

University of Vermont Extension

&

the Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network

welcome you to the

Community Based Approaches to Energy and Climate Change Conference



**Saturday, December 5, 2009
Fairlee, Vermont**

2 Conference Host Organizations

The University of Vermont Extension Service's mission is to improve the quality of life of Vermonters by providing research-based educational programs and practical information concerning Vermont communities, families and homes, farms, businesses and the natural environment. Located throughout the state, UVM Extension links Vermonters to the University of Vermont, providing timely, research-based information and education on educating individuals and families, supporting agriculture and the environment, and strengthening communities.

Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network (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 support organizations include the 10% Challenge Program, New England Grassroots Environment Fund, Sierra Club, Sustainable Energy Resource Group, Vermont Energy Investment Corporation and the Vermont Natural Resources Council.

Vermont Natural Resources Council has been the Green Mountain State's leading environmental education, policy and advocacy organization since 1963. Working from the grassroots to the Legislature, VNRC works to advance policies and programs that Vermonters care about—vibrant, walkable communities, clean and abundant water, working farms and forests and an efficient, clean, renewable energy future. VNRC accomplishes its work with the support of over 7,000 members and activists.

Sustainable Energy Resource Group promotes energy conservation, efficiency and renewables through the formation and support of town energy committees in numerous Vermont and New Hampshire communities. These committees help residents, businesses and the municipalities reduce energy consumption, save money, increase the sustainable use of renewables, strengthen the local economy and improve the environment.

Sierra Club of Vermont was founded by John Muir in 1892. It is the nation's oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization. With over 1.3 million supporters nationwide in 65 chapters and over 400 local groups, the Sierra Club focuses on a wide range of environmental issues, including clean energy solutions to global warming, protecting our public lands, wild spaces and wildlife, and cleaning our air and water.

10% Challenge is a voluntary civic education and outreach program encouraging households, businesses and communities to estimate their greenhouse gas emissions and take actions to save energy and reduce waste. The goal is to reduce carbon emissions by at least five percent per year by households, businesses, institutions and communities with the overall goal of 25% reductions by 2012.

Conference Agenda

- 8:00 - Registration table open
- 8:00 – 9:00 Coffee & light refreshments
Exhibits available for browsing
- 9:00 – 9:45 Welcome/Opening Remarks
Opening Speaker – **Patrick Parenteau**, Professor of Law and Senior Counsel,
Environmental & Natural Resources Law Clinic, Vermont Law School
Fiddling While the Planet Burns: Greenhouse Gases, Grassroots Action and the Fate of the Planet.
- 10:00 – 11:15 Concurrent Workshop Session A
Choose from a mix of concurrent sessions. See pages 6-7 for titles, descriptions and presenters.
- 11:15—11:30 *Break*
- 11:30 – 12:45 Regional Roundtables
- Regional Roundtable Discussions.** Participants will have the opportunity to meet by region and share their experiences addressing energy issues at the local level, and explore opportunities for regional cooperation.
- 12:45 – 1:45 Lunch & Visit exhibits
- 1:45 – 2:30 Keynote – **Senator Bernard Sanders.** As the only member of the Senate majority to sit on both the Environment and Public Works and the Energy and Natural Resources Committees, Senator Sanders is uniquely positioned to fight for progressive energy policies and increased environmental protection. In addition to setting bold greenhouse gas emission reduction targets, Senator Sanders' Global Warming Pollution Reduction Act would make the United States a leader in energy efficiency and conservation technology, and promote clean, sustainable sources of energy. The act calls for an 80% reduction - compared to 1990 levels - in global warming pollutants by 2050 and offers the most progressive and comprehensive solution to reduce greenhouse gasses across the nation. Hear where this legislation is now and what we all can do to help support its passage.
- 2:45—4:00 Concurrent Workshop Session B
Choose from a mix of concurrent sessions. See pages 8-9 for titles and descriptions
- 4:00 Return Evaluations / Adjourn

4 Guidelines for Regional Roundtable Discussions

Purpose: Provide an opportunity for participants to share experiences of town energy committees and other local/regional energy efforts, identify activities that are ideal for statewide and/or regional application, and identify needed areas of support for local energy efforts.

Note to participants: Please come prepared to discuss one or two projects that you have worked on that you believe can be transferred and accomplished in other communities.

Time Allotted: 60 minutes

Tasks:

Quick introductions. Identify where you are from and what group (if any) you are working with. (3 min)

Town energy project roundtable: Town energy committees and other local groups report on local energy projects you are currently working or have previously worked on – including successes, challenges, and key partners. (35 min)

- **Report and brainstorm.** Discuss and identify 3-5 favorite projects that came up during the roundtable that could serve as models for regional or statewide application. Keep in mind the following as you discuss: (15 min)

- What projects would have a big impact on saving energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Vermont?
- What makes a particular project a good model for others?
- What were key factors to success?
- Where are there opportunities for collaboration to magnify impact?
- What kind of support/assistance is needed for widescale application?

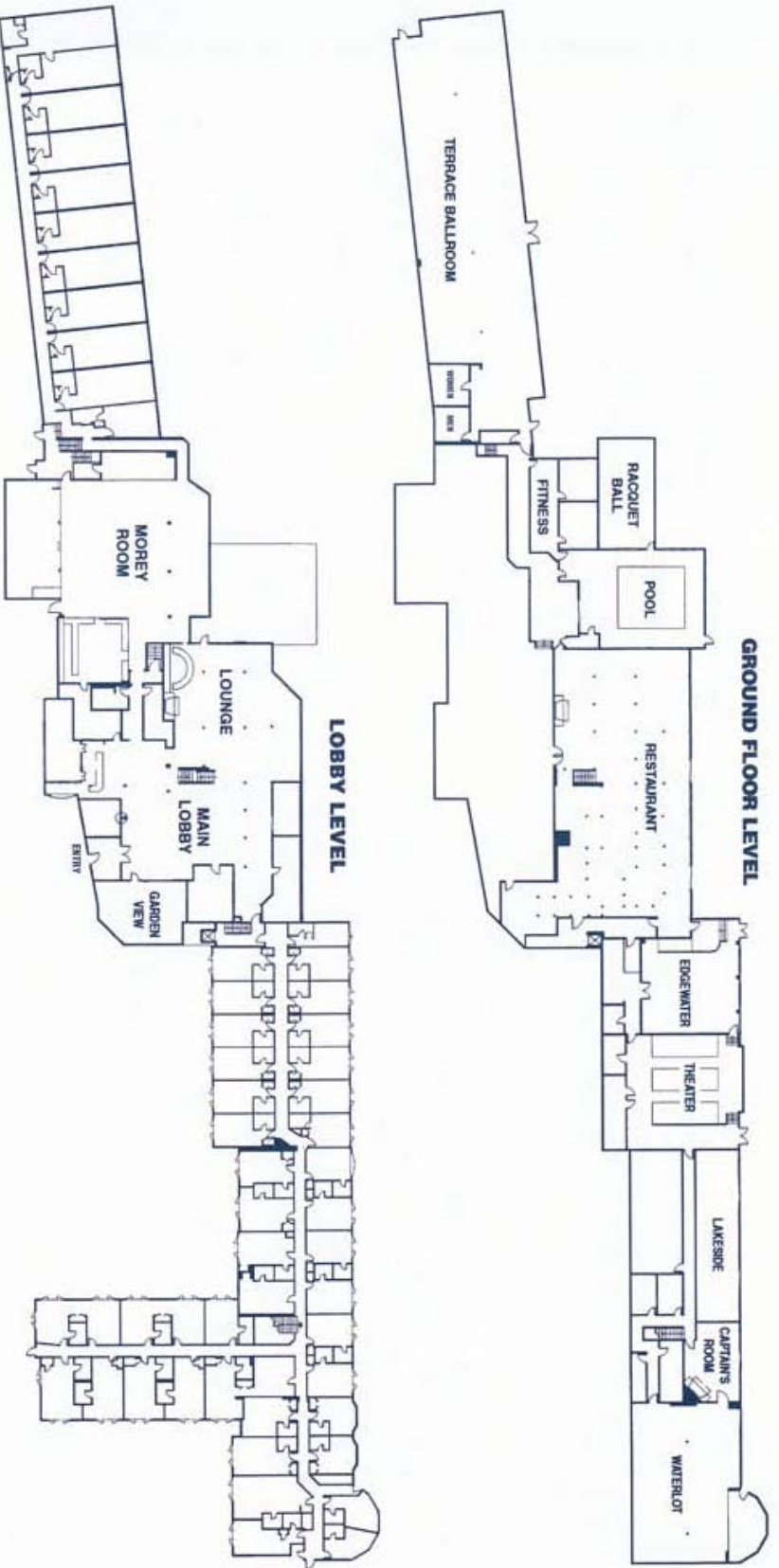
- **Support for local energy activities:** What kind of support and assistance is needed to help strengthen local energy efforts, e.g. networking, training, technical assistance? (5 minutes)

Regional breakout groups

- **Northwest** (Chittenden, Franklin, Grand Isle counties) -

Steamboat Lounge

- **West** (Addison, Rutland, Bennington counties) - **Garden View Room**
- **Southeast** (Windsor, Windham, Orange counties) - **Terrace Ballroom**
- **Northeast, Central** (Washington, Lamoille, Essex, Caledonia, Orleans counties) - **Edgewater Room**



Conference Map and Room Assignments

Terrace Ballroom— Opening Address, Keynote,
Southwest Roundtable

Garden View— A5, B4, *West Roundtable*

Lakeside East— A2, B3

Lakeside West— A6, B5

Edgewater— A3, B2, *Northeast/Central Roundtable*

Captain's Room— A1, B1

Waterlot— A4, B6

Lounge— *Northwest Roundtable*

6 Workshop Session A (10:00 a.m.—11:15 a.m.)

—Speaker bios begin on page 8

A1. Community Wind: Has Its Time Come for Vermont? “Community wind” projects include the public in project planning and bring the bulk of the financial benefits to the community. This workshop will explore community wind efforts in other parts of the country and provide an overview of some key steps your energy committee can take to pursue community wind. **Captain’s Room**

Presenter:

◆ **Lawrence H. Mott**, Director, New Generation Partners, will give an in-depth look at some of the necessary conditions and steps for making community wind happen in Vermont. Please bring questions for discussion.

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A2. Transportation and Energy Link: Tools and Approaches to Promoting Alternative Transportation in Your Community. This session will provide a brief overview of the relationship between transportation behaviors, energy use and emissions in Vermont, including helpful information on resources and a variety of programs that save energy and reverse the growth of transportation emissions. From ridesharing to a range of innovative local projects, you’ll go home with helpful tools to encourage positive change in your community. **Lakeside East**

Presenters:

◆ **Elaine Wang**, Climate and Environmental Programs Officer, Institute for Sustainable Communities, will moderate this session.

◆ **Karen Glitman**, Coordinator for Vermont Clean Cities Coalition, UVM Transportation Research Center, will provide an overview of a new research based “Eco-Driving Program” and how energy committees might utilize this four-hour workshop to help build a culture of more eco-friendly drivers.

◆ **Ross MacDonald**, Public Transit Coordinator, Go Vermont, VT Transportation Agency, will introduce the new “Go Vermont” automated ride matching program and will highlight how this powerful tool is an easy low-cost strategy for communities to address the rate of growth in transportation emissions.

◆ **Ed Sengle**, Coordinator, Hinesburg Rides Rideshare Initiative, will talk about the project experiences to date and their planned use of technologies to help break down market barriers.

◆ **Tom Horn**, Director, Transportation Initiative, Vermont Energy Investment Corporation, will provide an overview of the 2010 Way to Go! Commuter Challenge and the prominent role that energy committees might play in their communities to boost participation to save energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector.

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A3. Local Energy Projects in Vermont: A Smorgasbord of Opportunities. Town energy committees across Vermont are undertaking exciting and innovative projects to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy in their communities. Learn what they’re doing and garner new ideas, strategies and campaigns. This is a greater “starter” workshop for relatively newer energy committees. **Edgewater Room**

Presenters:

◆ **Paul Markowitz**, Coordinator, VT Chapter — Sierra Club, will give an in-depth slide show on how to start an energy committee and what Vermont communities are doing to promote efficiency and renewables.

◆ **Debra Sachs**, Director, Community Climate Action, will co-present.

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A4. Locating the Money and Resources Needed to Move Forward. Community energy projects are happening across Vermont. Learn about grant program opportunities, as well as other potential funding sources for local energy projects, and what it takes to write a concise and effective grant proposal that addresses funders' requirements. **Waterlot Room**

Presenters:

◆ **Ginny Callan**, Program Officer, New England Grassroots Environment Fund, will discuss the basics of writing a grant proposal and will present information about the New England Grassroots Environment Funds small grants program.

◆ **Sam Swanson**, Co-Chair, Vermont Clean Energy Development Fund Board, Vermont Board of Directors, will present information about the Vermont Clean Energy Development grant program.

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A5. Community-Based Energy Efficiency Teams. Vermont town energy committees are training community volunteers to install weatherization materials and energy saving products in residences and municipal/school buildings. Learn how to organize a similar event in your community to save energy and money by having volunteers install anything from CFLs and simple door weatherstripping to significant air sealing and insulation. **Garden View Room**

Presenters:

◆ **Warren King**, Coordinator, Town of Ripton, will talk about Ripton's participation in the Vermont Community Energy Mobilization Pilot Project – a project designed to assess home energy use and install energy-saving equipment in 30% of households.

◆ **Paul Zabriskie**, Co-chair, Middlesex Energy Team, will talk about Middlesex's "21st Century Energy Efficient Barnraising" wherein local volunteers worked for two days under the supervision of efficiency experts to save 25% of the energy load of the school.

◆ **Bob Walker**, Executive Director, Sustainable Energy Resource Group, will talk about Thetford's experience in training and utilizing volunteers to weatherize a local community center.

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A6. Building Resilient Energy Committees and Cultivating Partners. Starting and strengthening a motivated, focused community energy committee is essential to success on the ground. Hear tips from some effective town energy committees about what it takes to maintain a healthy committee, attract and maintain volunteers and build coalitions. **Lakeside West**

Presenters:

◆ **Johanna Miller**, Outreach Director and Energy and Climate Program Co-Director, Vermont Natural Resources Council, will offer broad context and tips on how community-based energy committees are successfully starting, sustaining and gaining momentum and credibility.

◆ **Paul Cameron**, Executive Director of Brattleboro Climate Protection and Town Energy Coordinator, will discuss how Brattleboro is moving forward on many exciting energy projects by building broad-based collaboratives and sustaining strong volunteer groups.

◆ **Keith Thompson**, co-founder and treasurer of Waterbury Local Energy Action Partnership (LEAP), will detail specific steps and strategies for how this highly successful committee has moved ambitious projects forward by carefully maintaining, cultivating and growing a strong grassroots group.

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8 Workshop Session B (2:45 p.m.—4:00 p.m.)

B1. Communities Go Solar! Heating water by the power of the sun is one of the most energy and cost efficient strategies. New and innovative funding sources are making large solar electric systems affordable. Learn about the challenges and opportunities of organizing effective solar hot water campaigns and solar electric installations from three successful Vermont community solar projects. **Captain's Room**

Presenters:

◆ **Phillip Mulligan**, Founding Member, First Branch Sustainability Network and the Chelsea Energy Committee, will talk about the Solar Hot Water Challenge they implemented in the region.

◆ **Alan Berolzheimer**, Chair, Norwich Energy Committee, will talk about a community solar project that the Committee has been working on.

◆ **Jeff Forward**, Energy Coordinator, Town of Richmond, helped the Mount Mansfield District apply for grants to fund a 70 kW solar array for Camel's Hump Middle School. Jeff will lay out a roadmap for how this project came together and relate the lessons learned from the experience.

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B2. Local Energy Planning: A Powerful Climate Action Tool. Harness 21st century energy opportunities by strengthening your town master plan and helping to ready your community for a clean, green energy future. Learn how local planning can foster alternative transportation solutions, highly efficient buildings, walkable neighborhoods and ambitious renewable energy development at the local level. Also, learn about a new, powerful and innovative web-based renewable energy mapping tool — Vermont's 'Renewable Energy Atlas. **Edgewater Room**

Presenters:

◆ **Brian Shupe**, A.I.C.P., Sustainable Communities Program Director and Energy and Climate Program Co-Director, Vermont Natural Resources Council.

◆ **Scott Sawyer**, Research, Evaluation and Communications Coordinator, will talk about soon-to-be-released interactive web- and GIS-based planning and informational tool called the "Renewable Energy Atlas of VT."

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B3. Bio-Energy: Behind Every Good Community Project is Good Resource Planning. Vermont stakeholders, regions and towns are advancing resource planning, weighing in on the issues, and experiencing successful bio-energy projects. Balancing multiple objectives of food and fuel production and resource management can be challenging. Vermont's experts will highlight project experiences in local planning and project development and steps you might take in your community. **Lakeside East**

Presenters:

◆ **Debra Sachs**, Director of Community Climate Action, will moderate this session.

◆ **Julie Iffland**, Executive Director of the Randolph Area Community Development Corporation, will present on the Randolph Village District Energy Project, a 2.2 MW biomass district energy facility including combined heat and power to serve the village business district.

◆ **Adam Sherman**, Program Director, Biomass Energy Resource Center (BERC), will present an overview of biomass energy options and discuss forest and farm biomass resource assessment and planning.

◆ **Netaka White**, Biofuels Director, Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund, will explore regionally appropriate models of diversified agriculture and energy production by highlighting some of the Vermont farms integrating food, livestock feed and bioenergy crops.

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B4. Improving Efficiency in Municipal and School Facilities and Operations. Tackling municipal energy use is a great first project for energy committees because it results in tangible savings for the town. Learn a step-by-step approach to improving municipal/school energy efficiency, and hear from Vermont communities which have taken concrete steps to improve efficiency in their buildings and street lighting. **Garden View Room**

B4. Presenters:

- ◆ **Paul Markowitz**, Coordinator, VT Chapter of the Sierra Club. Paul will briefly talk about the step-by-step “Guide to Improving Municipal Building Efficiency” he wrote and will moderate the session.
- ◆ **Lori Hirshfield**, Director, Department of Planning and Development Services, Town of Hartford, will discuss Hartford’s program to remove 30% of their streetlights and replace the rest with LEDs via GMPs new streetlighting tariff.
- ◆ **Brad Cook**, Owner, Building Performance Services, will talk about what energy committees should look for when conducting a walk-through energy assessment – often a first step in improving building efficiency.
- ◆ **Andrew Shapiro**, Green Schools Program, will talk about the Green Schools project that provides an educational experience for teachers and students through discovery, analysis and implementation of an energy efficiency retrofit at the school.
- ◆ **Daniel Hoyne-Grosvenor**, Student, Cabot School, will talk about his work with implementing the Green Schools program at the Cabot School.
- ◆ **Jessica Androletti**, Environmental Planner, Town of Williston, will talk about her experience in improving energy efficiency in Town Hall by re-insulating the attic and replacing inefficient lighting fixtures.



B5. Beyond Local: State, National and International Efforts to Address Climate Change. State, national and international policies play a powerful role in either strengthening or weakening the ability of communities to make needed investments in energy efficiency, renewable energy development and alternative transportation. Hear about state policies that support local energy-innovation efforts, including a particularly promising new program for Vermont municipalities called PACE – ‘property assessed clean energy’ – as well as an overview of the climate bill currently under consideration in Congress- and what it means for your local efforts.

Lakeside West

Presenters:

- ◆ **Peter Adamczyk**, Energy Finance and Development Manager, Vermont Energy Investment Corporation, will describe the recently enacted financing tool called Property Assessed Clean Energy, which many communities are utilizing to move ambitious, homeowner-tailored energy efficiency and renewable energy projects forward.
- ◆ **Pat Parenteau**, Senior Counsel at the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic and Professor of Law, Vermont Law School, will assess the prospects for climate legislation in the 111th Congress, what kind of agreement might be struck in Copenhagen and outline what Vermont must do to get serious about climate mitigation and adaptation right here at home.
- ◆ **Johanna Miller**, Outreach Director and Energy and Climate Program Co-Director, Vermont Natural Resources Council, will provide an overview of state energy policy initiatives – some already enacted and the horizon ahead – that offer tremendous energy-innovating potential, especially when combined with Vermont’s growing grassroots leadership.



B6. Amplifying Your Message and Leveraging New Media and Social Marketing Tools. Feeling challenged about getting the word out in your community and getting people involved? Learn about different messaging and media opportunities, and generate greater impact for your community group efforts by learning how to utilize Face Book, blogs, Twitter and community radio. **Waterlot Room**

Presenters:

- ◆ **Claire Wheeler and Bart Westdijk**, Program Officers, New England Grassroots Environment Fund (NEGEF), will share their knowledge of using social media to organize at the local level– born from their efforts of working with grassroots groups throughout New England.
- ◆ **Carl Etnier**, Director, Peak Oil Awareness, East Montpelier, hosts two radio shows and writes three newspaper columns and a blog related to the transition to a low-energy future.

Conference Speakers

Opening Speaker

Pat Parenteau is the Senior Counsel to the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic and Professor of Law at Vermont Law School. Pat is one of the nation's leading experts on how to use legal tools to influence environmental policy. Pat has been tracking environmental, energy and climate change policies closely for decades, including the climate bill now under consideration in Congress.

Afternoon Keynote

Senator Bernard Sanders was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2006 after serving 16 years in the House of Representatives. He is the longest serving independent member of Congress in American history. The Almanac of American Politics has called Sanders a "practical" and "successful legislator." He has focused on the shrinking middle class and widening income gap in America. Other priorities include reversing global warming, universal health care, fair trade policies, supporting veterans and preserving family farms. He serves on five Senate committees: Budget; Veterans; Energy; Environment; and Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

Workshop Speakers (speakers are listed alphabetically by last name)

Peter Adamczyk is the Energy Finance and Development Manager for the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation where he leads the development and implementation of financing strategies and services that support VEIC's goal of reducing the monetary costs and environmental impact of energy use. Peter brings more than 23 years of investment and finance experience in New York, San Francisco and London to this position.

Jessica Andreoletti is an Environmental Planner with the Town of Williston. Jessica has worked in the environmental science field for nine years, specifically focusing in watershed conservation and restoration, environmental education and environmental policy. Prior to her current position, Jessica worked as the Assistant Manager for the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District.

Alan Berolzheimer started the Norwich Energy Committee in 2002 and serves as its Chair. He also serves on the board of the Sustainable Energy Resource Group.

Ginny Callan is a Program Officer at the New England Grassroots Environment Fund (NEGEF) working with groups from Massachusetts and Vermont. She has been a grassroots organizer since the 1970's— focusing on energy, environmental and human rights issues.

Paul Cameron is the Executive Director of Brattleboro Climate Protection, a nonprofit organization that works closely with the Town of Brattleboro to develop effective local solutions to global climate change. He also serves as the Town Energy Coordinator and as Vice-Chair of Brattleboro Thermal Utility, Inc., a nonprofit corporation working to develop a plan for a biomass-powered district energy system in Brattleboro.

Brad Cook is the owner of Building Performance Services LLC of Warren, an independent, full service Home Performance with ENERGY STAR contracting company that helps improve the comfort, safety and efficiency of homes. He is certified by the Building Performance Institute as a Building Analyst, Shell Specialist and Heating Specialist and is a certified Level One (1) Infrared Thermographer and has 20 years of experience inspecting and repairing homes in the Mad River Valley.

Carl Etnier is Director of Peak Oil Awareness in East Montpelier. He has worked with sustainability issues since the 1980s, with much of that time in sustainable water and wastewater treatment. In 2006, he turned his attention full time to educating people to prepare for peak oil. Carl is a founding member of Washington County's Post-Carbon Sustainability Network and Transition Town Montpelier.

Jeff Forward has been the Richmond Town Energy Coordinator since 1992 when he led the effort to convert his local school from electric heat to biomass. His day job is renewable energy and energy efficiency consultant and he is the US Green Building Council's Green School Advocate for Vermont.

Workshop Speakers, continued

Karen Glitman is the Coordinator for Vermont Clean Cities Coalition at the UVM Transportation Research Center where she manages the outreach and research dissemination programs. Karen's experience includes serving as Deputy Secretary and Director of Policy and Planning of the Vermont Agency of Transportation.

Lori Hirshfield has served as the Director of the Department of Planning and Development Services for the Town of Hartford since August 1996. Ms. Hirshfield has twenty-nine years of community planning and development experience.

Tom Horn is the Director of the Transportation Initiative at the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation where he advances statewide transportation projects that help to sustain mobility while saving energy and reducing emissions. Tom is President of EVermont and Vice President of the Quebec-Labrador Foundation/Atlantic Center for the Environment.

Daniel Hoyne-Grosvenor is a 9th grader at Cabot School where he helped organize a community-wide energy day in 2008. He has worked as a legislative page at the Statehouse and now is looking forward to being a youth environmental leader.

Julie Iffland, is Executive Director of the Randolph Area Community Development Corporation (RACDC), responsible for affordable housing, community development and downtown and village revitalization. Prior to joining RACDC, Ms. Iffland enjoyed a 19-year career in conservation real estate, responsible for project management of community conservation, historic preservation and conservation funding initiatives. She is a member of Randolph's Planning Commission and currently operates a small organic farm with her partner.

Warren King is the Ripton Energy Coordinator and has coordinated a number of projects in this capacity, including arranging lighting upgrades in municipal buildings, organizing a Button Up workshop and starting a group to provide fuel assistance to qualifying residents.

Ross MacDonald is the Public Transit Coordinator of "Go Vermont" at VT Transportation Agency. Originally from the Adirondack region, Ross spent 12 years in the private sector before joining state government, where he served as Economic Development Director for the New Jersey Highlands Commission and later as an Economist with the Commissioner's office at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Paul Markowitz is Coordinator for the VT Chapter of the Sierra Club, helping Vermont communities address energy and climate change issues. Paul has 25 years experience working on community-based environmental solutions, including designing and managing the Button Up Vermont program and Vermont Community Energy Mobilization Project.

Johanna Miller is the Outreach Director and Energy and Climate Program Co-Director at the Vermont Natural Resources Council, where she serves as the lead organizer for the Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network. Johanna works closely with organizations, state and local officials, and citizens across Vermont to empower them to take action on energy, climate change, land-use and community development issues

Lawrence H. Mott is the Director of New Generation Partners, a startup not-for-profit distributed energy development group focused on community-scale projects. Lawrence has been in the renewable energy industry over twenty years and has focused on integrating renewable energy into isolated grids, including wind turbine technology, solar generation and combined heat power systems, most recently with FirstWind.

Phillip Mulligan is a builder and Home Performance Contractor with Efficiency Vermont. Founding member of the First Branch Sustainability Network and the Chelsea Energy Committee, he was an organizer of the Solar Hot Water Challenge and the First Branch Sustainable Living Fair. He is now working on the weatherization of the Chelsea Town Hall.

Debra Sachs is the Director of Community Climate Action, assisting communities, energy committees and others with planning, design and implementation of energy and climate action projects. She has supported numerous projects, including a federally funded research, education and outreach effort exploring the benefits of several biomass district energy applications across Vermont.

12 **Workshop Speakers, continued**

Scott Sawyer is the Research, Evaluation and Communications Coordinator at the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund where he undertakes research on sustainable development, market development, biofuels, peak oil, climate change, on-farm energy production, sustainable forestry, sustainable agriculture and more.

Ed Sengle is the Coordinator for the Hinesburg Rides Rideshare Initiative in which he designed, developed and implemented this community-wide voluntary ridesharing project. Ed is a member of the Hinesburg Energy Committee and assists in public education and outreach on use of transportation alternatives.

Andrew Shapiro has provided energy and other green building design consulting services for 25 years to a wide variety of clients, including owners, architects, engineers and builders, as well as housing developers, universities, businesses and electric utilities. Andy is the "Scientist-in-the-Classroom" for the Vermont Energy Education Program that trains teachers and students on a range of energy issues.

Adam Sherman is the Program Director for Biomass Energy Resource Center (BERC). He directs their fuel supply program that strives to improve the availability, reliability and sustainability of solid biomass fuels. Adam has worked on numerous projects throughout the country to evaluate regional supply of wood fuel, develop wood fuel specifications and help secure reliable wood fuel for biomass energy systems.

Brian Shupe, A.I.C.P., is the Sustainable Communities Program Director and Co-Director of the Energy & Climate Program for the Vermont Natural Resources Council. Brian has extensive experience in land use policy and planning, including serving as Executive Director of the Mad River Valley Planning District, Director of Planning and Zoning for the Town of Stowe and as a partner for 10 years with Burnt Rock Inc.

Sam Swanson is Co-Chair of the new Vermont Clean Energy Development Fund Board and serves as Senior Policy Advisor at the Pace Law School Energy and Climate Center. Sam also serves as President of Vermont Interfaith Power & Light, is a member of the South Burlington Energy Committee, and serves on the Renewable Energy Vermont Board of Directors. Sam has previously served as Deputy Director of New York State Public Service Commission's Office of Energy Efficiency and Environment.

Keith Thompson is Co-Founder and Treasurer of Waterbury Local Energy Action Partnership (LEAP) – Waterbury's town energy committee. Keith strives to help people connect their respect for the environment with their actions through education, networking and facilitating the pursuit of environmentally beneficial opportunities. Keith co-leads a forestry and wildlife consulting business called Northern Stewards.

Bob Walker is Founder, President and Executive Director of Sustainable Energy Resource Group, a nonprofit organization which promotes energy conservation, efficiency and renewables. Bob is also a certified Home Performance with Energy Star contractor and Energy Coordinator for the Town of Thetford.

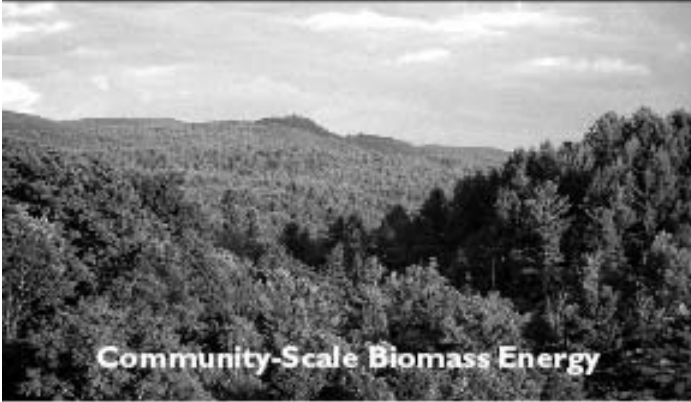
Elaine Wang is the Climate and Environmental Programs Officer at the Institute for Sustainable Communities. In this capacity, she helps municipalities in the U.S. and China accelerate their climate mitigation and adaptation activities. She previously completed a master's thesis on Vermont transportation energy policy where she worked with the Vermont Clean Cities Coalition and the 10% Challenge.

Claire Wheeler and Bart Westdijk are Program Officers for the New England Grassroots Environment Fund (NEGEF), a funder-activist collaborative that offers financial, technical and organizing support to community groups doing environmental work. Claire and Bart are in charge of all things internet in the office, including overseeing the launch of NEGEF's new website and resource center (a work in progress).


Netaka White is the Biofuels Director at Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund, and has been at the forefront of the Vermont Biofuels Initiative (VBI) since 2004 -- a multi-year program investing in the development of a sustainable biofuels sector through grant making, outreach and technical assistance.

Paul Zabriskie is Co-chair of the Middlesex Energy Team and Director of Central Vermont Community Action's energy efficiency initiatives, including the low-income weatherization program, EnergySmart of Vermont, the Vermont Fuel Efficiency Partnership, the educational programs Button-Up Vermont and do-it-yourself Weatherization Skillshops.

BIOMASS ENERGY RESOURCE CENTER (BERC)



Community-Scale Biomass Energy



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BERC helps communities, businesses, state and local governments, schools and colleges, utilities, and others make the most of their local energy resources by providing:

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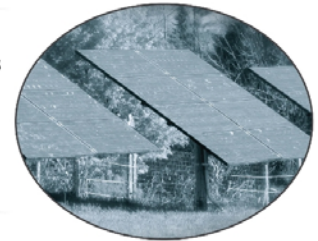
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