

Building Power at the Local Level

Discussion Leaders and Resources:

- **Sarah Brock**, Vital Communities
- **Alan Johnson**, Hartford Selectboard and Energy Commission
- **Leigh Cameron**, New England Grassroots Environment Fund

Show of Hands

Raise your hand if....

You are hailing from a ...

SMALL TOWN (<3,000)

MID-SIZED TOWN (3-7,000)

BIG TOWN (7-15,000)

CITY SLICKER (15k+)

Show of Hands

Raise your hand if....

You are a member of your town's
energy committee

Your energy committee is fairly new

You know which towns nearby have
energy committees

You know who's doing what & where to
go before re-inventing the wheel

You are involved in your community
in any OTHER WAY

Town Energy Committees

Many Ways to Slice 'Em

STRUCTURE

Committee serving under a
selectboard

Sub-committee of Conservation
Commission

Ad-hoc citizen's group

Part of a regional hub

What Energy Committees Do

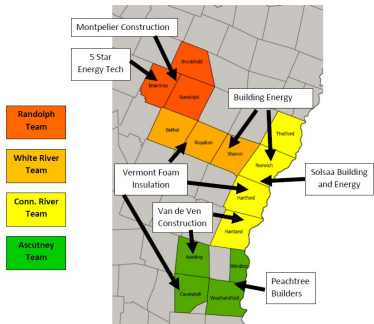
Reduce Municipal Energy Use



Educate and Inspire Action



Regional Collaboration



Vermont Energy & Climate Action Network
Energizing Vermont Communities
www.vecan.net

Improve Local Energy Planning and Policy



Common Challenges 2016

From the Upper Valley

#1 Lack of new members/volunteers

#2 (A tie)

- Complexity of projects
- Volunteer Burnout

#3 Lack of funding

#4 (a tie)

- State/local policy barriers
 - Lack of support from town leaders
-

Common Motivators 2016

From the Upper Valley

#1 Reduce Energy Use

#2 Save the Town and Citizens Money

#3 Reduce Carbon Footprint

Goals for this session:

- Know where to go for ideas/assistance/inspiration
- Deepen your local energy work & think outside the box
- Connect with one another - share challenges and solutions

Vermont Energy & Climate Action Network

Energizing Vermont Communities

www.vecan.net

- VECAN Conference
- VECAN Newsletter
- Regional Roundtables
- Support for New and Existing Committees
- LOTS of Resources, Guides, and Case Studies
- Map of Vermont Energy Committees

Efficiency
Vermont



VECAN Conference



Get Involved

- *Nominate Local Energy Leaders*
- *Present on a Panel*
- *Request Session Topics*

This is YOUR Conference

VECAN eNewsletter

Northeast Kingdom Energy Action Roundtable

Vermont Energy & Climate Action Network
Energizing Vermont Communities
www.vecan.net

When: Wednesday, April 27th – 5:30-8:00pm
Where: Craftsbury Public Library, Craftsbury VT
Join the Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network and local energy committee leaders for a light supper and community conversation about energy and climate action in Vermont. If you've been a part of an energy committee, if you're interested in starting one or if you're just plain interested – come lend your voice and

learn how to get involved.

This event is focused on helping to strengthen existing energy committees, re-energize others and galvanize new groups who are interested in advancing comprehensive energy solutions. The Craftsbury Energy Committee will share their experience and representatives of VECAN will highlight examples successful local energy committee action across the state as well as programs and projects available to communities.

Help identify opportunities for towns in the Northeast Kingdom and learn about the sustainability efforts in your region. **Hope to see you on April 27!** A light supper will be provided, and there will be plenty of time to chat with friends and neighbors while enjoying the local meal. Did we mention the free food?

For more information and to RSVP, please contact Ben at boviletti@vnr.org or 802-233-2328 x118

Art Gibb Award – Call for Nominations



The Vermont Natural Resources Council is now accepting nominations for the 2016 **Arthur Gibb Award for Individual Leadership**. Applications are due **May 2, 2016**. Every year, VNRC honors the legacy of the late Arthur Gibb for his commitment to safeguarding Vermont's values and unique landscape, along with his leadership, vision and dedication to building consensus. This year VNRC seeks to honor an individual whose leadership at the local or regional level has brought about positive and lasting change in the way communities across Vermont integrate growth and conservation. Individuals who have demonstrated similar leadership at the statewide level will be honored in alternating years. Find a full list of previous recipients of the award [here](#). Applications are due on **May 2, 2016**. To nominate someone or learn more, [click here](#).

People from around Vermont nominate candidates and a committee made of up Art Gibb's colleagues, friends and family review the applications. The 2016 award will be presented at the annual meeting of the Vermont Natural Resources Council in September.

Climate Talk Vermont – An Earth Day Celebration



When: Friday, April 22 – 2:30pm
Where: Chase Community Center, Vermont Law School – South Royalton
Vermont leaders and national environmental advocates will come together to discuss what the recent United Nations conference on climate change means for Vermonters during "**Climate Talk VT: Global Ambition, Local Action**," an Earth Day celebration at Vermont Law School.
The event is open to the public and press. "Our goal is to provoke conversations that matter by bringing together bright minds to reflect on the UN climate talks and share action-focused ideas about Vermont's role in combating climate change," said Rachel Stevens, a staff attorney and LL.M. fellow at the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic (ENRLC) at VLS. The ENRLC

is curating the event with the Vermont Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Among the leaders and environmental advocates slated to attend Climate Talk VT are national Sierra Club President Aaron Mair and Vermont Gov. Peter Shumlin. Many participants, including a VLS student delegation, also attended the UN climate change talks—Conference of the Parties (COP) 21—in Paris last December.

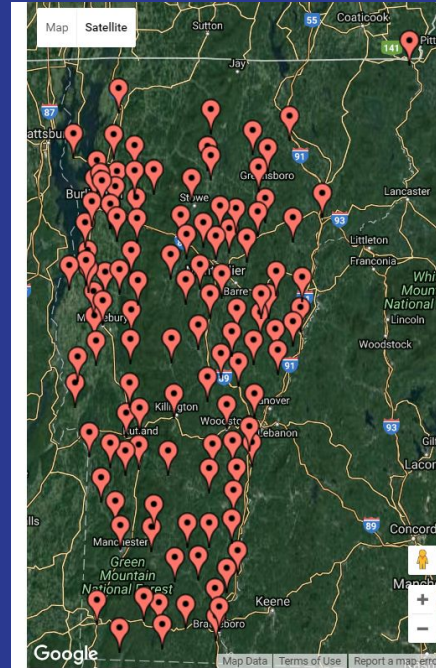
By design, Climate Talk VT will be an informal conversation about the Paris Agreement among notable climate champions, focusing on the steps we can take to turn these global ambitions into action here in Vermont. The public will have the opportunity to submit questions to guide this important discussion.

Stay In the Loop

- *Energy Policy Calls for Action*
- *News and Events Statewide*
- *Stories and Resources*

Have news to share? Send it in!

Regional Roundtables



ALBURG ENERGY COMMITTEE

BARNARD ENERGY COMMITTEE

BARRE CITY ENERGY COMMITTEE

BELVIDERE ENERGY COORDINATOR

BENNINGTON ENERGY COMMITTEE

BENSON ENERGY COMMITTEE

BERLIN ENERGY COMMITTEE

BRADFORD ENERGY COMMITTEE

BRAINTREE ENERGY COMMITTEE

BRATTLEBORO CLIMATE PROTECTION

PAWLET ENERGY COMMITTEE

PEACHAM ENERGY COORDINATOR

PERU ENERGY COMMITTEE

PITTSFORD ENERGY COMMITTEE

PLAINFIELD ENERGY COMMITTEE

POMFRET ENERGY COMMITTEE

POULTNEY ENERGY PROJECT

PUTNEY ENERGY COMMITTEE

RANDOLPH ENERGY COMMITTEE

READING ENERGY COMMITTEE

Energy Committee Map

Strategic Energy Action Toolkit

nenergy.org/strategic-energy-action.html



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Brighter Vermont Community Energy Dashboard. The header includes the logo, navigation links (Home, About, My Community, Stories, Actions, 90 by 2050, Energy Atlas, Resources), and a search bar. The main content area features a large image of a family on a roof with solar panels, titled "Whitfull Energy: The Energy Detective". To the right, there are two call-to-action boxes: "How much energy does your community use?" with a "Find Your Community!" button, and "Are you working toward a renewable future?" with a "Take Action!" button.

VT Community Energy Dashboard

eanvt.org/community-energy-dashboard

VECAN.net - "Projects and Initiatives"

Vermont Energy & Climate Action Network
Energizing Vermont Communities

Search Here and Press Enter

HOME ENERGY COMMITTEES FORUM **PROJECTS & INITIATIVES** PUBLICATIONS RESOURCES TAKE ACTION ABOUT EVENTS CONTACT US

STARTING A TOWN ENERGY COMMITTEE
All around Vermont, town energy committees are leading the way in energy and climate action. Learn more about starting, strengthening, and maintaining an effective committee.

GOING SOLAR
Vermonters are finding innovative ways to bring renewable energy to their communities by combining resources and sharing benefits.

ENERGY PLANNING
Planning is a powerful tool that lays the foundation for Vermont's energy future. Learn how to implement energy planning at the municipal level, and move the state's comprehensive energy plan forward.

GRASSROOTS ENERGY AND CLIMATE ACTION
Learn what communities around Vermont are doing to address our energy needs and develop local solutions to the climate crisis.

PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY
PACE is an exciting financing mechanism that makes it easier for Vermonters to finance weatherization and renewable energy projects. Learn how to implement PACE, and discover how other towns are utilizing it.

THERMAL EFFICIENCY EFFORTS
Learn more about how your community can educate and mobilize residents to undertake low-cost weatherization upgrades, and locate other communities that have implemented community weatherization projects.

Energy Planning Diagram:
A central green circle labeled "Renewable Energy Future" is connected to four surrounding circles: "Innovation & Expertise" (top), "Regulatory Policy & Structures" (right), "Outreach & Education" (bottom), and "Finance & Funding" (left).

Going Solar
Streetlight Campaigns
Energy Planning
Grassroots Action
PACE Loans
Thermal Efficiency Efforts
Drive Electric Vermont
GoVermont
Modern Wood Heating
Starting an Energy Committee

VECAN.net - "Publications"

Vermont Energy & Climate Action Network
Energizing Vermont Communities

Search Here and Press Enter

HOME ENERGY COMMITTEES FORUM PROJECTS & INITIATIVES **PUBLICATIONS** RESOURCES TAKE ACTION ABOUT EVENTS CONTACT US

VERMONT'S TOTAL ENERGY STUDY
The Public Service Department's robust analysis of the paths toward progress on stated energy goals.

ONLINE ORGANIZING GUIDE
Green Memes and many of the country's best organizers compiled this comprehensive all-in-one resource for online organizing.

U.S. NATIONAL CLIMATE ASSESSMENT
The NCA is the most comprehensive report on how climate change is already impacting the United States. The report also discusses mitigation and adaptation strategies.

HEATING EFFICIENCY SUCCESS STORIES
Taking action on heating efficiency can save money, create jobs and reduce pollution. Check out the Vermont Natural Resources Council's collection of heating efficiency success stories from around Vermont.

IPCC REPORTS
Information and reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the world's leading international body for the assessment of climate change.

GUIDE AND RESOURCES TO REDUCING BUILDING ENERGY USE
This comprehensive 2014 guide includes details on energy-saving programs, materials, resources, procedures, and tips for homeowners.

Local and National Research
Case Studies
How-To Guides

- Community Solar
- Streetlight Projects
- Weatherizing Town Bldgs

VECAN.net - "Resources"

Vermont Energy & Climate Action Network
Energizing Vermont Communities

Search Here and Press Enter

HOME ENERGY COMMITTEES FORUM PROJECTS & INITIATIVES PUBLICATION **RESOURCES** TAKE ACTION ABOUT EVENTS CONTACT US

Transportation And Land Use

Transportation is the fastest growing greenhouse gas emissions sector in Vermont, representing almost half of the state's total greenhouse gas pollution. The rural nature of the Green Mountain State requires most Vermonters to spend a lot of time in their cars to get where they need to go. Creating more opportunities for biking, taking the bus, riding the train and carpooling is essential to reduce our reliance on increasingly expensive fossil fuels and creating vibrant, resilient 21st century communities.

Below, find links to organizations and resources that can help you tackle the transportation and land use issues facing your community.

Transportation And Land Use Projects & Initiatives

[Way To Go! Commuter Challenge](#)

Transportation And Land Use Links

- [CarShare Vermont](#)
- [Drive Electric Vermont](#)
- [Local Motion](#)
- [Go Vermont! -Carpool \(Zimride, Vanpool, Bus Schedules, Cycling Routes and More\)](#)
- [Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies \(VAPDA\)](#)
- [Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development](#)
- [Vermont Natural Resources Council](#)
- [Resilient Communities Scorecard](#)
- [Vermont Planning Information Center](#)
- [Zimride \(Social Networking Carpool Service\)](#)

Efficiency & Conservation
Renewable Energy
Transportation & Land Use
Education & Advocacy
Relocalization
Financing & Funding

Local Politics (aren't they all?)

Communicating with Local Officials

Alan Johnson

Selectboard Member, Hartford, VT

Amy Shollenberger's *Working with Legislators*



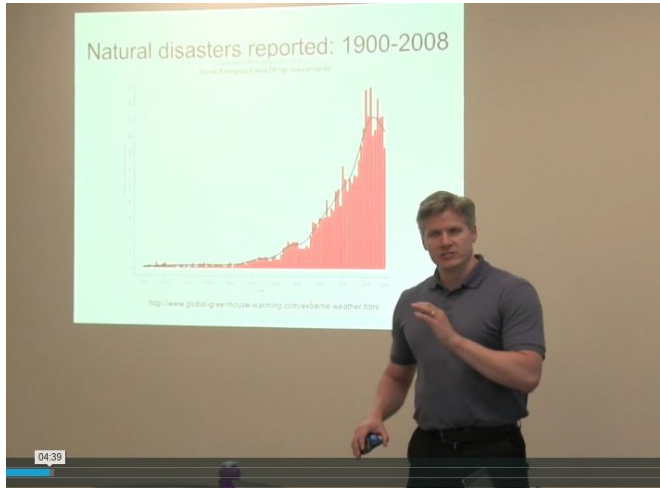
<http://bobthegreenguy.com/actioncircles/>

- Be helpful
- Call ahead
- Be Prepared
- Stay on Message
- Talk about other things sometimes
- Learn the process
- Be respectful
- Say thank you

(21 minutes)

Handout: <http://bit.ly/2g2KnqM>

Alan Johnson's *Energy Resilience*



<https://vimeo.com/183872580>

- Understanding Exponential Growth
- Energy is the keystone resource
- Energy Supply and Demand (Global and VT)
- Global Population Growth
- What can we do?
(Personally and in our Communities)

Second half by Steve Spats of Efficiency VT: more specifics about what individuals can do (1h total)



Crash Course videos: <http://www.peakprosperity.com/crashcourse>

Chris's Beliefs:

1. The next 20 years are going to be completely unlike the last 20 years.
2. We have everything we need to change in time.
3. We still might not do it.

Get to Know Your People

- **Selectboard Meetings**
- **Town Manager office hours**
- **Planning Commission**
- **Zoning Commission**
- **Regional Planning Commission**
- **Leave your agenda at the door**
- **Bring some knitting**
- **...and snacks!**

Track Your Data

Portfolio Manager

(<https://portfoliomanager.energystar.gov>)

The screenshot shows the Energy Star Portfolio Manager interface. At the top, it says "Welcome DAEJOHNSON: Account Settings | Contacts | Help | Sign Out". The main header includes the Energy Star logo and "Portfolio Manager". Below this are tabs for "MyPortfolio", "Sharing", "Reporting", and "Recognition". A green notification bar states "Town Hall has been updated." The main content area is for "Town Hall", located at "171 Bridge St, White River Jct, VT 05001". It shows a "Portfolio Manager Property ID: 1777513" and "Year Built: 1914". An "Edit" button is visible. To the right, there is a box for "ENERGY STAR Score (1-100)" with a "Current Score: 90" and a "Baseline Score: 88". A note indicates the property is "Not eligible to apply for ENERGY STAR Certification". At the bottom, there are tabs for "Summary", "Details", "Energy", "Water", "Waste & Materials", "Goals", and "Design".

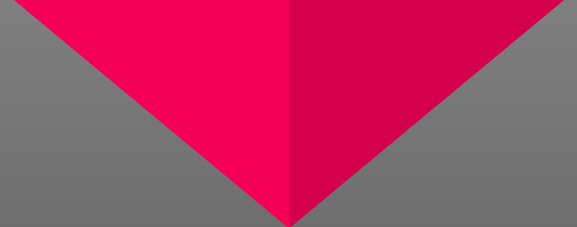
Community Energy Dashboard

(<http://www.vtenergydashboard.org>)

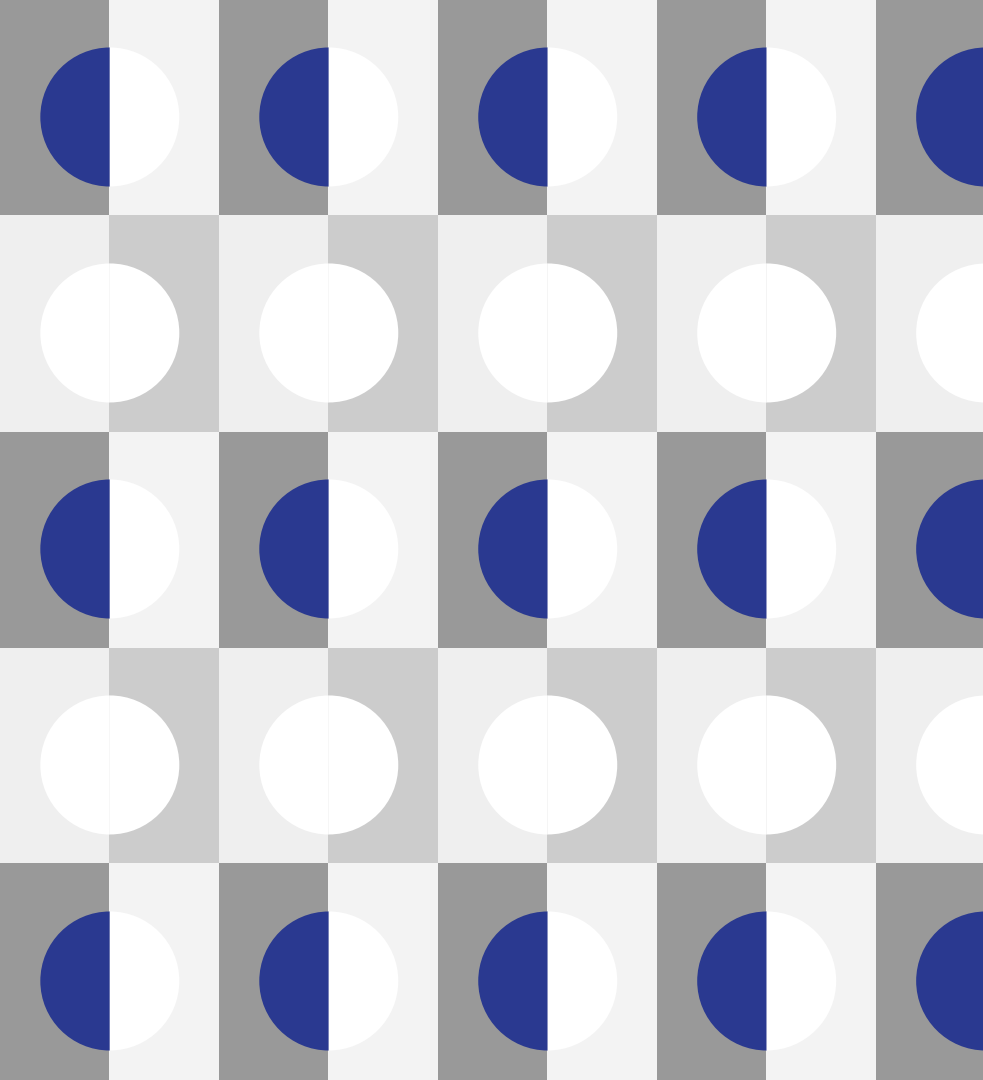
The screenshot shows the Vermont Community Energy Dashboard homepage. The header includes the "Brighter Vermont" logo and "Community Energy Dashboard" with the tagline "BUILDING A BETTER ENERGY FUTURE. TODAY.". Navigation links include "Home", "About", "My Community", "Stories", "Actions", "90 by 2050", "Energy Atlas", and "Resources". A search bar is present. The main content area features a "Community Energy Stories" section with a photo of a family and a text snippet about "Full Energy: The Energy Detective". To the right, there are two call-to-action boxes: "How much energy does your community use?" with a "Find Your Community!" button, and "Are you working toward a renewable future?" with a "Take Action!" button.



The Moral Argument is
Weak



Moral argument
=
Economic argument



Patience and Persistence

- Do no more than you are comfortable doing
- It zigs and zags
- Just keep coming back

We Are All in this Together

(some of us just don't know it)
(some of us don't want to know it)
(and nobody wants to think about it)
(and that's okay)

Rep. Peter Welch at
Renewable Energy
Vermont 2016:

https://youtu.be/CN_VfSBt1Xs

(6 minutes)

Inclusive / Holistic / Impactful

Going deeper with your local energy work

Leigh Cameron

New England Grassroots Environment Fund

Challenges:

- Lack of new members/volunteers
- Complexity of projects
- Volunteer burnout
- Lack of funding
- Lack of support from town leaders

(State & local policy barriers)



Motivators:

#1 Reduce Energy Use

#2 Save the Town and Citizens Money

#3 Reduce Carbon Footprint

Build Community

Protect water
resources

Increase ACCESS

Address Health Issues

Develop a Local
Economy

Increase Community
Resilience

Who Is In Your Community?:

Farmers

Homeowners

Renters

Churches

Municipal officials

Parents

Social
workers

Doctors

Fixed & Low-
Income
Earners

Youth

Teachers

Creating a more inclusive & holistic project:

- Invite members of your community to participate on your committee or an advisory board for your project
- Find ways to lower barriers to engagement & access
- Prioritize projects that have “co-benefits” or “stack functions”

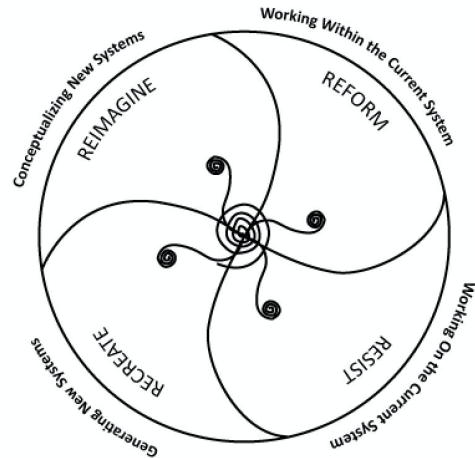


Resist ... *protecting against harm from the current system*

Reform ... *working within the current system*

Recreate ... *generating new systems*

Reimagine ... *conceptualizing new systems*



© Spirit in Action 2010



WORCESTER

Green Low-Income Housing Coalition





**Mt.
Washington
Valley
Citizens for
Energy
Efficient
Communities**

Solar Powered Farmstand Workshop





Center for Ecology Based Economy



New England
Grassroots
Environment Fund



seed

Up to \$1,000
Rolling Applications



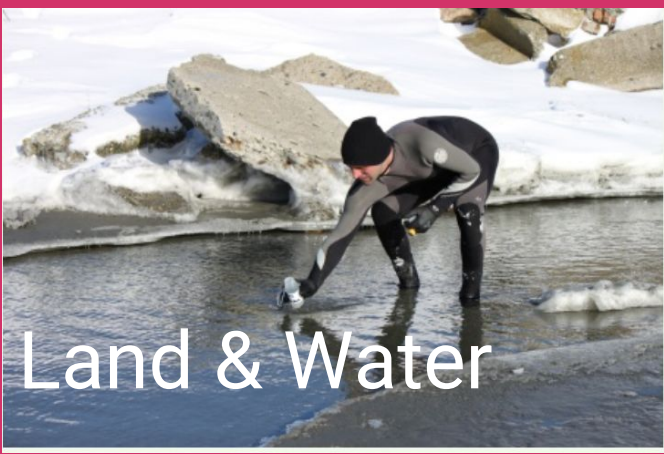
grow

Up to \$3,500
Deadlines Mar. 15 & Sep. 15



harvest

Up to \$5,000
Invitation Only



Land & Water



Food



Health



New Economy



Energy

Guiding Values

Just Transition

Shifting Power: Transparency, Accountability, Democracy

Lowering Barriers To Funding

Flexibility and 'Risk'-Taking

Change Versus Charity

Community-Based Fundraising

Process is The Product

Leigh Cameron
Program Coordinator
603-905-9915
leigh@grassrootsfund.org



New England
Grassroots
Environment Fund



Questions?

Let's Brainstorm Solutions!

1. Write down your biggest local energy challenge (1 minute)
2. Find someone you don't already know & take turns brainstorming solutions (5 minutes each)
3. Share ideas & takeaways with the full group (5)



How Can We Help?

- What tools, resources, or trainings would YOU find helpful?
- What can VECAN do to better support you?
- How can we all better help one another?

Easy access to all this good stuff

<http://bobthegreenguy.com/vecan-2016/workshop-sessions/building-power-local-level-stories-strategies-success-stories/>

Or the same page with less typing:

<http://bit.ly/2fR3SEc>

Sarah Brock - sarah@vitalcommunities.org

Leigh Cameron - leigh@grassrootsfund.org

Alan Johnson - alan@datdec.com

