



# VECAN

VERMONT ENERGY & CLIMATE  
ACTION NETWORK  
MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER

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

Winter is on its way! We hope you've been staying warm, enjoying some of the first snowfall of the season, and keeping busy advancing clean energy and climate solutions in your community. Below we've compiled many events, updates, opportunities to support climate action, and energy and climate news for you to dig into and share.

Before you dig in, though, we're excited to share that registration for the 15th Annual Vermont Energy & Climate Action Conference is officially open! **This year's conference will be virtual and will kick off on Saturday, December 10th, from 9am-12pm.** [Register and find much more information here](#), and below.

## EVENTS

**Register today for the 15th Annual VECAN Conference: Saturday, December 10th - Meeting Vermont's Climate Action Obligation Together** – We hope you will join us virtually for the 15th Annual Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network Conference, kicking off on Saturday, December 10th, and followed by a series of virtual workshops from 12-1:30pm, December 12th-16th! This year's conference is once again FREE and open to all.



### REGISTER TODAY!

On Saturday, December 10th from 9am-12:00pm, join us for a plenary session of the conference – **Climate, Energy and Environmental Justice** – *An Opportunity to Build an Equitable Transition Together*. We'll be joined by a robust lineup of speakers who are experts and leaders in Vermont's work to advance an equitable clean energy transition in the face of climate change. After each portion of the plenary, there will be a facilitated panel Q&A, where you can get your big questions answered and learn more about how your community can get involved. Panel topics will include:

- Grounding in Vermont's emissions reduction progress by sector, and the work left to do in our three largest emissions sectors – transportation, thermal, electricity – and beyond.
- Update on the ongoing implementation of the Climate Action Plan, including the state's progress in establishing a Vermont Climate Office, and ongoing efforts to ensure we're building a Just Transition and helping our communities adapt and become more resilient in a warming world.
- The landscape of Vermont's work on climate and energy post-enactment of the Act 154, the Environmental Justice Law, how this has created a framework for all of the work we're doing on mitigation, adaptation and resilience, and opportunities for communities to support advancement of these efforts.
- A legislative look-forward for the 2023 Legislative Session in Vermont, including progress in finding sector-wide solutions for the transportation and thermal sectors, continued investments in climate and clean energy, modernizing Vermont's Renewable Energy Standard, and more!
- Opportunities for small group reflection and discussion with other energy committee members, state officials, sponsors and other attendees, including opportunities for networking before 9am and after 12pm.



**Keep Vermont Cool Climate Action and Advocacy Tour: December 2-13th** – VPIRG’s Keep Vermont Cool campaign is teaming up with Senator-Elect Rebecca White for a Climate Action & Advocacy Tour! Join local legislators and climate partners from all across the state to learn how YOU can take meaningful climate action in 2023! Each event is free, open to the public, and will include food, drink, music, giveaways, and so much more. More events will be announced soon! [Learn more and RSVP to join an event near you here.](#)

**In Case You Missed It: Climate Progress in Vermont Webinar – Working Toward Cleaner Transportation, Heat, and Electricity** – Thank you to everyone who joined us for our recent webinar: “Climate Progress in Vermont – Working Toward Cleaner Transportation, Heat, and Electricity.” In case you missed it, we heard updates from experts and legislative leaders on the current state of Vermont’s progress on climate. [Find out more and watch the recording of the webinar here.](#)

## UPDATES & OPPORTUNITIES

**Vermont Climate Candidates Win Overwhelmingly in Election** – The recent election marked an important moment when it comes to the future of Vermont. Environmental protection and strong action on combating the climate crisis were top issues this election season – and voters gave elected officials a strong mandate for action on climate change. [Check out this video from Vermont Conservation Voters and VPIRG Votes to learn more!](#)

**University of Vermont Receives \$4.3 Million from the U.S. Department of Energy To Support Energyshed Project** – The U.S. Department of Energy announced that the University of Vermont (UVM) has received \$4.3 million as part of the *Energyshed - Exploring Place-Based Generation Funding Program*. UVM’s project aims to identify the specific energy demand, energy supply, and other priority community needs in three rural areas of Vermont and use that data to develop a tool that will help local leaders make better informed decisions about their energy transition to a more just and resilient system powered by distributed renewable generation. [Learn more here.](#)

**Apply for Vermont Council on Rural Development’s (VCRD) Climate Catalysts Leadership Program by November 30th** – VCRD’s Climate Catalysts Program brings together local leaders from Vermont communities for a year-long process focused on building peer connections, strengthening leadership skills and providing project development support. Participants work on implementation of a local project as a focus of their program participation. The goal is to move projects from concept to reality while investing in leaders who provide multi-faceted service to their communities. [Learn more and apply here.](#)

**Get To Know Energy Action Network's Three New Network Action Teams!** – Three new Network Action Teams are forming within the Energy Action Network (EAN). After successfully producing winning pitches at this year's EAN Summit, [Tenant Weatherization Protection](#), [Networked Geothermal Systems](#), and [Transportation Cap & Invest](#) teams are all underway and undertaking new initiatives for the network. [Learn more about each of these teams and all other existing Network Action Teams here.](#)

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## NEWS & OP-EDS OF NOTE



### **WAMC: Vermont Environmental Advocates Optimistic About Upcoming Legislative Session**

The Vermont Legislature will have a veto-proof majority when the new biennium begins in January. That has environmental advocates across the state confident that some of their key policy goals will soon pass. On election night, Vermont Democrats and Progressives, which work together on most issues, secured combined votes resulting in supermajorities in both the House and Senate. [Read more here.](#)



### **Energy News Network: Volunteer-made window inserts keeping New England homes snug**

“We have 44 community builds scheduled this fall, the most ever,” including almost two dozen in Vermont, said Jessica Williams, the executive director. “And hopefully, this will be the highest number of inserts produced ever — 8,700 would be ideal. All through volunteers. It’s pretty impressive — and humbling, I should say.” [Read more here.](#)



## **WCAX: Vermont officials poised to review renewable energy policy**

“Net metering advocates want Vermont to consider raising compensation for solar producers, saying the state is greatly undervaluing the energy the home producers contribute to the state’s renewable energy goals. But utilities have also pushed back, saying the current compensation rates are not sustainable over the long haul for non-solar customers that bear the brunt of energy infrastructure costs.” [Read more here.](#)

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### **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 [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!](#)

### **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).

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{{Disclaimer}}

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