



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

There's a ton going on and we wanted to be sure it's on your radar...

First, as you know, more and more Vermonters are looking to save money *and* cut planet-warming emissions. As we hope you've heard, [on Earth Day, Efficiency Vermont partnered with Rewiring America to launch a new online tool](#) to help people understand the significant suite of financial support they can potentially tap into to make cost-saving clean energy and efficiency investments.

This Vermont-specific "[incentive calculator](#)" gives households a personalized list of the many federal, state, and utility rebates and offers they can use for climate-friendly clean technologies and money-saving efficiency upgrades. The goal is to help Vermonters save money while improving efficiency and adopting clean technologies that use Vermont's low-carbon electricity, rather than burning fossil fuels and emitting climate-warming greenhouse gas emissions. [Check out the calculator for yourself](#) and you can also watch a [short video explainer](#) and instructions on [how to embed the calculator](#) on your Town Energy Committee, municipal or organization's website. Please share this important tool widely with your community!

Also, we are continuing to plan our [June 1st Spring Summit](#) and are excited to announce that **Ellen Kahler, Executive Director of Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund**, will be our Keynote speaker. Ellen brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in sustainability and Vermont's workforce. Ellen will lead off our Summit as she delves into the opportunities Vermont has for sustainable jobs, a state where everyone can thrive and ideas for working together to advance the climate solutions we need.

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!](#)

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 so we can make space for others who can.

Also, **VNRC is hiring!** Want to join our team to help protect and enhance Vermont's natural environment and vibrant communities? Or, know someone who might? VNRC is hiring a [Communications Associate](#). Please share with your networks! We are eager to bring on a new and needed ally in this important work.

Find far more below about other opportunities and events of interest....

RESOURCES & INFO

Small Grants for Smart Growth

VNRC's *Small Grants for Smart Growth* grant program is now accepting applications for grants up to \$2,500! These grants acknowledge that community leadership and small steps are essential for catalyzing change. Think creatively about how you can advance smart growth in your town, and consider applying today. Or, help us spread the word - these grants are available to support a broad range of creative community projects. A project could be a town or local group effort to promote downtown or village center revitalization and historic preservation; to develop a plan for better sidewalks or paths; to identify ways to support housing choice and affordability; or to plan on conserving land for agriculture or forestry. [Learn more or apply for a Small Grant for Smart Growth – or get inspired by past projects!](#)

Submit a Proposal to Speak at REV2024

Save the date - the REV2024 Conference will be on Wednesday and Thursday, October 16 & 17 in Burlington. Take a moment to review the [RFP guidelines and submit a proposal](#). You do not need to have a complete panel with confirmed speakers to apply. It is more useful that REV receives your idea by the deadline rather than waiting for the application to be "complete." Submissions that bring first-time REV Conference presenters are encouraged. IMPORTANT: REV is committed to supporting a diverse workforce and uplifting diverse voices and perspectives in the industry. As such, all sessions at REV2024 must feature gender and racially diverse voices and no panels will be considered if they do not reach this criteria. We will only reach a sustainable, inclusive 100% renewable energy future by creating space and adding weight to all voices.

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!](#)

EVENTS

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.](#)

Creating a Sustainable Vermont: Public meetings to share VELCO's 2024 Vermont Long-Range Transmission Plan

The Vermont Electric Power Company, VELCO, is hosting a series of public information and input sessions in the coming weeks with the first one tonight, **May 1st at 5pm**. You'll have an opportunity to hear from industry experts, gain insight into the future of Vermont's electric grid, as we move to electrify far more of Vermonters' heating and transportation needs and ask questions. Plan to attend, lend your ideas and get your questions answered. Find all the details, read the plan and RSVP for an upcoming event [here.](#)

Wild and Scenic Film Festival, Woodstock

Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC) invites you to the Woodstock Town Hall Theater on **Thursday, May 2nd**, for a 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

VPIRG Briefing on the Climate Change Super Fund

Please join VPIRG on Thursday evening, **May 2, at 6:00 p.m.** for an online VPIRG member briefing on S.259, the Vermont Climate Superfund Act.

This legislation, which will hold the largest fossil fuel companies accountable for a fair share of the climate crisis and reduce the costs that Vermonters pay, passed the Senate last month on a tri-partisan vote of 26-3. It is now under consideration in the House. The House Environment & Energy Committee approved it last week, and the Judiciary Committee is scheduled to vote on it this afternoon. But there is still a long way to go before this bill becomes law. Join us Thursday for an insiders briefing on this groundbreaking legislation! You can register here: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)



Cash for Communities: Leveraging Historic Federal Funds for Racial, Economic, and Climate Justice

Local energy leaders have a critical role in ensuring that federal funding reaches the communities that need it most. Thanks to Direct Pay tax credits, tax-exempt entities like municipal and county governments, schools, and community-based organizations can receive federal funding for building clean energy projects but need help from local leaders! Local electeds can use local funding and policymaking tools to help tax-exempt entities take full advantage of Direct Pay and expand publicly-owned clean energy. Join the Congressional Progressive Caucus Center and the Local Progress Impact Lab on **Thursday, May 9th, at 1 PM ET/ 10 AM PT** to learn how local leaders can champion Direct Pay as community educators and policymakers. Our panel of experts, including Cambridge City Council Member Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler, CPC Center Energy & Environment Programs Director Katie Thomas Carol, and technical assistance experts from the Center for Public Enterprise, will dive into how Direct Pay can maximize federal dollars for local priorities. [Register Here.](#)

Brandon Electric Mower Demonstration

Join the Brandon Energy Committee and Vermont Clean Cities for an Electric Mower Demonstration. The event is free and open to the public and there will be free pizza and drinks. This event will be held on **Tuesday, May 21st, 2024, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM** at Estabrook Park, 360 Grove Street, Brandon Vermont. Anyone interested in attending [can register here](#).

Rally For the Planet

Join Youth Lobby on **Thursday May 23rd** for [Rally for the Planet](#)! The Rally for the Planet is organized for youth, by youth, as a way to gather and have our voices heard about things that matter to us. Themes vary from year to year, with a common theme always being to voice our concerns and solutions for the health and future of our planet to the decision makers in the Vermont Statehouse. It's always a fun event, filled with hope and inspiration. You will be surrounded by hundreds of other VT youth who care, listen to great music, and hear from youth activists sharing the message of what VT Youth want to see happen in our state. You'll have the option to make art, meet people working for other organizations who do climate justice work, join youth-lead teach-ins on various topics, and get tasty treats donated by sponsors.

We are always looking for volunteers and sponsors for the event. Please check out our annual Rally for the Planet page to register, check out our blog for events, and email us if you would like to be a sponsor. [Register Here!](#)

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

[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

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