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We're all familiar with the old adage: think globally and act locally. Though the saying has become a cliché, the essence behind it is powerfully relevant to today's times. At the federal level, the Trump administration's war on the environment is rolling along, especially within the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). While we can no longer count on the federal government to protect our families, we can take action locally. In our latest Vermont Environmental Report ([now online!](#)), we take a look at how VNRC and our partners are working to protect Vermont families from toxic chemicals. Toxic chemical pollution is a global problem, and we are acting locally to address it to create a future that is healthy, thriving, and balanced.



Thank you to everyone who joined us on Sept. 21 for our Annual Meeting in Middlebury. In addition to thanking outgoing and welcoming new board members, we were excited to co-present with Bill McKibben this year's [Arthur Gibb Award for Individual Leadership to Warren King](#), a life-long environmental advocate.

VNRC NEWS

Submit Your Climate Action Comments



Thank you to the hundreds of Vermonters who attended the Vermont Climate Action Commission hearings this past month. More than 65 percent of commenters [voiced support for putting a price on carbon pollution](#). If you didn't have the opportunity to attend one of the hearings in St. Johnsbury, Manchester, St. Albans, or Brattleboro, you can still [submit a written comment online](#) or by emailing anr.vcac@vermont.gov.

Support Vermont's Backcountry & Recreational Experiences



There are several upcoming opportunities for VNRC members to support the future of outdoor recreation in Vermont. The final Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative public meetings are taking place this month in White River Junction ([Oct. 23](#)) and Arlington ([Oct. 24](#)). We also wanted to put on your radar the [Vermont Huts Association \(VHA\) Launch Party on Oct. 19 in Burlington](#). VHA is on a mission to link and develop a network of backcountry accommodations providing another

opportunity for you and your family to enjoy recreational opportunities throughout the state.

We're Putting DEC on Notice: Great Hosmer Pond



We [recently announced our opposition](#) to the draft proposed Vermont Use of Public Waters Rule for Great Hosmer Pond in Craftsbury and Albany, VT. Based on [significant concerns about the rule's legality](#), we requested that the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), immediately withdraw the rule. [Read more.](#)

Community Planning Toolkit Updated: Strip Development



In a rural state like Vermont, it might be tempting to assume we don't experience [sprawl or strip development](#). While Vermont might not see the scale of sprawl found elsewhere, we still see land used in ways that reinforce auto dependency, break up farm and forest land, and shift economic vitality away from downtowns and villages. We recently updated our [Community Planning Toolbox](#) to include additional resources focused on the issue of [strip development](#).

VCV Update: Children's Environmental Health Day



Despite the many advances in the field of children's environmental health, today's children face an epidemic of illness and chronic disease linked to environmental exposures and our changing climate. With this in mind, [Governor Scott declared Oct. 12 as Children's Environmental Health Day](#) – but Vermont families need more than a proclamation, we need action. Vermont Conservation Voters called on Governor Scott and the Vermont Legislature to [step up and pass S.103 to protect Vermonters from toxic chemicals](#). Even though Children's Environmental Health Day has passed, you can still [take action and sign a petition](#) to voice your support.

VNRC & VCV Seeking a Legislative Intern



You care about state-level policies and want to help move forward environmental legislation in the Vermont State House. You are curious, diplomatic, and able to take initiative... Sound like you? Then [apply for our Legislative Internship](#) before Oct. 23!

VERMONT NEWS

Committing to Clean Water in Vermont



You've seen the news this autumn: [Lake Carmi closed](#) because of a toxic algae bloom likely caused by phosphorus-laden silt, [similar closures of North Beach](#) and Oakledge Cove in Burlington, and the [ongoing threat to Lake Champlain](#) as federal funding for clean-up efforts hangs in the balance while [Scott administration officials need to make a strong commitment to funding](#). At VNRC, we will continue to advocate for stable, long-term funding to meet our important phosphorus reduction and clean-up goals for Lake Champlain and other threatened waterways.

Vermonters Call for Putting a Price on Carbon Pollution



Throughout the autumn, Governor Scott's [Climate Action Commission](#) has been hosting public scoping sessions to hear from everyday Vermonters about how they'd like the state take action on climate. The [number one request](#) coming from those public hearings has been to put a price on carbon pollution. However, half-way through the listening sessions, [Gov. Scott declared he would not consider putting a price on carbon](#). As Bennington College student [Sabrina Melendez noted](#), "If Gov. Scott refuses to consider a carbon price that will actually help low- and middle-income Vermonters, then the Climate Action Commission serves no purpose but to smile and wave as climate change disproportionately targets low- and middle-income Vermonters in the years to come."

Apartment Complexes Sprout in Suburban South Burlington



(*Seven Days*) Vermont isn't Anywhere U.S.A., but maintaining our iconic development pattern of compact city centers surrounded by working landscapes requires knowing when and where to develop. [Read more.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the Date: 10th Annual VECAN Conference: Dec. 2



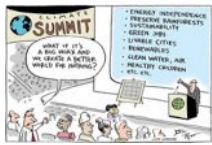
Join local energy leaders, business innovators, policy makers, and others for a day focused on *Transforming Vermont's Energy Future from the Ground Up*. The one-day conference will feature workshops, and will be keynoted by Gina McCarthy, who served as Administrator of the EPA under President Obama. [Save the date](#) and plan to join us: December 2nd at Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee, VT.

Vermont Interfaith Power & Light Fall Conference: Oct. 21



Are you interested in learning how to build resilient communities, be an effective community organizer, and help advocate for a cleaner energy future for Vermont? Then don't miss Vermont Interfaith Power & Light's annual conference on Sat., Oct. 21st in Manchester keynoted by Deb Markowitz, former Secretary of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. [Learn more.](#)

Everyone's Economic Opportunity in Climate Action



This autumn, we are partnering with Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility (VBSR) to bring together elected officials, environmentalists, low-income advocates, and business owners to discuss the [economic opportunity for all Vermonters](#) in climate action. We have two remaining events in [Manchester on Oct. 19](#) and [Middlebury on Oct. 30](#) – we encourage you to join us!

Vermont Crossroads Conference



Join hundreds of your fellow Vermonters, thoughtful business leaders, and non-profits for the 2017 Vermont Crossroads Conference. Learn about the major campaigns that will lead Vermont forward, investigate the shared values between organizations and initiatives, and discover how we can succeed together. The conference is set for Sat., Nov. 11th at Champlain College in Burlington and is free and open to the public. [Register here.](#)

Federal Rollbacks Compromise Environment, Face Challenges in Court



Since taking office, President Trump has made rolling back federal environmental regulations a priority. To date, the Trump administration has [sought to reverse more than 50 environmental rules](#), including many aimed at fighting climate change. Advocates continue to challenge the legality of the rule changes, and courts have found that the

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Interior Department have [acted illegally at least three times](#) since July 2017.

EPA Announces Repeal of Clean Power Plan



EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt [announced this month](#) that the Agency will take formal steps to repeal the Clean Power Plan, a policy to curb greenhouse gas emissions from power plants. The repeal would [represent a significant blow](#) to the U.S. efforts to reduce greenhouse gas pollution. Public health

and environmental advocates are particularly concerned about the repeal as [climate change represents a significant threat](#) to the world's most vulnerable: children.

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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