



VECAN

VERMONT ENERGY & CLIMATE
ACTION NETWORK
MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER

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

Your passion and commitment to promoting clean energy solutions, fostering community engagement, and building a more equitable, resilient Vermont is the driving force behind our collective impact! By joining forces, sharing knowledge, and taking action, we are shaping a brighter and greener future for the Green Mountain State. Read on for some exciting upcoming events, updates, and opportunities to support climate action and energy and climate news for you to dig into and share.

And 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>

VERMONT ENERGY & CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK SPRING SUMMIT 2023

MEETING VERMONT'S CLIMATE ACTION
OBLIGATION TOGETHER

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



Bill McKibben! E-Bike Raffle!
Timely Info! Connection!

VECAN Spring Summit - June 3, Middlebury College - The VECAN Summit is almost sold out but there are a few spaces left! If you're a community energy leader and free on June 3rd, don't miss this great event. Hear opening remarks from Bill McKibben, tap into a panel of experts on funding a clean energy future, cross-pollinate with fellow energy leaders during breakout discussions, enter a raffle to win a Rad Power E-Bike and energy efficient A/C unit, enjoy free breakfast and lunch, and more! If you find yourself unable to attend after registering, please contact sbayer@vnrc.org so we can make space for others who can. [Learn more and register to attend here.](#)

[Register to Attend Here!](#)

VERMONT GREEN FC CONSERVATION NIGHT



FRIDAY, MAY 26TH AT 7PM



Vermont Green FC Conservation Night - May 26, 7 pm - Join Vermont Natural Resources Council, Audubon Vermont, Vermont Land Trust, and the Green Mountain Club on Friday, May 26th for Conservation Night at the Vermont Green FC's home opener! The Vermont Green Football Club, a US League Two soccer club based in Burlington, believes soccer can be a powerful catalyst for a more environmentally sustainable and socially just world. [Learn more and purchase tickets here.](#)



Electric School Bus Peer Exchange - June 1, 9:30 am - Vermont Clean Cities Coalition is hosting an informal discussion to learn about electric school bus technology on the roads in Vermont, including funding information from the EPA Clean School Bus Program and the Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) Program. [Learn more and register to attend here.](#)

Electric Vehicles and Equity - June 6, 1 pm - Can electric vehicles play a role in advancing equity in underserved and historically marginalized communities? A new blog series by Clean Energy Group explores this question in four parts. The series begins with an overview of electric vehicle costs, performance characteristics, and environmental and health impacts, then considers possible pathways for electric vehicles to deliver tangible benefits to communities, including electric school buses and harnessing energy stored in electric vehicle batteries to power critical services in an emergency. It

concludes with a discussion of some of the challenges limiting equitable adoption of electric vehicles and potential solutions to help overcome them. [Learn more and register to attend here.](#)

VCRD Invites Vermonters to Inaugural Community Social on Lake Bomoseen - June 13 -

The Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) is inviting community leaders, volunteers, and partners committed to Vermont to join their inaugural "Community Social" June 13 at the Lake Bomoseen Lodge & Taproom. The event will include a short speaking program with updates on VCRD initiatives and issues vital to towns across Vermont, as well as lots of opportunity to connect with friends old and new on the shores of Lake Bomoseen. [Learn more and register to attend here.](#)

UPDATES & OPPORTUNITIES

Powering Affordable Clean Energy (PACE) Program - Application 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.](#)



Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Launches \$8.8 Million Program for Local Governments - The US Department of Energy's EECBG Competitive Program is an exciting opportunity for smaller communities to access funds for clean energy. Priority will be given to applicants from states with populations of fewer than two million people, team-based applications, and proposed projects that will result in significant energy efficiency improvements and fossil fuel reduction in disadvantaged communities. Apply by June 5. [Learn more here.](#)

Health Equity and Community Design Technical Assistance (TA) Pilot Program - The Vermont Department of Health is partnering with the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development to implement a Health Equity and Community Design TA Pilot. The pilot is seeking applications for communities to receive extra capacity and resources to develop healthy community design and placemaking plans, ideas, and projects, that center on equity in the built environment. Sign up before March 31. [Learn more here.](#)



Energy Savings Hub to Help American Consumers - The Department of Energy launched the Energy Savings Hub to help American consumers in the market for clean energy or energy-efficient products and upgrades keep track of the tax credits and upcoming rebate programs available to them through President Biden's Investing in America plan. Visit www.energy.gov/save for a one-stop shop for homeowners, renters and drivers to see what benefits they can access to help transition to a clean energy future.

Join Leadership Upper Valley 2024 - Would you like to have a greater impact on local issues? Leadership Upper Valley can help you develop the tools, knowledge, confidence, and network to make a difference. Apply to join the 2024 Class! This Vital Communities program brings Upper Valley residents together once a month over a 10-month period to offer insights, relationships, and examples of service they need to succeed and make a difference in the Upper Valley. Vital Communities seeks classes of up to 30 participants from a wide range of backgrounds and roles in the Upper Valley. [Learn more here.](#)

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.



2023 Arthur Gibb Award for Individual Leadership - Accepting Nominations - The Arthur Gibb Award is presented annually to a Vermont resident who has made a lasting contribution to their community, region or state in the ways they integrate smart growth and conservation. Previous awardees range from former Gov. Madeleine Kunin, to local heroes like Zoe Richards. Deadline for nominations is June 1. [Learn more here.](#)

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](#).

NEWS & OP-EDS OF NOTE

Mother Jones: Yes in Our Backyards - In a thought-provoking op-ed, Bill McKibben explores the evolving stance of environmental activists on development and its connection to clean energy infrastructure. It highlights the shift in mindset from "Not In My Backyard" (NIMBY) opposition to new projects, to "Yes In My Backyard" (YIMBY). McKibben argues that by embracing YIMBYism, progressives aim to foster greater collaboration between the housing and clean energy sectors, creating more sustainable communities and advancing the transition to renewable energy sources. [Read the full article here.](#)



Canary Media: ‘Heat-pump coaches’ help neighbors ditch fossil heat in Massachusetts - “Since 2020, at least 14 heat-pump coaching programs have sprung up in the state, all with the aim of making it easier to adopt the increasingly popular appliance.” [Read the full article here.](#)

Seven Days: Is Vermont’s Grid Ready for Electrification?: A Q&A With Energy Experts - “It’s clear that many Vermonters are interested in making the switch to an EV, as evidenced by extended wait lists for many popular models. But people have questions about the state’s charging capabilities and infrastructure — and whether the electric grid will be able to handle the growing demand for electric power... To chart the state’s progress, and get a preview of the challenges ahead, we asked three efficiency experts — Kerrick Johnson, Cyril Brunner and Dave Roberts from Drive Electric Vermont — what Vermonters need to know about the future of EVs.” [Read the full article here.](#)



VT Digger: Housing meets climate: Officials laud new microgrid community in South Burlington - “The forthcoming housing development will feature 155 new all-electric dwellings — a mix of single-family, multi-family and permanently affordable homes — some of which are slated to be ready for move-in later this year. Featuring rooftop solar panels, in-home Tesla Powerwall batteries for storage, onsite utility-scale battery storage, induction stoves, electric vehicle chargers and interconnected smart electrical panels, the neighborhood will form its own microgrid, which can provide electricity independently as needed.” [Read the full article here.](#)

VNRC: Environmental Organizations Applaud Vermont House Vote to Override Gubernatorial Veto of the Affordable Heat Act - “The Legislature’s decisive votes to override the Governor’s veto means that Vermont can now spend the next two years getting the information we need – and Vermonters deserve – to study, gather public input, and understand how to best design a heating market that incentivizes cleaner heating options for all Vermonters and builds a sustainable transition for fuel dealers. Then, a 2025 Legislature will have the opportunity and obligation to vote again and determine whether to enact the program.” [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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