



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

With fall well underway, we are excited to continue amplifying opportunities for needed climate action across Vermont. In this email, you'll find a variety of content, including an opportunity to comment on the future of climate infrastructure financing in Vermont and an array of discussions on Vermont's electric future. As always, thanks for being a part of the VECAN network and for your dedication to protecting Vermont's environment.

RESOURCES & INFO

Opportunity for Comment: Stakeholder Outreach on Climate Financing Report.

The office of State Treasurer Mike Pieciak has been tasked by the Legislature with considering strategies for supporting and coordinating the [financing of climate infrastructure](#) in Vermont. The Treasurer is requesting public input on how to best support financing climate infrastructure. Share your thoughts and ideas with tre.climatefinance@vermont.gov. Comments are due November 3, 2023. To learn more and participate in a focused conversation for Public Agencies and Municipalities in particular, sign up to attend a session on Monday, October 30th from 9:30 am to 11:00 am. Learn more and RSVP for Oct. 30th [here!](#)

Apply for the 2023 Climate Catalyst Innovation Fund! The [Vermont Climate Catalysts Innovation Fund](#), offered by the Vermont Council on Rural Development, invites individuals and organizations to apply for funding opportunities. This initiative aims to support innovative projects that drive climate resilience, economic development, and

community engagement in Vermont. If you have a creative solution to address climate challenges while boosting the economy and strengthening communities, consider applying for this valuable funding opportunity today! [Applications](#) close November 6th.

Vermont Energy Education Program Workshop Opportunity!

The [Vermont Energy Education Program](#) (VEEP) brings experiential learning to K-12 classrooms across VT, so students (and teachers!) can understand where our energy comes from and how our energy usage impacts the climate. In support of the Climate Action Plan, we are now offering our hands-on workshops for adult audiences as well. These workshops are especially useful to communities that are considering weatherization initiatives, transportation planning, or other energy conservation/emissions reduction work. VEEP will help interested towns or energy committees select the right workshop theme and find an action partner that can help participants take some next steps toward energy efficiency, reduced emissions, etc. These workshops are offered at low or no cost through the support of a grant from the Vermont Low Income Trust for Electricity.



EVENTS

Panel: Transitioning to Renewable Energy. Join the Sunderland Energy Committee on **October 26th at 7pm at the Manchester Community Library** for a forum to explore how to best transition Vermont's energy needs from largely fossil fuel-based sources to one based primarily around renewable energy sources. The panel includes Neale Lunderville-President and CEO of VGS, Secretary Julie Moore- Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Representative Laura Sibilia, and Jared Duval, Executive Director of the Energy Action Network. This is an in-person event but it will be recorded by GNAT-TV for later viewing.

Webinar: Join VEC for a Discussion on the Modern Electric Grid. Participate in an engaging discussion with Vermont Energy Co-op regarding the contemporary electric grid and its implications for northern Vermont communities amidst the ongoing energy transformation. This conversation will take place on **October 26th at 12pm** and encompass strategies for evolving the energy grid to cater to future demands and ensuring an all-encompassing approach to the energy transition. [Register here!](#)

Conference: 2023 Apiary for Movement Builders. Join the Vermont Office of Racial Equity for a free two-day conference aimed at inspiring meaningful action that will make Vermont a more just, inclusive, and equitable place on **Thursday October 26th and Friday October 27th at Spruce Peak in Stowe.** The 2023 Apiary for Movement Builders keynote speaker is Baratunde Thurston, the Emmy-nominated host, producer, writer, and public speaker. Sessions and speakers will highlight key ways in which inequity shows up in lives and organizations, and provide actionable steps to address them. Join in for workshops, activist training, a film screening, giveaways, and space to cross-pollinate with others who share your vision for an inclusive Vermont. Learn more and register [here!](#)

Webinar: Clean Heat Standard Update. Join the Vermont Sierra Club, VNRC and VPIRG for a virtual discussion on **November 8th at 7pm** on the current status of the Clean Heat Standard in Vermont. This conversation will provide an update on the progress underway at the Public Utility Commission to design a thermal performance standard in line with [the law](#) and future steps to create an affordable, effective and equitable clean heat program that reduces carbon emissions for all Vermonters. [Register here!](#)

Conference: Climate Resilience and Adaptation in Vermont. Join the Vermont Community Development Association on **November 2nd in Brandon, VT** for a day of discussion on community resilience. In light of the increasing frequency of extreme weather events, rising temperatures, and recent summer flooding here in Vermont, we must proactively bolster community resilience. VCDA's conference will explore strategies for enhancing disaster preparedness, streamlining procedures, downtown adaptation, and effective grassroots collaborations between neighbors, drawing from

successful Vermont community experiences in the face of climate change. [Register here!](#)

Workshop: Community Mental Health and Wellbeing. Community wellbeing and mental health are indispensable elements for a prosperous and resilient society. Join the Vermont Community Leadership Network on **November 8th at 10am** for a workshop that will feature insights from a panel of experts in community mental health and wellness, as well as showcase instances of community well-being initiatives throughout Vermont. [Register here!](#)

Announcements



Welcome Dan Fingas to the VNRC/VECAN Team! Dan joined VNRC in 2023 and leads the organization's grassroots climate and clean energy organizing work and supports the Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network. Before joining VNRC, Dan was the Movement Politics Director and Organizing Director for Rights and Democracy in Vermont. Dan served in various roles in community organizations and unions in Michigan and New York before moving to Vermont in 2019. Dan holds a B.A. in History and Communication from Albion College and lives in Plainfield with his wife Mo.

VNRC is Hiring a Legislative Intern! Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC), Vermont Conservation Voters (VCV), and the Vermont Planners Association (VPA) are looking for a [Legislative Intern](#) to assist in monitoring environmental legislation during the 2024 legislative session. This internship runs from January to May 2024 and involves tasks like tracking bills, engaging with lawmakers, and conducting research. Ideal candidates have a keen interest in state-level policies, strong communication skills, and the ability to take initiative. The internship pays \$16.00 per hour and VNRC encourages applicants from underrepresented backgrounds in the environmental field. Applications should be submitted by November 6, 2023, to Alex Connizzo at aconnizzo@vnrc.org. For more information, contact aconnizzo@vnrc.org or (802) 223-2328 x126. [Learn more here!](#)

Get Involved

Events

[Join or Start an Energy Committee](#)

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

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.

Newsletter Archive

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

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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