



## Common Sense Solutions for a Changing Vermont

### Building Vermont's Green Energy Future



A warming world, dwindling oil supplies, erratic energy prices and big decisions about how Vermont will meet its energy needs far into the future combine to create significant challenges. VNRC is working to turn those challenges into opportunities by promoting 21<sup>st</sup> century solutions such as conservation, efficiency, renewable power and walkable, transit-oriented communities.

#### VNRC's Energy & Climate Action Program:

- Promotes a shift from fossil fuels and nuclear towards a cleaner, greener energy future by advancing policies, programs and practices — at the local, regional and state level — that support conservation, efficiency and renewable generation.
- Advocates for a comprehensive energy plan and accompanying public process that specifically outlines how Vermont can best meet its energy needs in a way that fosters in-state renewable energy development, green jobs and the protection of our invaluable natural resources.
- Works to elevate awareness and support citizen action on energy and climate change, in particular in our work to establish and strengthen town energy committees.

#### Promoting Renewable Energy & Efficiency:

VNRC works with members, municipalities, town energy committees and others to expand energy efficiency and renewable generation in Vermont as key to cultivating a homegrown economy and green energy future. That means advocating for aggressive investments in conservation and efficiency, as well as the development of renewable energy — wind, solar, biomass and beyond — that minimizes impacts to natural resources.



## VECAN & Local Energy Action:

VNRC is a founding member of the Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network, a collaborative working to start and support town energy committees across Vermont. The state's motivated, mostly volunteer energy committees are an inspiring example of the growing consensus that bold action on energy and climate change is imperative.

VNRC works to connect town energy committees to the information, resources, experts and strategies that they can turn into results on the ground. VNRC also works closely with other diverse stakeholders in the energy arena — municipal officials, organizations, state agencies, businesses, lawmakers and others — to find ways for Vermont communities to overcome obstacles and seize opportunities that save energy and slow global warming.

"The growing number of town energy committees and their innovative and timely responses are helping Vermont towns become more energy-aware, efficient and self-reliant."

**Johanna Miller**

*Energy Program  
Co-Director, VNRC*

## Planning: A Powerful Tool

How communities grow and develop directly influences energy consumption and the role that renewable energy can play in meeting future needs. Forward-looking communities are incorporating efficiency standards into building design, cultivating more local food, creating transportation alternatives and developing renewable energy projects. VNRC provides direct technical assistance to communities seeking to strengthen local plans and lay the foundation for walkable, self-reliant, energy-efficient communities.

## Climate Action!

Climate change is the most pressing environmental challenge facing Vermont and the world. VNRC works to elevate awareness and inspire climate action at the local, state and federal level. Having served as one of six members of the Governor's Climate Change Commission, VNRC continues to push for the implementation of the Commission's 38 strategies as essential and timely steps to combat climate change.



## Combating Climate Change by Connecting Energy, Land Use & Transportation:

In the rural Green Mountain state, cars are the primary mode of transport, translating into the single largest source of greenhouse gas emissions and one of Vermonters' biggest expenses. VNRC works to foster greater public awareness and

transportation innovation, creative commuting campaigns and an integrated approach to community design through progressive planning practices.

Find out more about our  
Energy Program at [vnrc.org](http://vnrc.org), or contact:  
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