

# VT. GOVERNOR ZUCKERMAN NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 21, 2017

Vermont's landscape and abundant natural resources draw many to our state, but our beauty is threatened by climate change. Longtime residents and visitors have expressed dismay over the devastating impact climate change is having on our communities, businesses and the economy. However, there is an opportunity to build a vibrant climate economy as we address the climate crisis.

Since 2013, Vermont's clean energy industry has grown 29%, providing full-time employment for over 12,000 Vermonters. In 2016, as part of a plan to significantly reduce emissions and energy consumption, the Legislature passed a comprehensive energy plan. Despite clear goals and much work to improve efficiency and weatherization, our greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise.

**SINCE 2013, CLEAN ENERGY EMPLOYMENT HAS GROWN BY 29% IN VERMONT, WHICH AMOUNTS TO A TOTAL OF JUST OVER 19,000 JOBS THAT ARE CLEAN ENERGY RELATED.**

*(Vermont 2017 Clean Energy Industry Report)*

When the President withdrew the United States from the Paris Agreement to combat climate change, Vermont, like many other states, renewed our commitment. Grassroots organizations, academic and business leaders and legislators are working to uphold its goals and reduce our carbon emissions. I hope by providing you with information (on the back) on the Vermont Climate Action Commission, the ESSEX Plan, clean water challenges, and opportunities to increase energy efficiency, you will find it easy to engage in our work for a healthy future.

If you wish to learn more about how to engage in policy, programs and projects to spur clean energy and climate action, I encourage you to attend "**Transforming Vermont's Energy Future from the Ground Up**" on Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9-4:30 at the Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee. It is hosted by the Vermont Energy & Climate Action Network. More information can be found at: <http://www.vecan.net/>.

Thank you for your work to protect our planet.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### November 21 11:30-1:00

Lamoille County Mental Health Thanksgiving Lunch.  
72 Harrel Street, Morrisville

### November 27 6:40PM

UVM Consumer Activism Class.  
Lafayette L207, Burlington

### November 30 10:00AM

All Members Financial Briefing.  
House Chamber, State House, Montpelier

### December 1 9:15AM

Youth Climate Summit.  
UVM, Burlington

### December 4

11:00 Molly Stark Elementary School. 181 Orchard Road, Bennington.

1:00 Bennington Elementary School. 128 Park Street, Bennington.

5:00 Meet and Greet with Senator Campion.  
1292 West Road, Bennington

### December 5

1:30 Discussion with Rubenstein Graduate Students.  
UVM, Burlington

2:50 Intro to Vermont Class  
UVM, Rowell 110, Burlington

### December 7 7:00AM

On the radio live with Charlie, Ernie & Lisa. Newstalk 620 WVMT.

**For a complete list of events please visit our website:  
[www.LTGov.vermont.gov](http://www.LTGov.vermont.gov)**

## VERMONT CLIMATE ACTION COMMISSION

In July, Governor Scott established the Vermont Climate Action Commission to come up with short- and longer-term recommendations to reduce Vermont's greenhouse gas emissions. I believe with your input this Commission will see the connections between climate action and a new climate economy. I hope the Commission, and the Governor, will embrace diverse climate and clean energy solutions that actually result in significant carbon pollution reductions and develop Vermont's leadership in building a climate economy. Achieving our climate goals requires public engagement and political will. Learn more about the Commission, follow their progress, and submit your ideas (in the Public Scoping and Comment Section) by visiting: [http://anr.vermont.gov/about\\_us/special-topics/vermont-climate-action-commission](http://anr.vermont.gov/about_us/special-topics/vermont-climate-action-commission).

### THE ESSEX PLAN

On November 8<sup>th</sup> the Economy Strengthening Strategic Energy eXchange, or ESSEX Plan, was unveiled. Conceived by a broad group of business leaders, policy experts and academics, this plan proposes a price on carbon which would be returned in full to Vermonters on their monthly electric bill. Learn why putting a price on carbon works for Vermonters, read details of the plan or show your support by visiting: <https://www.energyindependentvt.org/our-plan/>

### WATER

Our waters face real and persistent threats resulting in lost property values, harm to our outdoor recreation economy, and public health impacts. In 2015, Vermont made a commitment to clean up our waters when we passed the Vermont Clean Water Act. This year the legislature passed Act 73, which included a mandate for the Agency of Natural Resources to form a working group "to develop recommendations for equitable and effective long-term funding methods to support clean water efforts in Vermont." Sadly, the final report of this working group, released on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>, fails to address this directive. While short term funding was found in the capitol bill this year, relying on \$20 million a year from that fund for the long haul will jeopardize other important capital needs. You can read the final report as well as review public comments and more at: <http://anr.vermont.gov/about/special-topics/act-73-clean-water-funding>. The legislature will be addressing this issue so be sure to check out the plan.

### INCREASING ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Vermont recently affirmed one commitment to energy efficiency with the Public Utility Commission (PUC) approving the performance goals and budgets of Efficiency Vermont for the next three years. While the budget remains flat and overall the State Energy Plan is restricting job development and carbon reduction, the PUC has ordered an 11% increase in delivered energy savings. As energy consumers this means your opportunity to improve efficiency is made better by ensuring access to affordable and efficient appliances, high quality contractors, and services to reduce energy waste. This keeps energy costs down and leaves more money in your pockets, which is good for you and good for our state. For more information on services and incentives visit [www.encyvermont.com](http://www.encyvermont.com) or call 1-888-921-5990.