



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

It's hard to believe it's mid-February! While Punxsutawney Phil didn't see his shadow and we may be able to enjoy spring sooner rather than later, hopefully we still have some beautiful winter days ahead.

We've been happy to see many of you at our first couple VECAN Winter Webinars and hopefully we will see even more of you at our February events, including TODAY at noon. Find more information and registration info in our event section later in this email.

Below, find more information about other upcoming events and news of interest. And, we wanted to share a Town Energy Committee spotlight this month of the Town of Winhall and their new Energy Dashboard.



The town of Winhall Energy Committee town has established an [Energy Dashboard](#) as a web-accessible tool to publicly track and graphically display energy use and costs at each of the town's municipally owned buildings, based on invoices and service meter readings for the energy sources used. Winhall's municipal buildings currently use Propane, #2 Heating Oil, and Electricity. Data from previous years' monthly energy use are also in the system so that efficiency baselines for each building can be established and compared to the current month. Since the weather changes daily, monthly, and yearly, and changes in weather cause changes in energy use, then heating degree day and cooling degree values are also tracked, in order to normalize the energy use data.

Similar to Winhall's privately owned homes and commercial buildings, its municipal buildings were built across a wide time period (ranging from 1860 to 2016), using a variety of materials and construction methods. Using an energy dashboard will enable the town to identify inefficiencies in each building, and make necessary adjustments and efficiency improvements that will lead to cost savings for the town over time. The energy dashboard will also serve as an educational tool for residents and property owners, raising awareness about energy efficiency and consumption, and promoting more sustainable habits. It will help the town track its progress and do its part towards meeting the state-wide goals of Vermont's 2022 Comprehensive Energy Plan and requirements of the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2020 (Act 153).

Funding for the [Winhall Energy Dashboard](#) in 2024 was provided through a generous grant from [Vermont Council on Rural Development's Climate Catalysts Innovation Fund](#). The leadership of communities across Vermont on the clean energy transition – including by developing tools like Winhall has – is inspiring and so important. Please keep on and keep in touch.

Until then, find what we hope are helpful resources and events to support your efforts....

RESOURCES & INFO

Weatherization Repayment Assistance Program (WRAP)

Dealing with a drafty home and high heating bills? The Weatherization Repayment Assistance Program (WRAP) may be able to help you pay for energy-saving home improvements over time through a low-interest monthly charge on your utility bill. Administered by the Vermont Housing Finance Agency, WRAP assists both homeowners and renters in Vermont. WRAP projects can include insulation and air sealing as well as heat pumps, water heaters, and advanced wood heating systems. Combined with utility incentives, WRAP can greatly reduce or eliminate upfront project costs. WRAP does not run credit checks to verify eligibility. To learn more, visit the program website at vhfa.org/wrap or connect with Efficiency Vermont, Burlington Electric Department, or Vermont Gas Systems to schedule a home energy audit.

Better By Design Conference Scholarships!

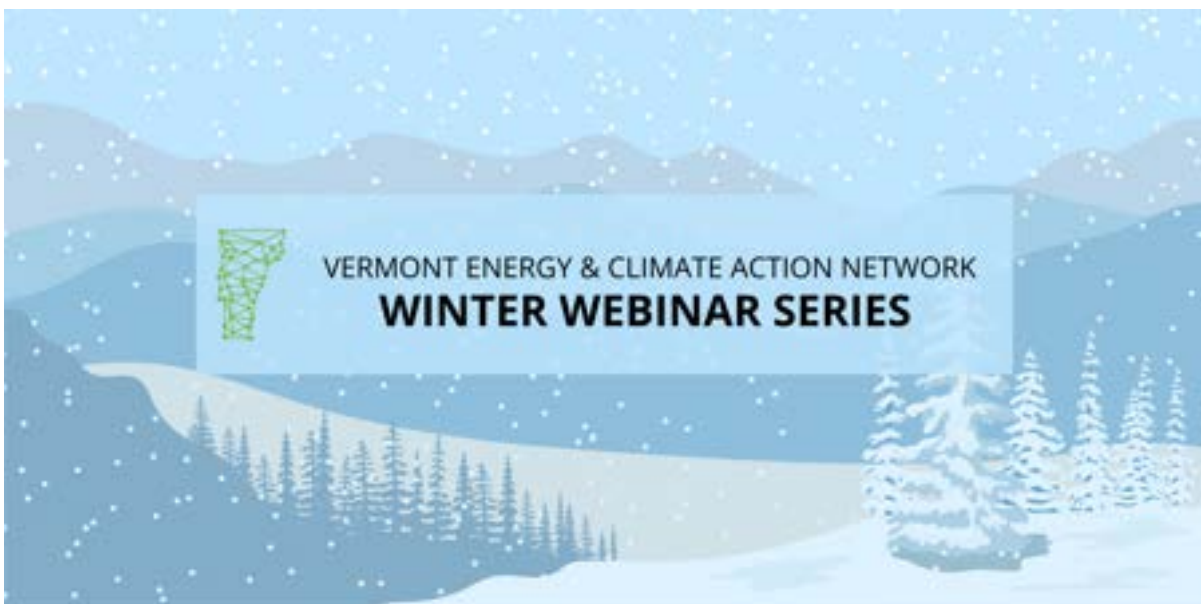
Efficiency Vermont's Better Buildings by Design conference, the region's premier design and build conference for industry professionals, is happening April 3rd and 4th this year, with the theme of "Blueprint for Equity: Energy Efficiency and the Future of Building". Building on the theme this year, **Efficiency Vermont is offering reduced-rate scholarships for attendance to women and BIPOC individuals, as well as travel and lodging stipends.** Full details of the offer, along with an application, can be found here: <https://www.encyvermont.com/trade-partners/bbd/bbd-equity-scholarship> This is a unique opportunity for individuals to attend and participate in this professional trade conference with minimal financial outlay. Questions about the scholarship can be directed to Brad, at blong@veic.org. Please feel free to share this opportunity with anyone who may be interested in attending and could benefit from this scholarship.

EVENTS



VECAN Winter Webinar: Vermont Energy Education Program Community Workshops

How much carbon dioxide do our vehicles actually emit? Is insulation or air sealing more effective for weatherization? How does electrifying our homes help fight climate change? How does our electric grid work, anyway? On **Wednesday, February 14th at Noon** the Vermont Energy Education Program (VEEP) will outline the hands-on workshops it can offer to help answer these questions and more. Come learn from VEEP Executive Director Sophia Donforth about their new community workshops and how VEEP is partnering with local efforts to weatherize, electrify, and clean up VT's transportation. They'll give you a preview of what's covered in their workshops, talk about the growing number of resources to help folks make change locally, and answer questions about how to schedule one of these events in your community. For a successful transition to clean energy, we need to help all Vermonters understand how climate solutions work and why they are important. Join VEEP – and us! – and please help spread the word... [Register HERE](#)

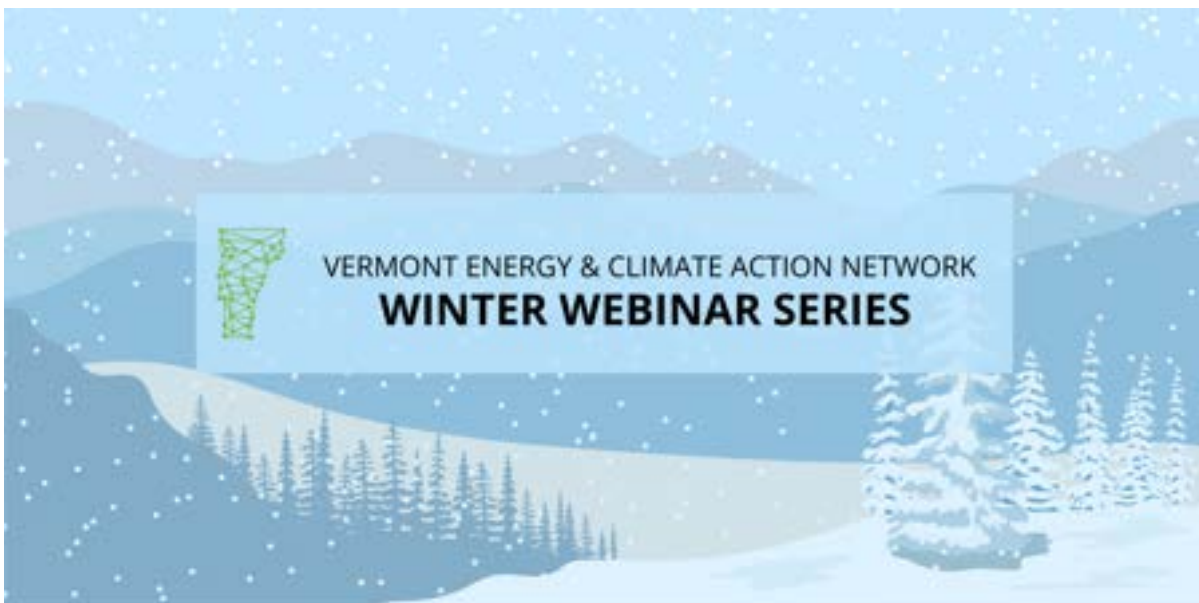


VECAN Winter Webinar: WindowDressers: A Low Cost Weatherization Option

On **Wednesday February 28th at Noon** learn about the non-profit that brings community volunteers of all socio-economic situations together to improve the warmth and comfort of interior spaces while lowering heating costs and reducing CO2 emissions. This webinar will share the history of this small but mighty organization as well as the impact and success its efforts have had by hearing about specific projects from the local energy leaders who led them. We will hear from Allison Pouliot, WindowDressers Program Manager from Vermont as well as Local Coordinators from Communities in Vermont. [REGISTER HERE!](#)

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 next series event is on **February 29th from 6-730pm** with a session addressing Funding Walk/Bike Infrastructure in Vermont. This webinar will help local advocates and municipal and RPC staff understand the funding opportunities for walking, biking, and rolling infrastructure in Vermont, and what strategies are needed in order to take advantage of these funding streams. We'll also discuss key funding challenges and hopefully identify some solutions. [Learn more here!](#)



VECAN Winter Webinar: How to Develop a Thermal Energy Network

Several Vermont energy committees are exploring how they can bring Thermal Energy Networks to their towns, using geothermal and waste heat to provide clean heating and cooling. This webinar on **Wednesday March 13th at Noon** shares the experiences and approaches of Vermonters already working to develop Thermal Energy Networks. We'll hear how energy committees and others are taking steps to bring this solution to their communities, showing how it can be applied in a variety of ways and provide multiple local benefits. We'll also introduce a new toolkit from Energy Action

Network's TENs Team: *How to Develop a Thermal Energy Network*. This resource can help you get started, then walk you through selecting a site, considering ownership models, understanding current financing opportunities, and using best practices for a Thermal Energy Network project. Please join VECAN, Vermont Community Thermal Networks, and Energy Action Network for this “how to” session of practical info on Thermal Energy Networks. [REGISTER HERE](#)

Thank you for all you do!

Dan Fingas, Climate Action Coordinator

P.S. In national news, check out this article from the [New York Times about the astronomical earnings of oil companies, at the same time states like Vermont are facing billion dollar price tags from recent fossil-fueled disasters](#). To get involved in a campaign to Make Big Oil Pay, find out more [here](#).

Get Involved

[Events](#)

[Join or Start an Energy Committee](#)

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

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.

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.

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.

VECAN's mission is to start, support and strengthen town

energy committees.



{{Disclaimer}}

Vermont Natural Resources Council

11 Baldwin Street

Montpelier, VT 05602

United States

(Unsubscribing is not supported in previews)