

VECAN

VERMONT ENERGY & CLIMATE
ACTION NETWORK
MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER

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Dear {{Salutation or 'Local Energy Leaders'}},

Hello! My name is Sarah Bayer, and I am excited to introduce myself as the new AmeriCorps member serving as the Community Energy Coordinator with VECAN. In my new role, I look forward to supporting Vermont's 120+ Energy Committees and other grassroots leaders through technical assistance, networking, information-sharing, and capacity building. I can't wait to dig into all the essential work you are doing and support your efforts in any way possible. Please email me at sbayer@vnrc.org if you would like to schedule a time to meet; I am excited to learn about your important projects and goals and how I can be a resource for you and your community! Learn a bit more about me [here](#).

EVENTS

ICYMI: VECAN's 15th Annual Conference – All Resources & Materials – VECAN's 15th Annual Conference took place Dec. 10th, 12th-16th. It was a great multi-day series of virtual presentations, webinars and conversations. Thanks to all who attended – and to others who lent essential support as presenters and sponsors. Find all resources, recordings, and materials from the event [here](#)! If you attended, we would love to hear your feedback if you are able to spare a few minutes of your time to complete this [evaluation of the conference](#).

Climate & Energy 2023 Legislative Look Forward Webinar - January 9th, 2023, at 12:00 PM – The 2023 legislative session is about to commence! What are the prospects for essential climate action? Join members of the Act on Climate Coalition on January 9th to find out. Hear how the recent election has changed the landscape and makeup of the Vermont State House; get an update on anticipated new (or improved) policies likely to be considered this session, including affordable, cleaner heat, a modernized Renewable Energy Standard, and transportation transformation opportunities and find out how you can get involved in pursuing equitable, ambitious climate action. There will be opportunity to ask and get your big questions answered. [Find out more and register to attend here!](#)



VERMONT ENERGY & CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK
2023 WINTER WORKSHOP SERIES
 BIWEEKLY ON WEDNESDAYS AT NOON

January 18th at 12pm - Complete Streets: Connecting Communities Through Multi-Modal Transportation Options
 February 1st at 12pm - Community-Led Resilience Hubs

LEARN MORE & REGISTER AT [VECAN.NET](https://vecan.net)

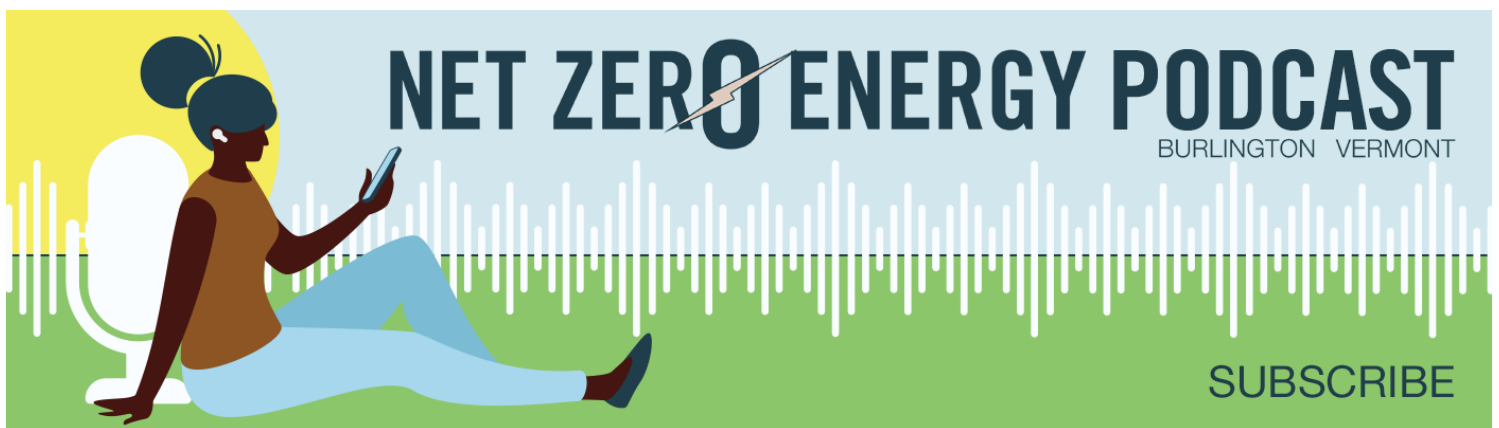
VECAN Winter Workshop Series Kick Off: Join Us Every Other Wednesday at Noon in 2023! - Starting Wednesday, January 18th at noon, VECAN will be kicking off our Winter Workshop Series, covering a variety of timely clean energy and climate action topics! These virtual workshops will be free and open to anyone who wants to join and learn more. [Learn more and register to join us for all of the upcoming workshops on our website here.](#)

- **Complete Streets: Connecting Communities Through Multi-Modal Transportation Options - January 18th, 2023, at 12:00 PM** - This virtual workshop will overview how communities can support the planning, design, and implementation of Complete Streets and

build a cleaner, more equitable, and accessible transportation future for Vermont! [Learn More and Register to Attend Here!](#)

- **Community-Led Resilience Hubs - February 1st, 2023, at 12:00 PM** - This virtual will overview an effort underway to develop Community-Led Resilience Hubs. Through regionally-specific, community-led design, we can support Vermont communities in building climate-resiliency. Join us to learn more and identify ways your community can plug in and support existing efforts underway! [Learn More and Register to Attend Here!](#)
- **Stay tuned – we’ll be announcing more workshop topics in the coming weeks!**

Tune-In to the Burlington Electric Department’s New, Net Zero Energy Podcast – The City of Burlington has created a [roadmap](#) to be Net Zero by 2030 and has already taken major strides toward this goal. In this bi-monthly podcast series, Burlington’s Director of Sustainability Jennifer Green and her guests will be diving into some major energy topics – transportation, heating, electricity, and more – and sharing ways we can all reduce our energy usage for heating, driving, and everything else we plug in. [Listen to past episodes and subscribe here!](#)



UPDATES & OPPORTUNITIES

The Public Service Department’s Proposed Public Engagement Plan – The Vermont Department of Public Service (PSD) issued its proposed Public Engagement Plan to guide a comprehensive review of Vermont’s clean energy and renewable programs and policies over the coming year. You can download the plan and supporting documents from the PSD [website](#). The PSD is also welcoming feedback on this plan, which you can submit via [email](#) or [web form](#).

Weatherization Career Opportunities in Vermont - Weatherization partners across Vermont are seeking new crew members! Wide-scale weatherization is crucial to meeting our greenhouse gas reduction requirements set by the Global Warming Solutions Act, but Vermont’s weatherization workforce is not currently large enough to meet these critical targets. Weatherization workers help Vermonters stay warm, save money, and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. If you or someone you know is looking to start a career that will play an essential role in combatting the climate crisis, [learn more here!](#)

Job Posting: Environmental Justice Coordinator for the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources - The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) is hiring an Environmental Justice Coordinator to help with the implementation of Act 154 into Vermont’s communities and integration into the ANR’s internal team of dedicated staff, leading to more fair and just environmental protection. Working with the Director of Civil Rights and Environmental Justice, you will design program implementation strategies and work plans for the implementation, provide administrative

and technical support to the Interagency Council and Advisory Council established by Act 154, collect data, engage with the community, conduct outreach and represent ANR at key meetings and community events. [Read the job description and apply here!](#)

Book Release: *The Progress Illusion: Reclaiming Our Future from the Fairytale of Economics* - Dr. Jon D. Erickson, UVM Professor of Sustainability Science and Policy, officially released his new book, *Progress Illusion*, on December 1st. He has published widely on energy and climate change policy, land conservation, watershed planning, environmental public health, and the theory and practice of ecological economics. Erickson shared, “I wrote the *Progress Illusion* because I’m convinced that economics as currently taught and practiced will ensure a planetary path to ruin. The mainstream of my field tells a story centered on a very narrow caricature of humanity as greedy and independent. It’s a story that assumes the Earth is limitless and at our disposal. It’s a fairytale detached from biophysical reality and lacking a moral compass. The fate of people and planet depends on upending this illusion and writing a new story based on care, cooperation, interdependence, and stewardship. This is my small part in helping to turn the tide.” [Learn more here.](#)

NEWS & OP-EDS OF NOTE

VermontBiz: Vermont adopts rules for cleaner cars and trucks - Vermont’s Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules officially approved Advanced Clean Cars II (ACC II) and Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT), which will go into effect after California officially files the ACT rule. The rules will set requirements for automakers to gradually increase their percentage of zero-emission vehicles on the Vermont market between 2026 and 2035; and enact a 2035 mandate for *all* vehicles delivered by manufacturers for sale in Vermont to meet zero-emission requirements. Vermonters would still be able to purchase internal combustion vehicles, as this regulation only applies to manufacturers. Johanna Miller, Energy & Climate Program Director at the Vermont Natural Resources Council and Co-Lead of the Transportation Task Group of the Vermont Climate Council, celebrates, “this is a milestone moment, and great news for Vermonters’ pocketbooks, the planet, and public health. These Rules will ensure that cleaner, more affordable and efficient cars and trucks are delivered to Vermont and made more widely available to all Vermonters. They are also absolutely foundational to meeting the state’s legal obligation under the Global Warming Solutions Act, which is in line with the science that the world’s leading climate scientists say is essential to averting the worst consequences of a warming planet.” [Read the full article here.](#)

VTDigger: Reps. Sibilias & Sims: Vermont needs to address its rural capacity gap - The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) brings \$1.05 billion to Vermont to support resiliency and sustainability efforts. The struggle now becomes allocating those funds to the people who need them for the projects they most want and need. In many rural areas, this means that small-town volunteers must decide on a town project that would best serve their needs, garner community support, research and draft a plan, apply for numerous grants, execute administrative requirements, and manage the project itself - all within a specific allotted timeframe. Essentially, accessing this funding is much more daunting for small, rural communities that don’t have a town manager or administrator than for urban areas such as Burlington or Montpelier. Communities that need the funds the most often have the least capacity to take on all of this work. Representatives Sibilias and Sims advocate for the development of a statewide system that makes this funding more accessible to underserved communities. [Read the full article here.](#)

VTDigger: Speth & McKibben: Energy advances have given Vermont a great opportunity - Speth & McKibben celebrate that we have arrived at a point in time where

Renewables, such as wind and solar, are now the cheapest electricity source. This is an excellent opportunity for legislators to bring us a step closer to a Vermont where heat pumps heat homes, chargers power vehicles, and food is cooked on induction stoves. They assert that we have the power to see this version of Vermont to fruition while simultaneously stimulating our state economy, as much of this energy can be produced within state borders. Speth & McKibben hope for a day when Vermont no longer relies on Hydro-Quebec and Renewable Energy Credits from outside of the state and instead seizes the opportunity to utilize ever more efficient technologies within our state borders to “keep carbon in the ground and money close to home.” [Read the full article here.](#)

VT Digger: Shupe & O’Mara: The biggest wildlife bill in 50 years needs Vermont’s support - More than one-third of our country’s wildlife is currently at increased risk of extinction. In Vermont, factors such as habitat disruption, invasives, pollutants, and climate change have led approximately 1,000 species to be in decline or warrant conservation attention. While this is enormously alarming, there are efforts underway to fund projects that will help. The Recovering America’s Wildlife Act would grant \$11.5 million per year to Vermont for efforts to help at-risk species. The bill has widespread, bi-partisan support, and there’s hope that Vermont’s congressional delegation can champion its adoption. [Read the full article here.](#)



Rutland Herald: SolarFest, town energy committee unite to weatherize Brandon - The Brandon Energy Committee is collaborating with SolarFest to plan a host of energy programs and projects that will be seen in the coming months. Their Button Up Brandon event was hosted at the Town Hall, bringing out 65 community members who gathered to learn more about weatherizing their homes. Depending on their individual needs, attendees received weather stripping, door sweeps, outlet covers, and/or pipe wrap. While this event targeted homeowners, they plan to host one for low-income renters and another for landlords. The duo also plans to establish a tool-lending program and hopes to acquire funds for electric home-landscaping equipment. The Vermont Council on Rural Development’s (VCRD) Climate Catalyst Innovation Fund granted \$2,250 to SolarFest for educational sessions and \$3,600 to the Brandon Energy Committee for an e-bike lending program run out of the Brandon Free Library that will begin in the spring. [Read the full article here.](#)

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.

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 emailing sbayer@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!](#)

Committee Changes?

Help us keep our network up to date! Email changes in committee leadership or contact info to sbayer@vnrc.org.



{{Disclaimer}}

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