

Updates from Our Energy Committee Roundtable Partners



Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission

CONTACT: Meghan Butts | mbutts@uvlsrpc.org | 603-448-1680

- **General Resources** | uvlsrpc.org/projects/energy
- **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.
- **Energy Planning** | UVLSRPC is ready to help towns with Master Plans, Policy Writing, development regulations, energy related ordinances, and building code updates.
- **Outreach** | UVLSRPC has the resources and staff expertise to hold public outreach events and presentations, and to create educational materials focused on energy topics
- **Grants** | UVLSRPC can help with grant writing, administration, and support for towns.
- **Projects** | UVLSRPC can help with energy and transportation related projects and analysis. Including gathering stakeholders and facilitating committee discussions.
- **Energy Chapter in the Regional Plan** | Online at:
http://www.regionalplan.uvlsrpc.org/files/1814/7077/4968/Chapter8_EnergyEfficientCommunities_Final.pdf



CONTACT: Dee Gish
dgish@trorc.org | 802-457-3188

- **General Resources** | trorc.org/programs/energy
- **TRORC Regional Energy Implementation Plan** | Adopted in July 2017 and complies with Vermont Act 174 (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
- **Enhanced Energy Plans** | Assisted Bradford, Braintree, Bethel, Norwich, Randolph, Sharon, Strafford, Thetford, and Woodstock to develop enhanced energy plans. Currently working with Corinth, Fairlee, Hancock, Hartland, Rochester and Royalton.
- **TRORC Office Energy Improvements:** Sealed attic hatches and installed a new insulated exterior door. Working to go solar through a power purchase agreement.



CONTACT: Jason Rasmussen
jrasmussen@swcrpc.org | 802-674-5711 x112

- **General Resources** | swcrpc.org/energy
 - **Enhanced Energy Plan for the Region** | Adopted on June 25, 2018
Certificate of Energy Compliance issued by the Department of Public Service on Sept. 14, 2018
See *Regional Plan Volume 3*: <https://swcrpc.org/publications/>
 - **Municipal Enhanced Energy Plans** | Assisted nine towns to develop enhanced energy plans over the past three years. Staff continue to assist seven towns with ongoing draft enhanced energy plans. Andover and Ludlow plans are now adopted. SWCRPC issued a Certificate of Energy Compliance for Ludlow's plan on February 11, 2019.
 - **Ride Windsor County: Bicycling Routes** | Developed a map of 19 bike routes to encourage residents and visitors to explore the region by bike. The map is available for free at certain bike shops, or maps and narrative descriptions can be downloaded from the [project website](#).
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CONTACT: Ian Hitchcock
ihitchcock@vnrc.org | 802-223-2328 x118

Helping start, support and strengthen the work of energy committees across Vermont.

- **General Resources** | vecan.net
- **VECAN eNewsletter** | A regular newsletter informing community energy leaders about timely programs, funding opportunities, events and issues of interest. Sign yourself and members of your committee up to stay tuned online at vecan.net.
- **Annual Conference** | VECAN's annual "Community Energy & Climate Action Conference" — December 7, 2019 at the Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee, VT. An event designed largely for community energy committees. Don't miss!
- **Legislative Updates** | Following legislative issues and other important state-level efforts by staying tuned to Vermont's "Climate Dispatch" — a weekly update from the State House during session and as timely throughout the year — #ActOnClimateVT and following us at facebook.com/VTEnergyNetwork.

CONTACT: Henry Herndon | henry@cleanenergynh.org | 781-437-2177

- **Clean Energy NH General Resources** | cleanenergynh.org
Current Legislation: cleanenergynh.org/policy
Drive Electric NH: cleanenergynh.org/drive-electric-nh
- **Local Energy Solutions General Resources** | nhenergy.org
Email Newsletters: nhenergy.org/les-newsletter.html
- **Model Solar Zoning Ordinances** | Download at nhenergy.org
- **Municipal and/or School Template Solar RFP** | Download at nhenergy.org
- **North Country Circuit Rider** | Clean Energy NH recently hired a North Country Energy Circuit Rider to assist North Country Municipalities in implementing municipal energy projects.



CONTACT: Sarah Brock
sarah@vitalcommunities.org | 802-291-9100 x109

- **General Resources** | vitalcommunities.org/energy
- **Community Energy Discussion List** | lists.vitalcommunities.org/lists/info/communityenergy | An email discussion list for Upper Valley energy committees and related groups.
- **Weatherize Upper Valley** | 33 towns have participated so far – NH towns contact Vital Communities if interested in a 2020 campaign, VT towns participate in Efficiency Vermont's Button Up program this fall.
- **Upper Valley Green Real Estate Network** | Resources available for home buyers and sellers online at vitalcommunities.org/greenrealestate. Realtors can enroll in a three-credit course offered monthly beginning in June 2019.
- **Upper Valley Adaptation Workgroup** | Resources to help your town and/or your energy committee consider projects focused on climate adaptation. Learn more at vitalcommunities.org/adaptation.
- **Upper Valley Transportation Management Association** | Meets the fourth Thursday of the month in Lebanon to discuss transportation issues and develop solutions. Email bethany@vitalcommunities.org.
- **Strategic Energy Action Toolkit** | Tools for starting new committees, re-energizing old committees, and prioritizing projects. Contact Vital Communities for free assistance and facilitation as needed. Resources available online at nhenergy.org/for-local-energy-committees.html.



New England
Grassroots
Environment Fund

CONTACT: Tess Beam
tess@grassrootsfund.org | 603-905-9915 x2

- **General Resources** | grassrootsfund.org
- **Grants** | grassrootsfund.org/dollars | \$250 - \$3,500 available to grassroots groups, including energy committees. Nonprofit status not required.
- **Rootskills Workshop on Equity May 18th in Brattleboro** | Event focus: centering equity in rural communities, specifically considering economic and race disparities. Register by May 15. grassrootsfund.org/convenings/2019-spring-rootskills



CONTACT: Michelle McCutcheon-Schour
mmschour@veic.org | 802-540-7831

- **Free Workshops** | Efficiency Vermont offers nine 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
- **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 2019 program will be announced by August. 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 Michelle McCutcheon-Schour 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 Michelle McCutcheon-Schour to learn more.



For more information: visit nhsaves.com to find information about energy efficiency programs available for towns, businesses, and residents.



Vermont Council on Rural Development

CONTACT: Jon Copans | jon@vtrural.org, 802-225-6393

Helping Vermont citizens build prosperous and resilient communities through democratic engagement, marshaling resources, and collective action.

- **General Resources** | vtrural.org
- **Climate Economy Model Communities Program** – This program works with two communities or regions annually to identify and implement action ideas that grown the local economy in a time of climate change. Applications for this program are typically solicited in the fall. Program staff are also available to provide one-on-one consultation with town energy leaders as they consider how best to engage their communities and move forward with priorities. For an overview of our work in participating towns, visit: <https://www.vtrural.org/sites/default/files/Overview%20and%20ProfilesFinal.pdf>
- **2nd Annual Vermont Community Leadership Summit** – VCRD invites you to come together with community leaders across the state to review 2018 Summit findings and action steps, hear the work moving ahead today, share skills and strategies for success, and build a vision for the future of Vermont leadership and community vitality. The day will include a session focused on community action to grow the local climate economy. This is a one-day conference on **August 12** at Vermont Technical College in Randolph. Registration will open in early July.

Office of U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders (Senate Office)

CONTACTS

Haley Pero, Outreach Representative / Energy and Environment
Haley_pero@sanders.senate.gov, 802.862.6659

Erica Campbell, Outreach Representative / Transportation, Agriculture, and Rural Development
Erica_campbell@sanders.senate.gov, 802.449.7037

As a member of the Energy and Environment Committee (EPW) in the Senate, Senator Sanders continues to fight for strong climate legislation that will help us transition away from fossil fuels and toward energy efficiency and renewable energy. Bernie is an original co-sponsor of the **Green New Deal** Proposal:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=390393128195126>. He is also on the EPW Transportation and Infrastructure Committee that oversees the surface transportation bill.

General Resources

- **Grants** | www.sanders.senate.gov/services/grants
- **Services** | www.sanders.senate.gov/services

Federal Programs of Interest

- **USDA Rural Development:** <https://www.rd.usda.gov/vt>
 - **Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program:** <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program>

- **EPA:** <https://www.epa.gov/grants>
 - **EPA Region 1 (New England):** <https://www.epa.gov/grants/grants-your-region-information-specific-epa-region-1>
 - **EPA Region 1 Healthy Communities Grant Program NOW OPEN:**
<https://www3.epa.gov/region1/eco/uep/hcgp.html>

- **Department of Energy:** <https://www.energy.gov/energy-economy/funding-financing>

- **US DOT:** The Federal Transit Agency Low or No Emission Program (Low-No) Program for the purchase or lease of low or no emission vehicles as well as related equipment or facilities. Grant due May 14.
<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html>

- **Northern Border Regional Commission (now covering the entire state of Vermont) NOW OPEN, but closing May 10th:** <http://www.nbrc.gov/content/economic-infrastructure-development-investments>.