

September 22, 2019

# LT. GOVERNOR ZUCKERMAN NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 22, 2019

The leaves are starting to change, and morning frost is apparent on the farm. For many Vermonters this means time to prepare the house for winter. **Did you know on average, weatherization projects reduce home fuel use by over 20%?** This newsletter contains information and resources to help you and your community weatherize, save money, and help reduce carbon emissions.

In May, the Legislature passed a bill (H.63) allowing Efficiency Vermont the flexibility to direct \$2.6 million of their existing budget toward weatherization programs and services. Their goal with this funding is to weatherize an additional 1,500 Vermont households by the end of 2020! This is important because the thermal sector is responsible for 42% of our energy use and 28% of our emissions.

Efficiency Vermont is using these funds to offer thousands of dollars in incentives to moderate-income households. Learn more about the Button Up Vermont (<https://buttonupvermont.org>) campaign on the back. In addition to helping Vermonters weatherize their homes, Button Up partners with communities to build local goals.

We must accelerate the pace of weatherization in Vermont. Our large aging housing stock and long winters result in Vermonters spending over \$500 million a year on fossil fuels to heat their homes. Weatherization is the most cost-effective strategy to lower energy bills and cut carbon pollution.

Every two years, Fall offers Vermonters the opportunity to get directly involved in our democracy by participating in their party's reorganization process. There is more about the importance of this process and how you can get involved on the back.

I hope to see you at an event this fall.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### September 22 12:00PM

InnoVT Conference. University Heights South Multipurpose Room, Burlington

### September 24 6:30PM

LG Movie Series: *Under the Bridge: The Criminalization of Homelessness*. Jeffords Hall Auditorium, Castleton

### September 25 5:00PM

VBSR Awards Dinner. Basin Harbor Club, Vergennes

### September 26

8:00AM – Energy Action Network Conference.

Champlain College, Burlington

12:30PM – Marketing of

Cannabis class. Champlain

College, Ireland Global

Business and Technology

Center, Room 114, Burlington

5:00PM - Vermont Higher

Education Excellence Awards.

Woodstock Inn

### September 28 2:00PM

Woodstock Area Jewish

Community Torah Scroll

Celebration. 1680 W

Woodstock Road

### October 2 7:00PM

Movie *No Easy Mile*. Arts Riot,

400 Pine Street, Burlington

**For a complete list of events please visit the calendar on our website:**

**[www.LTGov.vermont.gov](http://www.LTGov.vermont.gov)**

## BUTTON-UP INCENTIVES

Most Vermonters can now get 50% off weatherization projects (up to \$4,000). To qualify, Vermonters need to earn between 80-120% of area median income (AMI). For most of Vermont this would mean an income around \$95,600 for a family of four. If you don't qualify as moderate income, rebates of up to \$2000 are available.

Rebates include:

- Up to \$4000 for overall Home Performance with Energy Star
- Up to \$500 cash back for attic weatherization
- Up to \$500 cash back for basement weatherization
- Rebates from utilities on cold climate heat pumps, stoves, lighting, appliances, cars, and more.

Visit Button Up Vermont (<https://buttonupvermont.org/>) to check out all rebates you can take advantage of and learn more about the many programs they offer.

Low income Vermonters can receive, often free, weatherization assistance from the Weatherization Program. You can even qualify if you don't own your home. <https://dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/weatherization>

**The Vermont Department of Health found that the 10-year benefit of weatherization, in health and fuel savings, is nearly three times greater than the initial investment per household.** This is just one reason we should be finding far more resources to help low and moderate income families weatherize their homes.

## IS YOUR COMMUNITY READY TO BUTTON UP?

More than 50 communities have already become Button Up partners. Communities that partner with Button Up offer workshops, provide energy assessments to homes and businesses and play a vital role helping Vermont reach our statewide goal of 25% energy savings in 80,000 homes by the year 2020.

See if your community is on the list: <https://buttonupvermont.org/participating-communities>.

If not, becoming a Button Up partner community is easy. Residents of these communities are eligible to sign up for a free home energy visit, help with identifying the best opportunities to spend less on energy. Contact Efficiency Vermont's Community Engagement Manager, Becca White, at [bwhite@veic.org](mailto:bwhite@veic.org) or 802-734-3227 to get started!

## GET INVOLVED IN DEMOCRACY

I have seen much greater interest in our democracy these last few years. Organizing within the party structures is one way to stay connected and engaged.

In Vermont, major political parties must reorganize in September of every odd-numbered year. Parties organize by electing members at town caucuses and then sending representatives to county committees. County committees then send representatives to the state committee meeting. By being a town, county or state committee member, you can help determine issue priorities for your party, identify and support those who want to run for office and more. Feel free to contact one of the parties below if you would like to get involved.

Vermont Democratic Party: <https://www.vtdemocrats.org/>

Vermont Progressive Party: <https://progressiveparty.org/>

Vermont Republican Party: <https://www.vtgop.org/>