



[Get Involved](#)

[Visit Our Website](#)

[Give](#)



As another year comes to a close and we reflect on our work in 2017, we want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our members and supporters! From town halls to the State House, our work is made possible by our members. [With your support](#), we can continue to protect, restore, and enhance Vermont's natural environments and thriving communities.

We also want to take a moment to [remember John Ewing](#), a friend, advocate, and visionary. John served on VNRC's advisory committee, and was the founder of Smart Growth Vermont, which merged with VNRC in 2011. Without John's work and dedication, Vermont would not look like Vermont.

#### VNRC NEWS

##### **We're hiring: Membership & Outreach Coordinator**



We're looking for a motivated, passionate individual to join VNRC as our Membership & Outreach Coordinator. We work from the grassroots to the Legislature to advance policies, programs, and practices that strengthen the foundation upon which Vermont's economy

thrives – vibrant communities and healthy downtowns, clean and abundant fresh water, working farms and forests, wild places, and clean energy. [Apply by Jan. 5, 2018.](#)

##### **10th annual VECAN conference a success**



Nearly 250 state and local leaders attended the 10th annual Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network conference on Dec. 2 at the Lake Morey Resort. With an expert panel and 14 workshops focused on programs, policies, and strategies to combat climate change and transition to clean energy, it was an inspiring, action-oriented day. Former EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy's humor- and hope-filled keynote underscored the importance of local and state action. It's worth a watch! [Click here to watch McCarthy's keynote and other videos from the day](#), courtesy of "Bob the Green Guy" Farnham.

##### **Investing in local economies & strong communities**

It's no secret that it's a tough time for brick and mortar retail stores, yet they are an important part of keeping our local economies and communities of all sizes strong. As the holiday season approaches, it's a great time for each of us to think



how we might commit to buying local within our budgets. [Read more here.](#)

#### **VNRC joins partners to submit comments to VOREC**



Working in collaboration with a diverse group of organizations, VNRC recently submitted a joint letter to the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC) emphasizing the importance of safeguarding our forests, farms, and waters to promote quality outdoor recreation opportunities, increase the wellbeing of Vermonters, and strengthen our economy. [Read the letter here.](#)

#### **VNRC continues to advocate for clean water, greater protections**



We were happy to see such swift action on the part of the [Scott administration to bring safe drinking water](#) to the residents impacted by PFOA contamination, and we are rolling up our sleeves to do even more to safeguard our water and communities. [Stay up-to-date about our efforts](#) to improve legal remedies, protect private wells and groundwater, test for toxics where risks exist for public and private water supplies, and pass toxic reform (S.103).

#### **Growing state leadership from Montpelier to Minneapolis.**



Each year, state environmental advocates from across the country come together to connect, share resources, and make our campaigns stronger at the State Environmental Leaders Conference. This year's conference in Minneapolis, MN was attended by Energy and Climate Program Director Johanna Miller and Communications Director Amber Collett. [Read their takeaways from the trip here.](#)

#### **VCV update: They protect us, let's return the favor**



Across the country, people like you are stepping up and saying: enough is enough! We deserve better protections from toxic chemicals in our drinking water and products in our homes. In Vermont, we're lucky to have a broad base of support for toxic reform legislation (S.103) – including the Professional Firefighters of Vermont. [Click here to watch a video from Brad Reed, president of PFFV, share why Vermont Firefighters support passing and enacting S.103.](#)

### **VERMONT NEWS**

#### **Shupe: Getting there**

(*Rutland Herald*) VNRC Executive Director Brian Shupe recently wrote about how and where we develop our communities, and the role transportation choices play



in helping make Vermont a more equitable and affordable state for all residents. [Read more.](#)

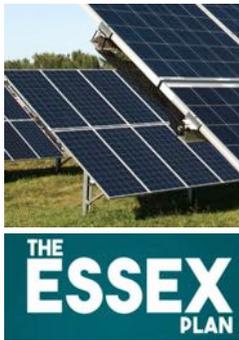


### How should Vermont spend the VW funds?

Vermont is slated to receive nearly \$19 million from Volkswagen over the next three years as part of a multi-state settlement with the car company. But how will the state use that money? VNRC Executive Director [Brian Shupe](#) and Sustainable Communities Director [Kate McCarthy](#) weigh in about ensuring the money is spent to help Vermont transition away from dirty fossil fuels to protect the health of Vermonters and our economy.

### SunCommon and Green Mountain Power announce low income community solar

SunCommon and Green Mountain Power are building and offering a limited-opportunity Community Solar program to help make solar available to more Vermonters. [Click here to learn more and determine if you qualify.](#)



### New carbon pricing proposal would slash electricity bills

"Economists love it. Republicans love it. Democrats love it. Businesses love it. Even environmental advocates love it. [What could garner that much affection?](#)" The ESSEX Plan! A coalition of business leaders, low-income advocates, lawmakers, and others [have introduced](#) the "Economy Strengthening Strategic Energy eXchange," or ESSEX Plan, which seeks to put a price on carbon

pollution while reducing electrical bills for all Vermonters – with greater financial benefits going to rural residents and the most vulnerable. [According to Rep. Sarah Copland Hanzas, D-Bradford](#), putting a price on carbon pollution will also help Vermont meet the comprehensive energy and climate goals supported by Governor Scott on down.

### Editorial: Stop redacting climate change



*(Burlington Free Press)* The Scott administration's decision to remove certain recommendations by the state Natural Resources Board from a report on overhauling Vermont's main land-use law raises questions about the governor's commitment to preparing the state for the impact of climate change. [Read the full editorial from Burlington Free Press here.](#)

## NATIONAL NEWS

### Transportation replaces power in the U.S. as top source of CO2 emissions



*(YaleE360)* Power plants have been the biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. for more than 40 years. But according to new data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration, transportation has now claimed the top spot. [Read more.](#)

## Under Trump, EPA has slowed actions against polluters, put limits on enforcement



*(New York Times)* An analysis of data by The New York Times shows that the EPA under the Trump administration has adopted a more lenient approach than the previous two administrations – Democratic and Republican – toward polluters. [Read more.](#)

## Trump's E.P.A. chemical safety nominee withdraws



*(New York Times)* Michael L. Dourson, President Trump's nominee to oversee the Environmental Protection Agency's chemical safety division recently withdrew his name from consideration for the post in the face of mounting opposition. [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.](#)*

## Contribute

Connect With Us:

Facebook

Twitter

Vermont Natural Resources Council

9 Bailey Avenue  
Montpelier, VT 05602  
802-223-2328  
[vnrc.org](http://vnrc.org)