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*&*

*the Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network*

*welcome you to the*

## **Community Energy & Climate Action Conference**



**Saturday, December 4, 2010  
Fairlee, Vermont**

## 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 organizations working to help start, support and strengthen town energy and climate action committees and their efforts to implement successful community-based initiatives that help advance a sustainable, clean-energy future. VECAN support-organizations include Community Climate Action, 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 serves as the coordinator for VECAN and 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** 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.


**New England Grassroots Environment Fund** seeks to energize and nurture long term civic engagement in local initiatives that create and maintain healthy, just, safe and environmentally sustainable communities. The Fund uses grantmaking, networking, and skills-building to fuel local activism and social change.

**Community Climate Action** is a nonprofit working to advance education, outreach and public engagement to help mitigate and adapt to climate change. CCA works to build capacity for good policy and behavior change and collaborates with stakeholders and entities to help achieve shared goals and project results across Vermont and beyond.


**Peak Oil Awareness** draws attention to the dramatic changes from declining world oil production through radio shows, and print and electronic media. It also supports positive responses that build stronger communities and increase their resilience.

**Vermont Public Interest Research Group** is the largest nonprofit consumer and environmental advocacy organization in Vermont, with over 15,000 members and supporters. The mission of VPIRG is to promote and protect the health of Vermont's people, environment and locally-based economy by informing and mobilizing citizens statewide.

**BIOMASS ENERGY RESOURCE CENTER (BERC)**



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# Thank you for inspiring and energizing us!

We're proud to work with VECAN members to help Vermonters save energy in their homes.

Our programs help people cut energy costs and improve their homes, so that all Vermonters can live comfortably in our wonderful state.

Learn more about all our initiatives: [cvcac.org](http://cvcac.org)



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## Conference Agenda



- 8:00 – 9:00 **Registration open**  
Coffee & light refreshments  
Exhibits available for browsing
- 9:00 – 9:45 Welcome/Opening Address  
Opening Speaker – **Peter Shumlin**, Vermont Governor Elect
- A Vision and Plan for Vermont's Energy Future.** Governor-Elect Peter Shumlin will lay out his vision and plans for Vermont's energy future.
- 10:00 – 11:15 Concurrent Workshop Session A  
*Choose from a variety of concurrent sessions. See pages 5-6 for titles, descriptions and presenters*
- 11:15 – 11:30 *Break*
- 11:30 – 12:30 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, explore opportunities for regional cooperation and consider new opportunities at the state level.
- 12:30 – 1:45 Lunch & Visit exhibits
- 1:45 – 2:30 Keynote – **Jared Duval** Fellow at Demos, a New York based think tank and author of *Next Generation Democracy*.
- Re-thinking the Climate Challenge: The Millennial Generation, the Open-Source Revolution and the State of Our Democracy.** Drawing on both his organizing experience and the vision he lays out in his book, *Next Generation Democracy: What the Open Source Revolution Means for Power, Politics and Change*, Jared will speak about how we can combine some of this century's most important tools— technology, stories and people power— to shape and instigate essential social and environmental change.
- 2:45—4:00 Concurrent Workshop Session B  
*Choose from a variety of concurrent sessions. See pages 7-8 for titles, descriptions and presenters.*
- 4:00 Adjourn— *Evaluations will be emailed. Paper copies can be requested at the registration desk. Or, go to [https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2010\\_VT\\_Energy\\_Conference](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2010_VT_Energy_Conference) .*



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

**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, key partners etc. (30 min)

**Report and brainstorm.** Discuss and identify specific projects or opportunities that might 1) serve as models for regional or statewide application, 2) which might build the capacity of town energy committees or 3) which might help Vermont position itself as a leader in energy efficiency or renewable energy development. Some potential topics to discuss: (15 min)

- What projects could have significant impact on energy savings and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Vermont?
- What makes a particular project a good model for others?
- What would these projects need to succeed?
- Where might there be opportunities for collaboration to magnify impact?
- What state-level support or leadership might help your efforts, or help Vermont be an even greater leader in clean energy innovation?

**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, other? (5 minutes)

**Regional breakout groups**

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

*Bob Walker* is founder, president and executive director of Sustainable Energy Resource Group, a non-profit organization that promotes energy conservation, efficiency and renewables, as well as a founding partner in the Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network. Bob is a certified Home Performance with ENERGY STAR contractor and is chair of the Thetford Energy Committee.

*Steve Webster* has a Master's degree in Energy Education and has served as an energy educator for the Maine Audubon Society; a member of the Board of Directors of the Maine Nuclear Referendum Committee and more. Steve is a member of the Underhill Energy Committee and has a 12 kW photovoltaic system on his barn and five 4 kW tracking PV systems in his field. He shares the electricity these systems produce with five homes in Underhill and Jericho and a small business in Brattleboro.

*Ed Wendell* is Treasurer of the Bradford Conservation Commission and Chair of the BCC's Energy Committee. BCC has been extremely fortunate over the years to have a wide array of volunteers to help carry out their work, in part by finding successful strategies to keep busy people engaged.

*Dori Wolfe* is co-founder and Treasurer of groSolar, a national distributor and installer of renewable energy systems. She has managed nearly all aspects of the company at different times since its inception in 1998. Dori has extensive experience in solar energy and has been Engineer-in-Charge of over 750,000 square feet of building design projects. Dori has a BSME degree from Cornell University.

*Brian Woods* is a board member of the Waterbury Local Energy Action Partnership — Waterbury's incredibly active energy committee. Brian is a senior level Environmental Analyst at the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, where he has worked since 1991.



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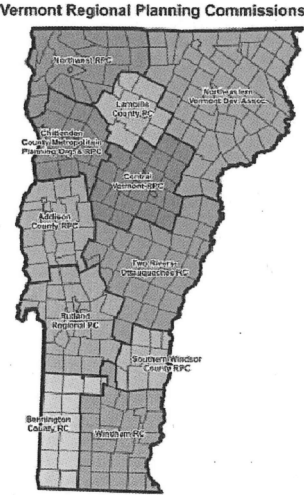
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*Tom Sabo* is a leading sustainability educator in the state of Vermont and a prominent local food activist. He is a chief architect of a model of service learning which integrates curriculum through a school greenhouse and gardens that provide food for the school system’s lunch program, using soil derived from the cafeteria food scraps. Tom serves on the Steering Committee of the Central Vermont Food Systems Council and co-chairs the Food Education Committee.

*Deb Sachs* has more than 20 years experience advancing projects in the transportation sector. She is the founder of Community Climate Action, a non-profit organization, and EcoStrategies, LLC. Her experience spans several technical disciplines including local and regional land use planning, transportation project review, promotion of TDM/transportation alternatives and more. Ms. Sachs assists in grant writing, special projects management, and design of education and public engagement projects to support corporate, public and non-profit sector staff and decision-makers to advance shared goals.

*Scott Sawyer* joined the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund in 2003 and is responsible for researching and evaluating VSJF grants, projects and programs. Scott also manages the Renewable Energy Atlas of Vermont, a GIS-based website that identifies, analyzes and visualizes existing and promising locations for renewable energy projects.

*Andy Shapiro* is the Energy Engineer for the Vermont Energy Education Program, training teachers and students. He develops curriculum and presentations and teaches students and teachers from elementary to high school level. He also has provided energy and other green building design consulting services for 30 years to a wide variety of clients, including owners, architects, engineers and builders, as well as housing developers, universities, businesses and electric utilities.

*Brian Shupe* is the Sustainable Communities Program Director and Energy Program Co-Director at the Vermont Natural Resources Council. Brian has over 20 years of professional planning and policy-making experience. Throughout his career, Brian’s professional focus has been natural resource protection, growth management and sustainable development.

*Stephanie Smith*, AICP, joined the Vermont League of Cities and Towns as a Senior Associate in the Municipal Assistance Center in 2007. She is a certified planner, who teaches and advises municipalities about land use planning, the development review process and is a regular contributor to various VLCT publications. Stephanie has many years of experience working in municipal government as a planner/administrative officer.

*Joe Solomon* is a strategist, writer and campaigner at the frontlines of building new movements for change—combining grassroots community organizing with the power of the Internet. He is the Social Media Coordinator for [350.org](http://350.org), and co-organizer of the [350VT.org](http://350VT.org) movement.

*Gaye Symington* is Executive Director of High Meadows Fund. Among many things, HMF works to support innovative residential energy efficiency initiatives and is exploring how to improve access to financing for residential energy upgrades as well as how to motivate behavioral change on difficult issues like weatherization. As Speaker of the Vermont House for four years, Gaye initiated policies and funding to support a reliable and sustainable energy future.

*Tig Tillinghast* serves as chair of the Selectboard in Thetford, VT. Thetford is one of four communities using federal stimulus funds to explore PACE implementation. He is also a commercial sugarmaker and consultant for several business publishing companies. He lives in Thetford with his wife, newborn daughter and three misbehaving dogs.

*George Twigg* has served as the VEIC Deputy Policy Director since 2008. In that role, he works in communications, state regulatory policy, state and federal energy legislative initiatives and public affairs. George serves as VEIC’s lead participant on the working group overseeing Vermont’s implementation of its \$69 million Smart Grid Investment Grant. His prior experience includes ten years working in politics, public affairs and communications strategy for elected officials at the local, state and national levels.

**—Speaker bios begin on page 9**

**A1. Fundraising Strategies: Raising the Resources Needed to Move Your Work Forward.** Hear about creative ways to raise funds for your community group including the basics on organizing successful fundraising and outreach events, fundraising mailings, grant funding sources and preparing grant proposals. Learn about new grant opportunity to fund your energy work including the new VECAN grant program: *Building the Power of Vermont Communities to Increase Energy Efficiency & Reduce Climate Change Impacts*.

Presenters:  
♦ **Ginny Callan**, Program Officer at the New England Grassroots Environment Fund (NEGEF) working with community groups from across New England for the past 10 years.  
♦ **Mia Moore**, Chief of Staff at Democracy for America, a grassroots organization that provides campaign training, organizing resources, and media exposure to support progressive issues and candidates.  
♦ **Andrew Perchlik**, Director/Fund Manager of the Vermont Clean Energy Development Fund (CEDF).



**A2. Schools! A Place of Powerful Educational and Transformational Potential.** Schools are fantastic places to look for energy innovation opportunities. Find out about some promising school-based efforts that are engaging and inspiring youth, plus some creative and tested approaches to identifying, implementing and funding money-saving, energy efficiency projects.

Presenters:  
♦ **Norm Etkind** is the Director of the School Energy Management Program run by the non-profit Vermont 350.  
♦ **Jeff Forward** is the Principal for Forward Thinking Consultants, a firm specializing in renewable energy and energy efficiency program design and implementation.  
♦ **Andy Shapiro** is the Energy Engineer for the VT Energy Education Program, training teachers and students.



**A3. From Ideas to Action: Motivating Deep and Broad Energy Improvements.** What motivates people to take actions, small and large, to increase energy efficiency and reduce consumption? This session will contain tips and strategies from successful campaigns that might help you, and your community, inspire more people to make energy-conscious choices.

Presenters:  
♦ **Carl Etnier** is director of Peak Oil Awareness in Montpelier, Vermont.  
♦ **Patricia Higgins** executive committee member of the Upper Valley Transportation Management Association.  
♦ **Tom Sabo** serves on the Steering Committee of the Central Vermont Food Systems Council and co-chairs the Food Education Committee.



**A4. Group Net Metering for Community Renewable Energy Projects.** Vermont law allows for the owners of certain small electric generating systems to receive credit for the electricity produced – including allowing a group of customers to combine meters as a single billing entity. Learn how this system works, who is taking advantage of it and how you or your community might seize a net-metered opportunity.

Presenters: (see next page)

A4 Presenters:

- ♦**Chris Lamonia** is the Regional Director for Northern Power Systems, a global leader in manufacturing and deployment of permanent magnet direct drive wind turbines.
- ♦**James Moore** is VPIRG’s Clean Energy Program Director and Co-Director of VPIRG Energy, VPIRG’s project to set up solar communities across Vermont.
- ♦**Steve Webster** is a member of the Underhill Energy Committee and has a photovoltaic system that produces electricity he shares with five other homes and a small business.



**A5. Compelling Stories of Local Energy Projects: A Smorgasbord.** Town energy groups across Vermont are undertaking exciting and innovative projects to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy in their communities. Learn what they’re doing to advance new ideas, strategies and successful campaigns. This is a great “starter” workshop for relatively new energy committees!

Presenters:

- ♦**Laura Asermily** has served as Middlebury Energy Coordinator since 2007.
- ♦**Paul Markowitz** works as a consultant for Efficiency Vermont.
- ♦**Martha McDaniel** is vice chair of the Hartford Energy Commission in Hartford, Vermont.
- ♦**Rich Kass Phillips** is Chair of the Marshfield Energy and Climate Change Committee.



**A6. The Potential for PACE: How Innovative Energy Financing Might Work in Vermont.** Vermont communities have a unique mechanism available to help property owners invest in renewables and efficiency — the Property Assessed Clean Energy Program. Learn about the promise of the program, how communities are moving forward (despite a few stumbling blocks), and find out how you can help your community take advantage of this program.

Presenters:

- ♦**Peter Adamczyk** is the Energy Finance and Development Manager for the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation.
- ♦**Johanna Miller** is the Outreach Director and Energy Program Co-Director at the Vermont Natural Resources Council as well as the coordinator of the Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network.
- ♦**Tig Tillinghast** serves as chair of the Selectboard in Thetford, Vermont.



**A7. State and National Initiatives— What's Happening? What's Not? And, How You Can Help.** 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, renewables and alternative transportation. Hear how state and federal policies have or have not supported, or could support local energy-innovation efforts. Get an update on the state and federal policy landscape, why it matters and how you can help.

Presenters:

- ♦**Clay Francis** is VPIRG's Clean Energy Advocate.
- ♦**Barbarina Heyerdahl** is a citizen activist, lobbyist and funder engaged in climate change, sustainable agriculture and community resilience projects.
- ♦**Brian Shupe** is the Sustainable Communities Program Director and Energy Program Co-Director at the Vermont Natural Resources Council.
- ♦**George Twigg** has served as the VEIC Deputy Policy Director since 2008.

*Tim Maker* is recognized as one of the leading U.S. pioneers in woodchip heating for large institutions and for wood-fired district heating. Tim started the Biomass Energy Resource Center in 2001 and served as its executive director for six years and as senior program manager for two years. Tim now runs Community Biomass Systems, where he works on the development of a number of community district energy and other community-scale projects in Vermont and other states.

*Paul Markowitz* works as a consultant for Efficiency Vermont promoting partnerships with Vermont communities and other local partners to implement energy efficiency programs. Paul is also an organizing partner in the Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network, where he has worked closely with local energy groups across Vermont who are advancing successful programs and practices.

*Martha McDaniel* is a retired surgeon and vice chair of the Hartford Energy Commission in Hartford, VT. The Hartford Energy Commission has undertaken significant energy efficiency projects focused on streetlight management, municipal building energy efficiency upgrades and outreach to town residents and more.

*Johanna Miller* is the Outreach Director and Energy Program Co-Director at the Vermont Natural Resources Council, as well as the coordinator of 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.

*James Moore* is VPIRG’s Clean Energy Program Director and Co-Director of VPIRG Energy— project to set up solar communities across Vermont. James leads VPIRG’s energy advocacy efforts in the State House and represents VPIRG on a number of state and regional leadership committees, where he crafts and advances policy solutions to the energy and climate change crisis facing Vermont.

*Mia Moore* is the Chief of Staff at Democracy for America, a grassroots organization that provides support to progressive issues and candidates. Mia has diverse organizing and fundraising experience, including directing telephone outreach offices to raise money and groups with their membership. Before her current work with DFA, Mia directed the major gifts program for Toxics Action Center, increasing the gross income from this program by nearly 100% in two years.

*Andrew Perchlik* is the Director/Fund Manager of the Vermont Clean Energy Development Fund. Prior to working for the CEDF Andrew was the executive director of Renewable Energy Vermont. He founded REV in 2000 while working for the Vermont Department of Public Service. Prior to working at the DPS, Andrew was a VISTA volunteer working on heating fuel assistance programs in Addison County and a Peace Corps Volunteer in Panama.

*Rich Kass Phillips* is a civil engineer who had a 30-year career with the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation. Rich has been Chair of the Marshfield Energy and Climate Change Committee for the last three and a half years, helping advance initiatives including a residential energy survey, community building energy improvements, energy home visits, collaboration with other towns on issues including transportation, and much more.

*Noah Pollock* is cofounder of the Community Energy Exchange, an organization dedicated to facilitating community supported renewable energy projects in Vermont. The organization recently completed its first installation, a 25kW photovoltaic system for a cohousing community in Burlington. Noah also consults for Spring Hill Solutions, an energy, carbon management and business sustainability firm.

*Sharon Racusin* is on Norwich Selectboard and sits on the Norwich Energy and Transportation Committees, a community that is advancing a “Complete Street” transportation project. Ms. Racusin also is a town representative to Advanced Transit and regularly bikes to work.

*Carl Etnier* is director of Peak Oil Awareness in Montpelier, VT. He hosts two radio shows and writes in newspapers and a blog related to the transition to a low-energy future. He works through community groups like Transition Town Montpelier and its APPLE Corps, which planted the first vegetable garden on a state house lawn in modern times.

*Jeff Forward* is the Principal for Forward Thinking Consultants, a firm specializing in renewable energy and energy efficiency program design and implementation. Prior to that, Jeff worked for the Vermont Department of Public Service and the Biomass Energy Resource Center. Jeff is the Richmond Energy Coordinator and has worked in Richmond and other communities, largely focusing on schools, to help identify energy- and dollar-saving strategies in aging or inadequate municipal infrastructure.

*Clay Francis* is VPIRG's Clean Energy Advocate, where he conducts policy research and advocates on energy issues, with a particular focus on the home heating and energy efficiency aspects of Vermont's clean energy future. Before joining VPIRG, Clay was a Research Associate at the Institute for Energy and the Environment at Vermont Law School.

*Sarah Galbraith* is the Assistant Program Manager at the Biomass Energy Resource Center, where, among many things, she coordinates data collection, data management, data analysis; serves as BERC's spatial analyst and mapping specialist; and has completed more than 40 biomass energy feasibility studies and fuel supply assessments for BERC. Before joining BERC in 2005, she worked with the Institute for Sustainable Energy.

*Lucy Gibson* is a licensed transportation engineer with over 20 years of multimodal transportation planning and engineering experience, both with the public sector and as a private consultant. Lucy has extensive experience in the promotion and implementation of diverse transportation solutions. Since 2001, she has been a principal of Smart Mobility, Inc., a woman-owned transportation consulting firm based in Norwich, VT.

*Margaret Gish* is a freshman at The Sharon Academy in Sharon, VT. This past June, Margaret was part of a group of 30 teenagers from around the world who were invited to be a part of a project called Inconvenient Youth - a community of teenagers taking action to address the climate crisis.

*Katey Gordon* has extensive experience in the climate action arena, earning a Master's in International Environmental Policy, teaching college-level courses on environmental issues and training with Al Gore as a Climate Project presenter. Katey is now working with the Citizens Climate Lobby, a focused, strategic initiative to engage and empower citizens in an effort to pass a federal climate bill.

*Barbarina Heyerdahl* is a citizen activist, lobbyist and funder engaged in climate change, sustainable agriculture and community resilience projects. Barbarina serves on the boards of the Democratic National Committee, the Vermont Natural Resources Council and the Natural Resources Defense Council Action Fund where, in these roles, she spends a good deal of time lobbying the U.S. Congress and working on Vermont policy issues. In addition, she is active in the international grassroots Transition Town movement.

*Patricia Higgins* serves on the executive committee of the Upper Valley Transportation Management Association. There, she works with the staff to incorporate concepts of Community Based Social Marketing into the Smart Commute program, which helps organizations design transportation demand management tools to reduce the number of employees commuting to work in single occupancy vehicles in New Hampshire and Vermont.

*Nancy Jones* is Chair of the Bradford Conservation Commission. BCC has been extremely fortunate over the years to have a wide array of volunteers to help carry out their work, in part, by finding successful strategies to keep busy people engaged.

*Chris Lamonía* is the Regional Director for Northern Power Systems, a global leader in manufacturing and deployment of permanent magnet direct drive wind turbines. Prior to joining Northern Power Systems, Chris helped create the wind division at Alteris Renewables. Chris played an integral role in permitting and installing the first community wind turbines locally in Vermont, Maine, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Jersey, North Carolina and Maryland.

**B1. Solar Communities: Making Sun-Powered Energy a Reality.** Learn the A-B-Cs of solar applications – including solar hot water and solar electric – and find out more about some innovative new and existing programs to promote wide-scale installation of solar on homes and businesses in your community.

Presenters:  
♦ **Caleb Elder** of Starksboro works for AllEarth Renewables and is a member of his town energy team.  
♦ **James Moore** is VPIRG's Clean Energy Program Director and Co-Director of VPIRG Energy.  
♦ **Noah Pollock** is cofounder of the Community Energy Exchange.  
♦ **Dori Wolfe** is co-founder of groSolar, a national distributor and installer of renewable energy systems.

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**B2. Keeping Volunteers Involved, Engaged and Inspired.** Having trouble maintaining volunteers in your local energy committee? Learn how local energy coordinators and leaders are helping to motivate volunteers by building ownership, fostering trust and strengthening teamwork.

Presenters:  
♦ **Jamie Ervin** is a board member of the Waterbury Local Energy Action Partnership.  
♦ **Nancy Jones** is Chair of the Bradford Conservation Commission (BCC).  
♦ **Paul Markowitz** works as a consultant for Efficiency Vermont and is also an organizing partner in VECAN.  
♦ **Ed Wendell** is Treasurer of the Bradford Conservation Commission and Chair of BCC's Energy Committee.  
♦ **Brian Woods** is a board member of the Waterbury Local Energy Action Partnership and a senior level Environmental Analyst at the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation.

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**B3. Growing a Grassroots Climate Movement in Vermont.** Get a quick update on the latest climate science and find out much more about some of the best-tested tools for action. Learn about some of the most promising citizen-led efforts underway to ensure that elected officials and the general public understand how fast climate change is happening — and that climate action is essential.

Presenters:  
♦ **Jared Duval** is the conference's keynote speaker today. Jared is a Fellow at Demos, a New York based think tank, as well as a 10th-generation Vermonter who grew up in the Upper Valley.  
♦ **Margaret Gish** is a freshman at The Sharon Academy in VT, and was part of a group of 30 teenagers from around the world who were invited to be a part of a project called Inconvenient Youth - a community of teenagers taking action to address the climate crisis.  
♦ **Katey Gordon** works with the Citizens Climate Lobby.  
♦ **Joe Solomon** is the Social Media Coordinator for [350.org](http://350.org), and co-organizer of the [350VT.org](http://350VT.org) movement.

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**B4. Creative Programs for Improving Residential Building Efficiency.** Vermont is falling short of its legislative goal to weatherize 20 percent of Vermont homes by 2020. What are communities doing to encourage residents to weatherize their homes? How are communities reaching low-income neighbors by using programs and working with key partners. Find out in this workshop.

Presenters:  
♦ **Mary Cohen** has been working on the Department of Energy's Better Buildings Program for Rutland County since July and she will be the Director of Homeownership Services at NeighborWorks for the next three years.  
♦ **Gaye Symington** is Executive Director of High Meadows Fund and was Speaker of the Vermony House for four years.  
♦ **Bob Walker** is founder, president and executive director of Sustainable Energy Resource Group and a founding partner in the Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network.

**B5. Transportation Friendly Streets: Making Your Community Accessible and Mobile to Young and Old.**

Single-occupant vehicles and transportation emissions are growing concerns in communities. In fact, emissions from the transportation sector are growing exponentially, while access and mobility decline for both young and old. This session is designed to provide you with the tools to assess your community’s needs and offer tips for how you can begin to promote and implement projects to make your streets safer and more accessible to all.

Presenters:

- ♦**Lucy Gibson** is a principal of Smart Mobility, Inc., a woman-owned transportation consulting firm.
- ♦**Sharon Racusin** is on Norwich Selectboard and the Norwich Energy and Transportation Committees.
- ♦**Deb Sachs** is the founder of Community Climate Action, a non-profit organization and EcoStrategies, LLC.



**B6. Planning + the "ATLAS" = Energy Efficiency and Renewable Opportunities.** Energy plans are an often-overlooked, underutilized tool that motivated community members can use to shape a clean energy future. Find out about aggressive energy-saving and renewable generating opportunities possible with the guidance of the new ‘Energy Planning and Implementation Guide’ and an unparalleled informational tool - the online, GIS-based Renewable Energy Atlas of Vermont.

Presenters:

- ♦**Scott Sawyer** joined the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund in 2003 and manages the Renewable Energy Atlas of Vermont.
- ♦**Brian Shupe** is the Sustainable Communities Program Director and Energy Program Co-Director at the VT Natural Resources Council.
- ♦**Stephanie Smith**, AICP, joined the Vermont League of Cities and Towns as a Senior Associate in the Municipal Assistance Center in 2007.



**B7. Biomass-fired District Heating for Vermont Communities.** This workshop will overview some of the basics of biomass — including potential opportunities, issues and concerns — as well as take a deeper look at some of the proposed combined heat and power district heating plants in Vermont.

Presenters:

- ♦**Sarah Galbraith** is the Assistant Program Manager at the Biomass Energy Resource Center.
- ♦**Tim Maker** started the Biomass Energy Resource Center and now runs Community Biomass Systems.
- ♦**Johanna Miller** is the Outreach Director and Energy Program Co-Director at the Vermont Natural Resources Council as well as the coordinator of the Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network.
- ♦**Andy Shapiro** is the Energy Engineer for the Vermont Energy Education Program.

**Opening Speaker**

**Peter Shumlin** is Vermont’s Governor-Elect. Governor-Elect Shumlin is a native Vermonter and a lifelong businessman, including running a successful student travel business in Putney, Vermont. The Gov-Elect has served for over 15 years in the Vermont House and Senate, most recently as President Pro-Tem of the Senate, and is an ardent, outspoken champion of clean energy innovation.

**Afternoon Keynote**

**Jared Duval** is a Fellow at Demos, a New York based think tank where he is helping to build a first-of-its-kind fellowship program for young authors. Jared is a 10th-generation Vermonter, grew up in the Upper Valley, and is a Trustee of the Middlebury-based Orton Family Foundation. Formerly the National Director of the Sierra Student Coalition - the national student chapter of the Sierra Club and the largest student environmental organization in the country - Jared was recently elected to the Sierra Club’s Board of Directors. A recipient of the David Brower Youth Award and the Morris K. Udall and Harry S. Truman scholarships, he graduated *Summa cum Laude* from Wheaton College in Massachusetts in 2005.

**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.

**Laura Asermily** has served as Middlebury Energy Coordinator since 2007 and works closely with town officials, Middlebury College, and other groups to help move people off reliance on fossil fuels. Laura has worked tirelessly for years to help Middlebury become a leader in successful, community-driven initiatives. One of the most recent initiatives include supporting the town’s effort to measure and reduce its carbon footprint through a trilogy of campaigns.

**Ginny Callan** has been a Program Officer at the New England Grassroots Environment Fund working with community groups from across New England for the past 10 years. Prior to joining NEGEF, Ginny worked for the American Cancer Society, founded the Horn of the Moon Café in Montpelier and wrote two natural food cookbooks— *Horn of the Moon Cookbook* and *Beyond the Moon Cookbook*.

**Mary Cohen** has been working on the Department of Energy’s Better Buildings Program for Rutland County since July, and she will be the Director of Homeownership Services at NeighborWorks for the next three years. Prior to that, Mary sold commercial and residential real estate and owned a small retail business in Rutland County.

**Caleb Elder** of Starksboro works for AllEarth Renewables in Williston and is a member of his local town energy team. Before AllEarth, Caleb worked at the Center for Whole Communities in Fayston, VT, where he directed the food program for the Whole Thinking retreat program. Caleb received his bachelor’s degree in environmental studies and literature from Middlebury College.

**Jamie Ervin** is a board member of the Waterbury Local Energy Action Partnership — Waterbury’s incredibly active energy committee. Jamie currently manages a 47-country project for the United Nations that helps countries improve their ability to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

**Norm Etkind** is the Director of the School Energy Management Program run by the non-profit Vermont 350.org. He assessed school buildings in Vermont and provided advice on how to improve efficient operations, as well as advising on capital improvements and renewables. Norm has worked for many years in the project development, management, and energy fields. He is a certified energy manager, energy auditor, sustainable development professional and building commissioning professional.