



VECAN

VERMONT ENERGY & CLIMATE
ACTION NETWORK

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March 2021 E-News

Dear Local Energy Leaders,

Two E-Newsletters in one week? How did you get so lucky? There are so many events, news and updates on climate action opportunities that we had to let you know. Below, please find a long list of things we thought might interest you:

- **Conversation on Climate with Legislative Champions and Other Experts Tonight at 6:00 PM** - Join Alliance for a Better Vermont via Zoom for a conversation about building a more resilient future for Vermont with Rep. Mike McCarthy of St. Albans, Rep. Kathleen James of Manchester Center, Rep. Sarah Copeland Hanzas of Bradford and Ben Edgerly Walsh of VPIRG. [Register here!](#)
- **Tune Into The Vermont Legislative Climate Solutions Caucus' Meeting Today at Noon** - The Vermont Legislative Climate Solutions Caucus is holding its next meeting today, March 11 at noon, where they'll be talking about bills related to transportation and weatherization that are moving in the Vermont Legislature. You can watch the meeting on their [YouTube channel](#). Find more information about how you can stay up-to-date on their work below.

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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 responding to this email or emailing rkuster@vnrc.org

- **Sacred People, Sacred Earth Day of Climate Action Happening Today** - A wide diversity of faith communities from around the world are coming together for the largest day of faith-based action for climate justice ever. [Learn about how you can participate in this day of action here.](#)
- **Free Webinar on Everything You Need to Know About Buying an Electric Vehicle! - March 18, 7:00 PM** - Interested in electric vehicles, but feeling overwhelmed with the idea of actually buying one? Join Vermont Law School's Institute for Energy and the Environment and the Hartford Energy Commission for a free webinar to learn about the nuts and bolts of the electric vehicle buying process. Find more information including how to register below.
- **Register for Our Next VECAN Lunch & Learn on Outreach and Communications - March 15 at Noon** - Connect with other energy committee leaders from around the state to share tips about proven outreach strategies, share lessons learned from past communications efforts, and discuss strategies, tools, and resources available to help your energy committee build and execute a strong communications plan. [Click here to register to attend.](#)
- **VBSR: Look to the Climate Council to Help Grow the Economy and Fight Climate Change** - In his recent commentary, Jordan Giaconia, public policy manager of Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility demystifies the Climate Council and explains the critical role it plays in helping move the state to a cleaner, more efficient, affordable and equitable energy future. [Read the full commentary in VTDigger here](#) and [follow the Climate Council's work here.](#)
- **Efficiency Vermont Community Partnerships Adjusted to Promote Energy Efficiency and Resilience in Pandemic Year** - Efficiency Vermont wrapped up a year of partnerships and some interesting projects in six communities across Vermont, bringing together energy service providers and community groups to expand access to money and energy-saving solutions. [Learn about the projects here](#) and [sign up for EVT's Partner Newsletters](#) to learn about their latest updates on programs, promotions, and online resources.

About Us

VECAN is a network of statewide Vermont organizations helping communities across the Green Mountain State 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.

Committee Changes?

Help us keep our network up to date! Email changes in committee leadership or contact info to rkuster@vnrc.org

- **How a Climate-Justice Champion Won Office in Rural, Working-Class Maine** - State Senator Chloe Maxmin, a progressive activist who unseated the GOP minority leader in November of last year— and 2019 VECAN Conference Keynote! – talks about social-movement organizing in a recent interview with the Nation. [Read the interview transcript here!](#)
- **The Costs of Climate Change: Big Jumps in Insurance Costs?** - New data suggests that the cost of federal flood insurance will need to increase significantly in much of the country to meet the growing risks of climate change, but a big jump in rates may put more pressure on the household budgets of people who already live in vulnerable areas, and also cause home values to fall. [Read the full article here.](#)

As always, thanks for all that you do.

Best,

Bekah Kuster, Community Energy Coordinator, AmeriCorps Member, VECAN
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Vermont Legislative Climate Solutions Caucus Meeting Today at Noon



The [Vermont Legislative Climate Solutions Caucus](#) will hold its next meeting today, March 11 at noon. You can watch the caucus meeting via Livestream—or anytime—on their [YouTube channel \(@VT Climate Caucus\)](#).

This will be a busy week in the Vermont legislature as committees scramble to meet the March 12 “crossover” deadline. That’s the date by which bills must be voted out of House and Senate policy committees, continuing their journey to the floor—and, if successful, to the other body for consideration. The deadline for “money bills,” most notably the FY22 state budget, is March 19.

[In a timely video update](#), the Climate Caucus co-chair Sen. Chris Pearson and Rep. Sarah Copeland-Hanzas explain their strategy to engage every committee in climate action during

the 2021–2022 biennium. Examples range from weatherizing homes to expanding incentives for electric vehicles, supporting fare-free public transit, allowing farms to collect food scraps to feed chickens and enrich their soil, and assessing the condition (and efficiency) of our public school buildings.

You can learn more at the videos below and by [viewing today's meeting](#), where they'll be talking about bills that are on the move in the House and Senate as we pass the mid-session mark.

Watch the February 22 [video update on their Facebook page](#).

Watch the February 18 Climate Caucus meeting on our [YouTube page](#).

Free Webinar on All Things Electric Vehicles (EV) - March 18, 7:00 PM

Free Zoom Webinar!
Brought to you by Vermont Law School's Institute for Energy and the Environment and the Hartford Energy Commission

Driving Electric in the Upper Valley

Topics we'll discuss:

- How electric vehicles are THE affordable alternative to gas vehicles!
- Types of electric vehicle, from sedan to SUV!
- Applying for rebates and incentives!
- Buying new vs. buying used vs. leasing!
- Charging your vehicle, at home and around town!
- Where to buy one in the Upper Valley!
- Electric vehicle maintenance!
- And MORE!

Thursday, March 18th, 7pm
To sign up or for more info, email Molly at msmith@vermontlaw.edu

Interested in electric vehicles, but feeling overwhelmed with the idea of actually buying one? Want to drive cheaper and greener, but not sure how to get started? Unaware of the fact that with rebates and incentives some electric vehicles can now actually cost less than conventional vehicles?!

Join Vermont Law School's Institute for Energy and the Environment and the Hartford Energy Commission for a **free webinar** on electric vehicles. This webinar will

cover the nuts and bolts of the electric vehicle buying process, from exploring all the types of electric vehicles on the market in the Upper Valley, to navigating the rebate and incentive financing options, to learning how to charge your new car at home and around town. Led by Vermont Law School professor, Jenny Carter, and Chair of the Hartford Energy Commission, Molly Smith, this webinar will de-mystify electric vehicles and help Upper Valley residents understand how affordable and fun owning an electric vehicle can be!

Sign up by contacting Molly Smith at msmith@vermontlaw.edu. The webinar will take place via Zoom on March 18 at 7pm. For more information, check out the flyer linked here:

<https://rb.gy/e5lg3p>

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