



Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network and
University of Vermont Extension *present*



Saturday, December 7, 2013
Fairlee, Vermont



Strengthening Connections to Advance Solutions

Community Energy and Climate Action Conference





Vermont Energy & 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, 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 5,000 members and activists.

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, new thinking to action and collaborates with partners and entities to help achieve shared goals and project results across Vermont and beyond. www.communityclimateaction.org

Do you care about your community? We do too! The **New England Grassroots Environment Fund** inspires, connects and supports local change from the ground up. To date, the Grassroots Fund has provided seed grants and helpful resources to over 1,600 community groups in more than 50% of New England’s cities and towns. To connect to a project in your community, or to start applying the solutions you’re learning today, visit them on the web at www.grassrootsfund.org. Go Grassroots!

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. SERG also develops and implements programs to 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.

Efficiency Vermont is Vermont’s statewide efficiency utility, helping Vermonters reduce energy costs, strengthen local economies, and protect the environment by making homes and businesses energy efficient. EVT provides technical assistance, rebates and other financial incentives to help Vermont households and businesses reduce their energy costs. The Vermont Energy Investment Corporation operates EVT.

University of Vermont Extension’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 to individuals and families, supporting agriculture and the environment, and strengthening communities.

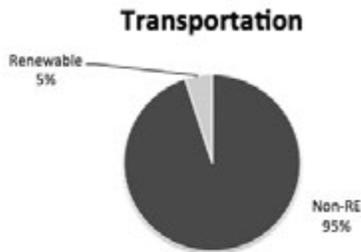
Special thanks to our premiere sponsor:



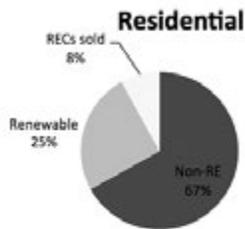
Conference Agenda

8:00 – 9:00	<p>Registration open Coffee and light refreshments. Exhibits available for browsing.</p> <hr/>
9:00 – 10:00	<p>Welcome and Plenary There are many players pivotal to building the broad-based public support needed to implement clean energy and climate solutions. Four individuals representing key constituencies will offer their perspectives on building stronger partnerships for action: Faith Leader: Reverend Susanna Griefen Farming and Agriculture Leader: Will Allen Youth Leader: Margaret Gish Business Leader: Chris Miller</p> <hr/>
10:10 – 11:00	<p>Roundtable Discussions. Participants will have the opportunity to meet with representatives of eight constituencies critical to moving the ball forward on clean energy and climate action. The goal is to foster deeper dialogue and spur new and useful collaborations. See page 7 for more details.</p> <hr/>
11:00 – 11:15	<p>Break</p> <hr/>
11:15 – 12:30	<p>Concurrent Workshops Session A Choose from a variety of concurrent sessions. See pages 8 and 9 for titles, descriptions and presenters.</p> <hr/>
12:30 – 1:45	<p>Lunch / Browse Sponsor Exhibits</p> <hr/>
1:45 – 2:00	<p>VECAN Energy Awards – Special recognition of energy committee members, energy committees and innovative projects. See page 6.</p> <hr/>
2:00 – 3:00	<p>Keynote – May Boeve, Executive Director of 350.org, an organization working worldwide to build a movement to solve the climate crisis.</p> <hr/>
3:00 – 3:15	<p>Break</p> <hr/>
3:15 – 4:30	<p>Concurrent Workshop Session B Choose from a variety of concurrent sessions. See pages 10 and 11 for titles, descriptions and presenters.</p> <hr/>
4:30	<p>Adjourn – Thank you for coming and for all you do!</p> <hr/>
4:30 – 6:00	<p>Post Conference Reception Keep the networking going and celebrate a solid day of climate action work! Gather in the Steamboat Lounge for tasty hors d’oeuvres and cash bar.</p>

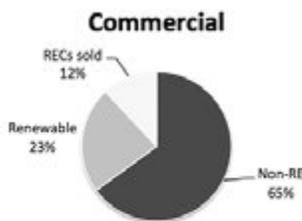
Vermont's Renewable Energy Use Today by Sector



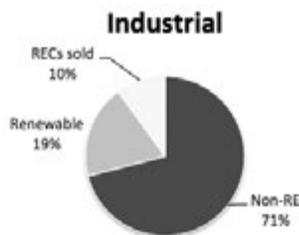
Transportation energy use is 35 percent of our total consumption today.



Residential energy use accounts for 29 percent of our total consumption today.



Commercial energy use accounts for 20 percent of our total consumption today.



Industrial energy use accounts for 16 percent of our total consumption today.

The Total Energy Study: A Roadmap to Vermont's Clean Energy Future

Vermont has established clean energy and climate goals, which anticipate the inevitable shift away from fossil fuels and the imperative to confront climate change. The state's 20-year Comprehensive Energy Plan set a goal of meeting 90 percent of our energy needs in 2050 with renewable supplies. In addition, the state has established a statutory goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 75 percent by 2050. We have a long way to go, we must get there but the roadmap needed for achieving these goals is still unclear.

The Clean Energy Roadmap Under Construction

Developing a clean energy roadmap is the goal of the Public Service Department's "Total Energy Study," which is now well underway. They are exploring a wide range of potential policies, technologies, and approaches to meet Vermont's energy and climate goals, and they want your thoughts!

What POLICIES make the most sense?

- A nearly revenue-neutral carbon tax shift?
- Renewable targets with carbon revenue for clean energy investments?
- A Clean (Total) Energy Standard?
- Sector-specific policies?
- A regional policy focus?

What MIX OF TECHNOLOGIES AND APPROACHES will work best to meet heating, transportation and electricity needs?

- Local, diversified, distributed generation? Economies of scale?
- Biomass and biofuels? More electrification?
- Smarter land use strategies?

What do YOU think?

Help shape this process! Here are some specific ideas:

- Read the Public Service Department's interim report to the Legislature due December 15.
- Offer your thoughts on the PSD's interim report before January 22 — http://www.publicservice.vermont.gov/publications/total_energy_study.

Stay tuned for other ways to engage in this process and please continue your important energy and climate action efforts.

Keynote

2:00 – 3:00

Growing a Grassroots Climate Movement in Vermont and Worldwide — The Urgency and the Opportunity



May Boeve is the Executive Director of 350.org, an organization that is working to build a global grassroots movement to solve the climate crisis. May works primarily on international partnerships and political strategy as well as helping to cultivate and grow a diverse, deep and locally led climate movement. May has a strong connection to Vermont. As a Middlebury College student, May was an active member of The Sunday Night group. The effort produced many motivated student leaders who helped organize a five-day walk across Vermont for climate action, the Step It Up campaigns and, later, co-founded 350.org. May will speak to the importance and urgency of building a diverse and growing climate movement — in Vermont and around the world — to tackle the climate challenge we face.

“May Boeve is the quintessential example of how hard work and perseverance can make a big dent in the world. When she helped found 350.org she was but a Vermont college student; now she runs the biggest global climate campaign on earth. She’s a symbol of how our hard work can, together, amount to enough!”

— Bill McKibben, Author, Activist and 350.org Co-Founder

Special thanks to our keynote sponsor:



VECAN Energy Awards

1:45 – 2:00



Best Project Award – Thetford HEAT Project

The Thetford Energy Committee launched Thetford HEAT in 2011 to motivate more residents to tighten up their leaky homes. This effort helped achieve significant energy savings for many local homeowners and has become a model for other communities on harnessing people power to achieve results. At its core, Thetford HEAT was a public engagement, door-to-door campaign. Some keys to success? Securing grant funding, telling local success stories, hosting home energy tours and recruiting and training 50 volunteers for door-to-door efforts. Thetford HEAT reached 650 residents and inspired over 30 families to make efficiency improvements, cutting projected fuel use by an average of 25 percent and equaling annual savings of more than \$900 per family. The project also served as a model outreach strategy for communities participating in the 2013 Vermont Home Energy Challenge.



Individual Energy Leadership Award – Fran Putnam

The Weybridge Energy Committee formed in 2011 through the vision and leadership of Fran Putnam. Fran quickly galvanized a committee of dedicated and accomplished members and the support of the community. As a result, Weybridge has become a PACE community, voted to weatherize the town garage and fire station and became the first community to meet its Vermont Home Energy Challenge goals. Fran's tireless efforts continue, including working to explore renewable energy options for the local elementary school and helping Middlebury Union High School students start a Climate Action Club, among other things. Her countless hours of work and effective leadership have manifested meaningful results and have been an inspiration to those around her.



Best Overall Energy Committee Award – Brattleboro

The Brattleboro Energy Committee, previously Brattleboro Climate Protection, has helped the town of Brattleboro advance and implement many clean energy efforts. BEC helped Brattleboro write a strong energy chapter of the town plan, paving the way for the town to move toward total energy solutions. They advanced energy efficiency goals by helping the town convert streetlights to LED fixtures, implement PACE, weatherize town buildings and participate in the Vermont Home Energy Challenge. They have helped bring new, local renewable power online by advising the town in purchasing renewable electricity through a solar net-metered project and organizing public workshops on renewable energy for homeowners, businesses and landlords. They have also been incredibly active on tackling transportation, initiating a Business Transportation Roundtable, Way to Go Challenge, a Transportation Management Association with strategic community partners and a project converting a former rail corridor into a multi-use community trail.

Roundtable Discussions

10:10 – 11:00



Building Partnerships at the Local Level: Furthering Dialogue and Action

The purpose of these roundtables is to explore new partnerships to advance climate and energy solutions. The roundtables will consist of local leaders and others who can outline some of the biggest issues, challenges and opportunities relevant to their particular constituencies. These 50-minute, facilitated but free-flowing sessions are intended to spark fresh ideas and specific steps for action.

What kind of partnerships do you think would help your local energy and climate work? Consider the kinds of partnerships you'd like to further develop and choose a roundtable discussion from the following breakout sessions:

Youth — The next generation of Vermonters has a lot at stake in the climate equation. Find out what's happening in schools across Vermont and explore how you or your energy committee might work more closely with younger Vermonters.

Faith-Based — Working more closely with congregations and spiritual leaders could be a potentially powerful partnership. Where might there be opportunities to collaborate better with faith-based organizations and leaders?

Business — Forward-looking businesses will be key to transforming the energy landscape and addressing climate change. Brainstorm how to strengthen business and grassroots energy action.

Farming and Agriculture — Farmers are experiencing first-hand the impacts of a warming world. Their important role in Vermont and their on-the-ground experience make their partnership in a clean energy transition essential. How can we work better together?

Income Limited — The cost of transitioning away from energy that is artificially cheap and carbon-intensive will be high. Working closely with organizations and people who care a lot about energy and climate challenges but have little or no money to spare is key. Explore how we can make this a just transition.

Climate Action/Climate Justice — Our shared societal appetite for polluting energy sources has put our climate in crisis. This roundtable will focus on action, exploring strategies from fossil fuel divestment to stopping tar sands, as well as other creative strategies and key considerations to tackle climate change.

Political — Bold policy-making in state government and at all levels is essential. Come chat with some Vermont policymakers and clean energy advocates about what is required to make the case for — and make it possible to — meet state energy goals.

Media — Energy issues are complicated, and the general public's energy literacy is limited. Making energy understandable by telling powerful stories and framing the issues is essential. Explore strategies, practices and platforms for building a more informed public through traditional and social media.



Workshop Session A

11:15 – 12:30



A1 Community Solar Success Stories and Strategies: The Local-Led Perspective

Across Vermont, there's increasing interest in solar energy. Every day, more and more Vermonters and Vermont communities, often motivated and assisted by town energy committees, are installing solar energy systems. At this workshop, learn about three different, locally led community solar success stories. Workshop leaders will describe the projects, outline keys to their success and suggest ways you can take similar steps to bring more solar online in Vermont.

Duncan McDougall, Waterbury Local Energy Action Partnership (LEAP)

Linda Gray, Norwich Energy Committee

Nick Ziter, SunFarm Community Solar



A2 Strategic Heating and Cooling with Air Source Heat Pumps

Air source heat pumps show great promise for sustainable building heating and cooling, when coupled with a renewable energy source. Come learn how they work, how the technology has evolved and why they are the rage. Hear about their potential for meeting building thermal needs, the applications for which they are most appropriate, what their implication is for the broader electric system and how energy committees can advance their use.

Amy Patenaude, Efficiency Vermont

Paul Cameron, Brattleboro Climate Protection

Bill Kallock, Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Consultant



A3 Charging Ahead: Bringing Electric Cars and Charging Stations to Your Community

A new generation of electric and plug-in hybrid cars is moving us away from fossil-fueled transportation. When combined with solar-powered charging stations, these vehicles can operate on 100% renewable energy and can help Vermont achieve its energy and climate goals. This workshop will explain the basics of electric cars and charging stations, and how you can encourage this technology in your community.

Rebecca Towne, Green Mountain Power

David Roberts, Vermont Energy Investment Corporation

A4 The Legislative Landscape for 2014

This workshop will provide an overview of likely legislative initiatives in the 2014 session, including potential fixes to Vermont's successful renewable net-metering program and what – if any – investments on heating efficiency are possible. The workshop will also examine how Vermont might fill the Clean Energy Development Fund, among other hot topics.

Representative Tony Klein

Representative Rebecca Ellis

Workshop Session A

11:15 – 12:30



A5 Planning for and Building Resilient Communities

How can communities withstand, respond and adapt to energy and climate challenges? Learn ways to assess your community's resilience to the growing threat of disruption using a new *Resilient Communities Scorecard*. Hear how a Selectboard/Transition Town leader helped move a town hazard mitigation plan forward and how he helped his municipality set an energy reduction goal. Presenters will discuss how to build collaboration with community partners and access and increase skill-building for resiliency.

Kate McCarthy, Vermont Natural Resources Council

Simon Dennis, Hartford Selectboard and Transition Town Trainer



A6 Communicating Effectively: How to Successfully Harness Traditional and Social Media

There are over 100 town energy committees implementing inspiring clean energy solutions across the state. Telling the story of this work is essential if we are to motivate more Vermonters and Vermont leaders to take necessary action. This workshop will help you hone your ability to tell your stories by harnessing traditional and social media in order to reach more people and inspire them to take action. Learn tips and guidance on how to effectively get your story into newspapers, on TV and radio, and into on-line news outlets. The workshop will also cover how to leverage social media to engage, strengthen and broaden the network.

Bob Farnham, Bob the Green Guy

Joel Baird, Burlington Free Press



A7 Getting to 20 Percent Renewable by 2020: The Stories of Diverse Project Experiences

Vermont's broad 2050 renewable energy goal has decision-makers at all levels considering just how to get there. While achieving this goal will require a whole lot more conservation and efficiency, it will also require renewable energy development. This session will highlight three renewable energy project experiences — hydro, biomass and wind — outline how they evolved and how Vermonters might help their communities advance shared statewide goals.

Gwendolyn Hallsmith, Montpelier Planning and Community Development

Martha Staskus, Renewable Energy Vermont/Cornerstone Renewables

Debra Sachs, EcoStrategies

Workshop Session B

3:15 – 4:30



B1 Innovative Models, Tools, Templates and Support for Advancing Community Solar Projects

Solar is a forward-looking, clean energy solution that more people want to tap. Unfortunately, nearly 75 percent of Vermonters can't go solar because they don't own their home or have suitable roof or yard space. Luckily, creative, community-owned solutions offer tremendous promise. But it's not simple. This workshop will highlight some potentially replicable ownership models and useful tools and resources to help move community projects forward. It will also provide an overview of some innovative solar developments underway in Vermont, as well as gather input on your community's solar activities or needs.

Amanda Beraldi, Green Mountain Power

Anne Margolis, Vermont Public Service Department

Johanna Miller, Vermont Natural Resources Council



B2 Community Efforts to Promote Thermal Efficiency: Lessons Learned from the Field

Efficiency Vermont, in partnership with VECAN, has sponsored the yearlong Vermont Home Energy Challenge – a community-based effort designed to promote thermal efficiency improvements in Vermont residences. With the Challenge nearing completion, this workshop will focus on results to date, what worked and what didn't and will highlight a few Vermont communities that really stepped up to the plate. We will also leave time to brainstorm and discuss how Efficiency Vermont and VECAN can continue to support community-based efforts in this area.

Bob Walker, Sustainable Energy Resource Group

Fran Putnam, Weybridge Energy Committee

Paul Markowitz, Efficiency Vermont



B3 A Whole Home Approach to Energy Efficiency

How do we help people affordably invest in comprehensive energy-saving solutions for their home? Learn about passive houses that use little if any energy in our cold climate and about best green building practices. Hear about a new Sustain-A-Raisers program that engages community members in home and yard makeovers including the installation of raised garden beds, solar hot water systems, clotheslines (really solar clothes dryers!), rain barrels, compost bins and more. Take away new ideas, real solutions and practical applications to help you – or your friends and neighbors – move whole-home clean energy strategies forward.

Chris West, Passive House Alliance of Vermont

Emily Richey, Global Awareness Local Action

Chuck Reiss, Reiss Building and Renovation

Workshop Session B

3:15 – 4:30



B4 Collaborative Models to Improve Access to Rural Transportation

Ridesharing, vanpooling, transit, shared paths, safe routes — all are needed for healthy, vibrant communities. Meanwhile, Vermonters are struggling for more affordable, accessible transportation. Learn about successful models from three health and human service experts who are maximizing their innovative programs through key partnerships, volunteers and shared resources.

Rebecca Jones (MD), Physician and Writer

Sue Graff, United Way of Windham County

Robin Way, Champlain Islanders Developing Essential Resources, Inc. (C.I.D.E.R.)



B5 Total Energy Study and Pathways for Total Energy Solutions

Vermont's Comprehensive Energy Plan sets a goal of meeting 90 percent of the state's energy needs in 2050 with renewable supplies. How are we going to meet this goal? The Public Service Department is looking at potential policy and technology pathways and has launched a "Total Energy Study" process to explore options. Learn about this and other efforts to set shorter-term goals, examine various energy scenarios and explore how Vermont can build public support for meeting this important goal.

Asa Hopkins, Public Service Department

Paul Costello, Vermont Council on Rural Development

Leigh Seddon, Energy Action Network



B6 Energy Committee Success Stories and Strategies for Strengthening the Grassroots Network

Vermont's town energy committees are implementing critical clean energy solutions at the local level. Find out about some of the most powerful work of Vermont's energy committees, learn how to advance successful energy projects, hear tips for starting and running an effective committee, and gain strategies for engaging and strengthening the grassroots network.

Keith Epstein, South Burlington Energy Committee

Dori Wolfe, Strafford Energy Committee

Dan Jones, Montpelier Energy Advisory Committee

B7 Getting to Yes in Siting Renewable Energy Generation

Renewable energy development, environmental protection and community interests are not mutually exclusive. The Governor's recent Energy Generation Siting Policy Commission offered recommendations to help balance varied interests and improve the siting process for all. Find out about the recommendations of the siting commission, how regions might play a more active role in siting and learn about useful tools like the Agency of Natural Resources' "BioFinder."

Linda McGinnis, Energy Generation Siting Policy Commission Director

Jim Sullivan, Bennington Regional Commission

Billy Coster, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

Presenters

Will Allen is a farmer, teacher, lifelong activist, author and leading authority on climate change related to agriculture. Will's expertise includes the role that industrial (non-organic) food and farming practices play in global warming and the steps for creating a green economy based on fixing industrial food and farming practices. He is the founder of the Sustainable Cotton Project, a co-chair of Farms Not Arms, a policy advisory board member of the Organic Consumers Association and a Rural Vermont board member.

Joel Baird's appreciation of energy issues stems from first-hand experience (not all of it journalistic) with dung-fires and kerosene heaters in India, coal mining in Colorado and West Virginia and USB cables in the 21st century. He works to translate his schoolboy's grasp of thermodynamics into language that is useful. News stories, he believes, should be educational for everyone involved. He now writes about environmental and land-use issues for the Burlington Free Press.

Amanda Beraldi is Director of Customer Programs in Green Mountain Power's Energy Innovation Center where she works to develop the next great idea to keep Vermont and GMP at the forefront of energy creation and distribution. The team at the Innovation Center collaborates with other organizations and engages its customers in programs and projects that improve the efficiency and effectiveness of energy use and promote the economic vitality of the region. She holds a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Vermont and an M.B.A. from the College of St. Joseph. She has served on the District 1 Act 250 Environmental Commission since 2003 and lives in Rutland with her husband and two kids.

Paul Cameron is the Executive Director of Brattleboro Climate Protection, a nonprofit organization that has worked closely with the Town of Brattleboro since 2002 to reduce carbon emissions through increased energy efficiency and use of renewable energy. He also serves as the Town of Brattleboro's Energy Coordinator.

Paul Costello is Executive Director of the Vermont Council on Rural Development. VCRD has founded and produced the Vermont Rural Energy Council, the Council on the Future of Vermont and many other efforts. VCRD also leads the Vermont Working Landscape Partnership and manages the Vermont Digital Economy Program. Paul is a UVM alumnus and holds a PhD in intellectual history from McGill University. He serves on the boards of Vermont Rural Ventures, NOFA VT, the Center for an Agricultural Economy and Partners for Rural America.

Billy Coster is the Senior Planner and Policy Analyst for the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. Billy coordinates the agency's participation in Section 248 dockets and provides guidance and information to developers, communities and other parties on the siting of energy generation facilities to minimize impacts to natural resources. Billy recently served as ANR staff to the Governor's Energy Generation Siting Policy Commission and works on a number of energy-related policy initiatives. Prior to joining ANR, Billy was the conservation policy and stewardship director at the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. A Middlebury College graduate, Billy lives in Morristown where he serves as a director of the Stowe Land Trust.

Simon Dennis is a social entrepreneur who has worked for 15 years in the non-profit sector. He currently serves as the board chair and founding director of the Center for Transformational Practice (transformationalpractice.org), a residential community working to bring 'inner transition' to the forefront in the evolution of sustainable local culture. He also serves as the vice-chair of the Hartford Select Board and as a certified Transition Town trainer. Simon spent a decade co-founding and co-directing COVER Home Repair, a non-profit organization that organizes volunteers to address urgently needed home repair projects for elderly and disabled members of the community (www.coverhomerepair.org). His current passions include community organizing, municipal energy policy, and riding his bicycle.

Rebecca Ellis serves on the House Natural Resources and Energy Committee in the Vermont Legislature. Prior to joining the Legislature in 2011, Rebecca worked for 14 years as an Assistant Attorney General for the state of Vermont, focusing on land use and environmental issues. She served on the Waterbury Planning Commission from 2001-2006. She has served on the Waterbury Select Board since 2006. Rebecca was born in Middlebury and grew up in Burlington. She graduated from Burlington High School (1982), Harvard University (BA 1986), Princeton University (MPA 1991) and Georgetown University Law Center (JD 1996).

Keith Epstein has been an active member of the South Burlington Energy Committee since its founding in 2008. He enjoys volunteering with the committee to reduce South Burlington's energy use and increase renewable energy production. Keith has been a mechanical design engineer at AllEarth Renewables since moving to Vermont in 2008. He works on design, development, testing, and manufacturing of grid-tied photovoltaic (solar) trackers for generating electricity. Prior to working at AER, he was an applications engineer and mechanical design engineer for Kionix in Ithaca, NY. He has a B.S. in mechanical engineering from Cornell University.

Bob “the Green Guy” Farnham is the digital age’s equivalent of a charismatic itinerant preacher blended with Johnny Appleseed. Under his “Bob the Green Guy” brand, he advises organizations, businesses and individuals on how to maximize their online presence and effectively communicate using social media. Recently, he has worked on initiatives and projects including the Vermont Home Energy Challenge, Button Up Vermont Day, VT Right to Know GMOs and Our Children, Climate, Faith Symposium. Bob recognizes the significant – and unmet – potential of leveraging social media communication to raise the Vermont Energy and Climate Action movement to the next level.

Sue Graff, Community Investment Director at United Way of Windham County, has over 20 years in the non-profit sector. UWWC is advancing positive, community outcomes based on the building blocks to good quality of life – education, income, and health. At UWWC, Sue oversees resource investments including volunteer engagement, grant making, data analysis and community input. UWWC’s 2010 Community Impact model includes transportation as a target community outcome.

Linda Gray has been an active member of the Norwich Energy Committee since 2008 and served on the school board for 10 years prior to that. NEC’s local energy work has included a streetlight campaign, municipal energy planning, advancing clean energy financing solutions like PACE, undertaking the 2013 Home Energy Challenge and more. The NEC has also helped their municipality and local residents successfully implement solar, including undertaking one of Vermont’s first Solarize projects.

Rev. Susanna Griefen is the pastor of the Dummerston Congregational Church, a Green Justice Congregation of the United Church of Christ, and helped form the Vermont United Church of Christ Environmental Ministries Committee. In her 32 years of engagement, she has helped organize many local and regional climate related events and has served on the Board of Vermont Interfaith Power and Light. She regularly collaborates with the Dummerston Energy Committee, Transition Town Group, and the Conservation Commission. Her church has led a Lenten Carbon Fast, super-insulated the sanctuary and organized tree planting in Kenya and Dummerston:

Margaret Gish is a senior at The Sharon Academy. In 2010, Margaret was selected to join Inconvenient Youth, a project of Vice President Al Gore’s Climate Reality Project. She is involved in the Whole School Energy Challenge, with the goal of reducing the school’s energy use and associated

costs by 10%, and this year, her senior exhibition project will focus on the effects of climate change on Vermont’s biodiversity.

Gwendolyn Hallsmith is the Director of Planning and Community Development for the city of Montpelier, where she played a key role fostering a partnership between Montpelier and the state of Vermont to bring a biomass district energy system (now under construction) to the Capital City. Gwen is a specialist on sustainable community development with over 25 years of experience working for municipal, regional, and state government in the United States and internationally. She founded Global Community Initiatives, a non-profit helping communities achieve their sustainability goals, and is the author of four books on sustainable community development and local economies.

Asa Hopkins is the Director of Energy Policy and Planning at the Vermont Public Service Department, where he has worked since the fall of 2011. Before joining the Department, he worked at the U.S. Department of Energy and served as the assistant project director for the DOE’s first Quadrennial Technology Review. He is a graduate of Haverford College and the California Institute of Technology.

Dan Jones is an activist and media producer in Montpelier. For almost two years he has been chair of the Montpelier Energy Action Committee. In that position he has assisted with the creation of the new district heat system and the coordination of the Home Energy Challenge along with helping explore solar energy development in the city. Currently he is helping to organize the plan to make Montpelier the first Net Zero state capital in the country. Dan is also on the steering committee of Vermonters for a New Economy and on the board of Gross National Happiness USA.

Rebecca Jones, MD, is a physician and writer, practicing in Brattleboro. She is an active member of Brattleboro Transportation Roundtable, 350Vermont, Doctors for America and the Vermont Medical Society. Her latest project, Vermont Green Print for Health, includes solutions to climate change that also address health concerns. Ms. Jones is active in grassroots innovative efforts that encourage healthy commuting, vibrant communities and carbon savings.

Bill Kallock is an energy efficiency and renewable energy consultant with over 23 years of experience in the design and evaluation of programs for utilities across North America. Currently Bill is Vice President of Integral Analytics, a smart grid software company. He lives with his family in the Passive House they heat exclusively with a Mitsubishi Hyper Heat air-source heat pump.

Tony Klein was first elected to the Vermont State Legislature in 2002 and has spent 10 of his 12 years on the House Natural Resources and Energy Committee, serving as chair for the past six years. He has been recognized for his legislative leadership from organizations including the Vermont Natural Resources Council, Renewable Energy Vermont, Vermont State Employees Association, Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility and the Burlington Free Press. Prior to serving in the Legislature, he was a business and government relations consultant and lobbyist. Tony has a BA in Government and Public Relations from American University. He has lived with his wife Jennifer and family in Central Vermont since 1972.

Anne Margolis, as Renewable Energy Development Manager for the Vermont Public Service Department, is responsible for working statewide with stakeholders to help advance the state toward the renewable energy goals outlined in the 2011 Vermont Comprehensive Energy Plan. She previously managed the Vermont Clean Energy Development Fund and directed solar, wind, fuel cell, and energy storage projects for the nonprofit Clean Energy States Alliance.

Paul Markowitz is Community Energy Program Manager with Efficiency Vermont where he promotes partnerships with non-profit organizations, businesses, and municipalities to implement community-based energy efficiency programs.

Kate McCarthy is the Sustainable Communities Program director at the Vermont Natural Resources Council where she focuses on building sustainable, compact communities that provide residents with options, while supporting open space and working lands. This includes helping undertake comprehensive planning for community resilience. Kate also crafted the Resilient Communities Scorecard, which outlines a comprehensive approach for communities to achieve resilience. Kate has also worked closely as an advisor to the Institute for Sustainable Communities' "Resilient Vermont" project. Prior to working at VNRC, Kate worked for the Windham Regional Commission, including overseeing the Commission's energy program.

Duncan McDougall is the founder and Chair of Waterbury LEAP (Local Energy Action Partnership), a town energy committee that has also become a non-profit. LEAP's goal is to make Waterbury the greenest town in Vermont by 2020. Duncan received VNRC's 2011 'Citizen of the Year' award, and in 2013, Waterbury LEAP received REV's Jim Grundy Renewable Energy Award. Duncan is also Executive Director of the Children's Literacy Foundation, and coordinator of Waterbury in Motion, a bike/ped organization striving to create a network of trails in Waterbury and the surrounding area.

Linda McGinnis is an independent policy analyst and economist with 30 years of experience in the field of sustainable development. She has advised a broad range of governments (state and national), international organizations, and non-profits on strategies related to sustainable practices for economic development. Linda was the director of Vermont's Energy Generation Siting Policy Commission. She currently serves as board chair for the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps and will soon join the board of the Vermont Clean Energy Development Fund.

Chris Miller currently serves as the Social Mission Activism Manager at Ben & Jerry's, where he develops consumer facing activism campaigns that support the company's progressive mission and values. Before joining Ben & Jerry's, Chris led the sustainability work at Seventh Generation. In addition to his for-profit experience, Chris directed Greenpeace USA's national climate campaign and served on the staff of then Congressman Bernie Sanders. He currently serves as the Board Chair of Car Share Vermont and is on the board of Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility.

Johanna Miller is the Energy Program Director at the Vermont Natural Resources Council and also serves as the coordinator of the Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network. In these roles, Johanna works from the grassroots to the Legislature to help advance clean energy programs and policies. Johanna is working with a wide array of experts and experienced energy committee leaders to develop a guide to help Vermonters advance community solar projects more easily, swiftly and successfully.

Amy Patenaude, P.E., has 17 years of experience in the HVAC and refrigeration industry and has served as an HVAC strategic planner and program manager for Efficiency Vermont. Amy has years of experience designing and coordinating installation of residential heat pump systems.

Fran Putnam is a founding member and the current chair of the Weybridge Energy Committee. Under Fran's leadership, Weybridge was the first town in Vermont to meet the Vermont Home Energy Challenge goal. She is a retired early childhood educator and works in her community as a climate activist.

Chuck Reiss is owner of Reiss Building and Renovation, a green construction company since 1982. He was one of the founding members of Building for Social Responsibility and Building Performance Professional Association of Vermont. He is the present chair of the Vermont Builds Greener Program. Reiss Building and Renovation has built one of the first net zero energy residential neighborhoods in the

state. They are also BPI certified and dedicated to getting existing homes off of fossil fuel through a combination of increased efficiency and renewable energy supply.

Emily Richey is the Capacity Building Officer at Global Awareness Local Action (G.A.L.A.) and is in her second year serving as an AmeriCorps VISTA. In May 2012, Emily graduated from Hamline University in Saint Paul, MN. There she studied Environmental Studies, concentrated in Political Science, and created a flexible major titled Globalization & Development. Emily has spent time studying Transition Towns, founding the Hamline University Outdoor Recreation Club, participating in International Model United Nations conferences, directing an environmental summer camp in Finland, MN, and sitting on the Slow Food Carroll County Board. She grew up in a household of environmental educators, gardeners, and outdoor adventurers, exploring the Northwoods through canoe trips, hiking trails, ski hills and digging in the dirt.

David Roberts is a consultant with the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation. His work focuses on transportation efficiency programs that reduce the economic and environmental costs of transportation energy use. He coordinates Drive Electric, Vermont's multi-party effort to advance the use of highly efficient electrified transportation options through policy development, education and infrastructure planning and implementation.

Debra Sachs is CEO and President of EcoStrategies, an environmental consulting firm advancing sustainable development projects and strategies for business. She is founding director of Community Climate Action, a Vermont-based non-profit committed to education, outreach and public engagement and founding member of VECAN. She also worked with the City of Barre on its proposed 17 kW in-conduit net-metered hydropower project.

Leigh Seddon is the founder of Solar Works, Inc., which became Alteris Renewables in 2008 and merged with Real Goods Solar in 2011. He currently works as a renewable energy consultant located in Montpelier. He is also the chair of Energy Action Network, a Vermont non-profit coalition of businesses, NGOs, and government agencies dedicated to creating a sustainable energy future through increased use of renewable energy and investment in energy efficiency.

Martha Staskus is chair of Renewable Energy Vermont and Vice President of Business Development at Cornerstone Renewables, a company focused on developing community wind and solar generation facilities. She was the manager of the Georgia Mountain Community Wind project and responsible for advancing the initial phase of development of

four out of five permitted wind projects in Vermont. With over 30 years of experience siting, assessing, permitting and developing wind and solar projects, she is committed to helping Vermont meet its renewable energy goal.

Jim Sullivan has worked for the Bennington County Regional Commission for the past 24 years, currently serving as executive director. Prior to his time with the BCRC, Jim worked as the town planner for Manchester. He has graduate degrees in natural resource management and public administration. Jim has experience with a wide range of local and regional planning projects, but his principal interests are in the scientific, economic, and social aspects of energy planning. Jim burns off his own excess energy trail running and road bowling near his home in Bennington.

Rebecca Towne is Chief Talent Officer at Green Mountain Power where she leads organizational development, human resources, and the company's fleet of vehicles. For 10 years she has been driving GMP's vision for the electrification of transportation through innovative fleet initiatives and charging station infrastructure development. Rebecca has led the adoption of many plug-in vehicles in GMP's fleet and the installation of charging stations across the state.

Bob Walker is executive director of Sustainable Energy Resource Group, chair of the Thetford Energy Committee and a former Home Performance with ENERGY STAR contractor. SERG assisted with Home Energy Challenge outreach efforts in 12 participating Upper Valley Challenge towns and coordinated weatherization outreach and education efforts in Thetford.

Robin Way is Executive Director of Champlain Islanders Developing Essential Resources, Inc. (C.I.D.E.R.) a community based and volunteer driven non-profit organization serving elders and people with disabilities in Grand Isle County. Robin is leading the innovative "community rides" model and has provided transportation to individuals with special needs for over twenty years. C.I.D.E.R. was recognized by the Community Transportation Association of America as the 2005 National Rural Transportation System of the Year.

Chris West is President of the Passive House Alliance of Vermont and owner of Eco Houses of Vermont. He is a certified passive house consultant and has a background in mechanical engineering. Chris has consulted on various passive houses and near passive house projects in Vermont and provided consulting and thermal bridge analysis for projects in Vermont and around the country. Chris spent from 2001 to 2010 living and working in the Netherlands, a country that has embraced the building science behind the

passive house standard. He has a passion for spreading the word about the super energy efficient building standard he believes is the future of home building.

Dori Wolfe is an active member of the Strafford Energy Committee and also dedicates substantial volunteer time to educating students and communities in sustainable practices including developing an elementary school energy curriculum and lecturing on renewable energy in various colleges. She is a co-founder of groSolar, a national renewable energy company. In 2011, she founded Wolfe Energy to share her extensive knowledge and passion for energy conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy and currently sits on the Governor's Council for Energy and the Environment. She practices sustainability in her

passive solar home with her extended family where they net meter to zero with both wind and photovoltaics, generate hot water from the sun, keep chickens, and practice permaculture.

Nick Ziter received his Bachelors degree in economics from the University of Vermont in 2009 and is currently pursuing a Masters degree in Architecture with a focus on sustainable design from the University of Oregon. In 2012 Nick founded SunFarm Community Solar in an effort to bring a community owned solar array to the Town of Putney. The 144kW group net-metered array was completed in August of 2013 and serves 49 homes in the Putney area. Nick has also sat on the Putney Energy Committee, and helped advise the town on their best options to go solar.



The Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network would like to thank GMCR for their support of this conference and their commitment to an active, engaged network of Vermonters working at the local level to save energy, develop renewable solutions and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

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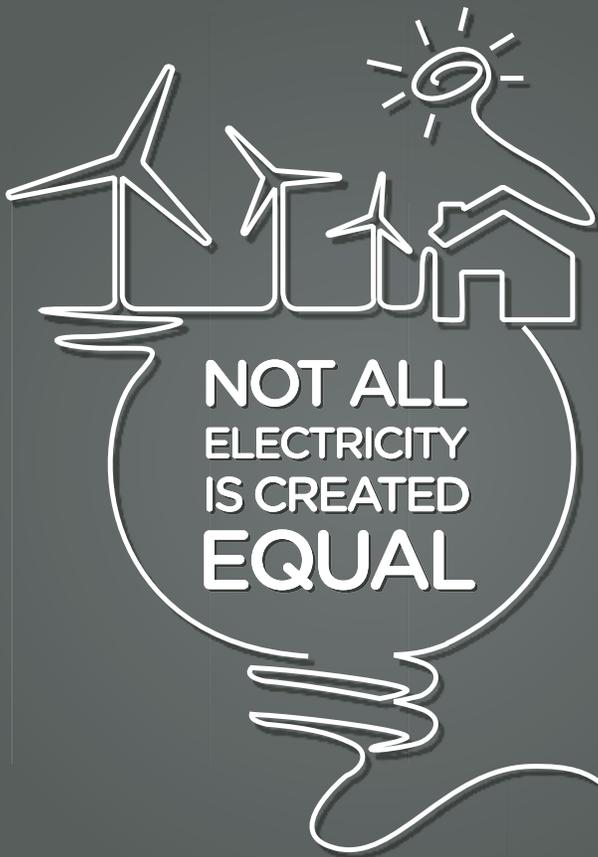
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STATE OF VERMONT Total Energy Study PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The Public Service Department will release the **Total Energy Study's Interim Report** to the Legislature on December 15, 2013.

The Department will accept **Public Comments** in response to the report, through the **deadline January 22, 2014.**

Please find the report, information about the Public Comment Period, and other Total Energy Study activities at

www.publicservice.vermont.gov/publications/total_energy_study

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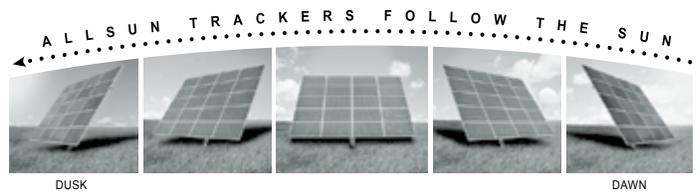
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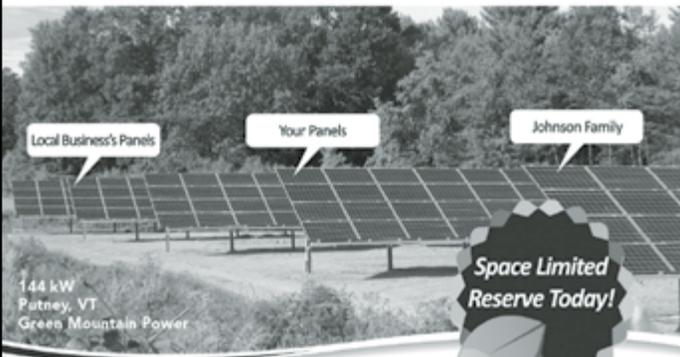


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The Vermont Public Interest Research Group, the state's largest grassroots environmental advocacy organization, is dedicated to expanding wind and solar power in Vermont, as well as pushing for increased efficiency and renewable heating options.

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Total Energy Study and Opportunity

The Vermont Comprehensive Energy Plan's 90 percent by 2050 renewable energy goal is ambitious and imperative. How Vermont will meet this goal is the question in the Public Service Department's Total Energy Study process. What are the technology and policy pathways we could choose? What might different energy scenarios look like? What are the costs, benefits and implications of various scenarios? Learn more about this effort and stay tuned for ways to participate. http://publicservice.vermont.gov/publications/total_energy_study

Button Up Vermont Day of Action

Saturday, October 5 was the first-ever statewide "Button Up Vermont Day of Action." There is an effort to have the Legislature and Governor recognize the first Saturday of October as the day when all Vermonters' "Button Up," just as we "Green Up" in the spring. Pencil next October 4 on your calendar! And, if you are inspired to, consider asking your legislator to support a likely resolution this year to commemorate an annual "Button Up Vermont Day of Action."

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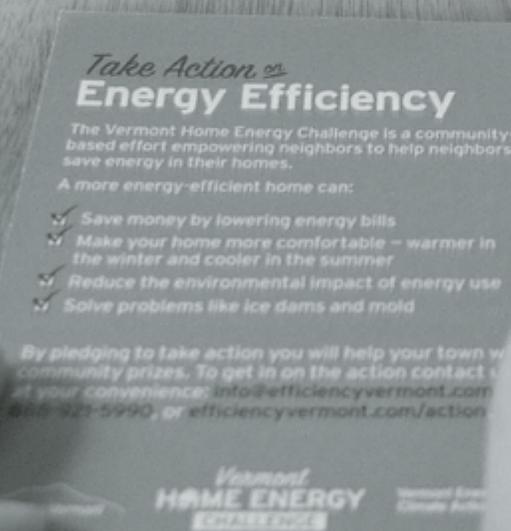
Tar Sands Free Vermont

There remains a potential plan to transport dirty, dangerous tar sands 'oil' through Vermont's Northeast Kingdom. This shortsighted idea would set Vermont – and the world – back on clean energy and climate solutions. Last year 29 towns passed resolutions opposing any tar sands transport across Vermont. There is another resolution campaign underway this year. If you want to explore getting a "Keep Vermont Tar Sands Free" resolution on your community's 2014 Town Meeting Day calendar, contact jade@350VT.org.

Growing Grassroots Power

Town energy committees are one of the most important players making real, positive, clean energy action happen in Vermont. Increasingly, lawmakers are looking to the experience of those grassroots efforts to inform state policy making too. There is a real need and opportunity to grow proactive, forward-looking, solutions-oriented grassroots power by 1) adding more members to your energy committee, 2) helping a neighboring town to start a committee or 3) getting more deeply involved in the policy making arena.

For more information on any of these opportunities, please contact Johanna Miller at jmiller@vnrc.org or 802-223-2328 ext. 112



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