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Vermont is at a critical juncture. How we choose to respond to climate change will chart the course of our state for generations to come. Crafting and implementing policies and programs to seize the economic opportunity in climate action has already paid off for Vermont – and we can realize even more benefits for all Vermonters, if we act now.

VNRC believes Vermont can and should lead the way in our nation from creating a more equitable and sustainable transportation system, to supporting forest health through sustainable management and encouraging carbon storage by keeping forests as forests, to investing in energy efficiency, weatherization, and conservation, to putting a [price on carbon](#) pollution. [Read more from VNRC Executive Director Brian Shupe.](#)

VNRC NEWS

Register today for the 10th annual Vermont Energy & Climate Action Conference



Don't miss this inspiring event aimed at supporting and growing the statewide network of town energy committees and building the capacity and expertise of any Vermonter interested in helping our state meet our efficiency, renewable energy, and climate action goals. December 2 at Lake Morey.

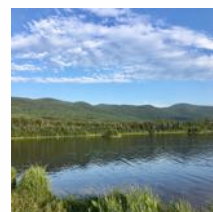
Register today to take advantage of the early registration fee!

Transportation for Vermonters: Broad, new transportation advocacy coalition



A diverse group of organizations, businesses, and institutions this month [announced the formation](#) of a new coalition to advocate for a more sustainable, accessible, and affordable transportation system in Vermont. VNRC Sustainable Communities Program Director Kate McCarthy is coordinating the coalition – [read what she has to say about it here.](#)

The state of Vermont waterways



The state of Vermont's waterways has been in the news – from [difficulties establishing a stable, long-term and dedicated funding source](#) for clean up and protection efforts, to [outbreaks of blue-green algae](#) on Lake Champlain and Lake Carmi, to [groundwater pollution concerns](#). Want to learn more about the state of Vermont's

waterways? Don't miss the [Vermont PBS series Saving Our Waters](#), featuring VNRC Water Program and Policy Director [Jon Groveman](#).

Promoting wildlife connectivity in Southern Vermont



Maintaining large blocks of forest and connected habitat is critical for the health of wildlife species in Vermont. How to do this was the subject of a well attended meeting in Wilmington where citizens serving on local conservation and planning commissions joined VNRC and members of the [Staying Connected Initiative](#) to learn about strategies for maintaining habitat connectivity in their region. [Read more.](#)

Talking smart growth from Montpelier to Washington D.C.



Each year state and regional smart growth experts from across the country gather for leadership development, to discuss smart growth issues, and to share innovations from their work. VNRC's Kate McCarthy recently attended the 'Smart Growth Caucus' in Washington D.C. [Read about her experience here.](#)

VCV update: We want to hear from you!



It's never been more clear: who we elect matters. Vermont Conservation Voters (VCV) plays a unique and critical role in Vermont's environmental community as the only group actively working to elect champions who will stand up for Vermont's environment. Right now, VCV is developing an Environmental Common Agenda of the top legislative priorities for the upcoming year – [and they want to hear from you!](#)

VERMONT NEWS

For recreation economy, act now on climate change



(*Stowe Today*) VNRC Executive Director Brian Shupe and Vermont Mountain Bike Association (VMBA) Executive Director Tom Stuessy teamed up to encourage Vermonters to attend the recent Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative public meetings and discuss the potential impact of climate change on Vermont's growing outdoor recreation economy. [Read more.](#)

Coalition releases 5-year plan to bolster local renewable wood heating



(*Vermont Business Magazine*) Earlier this month, a coalition of nonprofits, local businesses, and state agencies facilitated by Renewable Energy Vermont unveiled a plan of policy, workforce development, and outreach recommendations to help lower energy costs, boost Vermont's economy, sustain forestlands, and reduce net carbon emissions. [Read more.](#)

The ESSEX Plan: Pricing pollution to boost Vermont's economy

(*Seven Days*) An impressive group of business leaders, academics, and policy experts has released a new proposal to lower Vermont's greenhouse gas emissions. "There needs to be a meaningful conversation about carbon pricing," noted VNRC



Energy & Climate Program Director Johanna Miller. "If not this, then what? We need to move from talk to action." [Read more.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Hey! Have you registered for the 10th Annual VECAN Conference on Dec. 2?



Join local energy leaders, business innovators, policy makers, and others for a day focused on *Transforming Vermont's Energy Future from the Ground Up*. The one-day conference will feature workshops, and will be keynoted by Gina McCarthy, who served as Administrator of the EPA under President Obama. This event is so incredible, we included in the e-newsletter twice, so [don't forget to pre-register](#) and plan to join us: December 2nd at Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee, VT.

Public meetings on Vermont's Forest Economy



The Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation will be holding four public meetings to provide updates from different sectors of the Department's work and to hear from those with interest in Vermont's forest economy. We encourage VNRC members to attend the meeting nearest to you because we know that keeping forests as forests is essential to Vermont's ecological, economic, and social well-being . [Click here for more information.](#)

NATIONAL NEWS

National Wildlife Federation launches new EcoFuel Initiative site



(*NWF*) A decade ago, the federal government started requiring that our gasoline include a growing amount of ethanol – an alternative fuel made mostly from corn. Despite being a well-intentioned attempt to foster the development of cleaner fuels, corn ethanol has turned out to be anything but. [Read more.](#)

EPA: Clean Power Plan offers many health benefits



(*Grist*) According to a recent study by the EPA, the Clean Power Plan would prevent 4,500 premature deaths per year by 2030. The Plan, finalized by the Obama Administration in 2015, targets U.S. coal-fired power plants in an effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and shift towards cleaner energy sources. The Trump administration plans to repeal the rule. [Read more.](#)

Protecting Vermont's natural resources and communities since 1963.

For more than fifty years, VNRC has been Vermont's leader in protecting our natural resources and communities. Through research, education, collaboration, and advocacy, VNRC protects and enhances Vermont's natural environments, vibrant communities, productive working landscapes, rural character, and unique sense of place, and prepares the state for future challenges and

opportunities. From the State House to your town hall, VNRC keeps Vermonters informed on the environmental issues that you and your family care about most. Support from VNRC's members is critical to our work – join today.

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Vermont Natural Resources Council

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