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Fond Farewells and Looking Forward



In June, two women who were each very special to VNRC, Vermont's environment, and to our communities, passed away. [Dot Hines](#) generously gave her time, supported VNRC financially, and opened her home in Warren for VNRC events on numerous occasions. [Anne Berndt](#) provided a great deal of guidance over the years through her role as the co-trustee of the Maverick Lloyd Foundation, and was also a generous donor to VNRC. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to the friends and family of these two smart, dedicated women.

Our members are vital to our work to protect and maintain Vermont's environment. Throughout the years, we have been lucky to build and maintain friendships with many of our members. While it is difficult to lose them, it also reminds us to take the time to celebrate our work together. We hope you'll join us on Thurs., Sept. 21 for our Annual Meeting at Middlebury College's Kirk Alumni Center. More details to come, but save the date now!

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VNRC NEWS

Staying Connected: Connecting People & Nature



VNRC and partners in the Staying Connected Initiative recently partnered with the Bennington County Regional Commission to promote strategies to maintain connected wildlife habitat in southwest Vermont. At the meeting, members of local conservation commissions, planning commissions, and conservation organizations learned about land conservation, land use, and transportation planning strategies to help maintain large blocks of forestland and wildlife habitat. The Staying Connected Initiative provides many tools to promote wildlife connectivity throughout the Northern

Forest Region. [Watch a video about the Initiative's work here.](#)

VNRC Calls on Governor Scott to Step Up on Climate



Directly on the heels of President Trump withdrawing the U.S. from the Paris Climate Agreement, VNRC and 12 other organizations called on Governor Phil Scott to ensure that Vermont steps in and steps up on climate action. Shortly after, Governor Scott made good on one of the six actions VNRC and partners asked for: Join Vermont with other states and cities in the U.S. Climate Alliance. [Read the letter VNRC sent to Governor Scott](#), as well as some media coverage on the Governor and Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger committing to our climate change goals and [VNRC's perspective on what this commit should mean.](#)

Exit 4 Milestone: Preservation Trust of Vermont Officially Takes Ownership

Yesterday marked a milestone in the [effort to protect Exit 4](#) in Randolph, VT with the Preservation Trust of Vermont (PTV) officially taking ownership of the 22-acre parcel near the highway. VNRC

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VNRC's Mission

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



attended the closing along with partners from Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) and Exit 4 Open Space. Along with the approximately 150 acres already conserved by the Castanea Foundation, this purchase means that views, agricultural soils, and the community value of this site will be maintained. PTV will temporarily hold the land until it is transferred to a farmer.

challenges and opportunities.

VCV Update: Reflecting on Vermont's Legislative Session and Next Steps



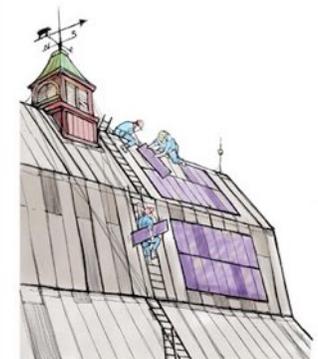
Now that our state's budget impasse and legislative session have wrapped up, it's time to take stock of what happened at the Statehouse on key Vermont priorities such as clean water, protecting communities from toxic chemicals, maintaining the health of our forests, and climate action. The disappointing short answer is: not much. Vermont Conservation Voter's political director, Lauren Hierl, reflects on the past session and calls on our state leaders to step up and enact the policies and funding it will take to ensure Vermonters have clean water, safe products in our homes, healthy forests, and a thriving clean energy economy. [Read her full reflection here.](#)

Let Them Flow Wild and Free: #freeVTrivers



This summer has started off with ample amounts of rain – and Vermont rivers swelled and flooded in response. While we can't control the weather, we can remove unnecessary dams on Vermont rivers and streams. Currently, Vermont has more than 1,000 dams across the state with hundreds serving no useful purpose. Removing unnecessary dams protects people and property, improves flood resiliency and river health, restores valuable fish habitat, and allows for greater public access for recreation. [Learn more about our work](#) to free Vermont's rivers. Join the conversation on social media by following and using the hashtag #freeVTrivers

Seeking Community Energy & Climate Action Coordinator AmeriCorps Member



Do you care about clean energy and climate change? Want to help shape Vermont's energy future?

VNRC, in partnership with the [Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network \(VECAN\)](#) and the [Vermont Housing and Conservation Board \(VHCB\)](#) AmeriCorps has an exciting opportunity for a motivated individual to work with diverse stakeholders to help transition Vermont communities toward energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable energy.

Applications due July 24, 2017. VNRC is an EOE. [Read more.](#)

VERMONT NEWS

South Burlington Residents Saved Nearly \$450,000 on Electric Bills in Two Years

Vermont Business Magazine – South Burlington residents cut nearly six percent from their electric bills, resulting in nearly \$450,000 in real savings, through energy efficiency efforts. The South Burlington Energy Committee promoted energy efficiency through home energy parties, public events, free energy conservation kits, newspaper articles and fun advertisements, Facebook, Front Porch Forum, and the [energyprize.org](#) website. Residents took action and upgraded



light bulbs to LED, bought new energy-efficient appliances, weatherized homes, installed solar panels, used power strips, replaced inefficient shower heads, shared successes with friends and neighbors, and took many other energy-saving actions. [Read more.](#)

State Approves Brattleboro Landfill Solar Array



VT Digger – State regulators recently gave the go-ahead for thousands of solar panels to be built atop Brattleboro's former landfill. The five megawatt project at Windham Solid Waste Management District will cover roughly 13 acres, and is expected to spread financial benefits throughout Windham County via net-metering credits for towns and schools. Eight towns will experience savings from the solar array including Brattleboro, Dummerston, Halifax, Newfane, Readsboro, Vernon, Wardsboro, and Wilmington. Also involved are Brattleboro Union High School and elementary schools in Dummerston, Guilford, Putney, and Vernon. The project is

affiliated with Burlington-based [Encore Renewable Energy](#), founded by Chad Farrell who is also a VNRC board member. [Read more.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

#ActOnClimateVT – Events all Summer & Fall



VNRC has joined forces with [350Vermont](#), [Rights & Democracy](#), [Sierra Club Vermont Chapter](#), [Vermont Conservation Voters](#), [VPIRG](#), [Energy Independent Vermont](#), and others, to be out and about in Vermont communities throughout the summer and fall bringing people together to push for bold climate action right here in our state. To find events near you, visit www.actonclimatevt.org and follow the hashtag #ActOnClimateVT on any of the social media channels you choose to use. Together, we can help Vermont achieve a post-carbon future! [Read more.](#)

cc:econ Catalysts of the Climate Economy Summit – Sept. 6-8, Burlington



Join the Vermont Council on Rural Development at the Catalysts of the Climate Economy Summit. The three day national innovation summit in Burlington, VT aims to bring together entrepreneurs, investors, and thought leaders to gear up for the next stage of economic development and prosperity in a low-carbon pollution future. The event aims to accelerate progress toward the significant economic opportunities associated with solving the unprecedented challenges presented by climate change. [Learn more and register here.](#)

AVCC 2017 Conservation Summit – Sept. 23, Starksboro

The Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions' annual Conservation Summit will be on Saturday, Sept. 23, at Common Ground Center in Starksboro, VT. This year's theme is "Conservation into the Future" and the all-day conference will feature presentations, trainings, and networking essential to Vermont's conservation community. View the day's program and register at: vtconservation.com/conservation_summit/.



NATIONAL NEWS

PeopleForBikes: Small Towns Mean Low-Stress Bicycling



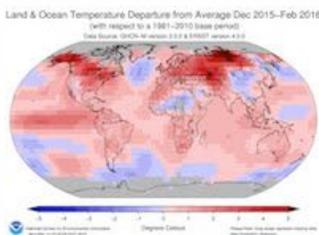
The new PeopleForBikes Bike Network Analysis is a first-of-its-kind project and a work in progress developing digital records of bicycling networks in 299 U.S. cities. What they found may not surprise many Vermonters: the typical development pattern of small towns (clustered small businesses, public destinations, and two-story housing on two-lane main streets) provides low-stress bicycling experiences. [Read more.](#)

Rooftop Solar Dims Under Pressure from Utility Lobbyists



Over the past six years, rooftop solar panel installations have seen explosive growth – as much as 900 percent by one estimate. However, a concerted effort is underway in dozens of states to roll back solar power incentives. One of its architects is now a top Energy Department official. [Read more.](#)

New Union of Concerned Scientists Study on Coastal Communities Facing Inundation, Possible Retreat



A new study from the Union of Concerned Scientists has found that by 2035, about 170 communities—roughly twice as many as today—will face chronic flooding and possible retreat from affected areas under the intermediate or high sea level scenarios, with more than 100 seeing at least a quarter of their land chronically flooded. The possible 'retreat' from coastal communities could mean climate migration from coastal areas to inland communities. As a result, Vermont could see more land use pressure – highlighting the importance of land use planning at the local level. [Read more.](#)

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