



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

I hope you are making the most of these lengthening days and finding some sun. In our newsletter below, we hope you'll find lots of useful information and resources and some events we hope you join us for. Let's dig right into those opportunities...

RESOURCES & INFO

Button Up Partner Survey

Last year's Button Up campaign was a success thanks to collaboration from partners, including communities around the state, utilities, RPCs, and nonprofits. Some of the highlights included:

Over 2,000 people registered for webinars. (You can still catch them on [YouTube](#) [[buttonup.cmail19.com](#)]!)

At least 12 communities hosted events

The new [Button Up website](#) [[buttonup.cmail19.com](#)] received over 27,000 visits during the campaign.

Governor Scott featured Button Up in a press conference

Please help inform future Button Up campaigns by completing [this short survey](#) [[buttonup.cmail19.com](#)]. Whether you participated in 2023 or not, we would like your feedback as a representative of a town or an organization that does work related to energy.

American Institute of Architects VT Requests Project Proposals for Resilient Design Charrette

In May of 2024, the American Institute of Architects Vermont will be hosting "Hardy by Design" a resilient design charrette event, and we are asking towns throughout the state to submit projects that might benefit from architectural design input at this event.

The intent of the event is for architects to provide an afternoon of pro-bono design input to towns, non-profits, or community groups who have ideas for resilient community development projects, and would benefit from architects' input. Similar to the [Affordable Housing Charrette](#) held in 2022, this event expands the scope of project types to be inclusive of, but not limited to affordable housing, and will seek to help communities who have been impacted by recent flooding events to build and/ or rebuild with a focus on resilience.

Application [here](#). due by March 15th.

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: 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](#)



Tools you can use: tracking Vermont's energy transition at the local level

Join VECAN and Energy Action Network on **March 15th at Noon** to get an introduction to two new interactive dashboards, one for local energy progress tracking and one for statewide GHG emissions tracking. These data tools visualize local progress toward adoption of key decarbonization measures. The Vermont Energy Dashboard tracks uptake of four high-impact measures in the thermal and transportation sectors: comprehensive weatherization projects, cold-climate heat pump installations, heat pump water heater installations, and electric vehicle registrations. [Register Here!](#)

Thank you for all you do!

Dan Fingas, Climate Action Coordinator

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.

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.



{{Disclaimer}}

Vermont Natural Resources Council

11 Baldwin Street

Montpelier, VT 05602

United States

(Unsubscribing is not supported in previews)