



VECAN

VERMONT ENERGY & CLIMATE
ACTION NETWORK
MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER

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

We hope everyone has been enjoying the snow (finally)! As February gets underway, we wanted to put several events and opportunities on your radar, as well as share some updates and news. We look forward to continuing to partner and engage with you in this important work. Thanks for all you do!

EVENTS

All events can be found on the VECAN Events Calendar at <http://vecan.net/events>

2023 WINTER WORKSHOP SERIES

BIWEEKLY ON WEDNESDAYS AT NOON

February 1st at 12pm - Community-Led Resilience Hubs

February 15th at 12pm - Inter-Community Idea Share: *Cross-Pollinating Community Energy Progress, Challenges, and Successes*



Questions About the Affordable Heat Act? Get Them Answered! - This Friday, February 3rd at 12:00 PM - The Affordable Heat Act aims to cut energy costs, reduce carbon and support Vermont's fossil fuel heating providers in delivering cleaner, more affordable, healthier, local options to help Vermonters stay warm. In this webinar, get a brief, 10-minute overview of the core components of the Affordable Heat Act, then stay for ~45 minutes of Q&A. [Learn more and register to attend here.](#)

VECAN Winter Workshop Series: Join Us Every Other Wednesday at Noon in 2023! - Starting Wednesday, January 18th at noon, VECAN will kick off our Winter Workshop Series, covering timely clean energy and climate action topics! These virtual workshops will be free and open to anyone who wants to join. [Learn more and register to join us here.](#)

- **Community-Led Resilience Hubs - TODAY! February 1st at 12:00 PM** - This virtual workshop 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 resilience. Join us to learn more and identify ways your community can support existing efforts. [Learn more and register to attend here.](#)
- **Inter-Community Idea Share: Cross-Pollinating Community Energy Progress, Challenges, and Successes - February 15th at 12:00 PM** - Are you hoping to launch an energy or climate action project or campaign in your town but don't know where to start? Do you have a success story that you think other communities can learn from? Is your energy committee facing roadblocks that you need advice for overcoming? This workshop aims to provide space for energy committees and environmental change-makers across Vermont to share their experiences and learn from one another's efforts. [Learn more and register to attend here.](#)
- **Stay tuned – we'll be announcing more workshop topics in the coming weeks!**



Craftsbury Public Library Resilience Center Project
[Join](#) VECAN's Workshop TODAY to learn more!

Energy Action Network Webinar: *Retaining Workers in the Climate Workforce* - February 9th at 12:00 PM. This webinar by the Climate Workforce EAN Network Action Team will be targeted at climate workforce employers. It will provide an inspiring view of low and no-cost retention techniques for keeping your workers in their jobs. [Learn more and register to attend here.](#)



ENERGY ACTION NETWORK

Public Service Department Electricity Webinars - To kickstart public engagement opportunities related to reviewing renewable electricity programs in Vermont, the Public Service Department is hosting an informational webinar series to share information and answer questions about Vermont's current electric system. [Learn more and register to attend here.](#)

- ***Where Does Vermont's Electricity Come From?***
 - February 2nd from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM [register here](#)
- ***Current Renewable Electricity Policies***
 - February 14th from 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM [register here](#)

- February 15th from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM [register here](#)
- **Parking Lot Session**
 - March 9th from 12:00 PM -1:30 PM [register here](#)
 - March 13th from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM [register here](#)

The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) VT Community Challenge Grant Program Informational Webinar - February 9th at 12:00 PM - AARP VT is hosting an informational webinar on Thursday, February 9th from 12 -1 pm. Learn about the 2023 Community Challenge grant program, new funding sources, the application process, and a new offering they are providing for eligible small non-profits in the form of grant writing coaches to help with the application process. [Register for the webinar here.](#)

Climate Workforce Focus Group for Youth - February 8th at 6:00 PM - The Energy Action Network and VEEP are seeking youth to share their thoughts about how to make climate careers interesting and accessible to young people. They will be hosting a listening session on February 8th at 6:00 PM via Zoom. Participants will be paid \$50 for participating and sharing their thoughts, but must register in advance. Any Vermont-based youth can participate. [Register here.](#)

UPDATES & OPPORTUNITIES

AARP VT Accepting 2023 Community Challenge Grant Applications -

The annual program aims to make communities in Vermont more livable for people of all ages. AARP invites local eligible organizations and governments across the state to apply for the 2023 AARP Community Challenge grant program, now through March 15 at 5:00 p.m. Grants fund quick-action projects that help communities become more livable in the long-term by improving public spaces, transportation, housing, civic engagement, diversity and inclusion. [Learn more and apply here.](#)

2023 Downtown Transportation Fund (DTF) Grant - Applications Open - The DTF has up to \$3,600,000 available to help municipalities make a variety of transportation-related capital improvements. The DTF is intended to support safe, multi-modal, and resilient transportation systems that support the downtown and village center economic development and revitalization efforts. [Learn more about the program here](#), including if your town is eligible.

Efficiency Vermont 2023 Rebates - Are home or apartment improvement projects in store for 2023? If you plan to buy new appliances, make your space less drafty, or lower your energy costs, there may be a rebate for you. Combine those with federal tax credits and additional rebates from your electric or gas utility, and you're on your way to some serious energy savings. [Explore 2023 rebates here.](#)

Rewiring America's Inflation Reduction Act Savings Calculator - This tool provides personalized incentives, including upfront discounts, available tax credits, and estimated bill savings per year. [Calculate your personal savings here!](#)

VNRC's Climate Dispatch - Stay updated on what's happening this legislative session on equitable climate action and the transition to a clean energy economy by tuning into [VNRC's weekly Climate Dispatch video.](#)



NEWS & OP-EDS OF NOTE

Burlington Electric Department: Mayor Miro Weinberger, City Departments, Hula, BHS students, and environmental partners promote new climate policies to help city pursue net zero energy goal - Mayor Miro and environmental partners discussed a proposed policy that would require new construction for non-residential buildings over 50,000 sq ft and all municipal buildings to be fully renewable and to use renewable systems when replacing older systems. A carbon pollution impact fee would be applied for buildings that do not meet the requirements. The funds collected by the fee would fund clean heating for low-income Burlingtonians and electrify the city fleet. A substantial portion of the fee could be returned to the payer upon submission of a plan for emissions reduction or energy efficiency work. This proposed fee is subject to approval by Burlington voters on Town Meeting Day, March 7, 2023. [Read the full article here.](#)



Transportation for Vermonters: How a tiny roadside village is reclaiming its streets - Liz Schroeter Courtney tells North Hyde Park's story of how repairs to a village hall's leaky roof led to a crosswalk pilot with the funding support of [VNRC's Small Grants for Smart Growth](#). "As we worked to plan and execute repairs and events and use cases for the hall, we quickly realized how improving and activating the building could not only revitalize the neighborhood, but improving the infrastructure and involvement of the neighborhood could revitalize the hall in return." [Read the full article here.](#)



VT Digger: Vince Bolduc: To solve the housing and climate crises, we need a bigger map - "Since transportation emissions are the greatest single source of greenhouse gas emissions in the state (about 45% of the total), the location of new housing is crucial. This much is clear: If climate problems are made worse by sprawl and long commutes, then most new housing should be in, or close

to, the urban core... Rejecting a new housing development in my neighborhood does not mean that those housing-related carbon footprints will disappear to the benefit of the planet. Many buyers will eventually find their way to the more distant suburbs, where new residents can achieve their dream of a single-family home and where their carbon footprint will be more damaging than it would have been in South Burlington.” [Read the full article here.](#)

Seven Days: Quick quiz: how can you make your home more energy-efficient in 2023? - “What’s the best way to improve your home’s energy efficiency? And why should you care, anyway? The answers to these questions may surprise you. Here’s a quick quiz from the team at Efficiency Vermont that will test your knowledge and make the case for upgrading your home.” [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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