

# 2020 Updates from Energy Committee Roundtable Partners



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**General Resources** | [vitalcommunities.org/energy](https://vitalcommunities.org/energy)

- **Community Energy Discussion List** | [lists.vitalcommunities.org/lists/info/communityenergy](https://lists.vitalcommunities.org/lists/info/communityenergy) | An email discussion list for Upper Valley energy committees and related groups.
- **Weatherize Upper Valley** | Hartford and Springfield are testing new ways to engage low income residents in our communities. We'll be recruiting more towns to participate in this effort in fall 2020. Stay tuned!
- **Upper Valley Green Real Estate Network** | Resources available for real estate professionals and home buyers and sellers online at [vitalcommunities.org/greenrealestate](https://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](https://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](mailto: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](https://nhenergy.org/for-local-energy-committees.html).



**CONTACT:** Dee Gish  
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- **General Resources** | [trorc.org/programs/energy](https://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](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 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.



## Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission

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**General Resources** | [uvlsrpc.org/projects/energy](http://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](http://www.regionalplan.uvlsrpc.org/files/1814/7077/4968/Chapter8_EnergyEfficientCommunities_Final.pdf)



**CONTACT:** Jason Rasmussen

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- **General Resources** | [swcrpc.org/energy](http://swcrpc.org/energy)
- **Efficiency Vermont Implementation Contract** | Beginning in 2019, SWCRPC has partnered with Efficiency Vermont to implement the goals and strategies outlined in regional and town energy plans. SWCRPC is currently working on initiatives to promote thermal and electrical efficiency in our region. We are also available to assist your town's energy committee/coordinator with data interpretation, building local capacity, and achieving your energy goals. Contact us see to how we can help.
- **Municipal Enhanced Energy Plans** | Assisted nine towns to develop enhanced energy plans over the past four years. Staff continue to assist several towns with refining draft enhanced energy plans. Andover, Ludlow, Windsor, and Springfield have all adopted plans, and SWCRPC has issued a Certificates of Energy Compliance for all four. The regional Energy Plan was adopted and certified in 2018:  
<https://swcrpc.org/regional-plan-2018/>



**CONTACT:** Alex Baad  
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Helping start, support and strengthen the work of energy committees across Vermont.

- **General Resources** | [vecan.net](http://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](http://vecan.net).
- **Annual Conference** | VECAN's annual "Community Energy & Climate Action Conference" — December 5, 2020 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](https://facebook.com/VTEnergyNetwork).



**CLEAN ENERGY NH**  
Your Voice in All Energy Matters

**CONTACT:** Henry Herndon | [henry@cleanenergynh.org](mailto:henry@cleanenergynh.org) | 781-437-2177

- **Clean Energy NH General Resources** | [cleanenergynh.org](http://cleanenergynh.org)  
Current Legislation: [cleanenergynh.org/policy](http://cleanenergynh.org/policy)  
Drive Electric NH: [driveelectricnh.org/](http://driveelectricnh.org/)
- **Local Energy Solutions General Resources** | [nhenergy.org](http://nhenergy.org)  
Email Newsletters: [henry@cleanenergynh.org](mailto:henry@cleanenergynh.org)  
Model Solar Zoning Ordinance | Download at [nhenergy.org](http://nhenergy.org)  
Municipal and/or School Template Solar RFP | Email [henry@cleanenergynh.org](mailto:henry@cleanenergynh.org) for details
- **North Country Programs** | Clean Energy NH employees two staff dedicated to serving New Hampshire's North Country in Coös County, supporting town and school energy improvement projects, and coordinating public Weatherize Campaigns.
- **Community Power New Hampshire (CPNH)** | Clean Energy NH is coordinating with six local governments (one county, two cities, three towns) on the formation of a new locally governed legal entity, "CPNH," that provides services to enable and empower Community Power Programs.



**CONTACT:** Carolyn Wesley, Network Manager  
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Diverse network working to achieve Vermont's energy and emissions commitments in ways that create a more just, thriving, and sustainable future for Vermonters.

- **General Resources** | <https://www.eanvt.org/>
- **Annual Progress Report for VT** | Each year, EAN's Annual Progress Report for Vermont provides an in-depth analysis of where Vermont stands relative to its renewable energy and emissions reduction commitments. This year's report highlights how much fossil fuel dependence is currently costing the Vermont economy, as well as how much Vermonters stand to save as a result of a transition to more efficient and renewable technologies in heating and transportation. <https://www.eanvt.org/2019-progress-report/>
- **VT Community Energy Dashboard** | The [Vermont Energy Dashboard](https://www.vtenergydashboard.org/) is Vermont's go-to resource to help towns, businesses, and individuals take action to help us meet our 90% renewable by 2050 goals, and to track our collective progress along the way. Featuring an Energy Atlas of energy sites across the state, and community progress maps showing the adoption of technologies across the state. <https://www.vtenergydashboard.org/>
- **Total Energy News** | A monthly newsletter for members and public partners (including town energy committees) featuring curated in-depth energy and climate news from around the country and Vermont. Each issue also features highlights from EAN's own data and analysis, upcoming events across the network, and featured profiles of network members organizations.
- **Network Summit** | EAN's annual gathering of network member organizations and public partners to assess where Vermont stands relative to our energy and emissions reduction commitments and identify opportunity and priorities for action. September 2020.



New England  
**Grassroots**  
Environment Fund

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- **General Resources** | [grassrootsfund.org](https://grassrootsfund.org)
- **Grants** | [grassrootsfund.org/dollars](https://grassrootsfund.org/dollars) | \$250 - \$3,500 available to grassroots groups, including energy committees. Nonprofit status not required, only group bank account.



**CONTACT:** Becca White  
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- **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 2020 program is already being planned. [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 Becca White 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 Becca White to learn more.



**For more information:** visit [nhsaves.com](http://nhsaves.com) to find information about energy efficiency programs available for towns, businesses, and residents.

- NHSaves works to advance the efficient use of energy in New Hampshire.
- Energy efficiency is a vital part of keeping New Hampshire's residents, businesses and towns economically successful, now and in the future. NHSaves provides New Hampshire customers with information, incentives and support designed to save energy, reduce costs, and protect our environment statewide.
- NHSaves has great ideas and resources to help you save time, money, and energy as part of your daily routine and business practices.

We are supported by Eversource, New Hampshire Electric Co-op, Liberty Utilities and Unitil to help keep New Hampshire's residents, businesses and towns economically successful, now and in the future.





## Vermont Council on Rural Development

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

**General Resources** | [vtrural.org](http://vtrural.org)

- **Climate Economy Model Communities Program** – This program works with one community or region annually to identify and implement action ideas that grow the local economy in a time of climate change. VCRD welcomes interested communities to reach out to program staff Jon Copans to inquire about participation. Jon is 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>
- **Climate Catalysts Leadership Program** – New for 2020, VCRD has launched the Climate Catalysts Leadership Program working to create climate solutions at the local level. The program brings together local leaders from all walks of life and all corners of Vermont to build peer connections, strengthen leadership skills, and receive support in developing a local project or initiative. 46 Vermonters applied for this program, and 12 individuals have been selected for participation for 2020. You can follow along with the program here - <https://www.vtrural.org/climatecatalysts> and stay tuned for an application solicitation for the 2021 program at the end of 2020.

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

### CONTACTS

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**Erica Campbell, Outreach Representative / Transportation, Agriculture, and Rural Development**

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As a member of both the Senate Energy and Environment Committees, 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** Senate Resolution (<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=390393128195126>), and he recently introduced a **ban on fracking**: <https://www.sanders.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/sanders-ocasio-cortez-lead-first-ever-bill-to-ban-fracking-nationwide>. He is also on the Transportation Committee that oversees the surface transportation bill.

### General Resources

- **Grants** | [www.sanders.senate.gov/services/grants](http://www.sanders.senate.gov/services/grants)
- **Services** | [www.sanders.senate.gov/services](http://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:** <https://www3.epa.gov/region1/eco/uep/hcgp.html>
- **Department of Energy:** <https://www.energy.gov/energy-economy/funding-financing>
  - **National Community Solar Partnership:** DOE is currently seeking partners to this program, which will bring together community solar stakeholders working to expand access to affordable community solar. Through events, webinars, and an online portal, DOE will facilitate the sharing of solutions and increase the replication of best-practice approaches and successful models. <https://www.energy.gov/eere/solar/national-community-solar-partnership>
- **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. Due March 17. <https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/applying/notices-funding/low-or-no-emission-program-low-no-program-fy2020-notice-funding>
- **Northern Border Regional Commission (now covering the entire state of Vermont):** Provides federal grants to employment-generating projects that have helped reduce poverty, unemployment, and outmigration. Prioritized grant projects include those that stabilize and reduce electric and thermal energy costs. While not required, Letters of Interest are requested by March 31, and the online application portal (also available via NBRC's website, [nbrc.gov](http://www.nbrc.gov)) will be open by April 6. Applications are due by 5pm on Friday, May 15. <http://www.nbrc.gov/content/2019-eid-investments>