



VECAN Spring Summit 2023 - Resource Provider Summary

Read on to learn more about all of the fantastic sponsors of the 2023 Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network Spring Summit, the services they offer, and how climate-concerned Vermonters can tap into their efforts!

GOLD SPONSORS



Middlebury
College

The Franklin Environmental Center and its Climate Action Program, with the Office of the President are happy to host this year's VECAN summit. The College has a long history of environmental and sustainability leadership in higher education. It has the oldest undergraduate environmental program in the country (1965). It adopted green campus design and construction guidelines before LEED existed (which it now uses), set and achieved a goal to be carbon neutral by 2016, and is currently pursuing its Energy2028 goals to source 100% of its energy from renewables, reduce consumption by 25%, divest its endowment from fossil fuels and increase sustainability related investing, and to integrate these goals across the institution.



Green Mountain Power (GMP) serves 266,000 residential and business customers in Vermont and is partnering with them to improve lives and transform communities with integrated energy services that help people use less energy, save money and reduce their carbon footprints, while continuing to generate clean, cost-effective, reliable power in Vermont. GMP is the first utility in the world to get a B Corp certification, meeting rigorous social, environmental, accountability and transparency standards and committing to use business as a force for good. Visit [greenmountainpower.com](https://www.greenmountainpower.com) to learn more about rebates and discount rates to help you save.

SILVER SPONSORS



VSECU

VSECU is a values-based credit union with a mission to improve the lives of all Vermonters. To this end, they are committed to helping members make smart investments that have a positive impact on the environment. Their unique VGreen program provides affordable loan options designed to finance energy efficiency and renewable projects and purchases such as solar, weatherization, advanced central wood pellet systems, heat pump installations, efficient appliances, bicycles, battery storage, and more. As a lender for the Home Energy Loan program and the Business Energy Loan, VSECU helps Vermonters access subsidized loan rates to implement upgrades that allow them to save money on their utility costs. The work they do as a not for profit financial cooperative in collaboration with local partners, contractors, solar installers, and community energy committees helps deploy more clean energy projects in Vermont. For more information, visit www.vsecu.com.



NORWICH
SOLAR™

Norwich Solar is a leading provider of turnkey commercial and community scale solar and energy storage solutions throughout the Northeast. With a focus on helping schools, municipalities, businesses, farms, affordable housing providers, and nonprofits, Norwich Solar's extensive experience and community approach has helped us successfully develop, finance, and install hundreds of solar projects for our customers. Visit us at NorwichSolar.com and follow us on social media to see what we're up to. Norwich Solar is a division of Norwich Technologies and is committed to supporting all communities' transition to a clean robust future.



Since 1965, **Capstone Community Action** has supported individuals and families in Central Vermont to achieve stability and rise out of poverty. Capstone promotes and supports lower-income residents and landlords to apply for free energy-saving services, coordinates Vermont's statewide Weatherization Assistance Program to support low-income Vermonters in accessing weatherization services, runs the MileageSmart program to offer high-efficiency used car incentives for income-eligible households, and offer building energy retrofits.



3E Thermal, a statewide program of Capstone Community Action, works to advance energy efficiency and better building practices – for owners of affordable apartment housing, the designers and contractors who serve them, and ultimately for the tenants who live in their buildings. 3E Thermal provides trainings and workshops to help advance general knowledge in the efficiency industry. 3E Thermal works with energy committees by providing assistance with their efforts to increase the awareness of energy efficiency opportunities locally. Learn more about their work at 3ethermal.org.

BRONZE SPONSORS

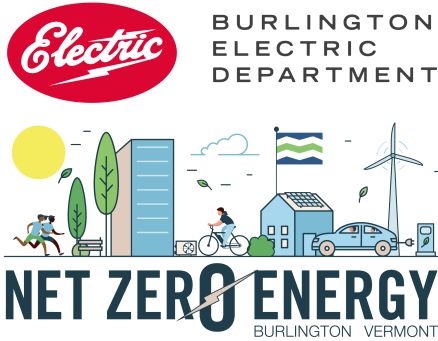


Efficiency Vermont is helping our state transition to a more affordable and cleaner future. Since 2000, Efficiency Vermont has brought Vermonters together to reduce the cost of energy, saving more than \$2.6 billion in energy costs and keeping more than 12 million tons of CO2 out of the atmosphere. We work with our partners to provide incentives, technical advice, and efficient products to help customers save money, and lower carbon emissions. For more information, contact Efficiency Vermont at 888-921-5990 or visit www.encyvermont.com.



Vermont Electric Power Company (VELCO) is Vermont’s statewide electric transmission provider, with our sights set on creating a sustainable Vermont through our people, assets, relationships and operating model. Formed in 1956 when local Vermont utilities established the nation’s first “transmission only” company to access clean hydro power from New York, VELCO’s system now includes: 738 miles of transmission lines, 55 substations, switching stations and terminal facilities, 13,000 acres of rights-of-way and a 1,500-mile fiber optic network that monitors and controls the electric system and serves as a key link for Vermonters’ high-speed data internet access. We are owned by the state’s 17 distribution utilities and a benefit corporation. VELCO is a for-profit company with a financial structure designed to return value to our owners, their customers, and to every Vermonter. For more information, visit www.velco.com.

OTHER SPONSORS



Burlington Electric Department (BED) is Vermont's largest municipally owned electric utility serving more than 19,600 customers as the exclusive electric utility of the City of Burlington. Our mission is to serve the energy needs of our customers in a safe, reliable, affordable, and socially responsible manner. Our 2030 Vision is to make Burlington a Net Zero Energy city by reducing and eventually eliminating fossil fuel usage across the electric, thermal, and ground transportation sectors by strategically electrifying, managing demand, realizing efficiency gains, and expanding local renewable generation while increasing system resilience. Learn more at www.burlingtonelectric.com.



The Vermont Chapter of the Sierra Club is our local chapter of the national Sierra Club, an environmental nonprofit organization dedicated to championing climate solutions, fighting for environmental justice, working for clean air, water, and land protection, and supporting outdoor recreation. The Vermont Chapter is comprised of dozens of local volunteers, including an active Executive Committee, campaign priority teams, and a Political Committee. The Vermont Chapter hosts events and advocates for policies here in Vermont that help make positive environmental change for all Vermonters. Learn more here at <https://www.sierraclub.org/vermont>.



Vermont Electric Cooperative (VEC) is a member owned electric distribution utility that provides safe, affordable, and reliable energy services to over 32,000 members in 75 communities. Nationally recognized for innovative and advanced use of technology, VEC believes in meeting the needs of our members by practicing the cooperative principles in a transparent manner. VEC is committed to operating in a safe manner that is socially and environmentally responsible. We achieve success through the continuous development of a highly skilled and engaged workforce. Visit www.vermontelectric.coop.



Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) works with its 30 member municipalities, state agencies such as the Department of Public Service, and organizations such as Efficiency Vermont to plan for and implement strategies to meet the State's energy goals. This includes drafting Enhanced Energy Plans and connecting municipalities with technical and financial resources. TRORC recently hired an Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator (IREC) to work with six towns to implement their energy plans. By overseeing energy-saving improvements in municipal buildings and recommending energy-related strategies and policies, TRORC and the IREC hope to make a meaningful impact on the energy use, costs, and greenhouse gas emissions of participating towns. Learn more about our programs at trorc.org.



Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) assists energy committees with the energy element of their town plans. As a regional organization, CCRPC regularly convenes local energy committees to provide information and networking events. CCRPC also researches and provides resources and technical assistance to energy committees as they work on education, outreach, and energy plan implementation. Energy committees interested in materials and videos on electric vehicles and buildings, climate change and land use, and how to finance projects, can find resources available [here](#). Find all other information about CCRPC at ccrpcvt.org.



NeighborWorks of Western Vermont (NWWVT) is a community development nonprofit located in West Rutland that provides low-cost energy audits, objective project coordination, referrals to contractors, in-house financing, access to rebates. They help all-income Vermonters at every step of the process in Addison, Bennington, Rutland, Windham, Windsor, Essex, Orleans, Caledonia counties. Energy committees and climate-concerned Vermonters can contact NWWVT for help with events and presentations, educate about audits and weatherization, and for sending customers to the **HEAT Squad** program. For the HEAT Squad program, NWWVT relies on energy committees to help spread the word and to engage with their communities, and supports energy committees for events and presentations.



The National Wildlife Federation, America's largest and most trusted conservation organization, has been working across the country to unite Americans from all walks of life in giving wildlife a voice since 1936. Together in partnership with our state affiliate organizations like Vermont Natural Resources Council, we aim to prevent the causes, mitigate the impacts, and adapt to the fluctuations of a changing climate to ensure a stable environment for future generations. Learn more at nwf.org.



The Vermont Planners Association (VPA) is a non-profit advocacy and educational organization of planners and related professionals. We are dedicated to advancing community planning in Vermont at the local, regional, and state levels, to foster vibrant communities and a healthy environment. Learn more at vne.planning.org/sections/vermont.



Vermont Public Power Supply Authority (VPPSA) helps municipal electric utilities provide affordable, reliable, and renewable power to over 30,000 Vermonters. We serve our utility members with a broad spectrum of services and solutions including regulatory assistance, financial planning, and power supply. VPPSA members include Barton Village Electric, Village of Enosburg Falls, Hardwick Electric Department, Jacksonville Electric Company, Village of Johnson, Ludlow Electric Light Department, Lyndonville Electric Department, Morrisville Water & Light, Northfield Electric Department, Orleans Electric, and Swanton Village. Together, we promote, advance, and celebrate public power communities in Vermont and beyond. For more information, visit www.vppsa.com.



Born from a dare to do better, **Lake Champlain Chocolates** is driven by a passion to change the world one delicious chocolate at a time. A certified B Corporation, LCC believes in using business as a force for good- crafting premium chocolate that benefits people, planet, profit, and purpose. LCC is constantly working to improve every aspect of the chocolate making process, whether it's exploring exciting new flavor combinations, strengthening

partnerships in the local community, or expanding the company's sustainability initiatives. As a proud, multi-generation, family-owned Vermont business, LCC infuses passion, integrity, and an unrivaled commitment to community in everything they do by using local Vermont ingredients, 100% fair trade chocolate, sourcing organic ingredients whenever possible, and never using artificial flavors or preservatives. Lake Champlain Chocolates are available at their three company-owned stores in Vermont, nationwide at specialty stores and grocers and at lakechamplainchocolates.com.

VECAN PARTNERS



With member and partner support, the **Vermont Natural Resources Council** works from the grassroots to the Legislature to advance policies and programs that protect Vermont's air, water, farms, forests, wild places and communities in a rapidly changing world. VNRC serves as the coordinator of VECAN, working to start and strengthen pivotal grassroots energy and climate action efforts. VNRC also serves on the new Vermont Climate Council and will work in the 2021 legislative session and beyond to build the policy, political and public support necessary to equitably transform our outdated energy system and do our part to combat the climate crisis. Learn more about VNRC, how you can get involved and stay tuned for timely action-oriented updates via VNRC.org and the weekly Climate Dispatch – vnrc.org/category/climate-dispatch/.



Energy Action Network (EAN) is a diverse group of energy stakeholders working to end Vermont's reliance on fossil fuels and create clean, affordable and secure electric heating and transportation systems for the 21st century. Each year, the EAN team releases an annual progress report showing where Vermont stands on reducing our greenhouse gas emissions relative to our renewable energy goals and emissions reduction commitments. Learn more at eanvt.org



Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) helps Vermont citizens build prosperous and resilient communities through democratic engagement, marshaling resources, and collective action. New in 2020, VCRD has formed the Vermont Community

Leadership Network, providing free learning, resources and networking opportunities to any Vermonter working on initiatives that strengthen our communities. [Learn more at www.vtrural.org/leadership](http://www.vtrural.org/leadership). VCRD also hosts the Climate Economy Initiatives that include the Climate Catalysts Leadership Program, Climate Catalysts Innovation Fund grant program, and the Resilient Communities program. Learn more at www.vtrural.org/model-communities. Please feel free to be in touch directly with Laura Cavin Bailey about any of these opportunities - laura@vtrural.org.



Vital Communities is a nonprofit organization serving 69 towns in the Upper Valley region of Vermont and New Hampshire. We cultivate the civic, environmental, and economic vitality of the Upper Valley by bringing people together, bridging boundaries and engaging our whole community to create positive change. Much of Vital Communities' work around energy, transportation, and climate involves close collaboration with the Upper Valley's 40+ town energy committees. Learn more at vitalcommunities.org/



Efficiency Vermont is helping our state transition to a more affordable and cleaner future. Since 2000, Efficiency Vermont has brought Vermonters together to reduce the cost of energy, saving more than \$2.6 billion in energy costs and keeping more than 12 million tons of CO₂ out of the atmosphere. We work with our partners to provide incentives, technical advice, and efficient products to help customers save money, and lower carbon emissions. For more information, contact Efficiency Vermont at 888-921-5990 or visit www.encyvermont.com/