

Vermont Energy & Climate Action Network

Energizing Vermont Communities

www.vecan.net

**Town Energy Committees: Community Powered Energy and
Climate Change Solutions**





Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network is a collaborative focused on strengthening and starting town energy committees in Vermont

VECAN supports energy committees through:

- Organizing, networking, training and resource-sharing opportunities.
- Conference, regional roundtables, web site etc.
- Direct technical expertise
- Strategic campaigns to drive action
- Providing resources – or linking people to resources –

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TOWN ENERGY COMMITTEES – A POWERFUL, PROACTIVE RESPONSE TO ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE

- Over 100 communities across Vermont now have municipal energy committees.
- Committees take different forms, including:
 - **Ad hoc group of interested citizens.**
 - **A subcommittee of a municipal committee.**
 - **An appointed municipal committee body.**

**ASSESS WHAT WILL WORK BEST FOR
YOUR COMMUNITY AND DIG IN...**



GETTING STARTED...

- Create a solid committee structure.
- Set consensus-based expectations of committee commitment.
- Set shared goals.
- Create internal communication plan.
- Run a good meeting.



TIPS FOR BUILDING and SUSTAINING STRONG ENERGY COMMITTEES

Identify (achievable) goals and stick to them.

- Review the energy chapter in your town's comprehensive plan to ensure that your town is headed in the right direction.
- Think big, start small!
- Start with manageable projects to lead to relatively near-term success.
- Piggyback on existing campaigns and projects.
- Remember that projects that save money are often well received!

Utilize and build upon people's strengths.



MESSAGING: HOW WE TALK ABOUT ENERGY

- Make your message clear, concise, and compelling.
- Understand and honor what people value.
- Undertake broad educational events to raise awareness and draw people into your committee.

Create an external communication plan and platform

- Harness various technologies like Facebook, Twitter, Youtube, and personal websites.





Solicit support of town elected officials from the beginning.

- Selectboard or city council members hold the keys to many local actions - budget items, adopting a town resolution, etc.
- Keeping them informed of your efforts, solicit their ideas on your priorities, and set shared goals.



Focus on municipal energy use.

- Get your elected officials' attention!
- Identify and execute campaigns to reduce municipal energy use.
- Offer to help find the funds to undertake these projects.
- Make it easy for your municipality to undertake energy efficiency projects.

Build broad coalitions and create collaborative opportunities.

- Contact community organizations and institutions to get involved.
- Identify where your interests converge.
- Undertake joint activities.



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2013 VERMONT HOME ENERGY CHALLENGE

...neighbors helping neighbors save through efficiency

Overview:

- Town-by-town challenge
- Turn-key program for local partners and organizers
- Support for local partners from Efficiency Vermont, VECAN, and regional partners.



SIGN UP NOW!

Local Target Goal

- Three percent of year-round occupied homes weatherized in 2013.
- Use Home Performance with ENERGY STAR.
- Challenge to achieve high outreach levels RE: efficiency.
- Other measures of success – TBD.



Go Vermont is a resource for travelers who want to reduce the cost and environmental impact of driving. Throughout this site you will find information about the different ways you can get around the state, and how these modes can save you money.

In addition to information on [bus routes](#), [biking](#) or [walking](#), and other modes, Go Vermont features a [free carpool/vanpool matching service](#), [ridesharing tips](#), and other practical information on getting around.

800-685-RIDE (7433)

We have answers! Call our Q&A Hotline

Carpool/Vanpool 101: Cut gas costs by 50%!

Register and become part of the Go Vermont database—it's full of Vermonters looking to share a ride. As a regular commuter, you can cut your cost of commuting by 10% if you share just one ride per week with one other person!

- How it Works
- Find Local Commuters
- Join a Car or Vanpool



VIDEO

Take a ride with some of our commuters

Ride along with three Go Vermont carpoolers and learn the benefits of sharing a ride.



CARPOOL MATCHING



Get Started!



Video: How to use our ride matching system

PARK AND RIDE



Find park and ride lots that work for you



Travel Info
511VT.com

Get the latest Vermont travel information, including road conditions, restrictions, delays and closures.

CONNECTING COMMUTERS



Carpool or Vanpool



Walk or Bike



Bus

VERMONTERS ARE MAKING A BIG DIFFERENCE, BUT THERE IS LOTS MORE TO DO...

To learn more about how VECAN can help and how to build an even more effective energy and climate action network, contact:

Johanna Miller

Email: jmiller@vnrc.org

Phone: 802-223-2328

Web: www.vecan.net



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**State policy to support clean energy action is imperative.
This year, the Legislature will likely consider:**



- Expanding investment in thermal energy efficiency and fuel switching.
- Fully funding the small-scale renewable 'Clean Energy Development Fund.'
- Exploring opportunities to advance electric vehicles.
- Action to stop tar sands transport in Vermont.
- To learn more or get involved contact VECAN partners online or Coordinator, Johanna Miller at jmiller@vnrc.org.

More opportunities to take action...

- Solar Projects
- Municipal Street Lighting Projects (incentives via Efficiency Vermont)
- Tar Sands Free Vermont

For more information check out:

www.350.org/vermont

Check out www.vecan.net for an extensive list of other programs.



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HAVE FUN!

RECOGNIZE AND CELEBRATE ACHIEVEMENTS!

