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

As we bid farewell to our rainy summer, we hope you're doing well. In the face of urgent climate challenges, our mission remains steadfast: to offer you a rich spectrum of resources and insights on climate action and the possibilities of a clean energy future. In this email, you'll discover everything from Efficiency Vermont's innovative flood incentive programs to a vibrant Solarbration event in the Northeast Kingdom. Your commitment to this journey towards a greener, more resilient Vermont is greatly appreciated, and we're thrilled to have you alongside us.

RESOURCES & INFO

Efficiency Vermont's New \$36 Million Incentive Program Aimed at Supporting Flood-Impacted Vermonters! On Sept. 5th, Efficiency Vermont [announced an exciting new program](#) for homeowners, renters & businesses to replace home heating equipment & appliances. Coming on the heels of historic flooding this summer, this \$36 million program is designed to support low- and moderate-income Vermonters and businesses to replace critical home heating and hot water systems, and essential home appliances, that were damaged or destroyed in the floods. The new programs offer rebates and incentives to eligible customers on qualified products (up to \$10,000) purchased on or after July 10, 2023, and support for businesses and contractors. [Find out far more and apply or spread the word today!](#) And, to dig in even further, [REGISTER TODAY](#) for a webinar about this new and needed grant program hosted by Efficiency Vermont on September 20th at 6 p.m.

Efficiency Vermont's 2023 Energy Burden Report is Released! The concept of energy burden pertains to the portion of a household's income allocated toward electricity, heating, and transportation expenses. Assessing this burden serves as a valuable tool for comprehending the repercussions of energy expenditures throughout the state and identifying regions where energy costs are particularly pronounced. The 2023 report builds upon the findings of [Efficiency Vermont's 2019 report](#) and [its 2016 predecessor](#). This year's report predominantly draws upon data spanning the years 2017 to 2021 and furnishes an analysis of energy burden at the municipal level, revealing that the most heavily burdened communities are situated in rural areas, particularly within the Northeast Kingdom. [Read the report here!](#)

New Report: Heat pumps outperform boilers and furnaces by a lot — even in cold climates! In a new study by the Regulatory Assistance Project, research has shown that heat pumps are [just as effective in cold climates as they are in mild ones](#) — and twice as efficient, in fact, the expert analysis contends. Conventional wisdom surrounding heat pumps has previously suggested that they might not be the best fit for colder climates as they become less efficient the colder the outside temperature. This study debunks that myth, showing that while heat pump performance does decline in colder climates, they retain performance ratings of around 1.5-3, higher than the “1” rating of conventional heating systems. [Read the full report here](#) and check out a couple other recent articles that overview the report by [The Guardian](#) and [CleanTechnica!](#)

EVENTS



Reminder! Webinar on the New Flood Recovery Program! \$36 million for new flood recovery programs is now available through Efficiency Vermont for homeowners, renters, rental property owners, and businesses affected by the summer floods. The offers can help replace critical home heating systems, hot water systems, and essential appliances that were damaged or destroyed in the floods. Join Efficiency Vermont's webinar on September 26th at 6pm to learn how you can take advantage of these offers. Plus, new weatherization and financing

options that can help you rebuild. Send your questions to webinarevt@efficiencyvermont.com, or ask live during the webinar. [Learn more and register today!](#)



You're Invited to the Northeast Kingdom Solarbration on September 24th in Peacham! The NEK Solarbration event is set to take place on September 24th, offering a day of free family-friendly fun, live music, and energy education. Hosted in Peacham, Vermont, this event aims to celebrate the launch of a new Community Solar array providing benefits to Peacham Town facilities, as well as participating homes, farms, and small businesses in the area. The event presents an exciting opportunity for community members to come together and learn about strategies for community resilience and an affordable, clean energy future for Vermont. In addition to the educational aspect, attendees can look forward to a variety of engaging activities, including live music, food trucks, arts and crafts, and a raffle! [Learn more and RSVP here!](#)



Seeking EV Knowledge? Join a GDA Presentation! [Green Driving America](#) (GDA), a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting clean transportation, is excited to announce [The Clean Transportation Path](#) project in Vermont for 2023, made possible by a generous grant from the Vermont Council on Rural Development's Climate Catalysts Innovation Fund. As part of this initiative, GDA is looking to collaborate with town energy committees to offer informative presentations to local communities. Their presentation, titled "[CONSIDERING ELECTRIC VEHICLES: The Environmental, Energy, Health, and Financial Benefits of Switching to an Electric Vehicle](#)," provides an in-depth exploration of the advantages of electric vehicles. You can access a draft version of this presentation by clicking on the link above! To take advantage of this opportunity and schedule a presentation for your community, please contact Green Driving America's executive director, Wayne Michaud, at info@greendrivingamerica.org.



Learn more about where Vermont gets its electricity and paths to transition to more renewable resources! Join 350Vermont on September 21st to kickoff their Empower VT campaign with a virtual meeting titled [Green and Just Electricity for VT 101 \(and how you can help!\)](#). This virtual event will discuss Vermont's energy sources, how we can do better as a state, and will include space for Vermonters to connect and create clear action steps. [RSVP to the kickoff event here!](#)



Join the Vermont Sierra Club, Sun Common, and Drive Electric Vermont in celebrating National Drive Electric Week! September 22nd-October 1st is [National Drive Electric week](#) and here in Vermont, the Sierra Club, Sun Common, Drive Electric Vermont and others are partnering to celebrate EVs. There will be events hosted across the state including electric vehicle demonstrations, chances to chat with EV owners, and information about electric vehicle ownership. [Learn about events near you and RSVP to attend or show your EV here!](#)



You're invited to the Burlington Electric Department's Net Zero Energy Festival on September 23rd! Burlington Electric Department (BED) will be hosting a day of family-friendly activities on September 23rd. The event aims to educate the community on Burlington's Net Zero Energy goals and will include live music, food trucks, raffles, energy education, and more. The event is an exciting opportunity for Burlington residents and Vermonters to hear about the Net Zero Energy vision and learn about energy alternatives from experts. [Click here to learn more about the event!](#)



Discover the Potential of Geothermal Heating and Cooling! Heat is a valuable resource in the colder climates of northern New England, where our communities are deeply rooted in rural traditions. The Vermont Community Geothermal Alliance is proud to invite individuals from Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, and neighboring states to join our regional events and embark on a journey of exploration. Kicking off their series is "Why Geo?"—an engaging online conversation featuring a diverse panel of local experts in the field. Mark your calendars for Tuesday, September 19th, at noon, and [RSVP here](#) to join in on an enlightening discussion on the exciting possibilities of geothermal heating and cooling.

ANNOUNCEMENTS!



Join us in welcoming our newest VHCB AmeriCorps member! Hello everyone! My name is Magali Stowell Alemán (she/her), and I'm excited to be joining VNRC/VECAN as the Community Energy Coordinator for the next year. I grew up in the Okemo Valley in southern Vermont and graduated from the University of Vermont in 2022 with a B.S. in Community and International Development. I currently live in Burlington and am pursuing my Master's in Public Administration. I love to hike, read, and find new creemee places to try around Vermont! I'm excited to start working with you all to find solutions to the climate crisis within our communities. Please do not hesitate to reach out at any moment. Email me anytime at mstowellaleman@vnrc.org.

Cheers!

Magali
VECAN Community Energy Coordinator

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 info@vecan.net.

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 info@vecan.net.



{{Disclaimer}}

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(Unsubscribing is not supported in previews)