



VECAN

VERMONT ENERGY & CLIMATE
ACTION NETWORK
MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER

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'}},

As my AmeriCorps service term as the VECAN Community Energy Coordinator comes to a close, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for all I have learned from so many of you energy leaders! It has been an absolute pleasure to bear witness to the critical work you are doing in your communities to advance a just transition to a clean energy future for Vermont. As I move on to a new chapter in my career, I look forward to staying connected!

Throughout my time with VECAN, I have been inspired by local energy leaders' unwavering dedication and passion for creating a sustainable, equitable, and resilient Vermont. Your tireless efforts in advancing a just energy transition have left a lasting impact on me. I have seen firsthand the positive change that can be achieved when individuals come together with a shared vision and commitment. My time working closely with this network has not only enriched my professional growth but instilled in me a sense of hope and optimism for the future of Vermont, and I look forward

to staying engaged with this vibrant network. I firmly believe that local energy leader collaboration has the power to create lasting change, transform our communities, and propel us forward in our collective mission.

In closing, I extend my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you for your unwavering commitment to building an equitable, clean energy future. I have no doubt that the impact of your work will continue to resonate for years to come - thank you for allowing me to be a part of this incredible journey!

And, before I go, I'm happy to send one more E-News chock full of exciting upcoming events, updates, opportunities to support climate action, and energy and climate news for you to dig into and share.

As always, thank you for all that you do...

EVENTS

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

VECAN's Spring Summit- Resources and Recordings! It was energizing to gather on June 3rd with so many passionate, driven individuals dedicated to implementing critical community-level transitions. For those of you who couldn't join, or for anyone who wants to dig in further, we have posted [materials from the summit on our website here](#), including a recording of Bill McKibben's opening remarks, panelist slides, handouts from the resource table, and links to many important resources. We want to underscore that point: there was an incredible amount of information about the unprecedented federal funding opportunities and new programs available to accelerate the clean energy transition. Be sure to dig deeply into those resources in [this synopsis document](#), as well as in the presentations by Bonnie Waninger of Vermont League of Cities and Towns and Jen Myers of the Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity.



Woodstock Commercial Electric Mower Demonstration at Woodstock Union High School - June 22, 10am-2pm - Riding mowers, push mowers, blowers, trimmers, and chain saws will be available for hands-on demonstrations! Stop in and try out equipment from MeanGreen, Gravely, GreenWorks, EGO Power+, and TORO. Learn about Green Mountain Power incentives as well as VT cities and organizations that have transitioned to all-electric equipment. Free food and beverages - lunch will be provided by MeanGreen. Enter raffles and give-aways by EGO+ and others! Questions? Contact Jeff Grout at jgrout@trorc.org or 802.457.3188 x3008.



2023 Vermont Community Leadership Summit - August 15, Vermont Technical College -

The Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) is thrilled to announce the 2023 Vermont Community Leadership Summit! Nothing gets done in Vermont communities without the people who put themselves on the line for their town and for the issues they care about. The summit will bring together these dedicated community builders from across the State, along with people from the non-profit, business, and government sectors to provide training in useful skills, work together on practical solutions for local initiatives, make new connections, and share ideas for our collective future. All people who care about their community and the future of our state are encouraged to attend. [Learn more here!](#)

UPDATES & OPPORTUNITIES



VNRC Seeks 'Community Energy Coordinator' AmeriCorps Member – Are you or someone you know looking for a meaningful, unique and engaging opportunity to collaborate with diverse stakeholders and local leaders to help Vermont transition to a clean, equitable energy future? JOIN US! The Vermont Natural Resources Council seeks a motivated individual with interest and expertise in community engagement, communications, clean energy, and climate action. Position begins September 11, 2023 and ends August 9, 2024. [Learn more and APPLY TODAY](#). Deadline to apply is July 7, 2023. Please spread the word!

Powering Affordable Clean Energy (PACE) Program - Applications Opens June 30 - As part of the Inflation Reduction Act, the USDA Rural Development's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) will forgive up to 60 percent of loans for renewable energy projects that use wind, solar, hydropower, geothermal, or biomass, as well as for renewable energy storage projects. [Learn more here.](#)

Heat Pump Water Heater Calculator - Considering getting a heat pump? [Use this handy heat pump finance calculator here!](#)

Weatherization 101 Workshop - ReSOURCE's Weatherization 101 training program equips work-ready individuals with the skills to enter the weatherization field. This six-week workshop intensive provides tool handling, safety techniques, and technical knowledge for entering high-paying jobs in the weatherization trade. Receive a \$300/week stipend to learn! There will be workshops in both Burlington and Newport in September. [Learn more here.](#)



Regional Planning Commissions' Health Equity Toolkit - With support from the Vermont Department of Health, Regional Planning Commissions have developed the Health Equity Toolkit to serve as a guide for communities to introduce the concept of health equity and incorporate it into municipal planning documents, bylaws, and community planning projects. Major topics include Housing, Quality of Place, Transportation, Recreation, and Bylaw Updates, with discussions about energy, food access, stormwater management, and other related topics woven in. Municipalities, regional planners, healthcare workers, and other professionals interested in advancing health and well-being in an equitable way can use this toolkit to find inspiration, guide discussions, and address specific topic areas in their communities. [Learn more here.](#)

Share Your Clean Energy Consumer Testimonial - The Department of Energy wants to hear from you! Please share a 30-60 second selfie video on how clean energy technology is helping you. Check out this [video testimonial from a Philadelphia resident](#) to demonstrate to audiences how incentives can help improve efficiency, bring down energy costs, and cut emissions all at once. [Share your story here.](#)

FREE Energy Saving Kit!



Last Chance to Claim Your FREE Energy Saving Kit - Efficiency Vermont is making a big push to get FREE Energy Savings Kits into as many homes as possible before lighting incentives **expire on June 30th**. Help them reach their goal by sharing the order page with your communities. Here is some language to share on Front Porch Forum or elsewhere, if you're able: *Have you gotten your free Energy Saving Kit from Efficiency Vermont? Get 10 LED lightbulbs, two faucet aerators, a water-*

saving showerhead – valued at \$47– delivered free to your door. Order yours today before the offer expires on June 30th at www.encyvermont.com/Kits.

Clean Energy 101 Video Series - The Department of Energy is introducing the Clean Energy 101 video series to help Americans further learn how to save energy and save money. The series is [launching with a video on induction stoves and ovens](#).



Efficiency Vermont (EV) Now Accepting Presentation Proposals for their 2024 Better Building by Design Conference - EV will be hosting its [2024 Better Building by Design Conference](#) on April 3 & 4 at the DoubleTree Hotel & Conference Center in South Burlington, VT. Better Building by Design is the region's largest design and construction conference, which features interactive learning about building durability, efficiency, and value for both residential and commercial projects. They encourage women, minorities, and people with disabilities to submit ideas and attend.

- Call for presentations now open; deadline July 7. [Call For Presentations](#)
- Sponsor registration is now open. [Sponsor & Exhibitor Opportunities](#)
- Exhibitor registration opens October 1. [Sponsor & Exhibitor Opportunities](#)
- Attendee registration opens mid-November. [How to Sign Up](#)

NEWS & OP-EDS OF NOTE



John Hall / Vermont Fish And Wildlife

Vermont Public: Vermont just set a new goal for conserving land: Here's what's next. - "The law calls for an inventory of land that's conserved now. And it calls for public input on a plan for how to get to 30 by '30 and 50 by '50... Over the next 1 ½ years, the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board will work with the Agency of Natural Resources to inventory the state's already conserved lands and make a plan for how to reach the new conservation goals." [Read the full article here.](#)

Bennington Banner: Young climate activists take Montana to court for its role in global warming - "Held and 15 other young people finally got their day in court Monday after suing state officials three years ago for failing to take action to curb global warming. The case is the first climate change lawsuit to reach trial among dozens filed across the U.S. in the last decade." [Read the full article here.](#)



VermontBiz: Sanders: \$1 million for solar and sustainable energy projects in schools, libraries - "The funding will deliver solar panels and other sustainable energy projects to at least ten Vermont elementary, middle, and high schools, with an emphasis on schools with a high percentage of low income students. The solar arrays will not only generate electricity and reduce the schools' carbon footprint, but also help to lower their costs. Schools will also be able to use these clean energy projects for hands-on learning about the importance of sustainable energy. The funding will also be used to develop and build sustainable energy projects at municipal buildings, including town halls and public libraries." [Read the full article here.](#)

Vermont Public: Burlington is trying electric vehicle incentives targeted at gasoline 'superusers' - "If the pilot goes well, Ben Edgerly-Walsh, who directs climate policy at Vermont Public Interest Research Group, hopes this program could be something other utilities are allowed to replicate in the future... "If we don't do this well, if we have low-income Americans be the last ones to get into EVs, then that's just going to exacerbate pre-existing equity issues," Edgerly-Walsh said. "You're going to have middle- and upper-income Americans saving a lot of money and low-income Americans being stuck with the old, dying gas vehicles that are super expensive to maintain." [Read the full article here.](#)

Market Watch: Vermont Solar Tax Credits, Incentives and Rebates (2023) - "We at the MarketWatch Guides Team have conducted in-depth research to determine the cost of going solar in Vermont. The Green Mountain State is not particularly sunny, but at 19.26 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh), local electric rates are nearly 30% higher than the U.S. average. Vermont residents who use solar panels to generate their own electricity can save hundreds of dollars in annual electric bills — and you can save even more by taking advantage of solar incentive programs." [Read the full article here.](#)

Cheers,
Sarah Bayer
Community Energy Coordinator, VECAN

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)