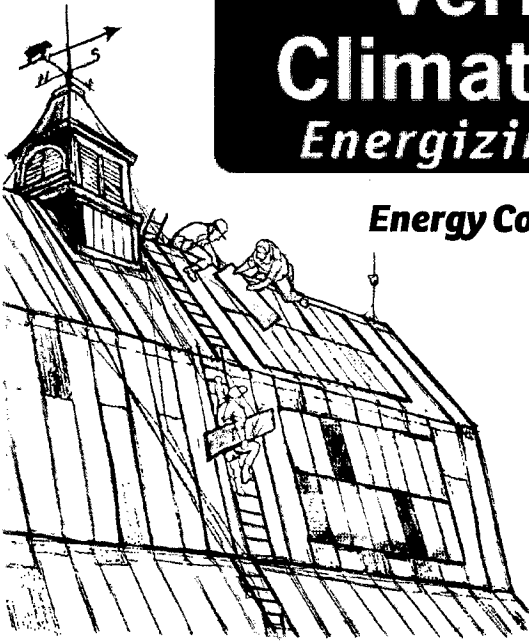


Vermont Energy & Climate Action Network

Energizing Vermont Communities

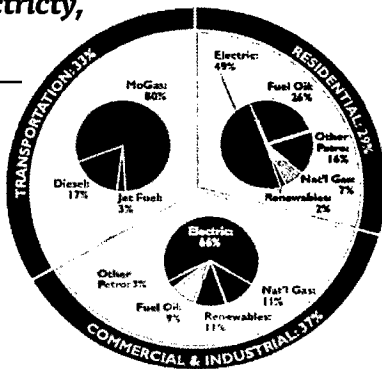
Energy Committees: Building Vermont's Green Energy Future



VECAN is the network of support organizations and over 100 town energy committees across Vermont. Town energy committees are leading a powerful grassroots response to the pressing need to be more energy efficient and generate more in-state renewable energy, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. These local energy groups are shaping conversations about how Vermont will meet its future energy needs and through their actions are demonstrating that a clean energy future is possible.

Can We Get There From Here?

Vermont, through its Comprehensive Energy Plan, has set an ambitious goal of meeting 90% of its entire energy needs—that means electricity, heating, and transportation—through efficiency improvements and renewable energy by 2050. It is clear that in order to achieve the state's comprehensive energy goal—to take it beyond aspiration and turn it into a reality—Vermont will need even more local grassroots participation, collaboration, and innovation. **In other words, to “get there from here,” more Vermonters must directly take hold of Vermont's energy future.**



The Foundations of Change in Vermont

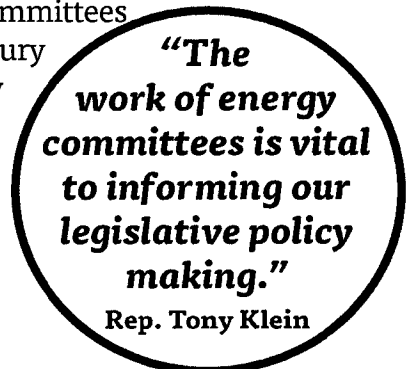
Town energy committees are leading the way by achieving significant results across the state on key energy issues. They are helping their communities:

Go Renewable: Energy committees from Underhill to Middlebury are advancing community solar projects through group net metering and power purchase agreements.

Use Less Energy, Save

Money: The Thetford Energy Committee went door-to-door to help people weatherize homes and save money. Hartford, led by their energy committee, saved thousands of dollars by removing and replacing inefficient street lighting.

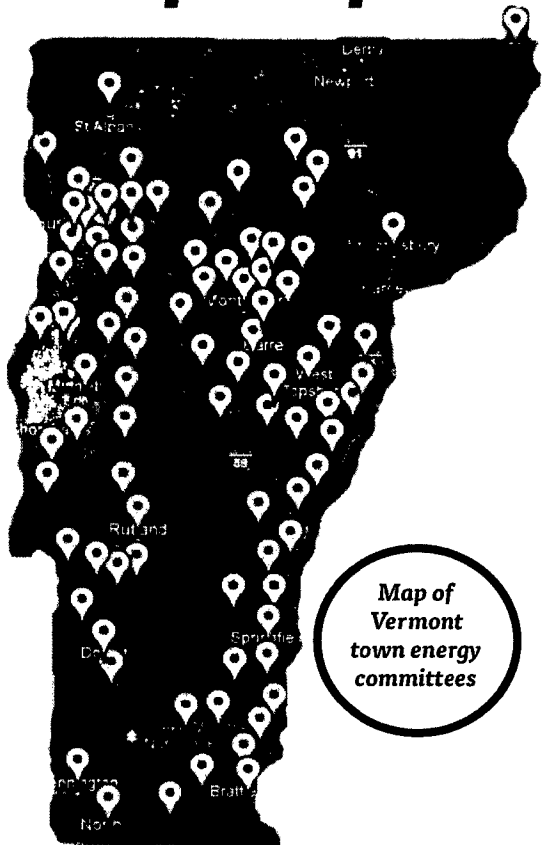
Promote Transportation Choices: The energy committees of East Montpelier, Plainfield and Marshfield helped establish a rural bus line, giving residents an alternative way to affordably get around.



VECAN's partners work toward starting and supporting town energy committees. www.vecan.net



Help Shape Vermont's Energy Future!



Map of Vermont town energy committees

Start an Energy Committee

Go to www.vecan.net and click on the "Energy Committees" tab to see if your town has a committee. If it doesn't—start one! VECAN can provide resources and assistance to help towns start an energy committee or group and offer ideas about projects and programs that are good jumping off points for newly formed committees.

Join an Energy Committee

If your town already has an energy committee, get in touch with the contact listed on www.vecan.net and find out when the next scheduled meeting is or how you might get involved in an upcoming energy project.

Take On a Project

There are many opportunities to help friends and neighbors save energy, go solar, switch to biomass, and work towards a sustainable energy future. Programs like the Vermont Community Energy Mobilization Project, Property Assessed Clean Energy, Way To Go! Commuter Challenge, and Button Up Vermont—amongst many others—give Vermonters different ways to get involved. Learn about these and other "turnkey" programs at www.vecan.net.

What Can VECAN Help With?

Networking Opportunities:

VECAN hosts the annual statewide Community Energy and Climate Action Conference, organizes regional energy network gatherings, conducts forums on timely energy topics. These opportunities foster stronger relationships among energy groups, individuals, and communities, and help to create shared knowledge and power.

Expertise & Technical Assistance:

VECAN provides direct technical assistance to help towns start an energy committee, support energy planning, and provide guidance on implementing and financing energy efficiency, renewable energy and transportation projects. VECAN also helps create and deliver turnkey programs.

A One-Stop Web Shop:

www.vecan.net serves as clearinghouse of useful information on events, programs, state-level efforts, resources, funding opportunities and more. With a complete list of energy committees, www.vecan.net is also a portal to connect to other committees.

Remember, to Get There From Here... We Need an All Hands On Board Approach!



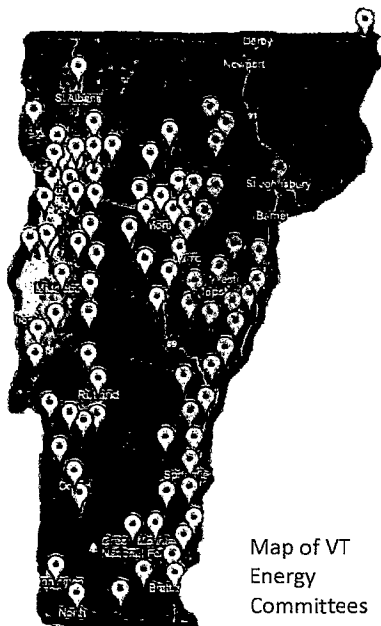
Get Involved! Find VECAN on Facebook! Contact VNRC Energy Program Director and VECAN Coordinator Johanna Miller at jmiller@vnrc.org or 802-223-2328 ext 112.

Vermont Energy & Climate Action Network

Energizing Vermont Communities
www.vecan.net

Starting or Joining a Town Energy Committee

Town energy committees are one of the most important players making real, positive, clean energy action happen in communities across Vermont. Over 100 towns across the state have established energy committees or appointed a town energy coordinator. These all-volunteer grassroots groups have helped get town offices weatherized, solar on schools, new bus routes established, streetlights replaced with more efficient, cheaper lights and far more. Increasingly, state officials are looking to town energy committees to inform and shape state policy making too.



Map of VT
Energy
Committees

These groups focus on developing plans, advancing projects, implementing programs and shaping policies that save money, save energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Comprised of Vermonters who bring different perspectives and expertise to each committee, these groups are proving to be effective partners in engaging members of their communities in energy-saving, renewable investment opportunities. They are also helping to inform and provide expertise to decision makers and voters on how and why to advance cost-effective strategies that reduce waste and usage of fossil fuels.

Many groups are appointed by the Selectboard (or other municipal body) and work closely with their municipality. Some, however, choose to be ad hoc, seeking more flexibility in their approach but often still working in close collaboration with their municipality.

The Vermont Energy & Climate Action Network – VECAN – is an umbrella entity comprised of Vermont town energy committees and organizations working to start and support them. To find out more about the important work of Vermont's town energy committees, visit [VECAN.net](http://www.vecan.net). To find out about a group that may be in your community – or to explore starting a new committee (with VECAN's potential help!) – visit: <http://www.vecan.net/forming-and-maintaining-a-town-energy-committee/> or contact VECAN's Katie Emerson at kemerson@vnrc.org or 802-223-2328 ext. 118.