

# Updates from Our Energy Committee Roundtable Partners



**Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission**

**CONTACT:** Meghan Butts | [mbutts@uvlsrpc.org](mailto:mbutts@uvlsrpc.org) | 603.448.1680

- **GIS (Geographic Information Services)** | UVLSRPC offers all kinds of GIS services to towns, including data collection and inventories, visual representations and analysis using maps, and hosting data on the Open Data Portal. UVLSRPC is launching an open data portal in the coming months, so stay tuned.
- **Energy Planning** | UVLSRPC is ready to help towns with master plans and policy writing.
- **Grants** | UVLSRPC can help with grant writing, administration, and support for towns.
- **Projects** | UVLSRPC can help with energy and transportation related projects and analysis.



**CONTACT:** Chris Damiani | [cdamiani@trorc.org](mailto:cdamiani@trorc.org) | 802.457.3188

- **General Resources** | [TRORC.org/Programs/Energy](https://trorc.org/Programs/Energy)
- Helped organize the **VT Walk Bike Summit** on May 4<sup>th</sup> in White River Junction. [vtwalkbikesummit.com](https://vtwalkbikesummit.com)
- **TRORC Regional Energy Implementation Plan** | Adopted in July 2017 and complies with Vermont Act 174 ([TRORC.org/programs/energy/act-174](https://trorc.org/programs/energy/act-174)). Gives substantial deference in Section 248. Allows towns in the region to submit enhanced energy plans to the RPC for Act 174 compliance. More information at [TRORC.org/programs/energy/regional-energy-plan](https://trorc.org/programs/energy/regional-energy-plan)
- **Enhanced Energy Plans** | Assisted Braintree, Bethel, Randolph and Woodstock to develop enhanced energy plans last year. Working with Sharon, Strafford, Norwich, Thetford, and Bradford this year.
- **TRORC Offices Go Green** | Installed an Electric Vehicle Charging Station at TRORC's offices in Woodstock. The TRORC office also received an energy walk through as part of Woodstock's Weatherize Upper Valley campaign. Weatherization upgrades are planned for this summer.



**SOUTHERN WINDSOR COUNTY  
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

**CONTACT:** Jason Rasmussen  
jrasmussen@swcrpc.org | 802.674.5711 x112

- Helped organize the **VT Walk Bike Summit** on May 4<sup>th</sup> in White River Junction. [VTwalkbikesummit.com](http://VTwalkbikesummit.com)
- **May 21<sup>st</sup> Public Hearing** for Draft Regional Energy Plan – see it online under the Regional Energy Planning section at [SWRPC.org/Energy](http://SWRPC.org/Energy).
- **Enhanced Energy Plans** | Helped Andover, Ludlow and Springfield prepare local enhanced energy plans last year. Helping Chester, Reading and Windsor this year.
- Developing an **Active Transportation Plan**. Learn more at [SWRPC.org/ATP](http://SWRPC.org/ATP).



**VECAN**

VERMONT ENERGY & CLIMATE  
ACTION NETWORK

**CONTACTS:**

Johanna Miller, VNRC Energy Program Director  
jmiller@vnrc.org | 802.223.2328 x112

Ian Hitchcock, AmeriCorps Member  
ihitchcock@vnrc.org | 802.223-2328 x 118

VECAN's mission is to start, support and strengthen town energy committees. VECAN serves as an information resource and clearinghouse, facilitates networking among communities and resource providers, provides direct technical assistance and education, and offers regular communications on timely opportunities, programs, and success stories. We also host an annual conference on the first Saturday in December at the Lake Morey Inn in Fairlee, VT. VECAN is administered by the Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC).

- **General Resources** | [VECAN.net](http://VECAN.net)
- **Town Energy and Climate Action Guide** | Our guide for running an effective energy committee. [VECAN.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Climate-Action-Guide-2017-.pdf](http://VECAN.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Climate-Action-Guide-2017-.pdf)
- **Community Energy Dashboard** | Energy atlas map, stories, and campaign tool hosted by the Vermont Energy Action Network: [VTenergydashboard.org](http://VTenergydashboard.org)
- **Vermont Renewable Energy Business Listing** | Hosted by Renewable Energy Vermont. [REVermont.org/VREBL](http://REVermont.org/VREBL)
- **Strategic Energy Action Toolkit** | In Depth Implementation Guide for energy volunteers. [NHenergy.org/strategic-energy-action.html](http://NHenergy.org/strategic-energy-action.html)



**CONTACT:** Paul Markowitz | [pmarkowitz@veic.org](mailto:pmarkowitz@veic.org) | 802.540.7608

- **Free Workshops** | Efficiency Vermont offers eight workshops for residents and businesses on everything from saving energy in your home to heat pumps to net zero energy homes. Workshops are FREE – all we ask community groups to do is find the place and get the word out.  
[EfficiencyVermont.com/Services/Education-Events/Workshops-Consumer-Education](http://EfficiencyVermont.com/Services/Education-Events/Workshops-Consumer-Education)
  - **Button Up Vermont** | Efficiency Vermont, in partnership with statewide and regional partners, sponsors a statewide thermal efficiency campaign with a strong local component. Communities of any size are welcome to participate. The 2018 program will be announced by August. [ButtonUpVermont.org](http://ButtonUpVermont.org)
  - **Municipal Guide to Vermont Energy Code and Above Code programs** | Efficiency Vermont has a guidance document for municipal officials on how to comply with Vermont’s building energy standards (energy code) and promote above-code programs. We also have information packets to distribute to builders/new home owners about energy code. Contact Paul Markowitz to obtain copies of each.
  - **Municipal buildings** | Efficiency Vermont has a range of programs to help improve efficiency in municipal buildings, including free walk-through energy assessments, incentives/rebates, and a business energy loan program. Contact Paul Markowitz to learn more.
  - **Vermont Climate Action Communities** | Efficiency Vermont, in partnership with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT), launched the Vermont Climate Action Communities initiative in February 2018. Vermont Climate Action Communities is designed to engage Vermont municipalities to make and fulfill commitments under the Vermont Climate Pledge Coalition – a pledge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions levels from 2005 by 26-28% by 2025. Contact Paul Markowitz to learn more.
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**NH Local Energy Solutions**  
Workgroup

NEW HAMPSHIRE  
SUSTAINABLE ENERGY  
ASSOCIATION

**CONTACT:** Henry Herndon | [henry@nhsea.org](mailto:henry@nhsea.org) | 603.22-NHSEA

- **NHSEA Resources** | [NHSEA.org](http://NHSEA.org)  
Current Legislation: [NHSEA.org/Current-Legislation](http://NHSEA.org/Current-Legislation)  
Events Calendar: [NHSEA.org/calendar](http://NHSEA.org/calendar)
- **Local Energy Solutions Resources** | [NHenergy.org](http://NHenergy.org)  
Email Newsletters: [NHenergy.org/les-newsletter.html](http://NHenergy.org/les-newsletter.html)  
“How To” Guide to Solar: [HAREI.org/HowTo](http://HAREI.org/HowTo)
- Newly formed **Monadnock Energy Hub** is planning to launch Solarize and Weatherize campaigns. Congratulations to all of you who have been leaders in popularizing this model!

**From the Office of Senator Bernie Sanders**    **CONTACT:** Haley Pero | [haley\\_pero@sanders.senate.gov](mailto:haley_pero@sanders.senate.gov)

As a member of the Senate Energy and Environment Committees, Senator Sanders questioned President Trump's nominees about environmental records. Some nominees, like Kathleen Hartnett White for the Council on Environmental Quality, withdrew in part due to criticism of their views on climate change.

Through the budget process, Senator Sanders advocated for strong federal funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. President Trump's budget proposal, which called for massive cuts to, and even elimination of, some programs was in many ways rejected. In fact, many programs received more funding in the FY 2018 omnibus than in FY 2017. For example, Trump proposed a 69% cut to the Department of Energy's Office and Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, which ultimately saw a 14% increase in funding. The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which Trump wanted to eliminate, received an additional \$250 million of funding.

**Save The Date:** Energy Resource Fair and Town Meeting on **Saturday, June 9th at Vermont Technical College**. This event will include an exhibitor fair, workshops, and a keynote address, followed by a Q&A session. More details to follow soon (updates will be posted at [www.sanders.senate.gov/events](http://www.sanders.senate.gov/events)).



**CONTACTS:** Sarah Brock | [Sarah@VitalCommunities.org](mailto:Sarah@VitalCommunities.org) | 802.291.9100 x109

Paige Heverly | [Paige@VitalCommunities.org](mailto:Paige@VitalCommunities.org) | 802.291.9100 x114

- **Weatherize Upper Valley** | Vital Communities is completing its second round of the program in 11 towns in Vermont and New Hampshire. So far, close to 500 people have signed up, 327 homes have received professional energy assessments, and 29 households have committed to energy upgrades. Program deadline is May 31. More information at [VitalCommunities.org/Weatherize](http://VitalCommunities.org/Weatherize)
- **Upper Valley Green Real Estate Network** | Launched in January 2018 at a kick-off event with realtors, home inspectors, appraisers, contractors, and lenders. Vital Communities is convening work groups through the first half of 2018 to address challenges to completing home energy upgrades near time of sale. Green Buyer Guide soon to be released. More at [VitalCommunities.org/GreenRealEstate](http://VitalCommunities.org/GreenRealEstate)
- **Upper Valley Adaptation Workgroup** | Welcomed into Vital Communities in January 2018. Upcoming forum on May 15, "Impacts of a Changing Climate on the Upper Valley's Farms and Forests." Register online at [UVAW.UVLSRPC.org](http://UVAW.UVLSRPC.org).
- **Upper Valley Transportation Management Association** | Meets the fourth Thursday of the month in Lebanon to discuss transportation issues and develop solutions. Recently started an Advocacy Subcommittee to keep an eye on policy changes and opportunities. Contact Paige for more information.
- **Vermont Transportation Efficiency Network (VTEN)** | Convened last month in Montpelier to discuss the Vermont Open Trip Planner, transit solutions, and bus driver health. Next meeting in the fall. More at [VitalCommunities.org/Transportation/VTEN](http://VitalCommunities.org/Transportation/VTEN)