



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

There's a lot happening right now that we wanted to put on your radar, including noting that [registration is now open](#) for **VECAN's Spring Summit at Vermont Law and Graduate School in South Royalton on Saturday, June 1st!** Find out far more below about that and other exciting opportunities, including [TOMORROW'S noon webinar on what's afoot this legislative session relating to clean energy, resilience, and climate action](#). Join us tomorrow for this important update – and please spread the word!



We are excited to gather with so many of you working to advance clean energy and climate action in your communities around Vermont, and recenter our collective focus in at such a pivotal moment of change, challenge and opportunity. **Please join us on**

**June 1st to reconnect, collaborate and share conversation as we work to advance just and bold climate action!**

**[Register to attend here!](#)**

The Spring Summit is all about conversation, collaboration and community – connecting local leaders with each other and partners hoping to support important grassroots energy and climate work. Following light breakfast fare and informal networking, we will have a day full of Town Energy Committee success stories, peer to peer conversations, and opportunities for collaboration. Then, we'll dive into a series of small group discussions at breakout tables around timely topics. You will have the opportunity to share ideas, brainstorm, and connect with experts and fellow community leaders on priority clean energy and climate solutions.

We are happy to provide light breakfast fare, lunch, snacks, refreshments, and, we hope, a great program to focus our important, collective efforts.

**Please note that there is a maximum capacity of attendees in this space. If you find yourself unable to attend after registering, please contact [dfingas@vnrc.org](mailto:dfingas@vnrc.org) so we can make space for others who can.**

We'd also love your input as we shape the content of the day! Thank you for taking this [2-minute survey](#) to let us know what issues are of most interest or concern to you.

We hope to see you there!

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## RESOURCES & INFO

### **Apply for Municipal Fleet Electrification Peer-Learning Cohort**

Apply for an upcoming [peer-learning cohort](#) to help your town chart a path toward municipal fleet electrification. The Vermont Clean Cities Coalition has helped Williston and Stowe Electric on similar projects. This opportunity is part of the U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Energy to Communities (C2C) program, which provides communities with expertise and tools to achieve their clean energy goals. Participants in the upcoming peer-learning cohort will develop an action plan for light-duty and/or medium-duty fleet electrification. You also will be paired with a [Clean Cities and Communities](#) (CC&C) coalition to help tailor cohort activities to your unique needs. Participants in C2C peer-learning cohorts receive strategic and technical assistance; access to materials and resources, including templates, trainings, tools, best practices, and analyses; and the chance to collaborate with others across the United States tackling similar challenges. Application Deadline: **April 30, 2024**, at 11:59 p.m. ET. Learn more and apply on the [C2C peer-learning cohorts webpage](#). Applicants are encouraged to include a [CC&C coalition](#) as a partner on their application or can be paired with their local coalition following acceptance. If you are interested in working with Vermont Clean Cities & Communities on this C2C peer-learning cohort, please reach out to us. If you have any questions, please contact the NREL C2C team at [c2c@nrel.gov](mailto:c2c@nrel.gov) or reach out to Peggy at the Vermont Clean Cities Coalition ([poneillv@uvm.edu](mailto:poneillv@uvm.edu)).

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## **Thermal Energy Network Toolkit**

To build a sustainable energy future, we need a diverse portfolio of solutions. Harnessing, moving, and sharing the heat we already have in Thermal Energy Networks (TENS) can help us decarbonize our buildings more efficiently, equitably, and affordably. [Check out our new Thermal Energy Network Toolkit](#) and the [VECAN webinar where we moved step by step through the toolkit](#). From getting started to technical deep dives this toolkit can help your town to become the next Vermont community to create Thermal Energy Networks.

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## **Energy Action Network's Energy Data Dashboards**

Data is a key part of planning your town's energy plans. Energy Action Network has two new interactive dashboards, one for local energy progress tracking and one for statewide GHG emissions tracking. These dashboards can show how your specific town is doing with heat pump implementation, weatherization, electric vehicles and so much more. [You can check out both dashboards here](#) and [a webinar on how to use the dashboards here](#).

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## **Climate Catalysts Leadership Program**

The Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) is now accepting applications for the next round of Climate Catalysts Leaders. This year the cohort will focus on new and emerging leaders from a variety of large and small communities who care deeply and want to take community action to reduce energy use and lessen climate impacts in their communities. The [Climate Catalysts Leadership Program](#) applications will be open until Monday April 15th at 5 pm. [Learn more about the curriculum and program schedule and apply today!](#)

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## **Community Capacity Building Mini-Grants Deadline May 31st**

These grants fund municipal efforts for capacity building and active participation in energy resilience initiatives, specific to MERP and beyond. Municipalities may conduct community education and outreach regarding Vermont's climate policies and incentives to cut energy costs, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and improve energy resilience in municipally owned buildings. These grants can also be used to identify potential candidate buildings for MERP's free Energy Resilience Assessments and Implementation Grants of up to \$500,000. [The MERP mini-grants close May 31st so don't delay, apply today!](#)

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## **EVENTS**



### **TOMORROW'S NOON Webinar: Vermont State Legislative Briefing**

Don't miss this important webinar to get an update on what's been happening at the State House this session to mitigate and prepare for the impacts of climate change.. Learn the latest about the efforts to Modernize the Renewable Energy Standard, the Climate Change Superfund, Climate Resilience in the wake of the mass flooding events of 2023, and more. We'll hear updates from climate advocates and partners. This webinar is hosted by Vermont Natural Resources Council, Vermont Conservation Voters, Sierra Club, Conservation Law Foundation, 350VT, Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility, and VPIRG. [Register Here!](#)

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### **Vermont Capital Planning Forum**

Join the Vermont Bond Bank for the Vermont Capital Planning Forum hosted on **Thursday April 11th in Barre**. This is an in-person event for governmental units of all sizes and associated professionals to explore Vermont specific best practices in capital. This event will have a good lineup of both IRA elective pay information and info about climate resilience and adaptation. [More information and register here.](#)

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### **Waterbury LEAP Energy Fair**

Each April since 2007 the Waterbury Energy Committee volunteers – LEAP – have hosted the LEAP Energy Fair to help educate local residents, as well as business, municipal, and educational leaders, about ways to reduce emissions, adopt renewable energy, energy efficiency, and shrink energy use and energy bills. This Fair is now the largest such gathering in all of Vermont. In 2019, the event drew a record turnout of 700 attendees from almost 50 towns. Don't miss this year's Energy Fair on **Saturday April 13th from 9am-2pm**. [More information here.](#)

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### **Leveraging Change: The Benefits of Helping High Mileage Drivers Go Electric**

Join the Energy Action Network on Tuesday April 16th at 7pm for their *Leveraging Change: The Benefits of Helping High Mileage Drivers Go Electric* at Hugo's in Montpelier. Fourteen percent of Vermont drivers collectively use 41% of Vermont's gasoline. Helping these drivers, referred to as "Gasoline Superusers," transition to electric vehicles can have outsized benefits in terms of both statewide pollution cuts and financial savings for the most gasoline-burdened households. In this Leveraging Change Speaker series event we will hear about Gasoline Superusers and new policies and programs that could help these drivers move to EVs. Join members of the EAN network and hear from Rob Sargent of Coltura, Darren Springer of Burlington Electric Department and Karen Glitman, Center for Sustainable Energy. [More information and Register Here.](#)

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### **Wild and Scenic Film Festival, Burlington**

Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC) invites you to the Main Street Landing on **Thursday, April 18th**, for the debut screening of their [2024 Wild and Scenic Film Festival](#). Sponsored by Ben & Jerry's, Lake Champlain Chocolates, National Life Group, and Zero Gravity, the festival features inspiring short films about environmental issues facing communities around the globe. All proceeds from the event will support VNRC's work across Vermont. For [ticket info](#), auction links and more, visit [www.vnrc.org/wsff2024](http://www.vnrc.org/wsff2024)

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### **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 **April 18th from 6-7pm with Low-Cost Traffic Calming Techniques and Walk/Bike Solutions for Rural Vermont**. In this webinar, learn about lower-cost infrastructure that can be used to slow car speeds and make rapid, effective improvements for walking, biking, and rolling. This will include some ideas for more rural streets and roads. You might even find one or two ideas where you get to "pick all three." Learn more about the [Local Motion Winter Webinar Series](#) or you can [Register Here](#) for the April 18th webinar.

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### **Reflections on Flood Resilience and Recovery**

May 1 | 10-11:30 AM | Virtual

After 10 months of recovery: how are our communities doing, what resources are serving us well, what opportunities are opening up? Join Vermont Council on Rural Development's Vermont Community Leadership Network for a panel of local, state, and federal leaders dealing with the daily ins and outs of Flood Recovery in Vermont will help us reflect on what we've been able to accomplish, what best practices and resources we can draw on at this point, and what the next phase of recovery and rebuilding may look like. [Register Here.](#)

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## Legislative Roundup with the Vermont Community Leadership Network

June 28th | 10-11:30 AM | Virtual

Each year, decisions made in the Statehouse have impacts on and create opportunities for our communities. From flood recovery and infrastructure to housing, zoning, boosting community capacity, energy, recreation, funding, and more – it can be difficult to follow these decisions and what they might mean for your work and your community. This workshop will bring together voices from the Administration, Legislature, advocacy groups, and others to share key highlights from the 2024 session and how your community can connect to potential opportunities that may emerge in the year ahead.

[Register Here.](#)

Thank you for all you do!

Dan Fingas, Climate Action Coordinator

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

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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.

### **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).

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

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{{Disclaimer}}

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(Unsubscribing is not supported in previews)