



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

With so much happening across the country and the world, it can be hard to keep up. We are deeply grateful for the work that you do – and it’s more important than ever. This E-News is chock full of timely updates on state and national news stories, interesting programs and potential funding, and great opportunities for engagement.

Our goal continues to be to offer useful context, content and communications to support your invaluable local work. We hope this is helpful – and we hope you’ll plan to join us at any of these upcoming events. We continue to look for ways to deepen collaboration and connection in these challenging times, we can’t do this work without you!

IN THE NEWS

Last Tuesday, President Trump signed an [executive order](#) to “stop the enforcement” of state climate laws on the basis that they “are fundamentally irreconcilable with my [Trump’s] Administration’s objective to unleash American energy.” This order targets state carbon tax or fee programs and laws with terms including environmental justice, greenhouse gas emissions, and climate change. Vermont was specifically called out for being particularly assertive in pursuing climate action with the passage of the Climate Superfund Act last year. The executive order could also have ramifications for community-based climate and clean energy efforts. It’s still unclear. What is clear, is that it is unconstitutional – and chilling. Read more about the reactions and potential implications [here](#) and [here](#).

For a general Vermont update on how the federal administration is affecting our state, read or listen to [this Vermont Public article](#) on how Vermont lawmakers are feeling about the state budget plan.

Additionally, Vermont Public has started tracking changes to Vermont's federal funding under the Trump administration and the impacts. As decisions on the fate of many federal funds have been coming rapidly, and the status of some funds have been changing based on court and administrative actions, this tracker is ongoing and will be updated. [Follow this link](#) to check it out.

For an update on the status of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, a \$27 billion dollar fund that acted as a national green bank, and one of the largest programs in the Inflation Reduction Act, [read this article](#).

Through this newsletter and webinars, VECAN has been keeping you updated on the effort afoot in Vermont to rollback the state's climate progress. [Read this national article](#) that reports on the Governor's proposal to change the way the state accounts for Vermont's greenhouse gas emissions.

As the federal and state governments try to slow and stop environmental protections and progress, Vermont legislators are speaking out. [Read this op-ed](#) from representative Mike Mrowicki of Putney about the costs of climate change, the Climate Superfund act, and how policies cannot address affordability without addressing the climate crisis and resiliency.

RESOURCES & INFO

VECAN Webinar on Residential Building Energy Codes

VECAN hosted a webinar earlier last week on *The Importance and Potential Opportunity of Residential Building Energy Standards*, presented by Ann Janda, Senior Project Manager of Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission. This was a great discussion on the challenges, barriers, and opportunities for towns to utilize RBES to ensure greater residential building efficiency, helping Vermonters cut energy costs and climate pollution. View the slides here and the recording [here](#).

Applications Open for the Climate Catalysts Leadership Program!

The Vermont Council on Rural Development is now accepting applications for the next round of Climate Catalysts Leaders. This year's group 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. Applications are due May 1st, find more information on this [website](#) and apply!

Arthur Gibb Award for Sustainable Community Leadership

Community leaders across Vermont regularly encounter challenges that require them to think about how to integrate growth and conservation in a thoughtful and inclusive way. The [Arthur Gibb Award for Sustainable Community Leadership](#), awarded each fall by VNRC, is a wonderful opportunity to honor individuals who do just that, bringing about positive and lasting change for their town or region.

It's also a chance to honor the legacy of the late Arthur Gibb, who, through his service in the Legislature and work on Act 250, was committed to safeguarding Vermont's values and unique landscape, and epitomized leadership, long-term vision, and a dedication to building consensus.

VNRC is now accepting nominations for the 2025 Art Gibb Award. Each nomination should include:

- [Nomination cover sheet](#)
- Nomination letter (describing how the nominee has brought about positive and lasting change in the way communities around Vermont navigate and plan for a just, sustainable future)
- Two short letters of recommendation from people familiar with the nominee's character and accomplishments

Nominations are due by Friday, June 13th. You can find a list of past recipients, as well as additional background and instructions at www.vnrc.org/awards.

Electrify Your Fleet program offers vehicle incentives for business owners and non-profits

Do you run a small business or non-profit? Electrify Your Fleet can help you buy or lease electric transportation – from cars to trucks to ebikes. Even electric snowmobiles and ATVs qualify! Get incentives for up to twenty vehicles per organization. You can even use the program for just one vehicle. Find more information [here](#).

Additionally, see how [CarShare Vermont](#) and [Associated General Contractors of Vermont](#) have used vehicle incentives in creative ways.

Flood recovery rebate available through June 2025

Was your home or business impacted by summer flooding in 2023 or 2024? You can take advantage of special offers from Efficiency Vermont to replace damaged appliances and equipment.

[Homeowners and renters can get a rebate of up to \\$10,000](#) for qualifying heat pumps, wood stoves, furnaces, boilers, water heaters, and appliances. You can also get up to [\\$9,500 back to weatherize your home](#). Plus, you can get zero-interest financing up to \$30,000.

Businesses can get a rebate for 100% cash back, up to \$16,000, to replace systems like HVAC, refrigeration, and more.

Rental Property Owners can get up to \$10,000 per rental unit on appliances, in-unit equipment, and central heating systems.

These offers are available through June 2025. [Visit Efficiency Vermont's website to learn more.](#)

EVENTS

Vermont's Climate Action Plan 2025 Update

the time is now

April 10, 5:30-7 pm: Virtual
April 14, 6-8 pm: Hardwick
April 15, 6-8 pm: Hinesburg
April 16, 6-8 pm: St. Albans
April 17, 6-8 pm: Bennington
April 23, 5:30-7:30 pm: Bellows Falls
April 28, 5:30-7:30 pm: Barre
April 30, 5:30-7:30 pm: Rutland
May 1, 12-1:30 pm: Virtual

Don't miss your chance to weigh in on Vermont's Climate Action Plan!

Voice your climate priorities through diverse engagement activities. Climate Councilors will listen, and then consider public input when revising the Plan (due July 1, 2025)

Visit climatechange.vermont.gov/cap2025 to find all event details, read the draft priority actions, or write a comment.



QUESTIONS?

Contact anr.cao@vermont.gov or (802) 404-2729 including for accessibility needs (language, transportation, disability, etc)

Spring Input Sessions on Vermont's Climate Action Plan - In person and Virtual

The first public input session on the 2025 update to Vermont's Climate Action Plan happened last Thursday evening. Don't miss the next chance to weigh in! Choose from in-person options around the state or attend a final virtual event on May 1st. Climate Councilors will listen, and then consider public input when revising the Plan (due July 1, 2025). [Follow this link](https://climatechange.vermont.gov/cap2025) to register for an event, learn more about the status of the

Draft, and the timeline the Climate Council and Climate Action Office have been following.

VECAN hosted a webinar on March 26th to offer a Climate Action Plan status update. The recording of this webinar can be found [here](#). It is a great resource to get up to date information directly from Climate Councilors on the draft recommendations and be better prepared to attend a public engagement event!



Webinar: Car Sharing Programs: Improving Mobility with Shared Vehicles

Join the Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP) for a webinar series on community transportation planning. This first installment on April 17th at 11am will focus on how various car share models improve mobility for communities with different challenges and needs. Guest speakers will present, compare, and contrast three different car share program models. Leaders from CarShare Vermont, Commute with Enterprise, and Good2Go will discuss how their programs work, who the programs serve, and how they remain economically sustainable. [Follow this link](#) to learn more and register.

VERMONT EARTH DAY RALLY 2025

11-2; APRIL 22
STATE HOUSE LAWN
MONTPELIER, VT

We'll hear some brief remarks regarding the attacks on our environment and what we can do here in Vermont.

Then, we will peacefully march into the State House to deliver messages to Vermont legislators to act boldly and enact measures to protect Vermont from Trump's climate and environmental attacks.



TO VOLUNTEER AT OR ENDORSE
THE MARCH, CONTACT
ROBB.KIDD@SIERRACLUB.ORG



Vermont Earth Day Rally and State House Action 2025

As the federal administration works to slash America's foundational conservation measures, we in Vermont must come together and demand that Vermont policy makers and (local) leaders strengthen our climate and environmental policies, not roll them back. Join Vermont's environmental organizations on April 22nd at the State House at 11 am on the lawn for a rally, followed by a peaceful march inside to find your

legislators and listen to an Earth Day press conference. Find more information and register [here](#).



ENERGY ACTION NETWORK

Leveraging Change Speaker Series



Building For The Future: Challenges and Benefits to Ensuring New Housing in Vermont is Clean, Energy-efficient, and Cost-effective

This Leveraging Change Speaker Series event hosted by EAN will be held on **April 22nd at Hugo's Bar and Grill in Montpelier from 4:30-6:30pm**. There will be information and a conversation about the challenges and benefits to ensuring new housing in Vermont is clean, energy-efficient, and cost-effective. Panelists include Kathy Beyer of Evernorth, Bob Duncan of Duncan Wisniewski Architecture, Richard Faesy of Energy Futures Group, and Li Ling Young of Efficiency Vermont. [Register here](#) to attend.



VECAN Webinar: Climate Superfund and the Resilience Implementation Strategy

Join VECAN for our [second-to-last webinar of the winter series on April 23rd at 12pm](#) to get an update on what's happening with the implementation of Vermont's historic Climate Superfund Act and the important work underway to develop a Resilience Implementation Strategy. Hear from Ben Edgerly Walsh, VPIRG's Climate and

Energy Director, Marian Wolz, Resilience and Adaptation Coordinator at ANR, and Ashlynn Doyon, Director of Policy for the Office of the VT State Treasurer.

As you likely recall, the legislature passed the Climate Superfund Act in 2024 in response to the series of devastating floods. This law aims to hold big oil companies responsible for their share of the costs associated with climate disasters so that Vermont and Vermonters are not stuck with the full bill. In passing this law, legislators recognized the need to prioritize resilience and adaptation strategies. The Resilience Implementation Strategy is not only a key component of the Climate Superfund Act – providing guidance on what projects should be funded through the Superfund – but it is also an important framework that will inform state, regional and community planning and priority investments in needed resilience strategies. The final version of the RIS is due July 1, 2025.

Don't miss the opportunity to get an update on the status of this important new law, as well as get updates and insights on the work underway to develop the Resilience Implementation Strategy. [Register here.](#)

Thank you for all you do!

Evelyn Seidner, Climate Action Organizer

Get Involved

[Events](#)

[Join or Start an Energy Committee](#)

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

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.

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.



{{Disclaimer}}

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