy usage through efficiency and clean energy choices.

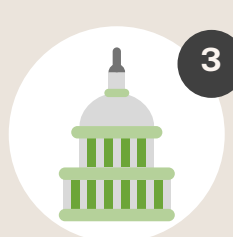
- **Connect your municipality with Efficiency Vermont for a free energy walkthrough**
 - [Find more info here](#)
- **Adopt a Green Procurement Policy** for town departments, to formally recognize that every time a piece of equipment comes up for replacement is an opportunity to either get off fossil fuels and strategically consider options for replacement.
 - [The town of Strafford passed a Green Procurement Policy in the fall of 2021](#)



4 Communications and Outreach

Communications and outreach lie at the center of work for many Town Energy Committees. With deep local knowledge and relationships, committees are in a unique position to reach more deeply into communities than statewide or regional organizations.

- **Check out VECAN's Town Energy Committee Communications Toolkit**
 - The Toolkit walks your energy committee through the process of developing an inventory of communications materials, creating and implementing a customized outreach plan, and evaluating results.
 - Start by choosing one aspect of your communications and outreach to improve.
 - For example, you could begin by establishing a contact list and regular email schedule to reach members of your community.
- **Diversify your membership**
 - Invite 1-2 youth members to join your committee. For more information and inspiration, [check out our case study on Youth Engagement!](#)



3 Advocacy

- **If individuals on your energy committee are interested in getting more involved in advocacy efforts**, please reach out to ghasler@vnrc.org for more information.
- **Help your community plan for available state and federal funding** for municipal energy initiatives. [Find resources for working with your municipality on energy initiatives here.](#) As unprecedented federal dollars are now, or will be, flowing to communities, we will aim to keep our network abreast of opportunities — including the Inflation Reduction Act dollars.
- **Stay up-to-date on what's happening in the Vermont Legislature:**
 - Sign up for VNRC's weekly Climate Dispatch to stay informed and involved with climate bills moving in the legislature. [Find full episodes, sign up and encourage others to sign up to receive the Climate Dispatch every week!](#)
 - Sign up for weekly legislative email updates at our partner organization, [Vermont Conservation Voters](#). Click "Join Us" in the top right corner to be added to their email list.
 - Tune in online to all aspects of the legislative session, including committee meetings which are live-streamed on YouTube. Find [streaming links here](#), and [the full schedule of committee meetings here](#).
 - **Be sure to stay connected to your legislators and follow the process.**



5 Find some one-on-one support

- Reach out to the energy planner at your Regional Planning Commission. Don't know who your energy planner is? [Find out here.](#)
 - Regional Planning Commission staff can also help your energy committee consider opportunities for regional collaboration on projects and initiatives, with neighboring energy committees who may be working on similar efforts.
- [Reach out to the VECAN Partners](#), each of whom brings different expertise, connections, and perspectives to the vital work you're doing in your communities, and are eager to support you!

For more resources, information, and opportunities to connect, please visit us at www.vecan.net