



VECAN

VERMONT ENERGY & CLIMATE
ACTION NETWORK
MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER

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

Happy spring! The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) [recently released the final installment](#) of its mammoth sixth assessment report and the message is clear: climate action cannot wait. Thank you all for your ongoing dedication to doing your part. Please see below for details about upcoming educational and networking events, opportunities, news updates, and other resources that we hope will support your critical work toward creating a cleaner, healthier, and more equitable energy future.

IN-PERSON EVENTS

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

Rally for the Planet 2023 - Friday, April 14, 9am-1:30pm on the Statehouse Lawn, Montpelier - Young people from across Vermont will be gathering to march to the State House and rally for the planet. There will be live music, student speeches, arts & crafts, opportunities to interact with various organizations working in Vermont, and the opportunity to meet with legislators to talk about why climate change is an important issue. [Learn more and register to attend here.](#)



Here Comes the Sun! - Saturday, April 15, 9am-12pm, North Danville Community Center - The Danville Energy Committee presents, "Here Comes the Sun," a fun event for the whole family. Learn about solar energy and other clean energy topics. Join us for food, fun, and facts! [NVDA](#) is a proud sponsor of this event. If your energy committee or local government would like support hosting an energy event, please [contact your Energy Planner.](#)

Waterbury LEAP Energy Fair - Saturday, April 15, 9am-3pm, Crossett Brook Middle School, Duxbury - Is it time to weatherize your drafty house? Are you interested in energy-efficient heat pumps, electric vehicles, or solar power for your home or business? Mark your calendars and join us at the 2023 LEAP Energy Fair. The LEAP Energy Fair is the largest in Vermont and is completely free. Tour 75 exhibits and talk to experts about heat pumps, weatherization, solar power, energy audits, electric vehicles, efficient wood heat, and more. Attend breakout sessions on topics of special interest. This family-friendly event includes a free show by Marko the Magician, free ice cream, free electronics recycling, children's activities, and local food and refreshments while you learn how to shrink energy bills and save money. [Learn more here.](#)

Vermont Green Building Celebration - Thursday, April 20, 5:30-8pm, Main Street Landing, Burlington - Please join the Vermont Green Building Network for a celebratory evening with green building professionals, VGBN members, partners and friends. The 2022 winners of Vermont's Greenest Building Awards Competition will be recognized. Learn about inspiring commercial, residential, and net zero buildings that create a new standard for environmentally

responsible building in Vermont. Don't miss this great networking opportunity with delicious food and a silent auction fundraiser. This year's keynote presentation, "Just by Design: Creating Balance and Promoting Wellbeing", will feature Dr. Jude Smith Rachele. Please RSVP to attend by Thursday, April 13th. [Learn more and register to attend here.](#)



Manchester Energy Fair - Saturday, April 22, 11am-3pm, Manchester VT Town Hall - Come together on Earth Day at the Manchester Energy Fair. Connect with experts on energy-efficient heat pumps, water heaters, weatherization, insulation, energy audits, solar, electric vehicles, take a test spin on an e-bike, and much more. Take advantage of the many rebates, discounts, tax credits and other incentives. Learn, connect, empower!

VIRTUAL EVENTS

Mid-Session Legislative Update: Climate & Energy Policy Progress - Wednesday, April 5, 12-1pm - If you've been wondering where things stand on priority climate bills currently under consideration by the Legislature, join members of the ActOnClimateVT Coalition for a webinar update on where things stand. The Affordable Heat Act, Renewable Energy Standard, climate workforce, essential new Environmental Justice investments, clean and diversified transportation, biodiversity protection, and other important efforts are underway this session. There's unprecedented pushback from industry groups on some of these critical efforts – and we will need your help to push our priorities across the finish line. [Learn more and register to attend here.](#)

Mid-Session Legislative Update

CLIMATE & ENERGY POLICY PROGRESS



Climate Change, Children's Health, and Equity - Tuesday, April 11, 6-7pm - Join the NH Healthcare Workers for Climate Action for a talk by Lisa Patel, Executive Director of the Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health, Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Stanford School of Medicine, and former Presidential Management Fellow for the Environmental Protection Agency. [Learn more and register to attend here.](#)



What is a Land Trust and What Can it Offer Me? - Thursday, April 13, 5:30-6:30pm - Please bring your questions and join Peg Merrens, Vice President of Conservation at the Upper Valley Land Trust (UVLT) for a wide-ranging discussion about land conservation. Learn about the many ways in which UVLT protects and stewards our region's lands for the health and resilience of our communities (both people and nature). [Learn more and register to attend here.](#)

Celebrate Earth Day with Renowned Farmer, Food Justice Activist and Author Leah Penniman as she presents: Black Earth Wisdom - Saturday, April 22, 5:00pm - Leah Penniman is a Black Kreyol farmer, author, mother, and food justice activist who has been tending the soil and organizing for an anti-racist food system for 25 years. She currently serves as founding co-ED and Farm Director of Soul Fire Farm in Grafton, NY, a Black and Brown led project that works toward food and land justice. [Learn more and register to attend here.](#)



UPDATES & OPPORTUNITIES



VLCT: Tax Incentives Municipalities Can Use to Further Their Energy Goals - Learn how municipalities can use the federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) tax incentives (like the 30% discount on solar). Vermont municipalities continue to step up their efforts to achieve climate resilience through clean vehicle purchases, clean energy and infrastructure development, and energy efficient building improvements. Unique provisions in the IRA opened federal tax credits and incentives to municipalities and other tax-exempt entities. [Learn more here!](#)

Vermont Electric Co-op (VEC) Community Solar - VEC's Community Solar program offers Vermont Electric Co-op members the opportunity to sponsor panels on VEC solar arrays for either 10 or 20 years and receive a fixed, guaranteed monthly credit on their electric bill. [Learn more here.](#)

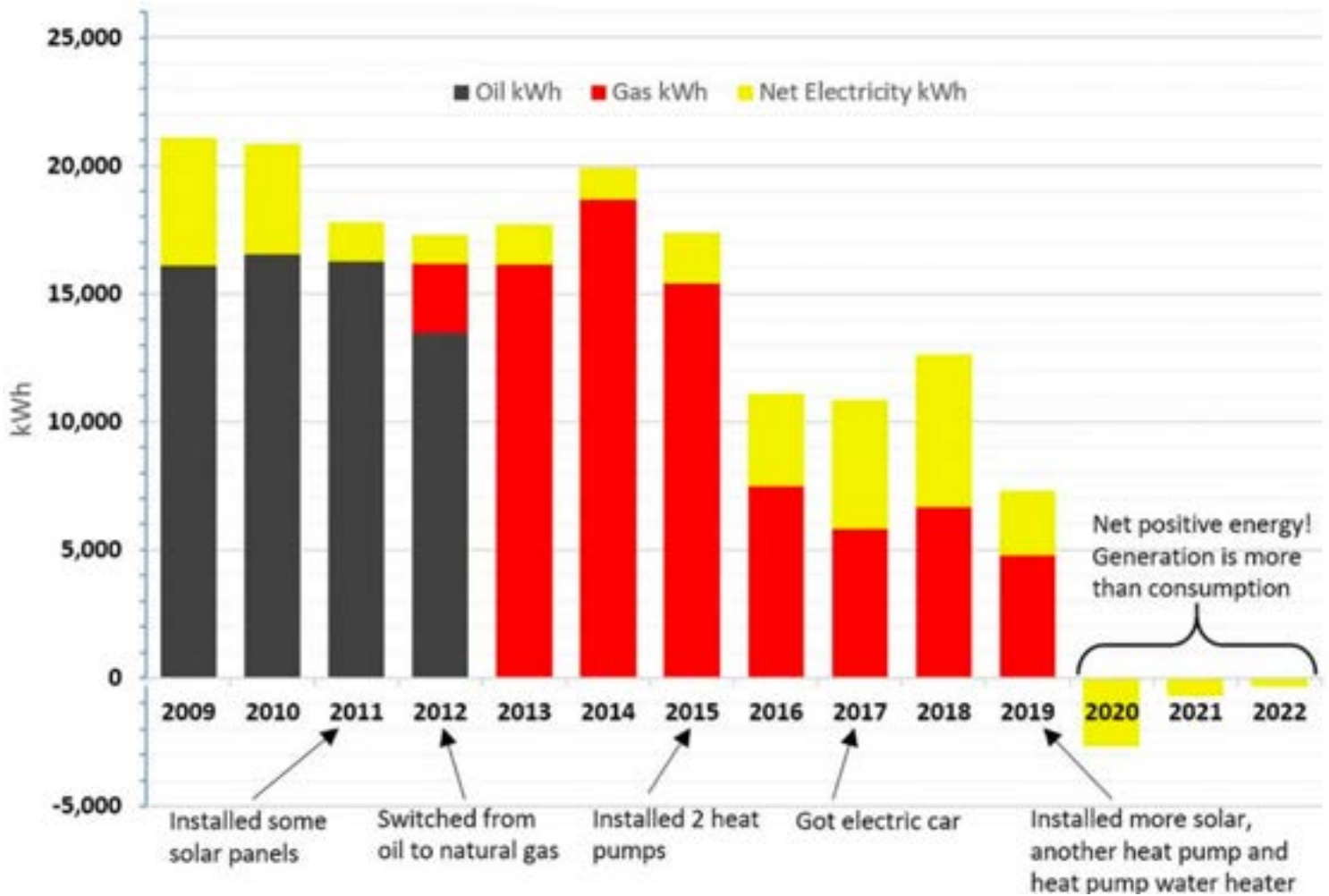
Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) Community Capacity Building Mini-Grants - The first of three MERP grant opportunities is available! Communities may use the \$4,000 mini-grant to build capacity at the local level and develop strategies to make communities more energy efficient and resilient. [Learn more here.](#) Please contact your local [Regional Planning Commission \(RPC\)](#) for additional assistance as they have received funding to provide application and technical assistance. Free building energy assessments and energy resilience project grants of up to \$500,000 per municipality will be launched soon.

NEWS & OP-EDS OF NOTE

Vermont Community Newspaper Group: Follow one South Burlington family's journey to net-zero energy usage - Join Keith Epstein on his 11-year journey to upgrade his

home to produce more energy than it consumes. [Read the full article here.](#)

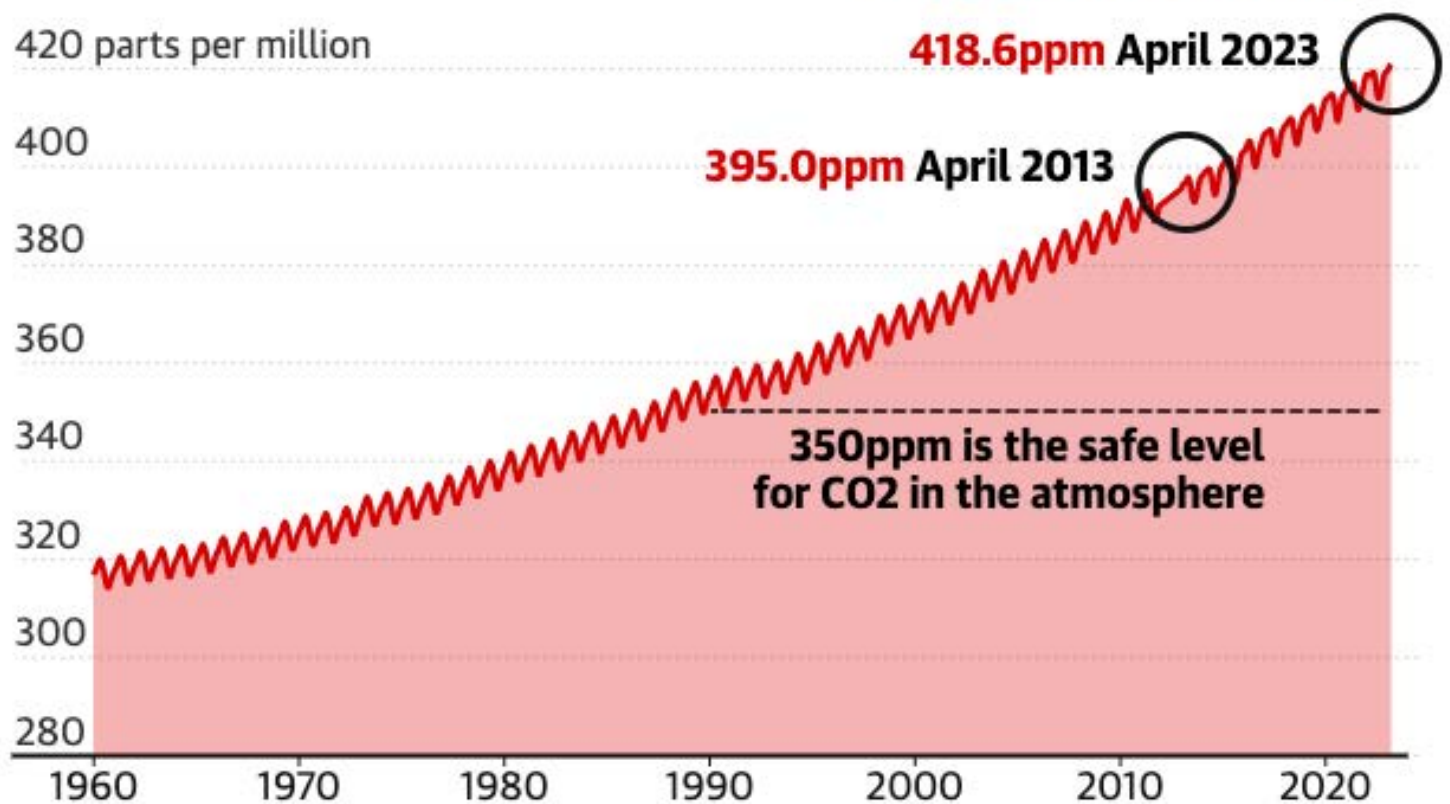
Total site energy consumed by year



The Guardian: Scientists deliver ‘final warning’ on climate crisis: act now or it’s too late

- “More than 3 billion people already live in areas that are “highly vulnerable” to climate breakdown, the IPCC found, and half of the global population now experiences severe water scarcity for at least part of the year. In many areas, the report warned, we are already reaching the limit to which we can adapt to such severe changes, and weather extremes are “increasingly driving displacement” of people in Africa, Asia, North, Central and South America, and the south Pacific... Temperatures are now about 1.1C above pre-industrial levels, the IPCC found. If greenhouse gas emissions can be made to peak as soon as possible, and are reduced rapidly in the following years, it may still be possible to avoid the worst ravages that would follow a 1.5C rise.” [Read the full article here.](#)

Atmospheric CO₂ currently measures **418.6 parts per million**



Guardian graphic. Source: NOAA, global CO₂, updated on 3 April 2023. Chart baseline is 280ppm - the preindustrial average. Label number is the trend, not cycle, value.

Manchester Journal: Manchester Energy Committee updates Selectboard on grant opportunities, events - “The town [Energy Committee](#) has been busy — and is looking for more involvement from the Selectboard and residents. That was the message its chair, Carl Bucholt, delivered to the board on Tuesday. What’s in it for the town? Free money, Bucholt said. Through Act 172, which established the state Municipal Energy Resilience Program last year, the state is offering \$4,000 mini-grants to help towns assess their municipal energy needs. The money can be used to identify municipally owned buildings in need of energy efficiency improvements and provide grant application assistance.” [Read the full article here.](#)

Burlington Free Press: Burlington just had its third warmest winter in recorded history. Is climate change to blame? - “The area’s meteorological winter (December through February) was Burlington’s third warmest winter in recorded history, according to Burlington National Weather Service records, which go back to 1884. Only dipping below 0 degrees a total of four times, the average winter temperature was 29 degrees, 5 degrees warmer than normal.” [Read the full article here.](#)



VT Digger: Vermont teens call on lawmakers to act on climate change and pass the Affordable Heat Act - “While the youth activists were quick to admit the emotional toll the climate crisis has taken on them, referencing feelings of climate anxiety and doom that have at times felt insurmountable, they stood at the Statehouse calling for change. “I should be at school today,” said Miriam Serota-Winston, a 14-year-old member of the activist group Youth Lobby and first-year student at Montpelier High School. “But instead I’m here alongside my fellow students continuing to demand real, impactful climate action.” [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}}

Vermont Natural Resources Council

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