



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

As we dive into winter we remain committed to bringing you and your community timely resources to help advance clean energy & climate action in Vermont. We hope all the snow these past few weeks has been treating you well and that the [16th Annual VECAN Conference-lite](#) was as energizing for you all as it was for us! We want to thank so many of you for attending, engaging, and helping us make it another success! In this message, you'll find an opportunity to share your thoughts on climate funding, a session to help improve project management skills, and an invite to the first session of VECAN's Winter Webinar Series. Thank you for your continued dedication to local solutions in the fight against climate change. We look forward to seeing all the work you engage in this winter...

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## RESOURCES & INFO

**Opportunity for Input: Agency of Natural Resources Seeks Input on Future Climate Funding.** Learn more – and add your thoughts! – related to Vermont's opportunity to leverage unprecedented federal dollars to drive equitable climate solutions. Learn more about the [Agency of Natural Resources' new Climate Action Office](#) and join them for one or both upcoming virtual public input sessions on [December 11th](#) from 5:30-7:00 pm or [December 12th](#) from 11:30 am-1:00 pm. These sessions offer a unique chance to influence the allocation of federal climate funding and contribute to the advancement of impactful projects across our communities. If you are unable to attend, feel free to share your thoughts and comments at [anr.cao@vermont.gov](mailto:anr.cao@vermont.gov).

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**Funding Opportunity: Better Places Grants.** Is your community thinking about expanding parks and green spaces, enhancing a lively main street, initiating public art projects, or establishing community gardens? If yes, consider applying for a [Better Places Grant](#), supported by the VT Department of Housing & Community Development, VT Department of Health, and VT Community Foundation. This statewide grant program welcomes project submissions on a rolling basis. Learn more [here](#)!

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**Call for Applications: Climate Resilient Communities.** The Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) invites community leaders and volunteers to apply for the [Climate Economy Resilient Communities](#) program for 2024. Interested participants can submit an [online application](#) until January 16th, 2024, with a rolling review process. VCRD supports 3-5 Vermont communities annually in local climate action, focusing on reducing emissions, improving energy efficiency, and enhancing resilience. Tailored services, like community engagement and project implementation, adapt to each community's needs. The program aims to create resilient communities with significant carbon reduction, prioritizing projects that showcase collaboration, equity, resilience, emissions reduction, and economic strengthening. For more information and to apply, click [here](#)!

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## EVENTS

**Webinar Series: Local Motion's Complete Streets Winter Webinar Series**

This winter, Local Motion is hosting a sequence of webinars aimed at assisting advocates and communities in advancing efforts to enhance walking and biking infrastructure. The series kicks off on December 14th from 6-7pm with a session addressing the question: "How can individuals contribute to the improvement of their communities for walking, biking, and rolling?" Local Motion staff will delve into essential strategies, opportunities, and obstacles for Vermonters striving to create safer streets and promote sustainable transportation. [Learn more](#) and [register here](#)!

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Join us on December 15th at 12pm to learn about the current Vermont Renewable Energy Standard and its 2032 requirements are outdated for the climate crisis and how a more robust RES that requires 100% renewable energy and more in state renewable energy generation is the answer Vermont needs. Panelists from VNRC, Conservation Law Foundation, and VPIRG will dig into the details of proposed changes to the RES and leave time for questions from attendees. Register [here!](#)



### **Webinar: Making Big Oil Pay: A Deep- Dive on the Policy Plan**

As flood waters recede and Vermonters begin to rebuild, two things are becoming clear. Disasters like these are extraordinarily expensive. The costs to repair damage to homes and infrastructure will be astronomical, not to mention the destruction of priceless memories, heirlooms, and lives. And second, this storm was not a fluke. On

Monday, December 18th at 12pm come learn how those who profited off the dirty energy systems that caused the climate crisis should be the ones to pay the price. Learn more and register [here!](#)

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**Webinar: Climate Resiliency - What's Needed, What's Possible**

As we continue to recover and rebuild in communities ravaged by floods across central Vermont we were once again reminded that our state needs to take proactive action to build the resilience we need. We must reduce flood risks with nature-based solutions, invest in climate-resilient infrastructure, improve government response and capacity, and implement a suite of funding solutions to make these critical investments. Join us on Monday January 8th 2024 at 12pm for Climate Resiliency - What's Needed, What's Possible to learn more about these solutions and how you can get involved in creating a more resilient Vermont. Register [here!](#)

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**Virtual Workshop: Project Management 101.** Join Jenna Lapachinski of the Preservation Trust of VT on January 10th at 10:30am for an introduction to project management for community revitalization projects. Learn how to organize around an initial vision, define goals and priorities, navigate funding options, and move the project from idea to implementation. Learn more and register [here!](#)

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**Webinar: VECAN Winter Webinar Series - An Equitable Approach to the Energy Transition.** Join VECAN for the first session of the Winter Webinar Series! **Mark your calendars for noon on January 17th** for a session on environmental and climate justice. This session is intended to help inform and guide our collective efforts to accelerate just climate action and a clean energy economy. Get an update on what's happening related to Vermont's important environmental justice law. Hear from state leaders about their efforts – including an overview of a new resource related to core principles of community engagement – and get an update from Vermont's Climate Action Office on their environmental, climate justice and public engagement efforts focused on helping to build a more inclusive and equitable Vermont. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend! We will send a registration link shortly....

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**Stay Tuned to What's Happening on Climate Action this Legislative Session via the Climate Dispatch.** If you haven't already, be sure to stay regularly tuned into what's happening in the state policy arena, what's not, and how you might help via VNRC and Vermont Conservation Voters weekly Climate Dispatch videos. [Sign up here today to receive these Dispatches!](#) These short videos are intended to provide timely updates on priority clean energy, climate, environmental justice and resilience efforts in the Statehouse – as well as offer suggestions for easy ways to engage. You can also find the videos on [VNRC's youtube channel](#) and on Instagram.

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#### [Get Involved](#)

[Events](#)

[Join or Start an Energy Committee](#)

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

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**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](mailto: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](mailto:info@vecan.net).



{{Disclaimer}}

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(Unsubscribing is not supported in previews)