



Missed a previous month's newsletter? Check them all out in our [newsletter archive!](#)

Get Involved

[Events](#)

[Join or Start an Energy Committee](#)

[Find & Connect with Other Energy Committees](#)

Connect

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Website](#)

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

Happy First of May! As the temperatures begin to rise, the flowers start to bloom and the days grow longer, we are reminded of the delicate balance of our ecosystems that we are striving to protect. In this month's E-News, please find some interesting events, updates, and opportunities to support climate action and energy and climate news for you to dig into and share.

First, though, we're excited to share that registration for the Vermont Energy & Climate Action Network Spring Summit is officially OPEN! We are thrilled to offer a FREE, in-person summit at Middlebury College on June 3rd. [Register and find much more information here and below.](#)

EVENTS

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

VERMONT ENERGY & CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK SPRING SUMMIT 2023

MEETING VERMONT'S CLIMATE ACTION
OBLIGATION TOGETHER



Community Energy Committee Leader
Gathering - In Person!
Saturday, June 3rd - Middlebury College
9am - 1pm

VECAN Spring Summit - June 3, Middlebury College - Calling all community energy leaders! We are excited to reconvene in-person once again, especially at this moment of tremendous urgency when it comes to climate and tremendous opportunity when it comes to unprecedented federal funding. Please join us on June 3rd to reconnect, strategize and co-create opportunities to help Vermont advance just and bold climate action! The Summit is FREE to attend. We are happy to provide light breakfast fare, lunch, snacks, refreshments, and, we hope, a great program to (re)focus our important, collective efforts. Please note that there is a maximum capacity of attendees in this space. If you find yourself unable to attend after registering, please contact sbayer@vnrc.org so we can make space for others who can.

[Register to Attend Here!](#)

Green Up Day 2023 - May 6 - Don't miss this Vermont tradition! Pick up your Green Up trash bags and get out in your community on Saturday, May 6 to clean up your neighborhood roads and waterways. Find town-specific details and [learn more here](#).



Spring Tree Planting in Castleton - Thursday, May 11 - Since the dam was removed in the fall of 2022, the Pelletier site has been adjusting to its newfound freedom. Tree plantings are a big part of restoring the site post construction, and we need help! VNRC is organizing a tree planting on May 11, 2023 from 10am-2pm at the Pelletier site, and welcomes anyone to come visit and plant trees. The dam is located directly across the street from Green Mountain Soapstone (680 East Hubbardton Rd, Castleton). Please park at this address, as there is limited parking at the Dam site. Please bring your own shovel, gloves, water, and waterproof boots for crossing the stream. Reach out to Mary Perchlik at mperchlik@vnrc.org to RSVP, or for more information.

Green Drinks Webinar - Vermont's Forests in a Changing Climate - May 18, 5:30 pm - Ali Kosiba, PhD is a forest ecophysiologicalist and Extension Assistant Professor of Forestry at the University of Vermont. She will discuss how climate change and other stressors pose a threat to our forests and how we can think about and manage forests to increase their resiliency and adapt to change. She'll also talk about how forests help us mitigate climate change by absorbing and storing carbon dioxide. [Learn more and register to attend here.](#)

Build a Better World Sustainable Design Challenge: Demonstration Day - May 26, 9:30 am, Windsor Technology Park - Student teams have been drafting plans, ordering materials, building prototypes, and getting ready to show off their solar-powered devices for improving food access. A team of judges composed of Dartmouth engineering students and industry professionals will provide feedback on their work and announce this year's winners. The Day will include celebration of student projects, demonstrations by industry professionals, good food, engineering challenges, and ice cream from a solar-powered ice cream truck.



Green Your Fleet & Beyond! (GYF) - June 9 - Vermont Clean Cities & Granite State Clean Cities are co-sponsoring [Green Your Fleet](#), an Alternative Vehicle and Equipment Showcase. Be part of the biggest and most unique clean vehicle, equipment, and technology event hosted at the Speedway in Loudon, NH that will bring decision-makers and end-users across New England. [Learn more and register to attend here.](#)

UPDATES & OPPORTUNITIES



No Mow May! - Participating in [No Mow May](#) is an excellent way to support pollinators during the spring season. By allowing grass, dandelions, and other spring flowers to grow naturally, you can provide pollinators with more food as they emerge. Acres of manicured lawn are as much a loss of habitat as any development site; mowing less creates habitat and can increase the abundance and diversity of wildlife including bees and other pollinators.

State of Vermont Requests Help to Support Growing Electric Vehicle Charging Needs - With the growing number of electric vehicles on the road, the State of Vermont is working proactively to find more locations for charging stations. In partnership with DriveElectric Vermont, the State is seeking to identify property and business owners interested in supporting plug-in electric vehicle (EV) charging or providing services associated with the installation and management of charging. Those

interested in partnering with the State can fill out the survey to offer their collaboration. Learn more [here](#) and take the survey [here](#).



Park Your Carbon Week - May 15-19 - Park Your Carbon is an initiative to help change Vermonters' transportation and commuting habits by encouraging green ways of travel. Try it for a day, a week, or make it an ongoing habit. Bike. Walk. Share Your Ride. Bus. Work From Home. Every trip counts. Even small ones! Find flyers to hang in your town [here](#), watch the video and share it with your community [here](#), and [take the pledge here](#).

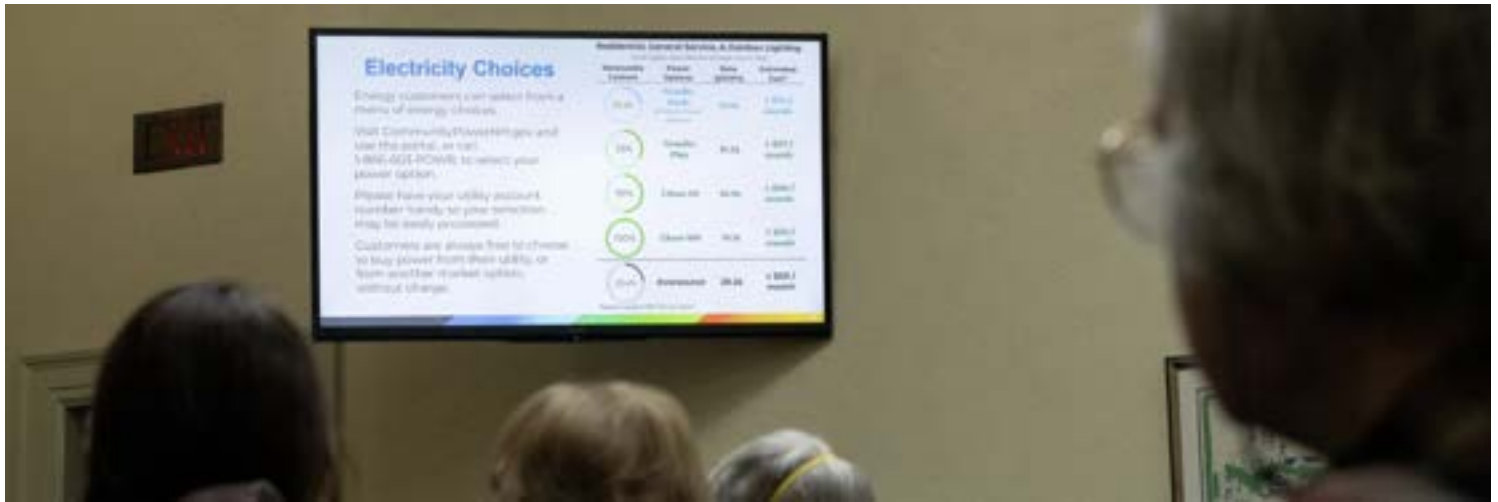
The Great Housing Hunt Photo Contest! - Across the United States, small- to mid-sized housing that's affordable for middle-income households is in short supply. The Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development is teaming up with AARP Vermont and Vermont Natural Resources Council to launch a photo contest to raise awareness of this "missing middle housing," which includes backyard cottages, attached and detached in-law apartments, duplexes, triplexes, quadplexes and more. 6 Winners will be awarded a \$50 gift card to a local retailer/restaurant in their town. [Learn more about how 'Missing Middle Housing' is a critical part of the housing crisis solution and enter the contest here.](#)



Energizing Rural Communities Prize - Phase 1 Applications due May 24 - The Department of Energy (DOE) is launching the Energizing Rural Communities Prize to support capacity building to remove two of the biggest barriers to improving energy systems in rural or remote areas: developing necessary partnerships and securing financing. Through \$15 million in funding, this prize competition will help build partnerships by connecting communities to government funding and a network of

partners that can help implement clean energy projects. The prize will help selectees develop plans to access capital and/or develop community ownership models. [Learn more here.](#)

NEWS & OP-EDS OF NOTE



Vermont Public: Community power programs are launching in New Hampshire. How could they help stop climate change? - "How community power works: Usually, a utility company buys electricity from generators, and delivers it to customers through their poles and wires. You could think of it like a soft serve ice cream machine. The utility company takes care of the machine, fixes it when it breaks down, and makes sure it's big enough to handle all the ice cream people want. Traditionally, they handle purchasing the ice cream too. But under community power, a municipality starts buying the ice cream, and choosing the flavors. The utility company still manages the machine – maintains the poles and wires, and charges customers for delivering electricity – but on customers' bills, the "supply" charge will start to come from the community power program." [Read the full article here.](#)



Seven Days: The Over-60 Crowd Steps Up With Bill McKibben's Climate Action Group Third Act - "The nearer we get to the exit, the more we understand that legacy is not a completely abstract idea," McKibben said. "Legacy is the world you leave behind for the people you love most." Young folks are "feeling quite lonely, in a lot of ways," McKibben said, "which is understandable in a world where they're expected to somehow deal with all these crises that they have not

created."McKibben recalled that a couple of months ago at a demonstration in Brooklyn, older people joined "somewhat spryer" high school students. The graying protesters carried signs that said "Fossils Against Fossil Fuels." [Read the full article here.](#)



***Vermont Public:* Electric school buses serve as mini power plants during the summer -** “Summertime in New England is when people demand the most electricity from the grid because of air conditioner use. At those high-demand times, utilities turn to so-called peaker plants to supply the extra power. They’re often older, more polluting facilities, and they are expensive to run. But a project in Beverly, Massachusetts offers an alternative on-demand power source: the school district uses their electric school buses’ giant batteries as mini power plants to send energy back to the grid.” [Read the full article here.](#)

***Milton Independent:* In effort to use more renewable energy, Milton Selectboard votes to approve location for town solar facility -** “In an effort to reduce dependence on petroleum and other non-renewable resources, Milton is partnering with Norwich Solar to create a solar facility in town. On Monday, the Milton Selectboard voted to approve the preferred site for the solar field, adjacent from the town’s wastewater treatment facility; located at 145 Lamoille Terrace.” [Read the full article here.](#)



Vermont Public: WATCH: Can you take an entire town 'off the grid?' A Vermont utility thinks you can - “A microgrid is a little section that can pop off from the rest of the grid during a power outage to become an island. It makes its own electricity and stores it. For the people connected to a microgrid, they don’t even know there’s been a power outage. In the past, places like hospitals or schools may have had diesel backup generators that did this. But a recent experiment in Vermont is showing that you can do the same thing using batteries and energy from the sun.” [Watch the video and read the full article here.](#)



Vermont Biz: Youth Lobby’s 2023 Rally for the Planet: Students demand swift climate action - “The Rally for the Planet was a powerful demonstration of the determination and passion of young Vermonters to fight for a better future – for themselves and for the future generations. The youth organizers shared that they hope that this event helps other young people to feel empowered to act, and that legislators will listen to their voices and act on climate change.” [Read the full article here.](#)

VNRC & Partners: Affordable Heat Act Moves to Governor’s Desk - Vermont’s current, significant reliance on imported fossil fuels to stay warm is deeply inequitable, unsustainable and – in a global commodity market – a vulnerable place to be. In the last week, the Vermont House and Senate voted by overwhelming margins to advance the Affordable Heat Act to begin a strategic, stepped and equitable cleaner heat transition. “We look forward to the Legislature passing an Affordable Heat Act this year with the strongest possible provisions to move Vermont toward a full just transition to a clean energy future that leaves no one behind,” said Dan Fingas, VT Movement Politics Director for Rights & Democracy. Many others agree. Check out a recent [press release after the House vote from seven environmental, business and social justice organizations](#). Also, read recent op-eds from [VNRC’s Johanna Miller](#) and [Dr. Megan Malgeri](#) in support of S.5, making the case that, for affordability, equity, public health and action on the climate crisis, advancing the Affordable Heat Act is pivotal.

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

11 Baldwin Street

Montpelier, VT 05602

United States

(Unsubscribing is not supported in previews)