



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

It's been a busy, beautiful and intense fall – in part because it's election season... where so much is at stake. That's because so many of the programs and incentives Vermont is able to offer to communities depend on getting good policy passed, making this a vital election to ensure that we continue to move forward on science-based climate action at the state and federal level.

So remember you have until 7 p.m. on **Tuesday November 5th to vote**. Find information about voting and where you vote on the [Secretary of State My Voter Page](#). And, if you are looking for context to inform your vote, check out [Vermont Conservation Voters Legislative Scorecard](#) to see how current legislators' voted on key climate and environmental issues. Until the election – and in general – we hope you check out some exciting opportunities available to communities and info about upcoming events that might be of interest to you.

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## RESOURCES & INFO

### Applications Open for VCRD's Climate Catalysts Innovation Fund

Applications are now open for the Vermont Council on Rural Development's 2024 round of Climate Catalyst funding! Grants range from \$500-4,000 and will be awarded based on a mix of innovation, resilience, collaboration, replicability, and addressing Vermonters in need. Eligible applicants include municipalities, town committees, schools, businesses, and non-profit organizations. **Application deadline is October 28th @ 5pm**. Award decisions will be made and funds distributed by the end of November. [Apply today!](#)

This fund helps community projects move from an ambitious idea to an implemented climate-based solution. The first three rounds awarded a total of over \$200,000 to 68 local innovators for a diversity of projects including a floodplain public food forest, frontline emergency preparedness kits, climate economy workforce training, e-bikes at local libraries, solar with back-up battery storage for a library community hub, and

more. To learn more about projects that have been funded in the past, see this [interactive map](#) and read the reports for [Round 1](#) and [Round 2](#).

Visit our [website](#) to learn more about this opportunity and feel free to contact Laura Cavin Bailey at [laura@vtrural.org](mailto:laura@vtrural.org) or 802-234-1646 with any questions.

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### **Save Money, Save Energy: Button Up!**

Button Up is Vermont's annual campaign to help you prepare your home for winter. From low- and no-cost efficiency tips to comprehensive projects designed to reduce heating bills, it's a great way to save money and stay comfortable all winter long. If you missed this year's Button Up Launch [you can watch the recording](#). NEW this year: Host a Button Up event (or table at an existing event) to be listed as a partner and receive a \$100 hardware store gift card ([just fill out the event form](#) and we will follow up with details), or [Request Button Up materials](#) or spread the word via your outreach channels to be listed as a partner on the [Button Up website](#). See below in the events section for Button Up's upcoming webinars.

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## **EVENTS**

### **Home Repair Program Informational Session**

Starting October 1st, Efficiency Vermont is launching the Weatherization Home Repair Program to help Vermonters complete weatherization projects where home repairs are a barrier. This program offers up to \$15,000 in rebates for necessary home repairs. Learn more at the Home Repair Program Informational Session on **Tuesday October 22nd from 9am-10am**. [Register for the webinar here](#).

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### **Button Up Webinar Weatherization 101**

Efficiency Vermont experts will give you a primer on weatherization, where to start, and available incentives. The webinar will take place on [October 23rd at Noon](#). All registrants will receive a recording of the webinar via email. [You can check out all Button Up Events on the events calendar](#).

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### **Climate Action Plan Input Session: Buildings & Thermal**

The Vermont Climate Council is updating the state's Climate Action Plan. Subcommittees of the Council are holding a series of virtual public meetings to get input on their initial ideas that should be recommendations in the next CAP. Find a list of all the [upcoming meetings at the Climate Council's calendar of events](#). The next meeting, focused on reducing climate pollution from the buildings and thermal (heating/cooling) sector, takes place this Thursday October 24th from 12:30-2pm. People, organizations, and businesses who are involved in or impacted by thermal-sector climate action are invited to share their perspectives, concerns, stories, and knowledge with the Subcommittee. All are welcome to attend. [Register Here!](#)

Do you have something to say but cannot make it to this or other meetings? Reach out through any of the methods below and your words will be shared with the Subcommittee at their next regularly scheduled meeting.

Leave a voicemail at 802-404-2729

Email [anr.cao@vermont.gov](mailto:anr.cao@vermont.gov)

Submit your comment to the Climate Action Plan [public comment form](#).

All are welcome to attend subcommittee meetings and speak during the public comment period of each meeting. Find all meetings at [www.climatechange.vermont.gov/calendar](http://www.climatechange.vermont.gov/calendar).

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### **Webinar: The Air They Breathe: A Pediatrician on the Frontlines of Climate**

On **Thursday, October 24th at 12-1 PM** discover how we can all play a vital role in supporting and contributing to solutions for climate change. Learn about the intersection of climate and health, and how we can work together for a more equitable future. What you'll learn:

Practical tools and strategies for educating families about the growing health risks associated with climate change, including respiratory illnesses, heat illness, and mental health issues.

How air pollution, extreme weather events, and rising temperatures can affect your patients' well-being.

How you can get involved in local and national efforts to address climate change and protect future generations.

**[Don't miss this opportunity to learn, connect, and take action.](#)**

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### **Button Up Heat Pump 101 Webinar**

Once you've weatherized your home, heat pumps are an excellent way to keep it warm in the winter (and cool in the summer). Efficiency Vermont experts will review the different types of heat pumps, incentives available, and what homeowners should consider when upgrading to a heat pump. The webinar will take place on [October 30th at Noon](#). All registrants will receive a recording of the webinar via email. [You can check out all Button Up Events on the events calendar.](#)

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### **VEEP's Youth Climate Leaders Academy**

Do you know a high school student who wants to make a difference on climate change? Registration is now open for Vermont Energy Education Program's [Youth Climate Leaders Academy](#).

Youth Climate Leaders Academy is designed to support VT and NH high school youth in planning and implementing projects to make a difference on climate change. The projects are the students', but our program and partners provide resources and professional consultation as they figure out where to start, how to plan, who to connect with, how to grow professional skills, identify leverage points, measure impact & more. Parts of our events and planning are also youth-led as we work to help support and empower young people, and let them collaborate with and inspire each other.

The **Kick-Off Retreat** is **December 6-7, 2024 in Fairlee, VT**, so mark your calendars and sign up now! The Kick-Off is for teams looking to dive into the implementation phase of their action project. There will be skills workshops, team planning time, consultation time with VEEP staff and other experts, and a supportive community of passionate and like-minded folks. Please contact [mariah.keagy@veep.org](mailto:mariah.keagy@veep.org) with any questions.

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](#)

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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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