



VECAN

VERMONT ENERGY & CLIMATE
ACTION NETWORK

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October 2022 E-News

Dear Local Energy Leaders,

The leaves are changing, neighbors are buttoning up their homes for winter, and there are many great opportunities to engage in climate and energy work this fall! Tune in to a Button Up Vermont virtual event, and support your community and apply to be one of Vermont Council on Rural Development's Climate Economy Resilient Communities. Also, check out new resources from VECAN to support your energy committee's work, join us for an exciting climate webinar with members of the Act on Climate Coalition, and much more!

Before you dig into all of the exciting climate and energy news and opportunities we've compiled below, we want to make sure you **SAVE THE DATE for our 15th Annual VECAN Conference! This year's conference will be virtual, and will kick off on Saturday, December 10th.** Find more information [on the VECAN website here](#), and stay tuned for registration and much more information to come in the coming weeks!



EVENTS

Efficiency Vermont Webinar: Programs to Support Low-Income Vermonters – Friday, October 14th at 12pm – Join Efficiency Vermont this Friday, October 14th from 12:00-1:00pm for a Button Up webinar. Efficiency Vermont's Lauren Wentz will give a presentation on programs to address energy burden for low-income Vermonters. There will be plenty of time at the end for questions. This is the second and final Participating Community webinar of this year's campaign. Even if you aren't a Button Up community, you are encouraged and welcome to join this webinar! [Register to attend here.](#)

Button Up Vermont Weatherization Wednesdays – Every Wednesday at Noon in October – October means that this year's Button Up Vermont campaign has officially kicked off, and there are many opportunities to learn about how you can support weatherization efforts in your community! Upcoming Button Up webinar topics include "Financing Your Project," and "Using Heat Pumps for Your Whole Home." [Find much more information about getting involved in Button Up and future events here.](#)

NEK Weatherization for All: Programs & Resources for Making Efficiency Affordable - Saturday, October 15th, 2022, 10am-12pm – For this year's Button Up campaign, NVDA, Energy Committees and energy partners from across the NEK are hosting a

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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.

free, in-person event at the Old Stone House Museum & Historic Village in Brownington! Join this free, fun & energizing event to tour the Old Stone House Museum & Historic Village and explore smart and affordable energy strategies for everyone. [Learn more and register to join here.](#)

Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions (AVCC) 2022 Summit:

Planning for a Climate-Changed Future – Saturday, October 15th, 2022 – Now more than ever, Vermont communities are planning for our climate future, by putting infrastructure for resilience in place and also in devising new systems that adapt to our rapidly changing reality. Much of the recent action on climate has been at the state policy level, but Vermont's Climate Action Plan identifies strategies and actions that municipalities can engage in to prepare and respond to a changing climate. [Learn more and register for the AVCC 2022 Summit here.](#)

Climate Progress in Vermont – Working Toward Cleaner Transportation, Heat, and Electricity – Wednesday, October 26th at 12pm – Climate change is both a crisis and an opportunity. Vermont's Global Warming Solutions Act requires the state to help Vermonters cut energy costs and carbon in an equitable way. Unfortunately, Vermont is falling far short of meeting this obligation. Thankfully, though, tremendous work is underway. Don't miss this webinar, which will be jam-packed with updates from experts and legislative leaders, overviewing the current state-of-the-state on climate, potential opportunities for action in our biggest energy sectors, and why and how to add your voice to this important conversation. There will also be an opportunity to get your questions answered. Specifically:

- Get a brief, high-level update on Vermont's emissions and energy landscape from the Energy Action Network's recently released [Annual Progress Report for Vermont](#).
- Get an important, unique outlook on the legislative session from Climate Solutions Caucus leader Representative Kathleen James.
- Get a high-level overview of transportation, thermal, and electric sector transformation opportunities – and a glimpse at potential 2023 legislative priorities.
- Get your questions answered, with ample time for Q&A.

As we gear up for the next legislative session, and continue implementation of all of the critical progress from last year with the historic influx of federal dollars, this webinar is intended to help ground climate-concerned Vermonters in the work underway and what further progress is required. Get your big questions answered, offer your ideas and help us chart the course for the work ahead in meeting Vermont's climate commitments. We hope you can join us! [Learn more and register here.](#)



Energy Action Network Webinar - Beneficial Electrification: New Research on Emissions Reduction and Cost Savings for Vermont - Monday, October 24th at 12pm

Join EAN for a webinar that will present the findings of two recently published papers that shed light on the emissions reduction and economic effects, respectively, of beneficial electrification in Vermont. On emissions reduction, hear

from EAN Sr. Fellow Leigh Seddon about the key findings of his recent paper for EAN titled, [Assessing the GHG Impact of Beneficial Electrification in Vermont](#). On economic analysis, hear from Energy Future Group's David Hill about the key findings from the recent paper titled, [Marginal Abatement Cost Curves: Examining the Mitigation Potential](#). You can [register for that webinar 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!](#)

Vermont Law & Graduate School Energy Clinic Webinar: How the Inflation Reduction Act Can Accelerate Your Community's Climate Plans – Wednesday, October 26th, 5:30-6:30pm – Join the Vermont Law and Graduate School's Institute for Energy and the Environment for a webinar explaining key provisions of the new Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and how it can support Climate Action and Decarbonization in your community. VLS faculty will describe the key changes in the IRA that impact local communities, and how you can make use of the clinic's pro-bono services to access these new federal resources and decarbonize your community. [Learn more and register here.](#)

REV Conference & Expo 2022: Our Clean Energy Future in a Changing World – October 27th and 28th, 2022 – The 2022 REV Conference and Expo will take place in-person on Thursday, October 27th, and Friday, October 28th at the DoubleTree Hilton in South Burlington, Vermont. Register to join and hear leaders and innovators in renewable energy discuss how to realize Vermont and New England's clean energy future. [Find more information and register to attend here.](#) Panel topics include:

- Reforming Vermont's Renewable Energy Standard to increase in-state renewables
- How solar power can enhance biodiversity
- The future of energy storage
- Bringing wind power back to Vermont
- Regional energy planning for resilience
- The role of advanced wood heat in Vermont's renewable energy future

Youth Environmental Summit - Friday, October 28th, 2022 – The Youth Environmental Summit (YES) is an annual conference for middle and high school students (grades 6-12) to learn about environmental issues and get involved in local communities. At YES, participants engage in hands-on workshops, action-inspiring discussions, networking with environmental professionals and like-minded peers, and more! [More information and registration can be found here.](#)

UPDATES

Five Things Your Energy Committee Can Tackle Right Now – In this new resource from VECAN, find an overview of five different areas of work that town energy committees can think about tackling when looking for their next project(s) to take on. Topics include strategies for reducing transportation and thermal emissions, communications and outreach, advocacy and more! It even features a newly published case study on engaging more young people in energy committee efforts. [Check it out here.](#)



Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) Seeking Climate Economy Resilient Communities – VCRD's Climate Economy Resilient Communities Program will support three to five communities per year that are working on local climate action solutions. Through this program,

VCRD will provide assistance to communities to make strong forward movements toward a community engagement process, communication outreach planning, strategic planning, technical assistance, and/or project implementation. [Interested communities can find more information and apply by November 7th here.](#)

AARP Vermont Accepting Grant Applications for Winter Placemaking Projects Promote Livability for All Ages – AARP Vermont's 2022 Winter Placemaking Grants will provide financial support for six communities in the amount of \$4,000 per project to non-profit or ad-hoc groups, whom meet the eligibility requirements, and are focused on reinventing or activating a public space during the winter months through programming or

infrastructure improvements to enhance the safety, accessibility and overall appeal. Applications are due October 19th. [More information can be found here.](#)

NEWS

Vermont Biz: Vermont's new 'Replace Your Ride' funds cleaner transportation options – Vermont has launched the first phase of a new incentive program to help residents with lower incomes replace older, high-polluting light-duty vehicles with clean transportation alternatives. Under the Replace Your Ride program, incentives of \$3,000 are available on a first-come, first-served basis to income-eligible Vermont residents who retire an operational high-polluting vehicle that is at least 10 years old and switch to a new or used plug-in electric vehicle (PEV). [Read the full article here](#) and [check out more on Replace Your Ride here](#).

Times Argus: 5-megawatt solar array in the works in Barre Town – Thomas Hand, co-founder of MHG Solar out of Manchester Center, is working on a 5-megawatt solar array on property owned by Barry Stryker off Lowery Road. The fenced-in array would cover nearly 30 acres and would use nearly 10,300 solar panels. Once completed, the array would be connected to Green Mountain Power's electrical grid. [Read the full article here.](#)

VTDigger: Green Mountain Power expands battery storage to avoid buying energy from the grid – Green Mountain Power is working to install grid-scale energy storage facilities in Georgia, Springfield, Bethel, Middlebury, Bristol and Barre, almost doubling their storage capacity across the state. New large battery storage facilities will provide 25 megawatts of energy storage, adding to an existing 30 megawatts the utility already maintains throughout Vermont, Green Mountain Power announced this week. [Read the full article here.](#)

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