

Workshop Schedule & Locations

Workshop 1: Panel Discussions 10:30-11:30am

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Workshop 2: Skills 11:35-12:20

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Closing & Party!

Closing Activity

Hannah Huber and Larry Montague will close the day's work with a moment for reflection and Larry's send-off song, "Stand!" in the Film House.

See page 20 in the toolkit for more materials

Afterparty

After the Summit is the Afterparty! Join us at Skinny Pancake for music and drinks.

Excerpt: Lorax Moment

Released October 31, 2016 | Lyrics by Larry Montague
Dedicated to my daughter, Francesca.

if you got somethin' to say, Say It
you know the quote: Be the Change, kid
you are Not nameless
all across the nation
we put in work for the planet while our congress on vacation
the bridge between science and communication
you are that weirdo chanting cadence at a demonstration
you are the hero of the famous Climate Generation
...own it
this is your Lorax moment.

Workshop 3: In-District Meetings

What does it mean to meet with a legislator “in-district”? Why and How do you do it? What happens at the meeting? How should you follow up? In this quick explainer, we’ll give you the skinny on the in-district meeting and how you can help to put a price on carbon in Vermont!

Amy Shollenberger has more than 18 years of grassroots organizing, policy, and political issue campaign experience, including work as a press secretary for a member of the U.S. House of Representatives and as a senior policy analyst for Public Citizen’s Critical Mass Energy and Environment Program. As Rural Vermont’s executive director, she worked to help members successfully advocate for several bills. In 2010, she was the campaign manager for a gubernatorial primary candidate in Vermont. She currently serves multiple clients through her Action Circles firm, offering help with political strategy, organizational capacity building, and meeting facilitation.

In-District Meeting Breakout Groups:

Chittenden County

-- Meet in the Film House

Washington and Addison Counties

-- Meet in the Blackbox

Southern Vermont -- Windham, Bennington, Rutland, Windham,

Orange County

-- Meet in the Boardroom

Northern Vermont -- Grand Isle, Franklin, Lamoille, Caledonia,

Essex, and Orleans Counties

-- Meet in the Gallery

See pages 14-19 in the toolkit for more materials



Climate Solutions Summit Hosts:



Toxics Action Center has worked side-by-side with over 800 community groups across New England since 1987 to work on issues where environmental pollution threatens our health. During its 15 years in Vermont, Toxics Action Center has assisted local groups in preventing and cleaning up hazardous waste sites, reducing industrial pollution, curb pesticide use, ensuring healthy land use, replacing dangerous chemicals with safer alternatives, and opposing dangerous waste, energy, and industrial facilities.



Vermont Public Interest Research Group is Vermont’s leading environmental and consumer protection advocacy organization. Supported by members since 1972, VPIRG’s mission is to promote and protect the health of Vermont’s environment, people, and locally-based economy. By informing and mobilizing individuals and communities across the state, VPIRG brings the voice of citizens to public policy debates that shape the future of Vermont.

Co-Sponsors:



Strategy Briefing

Why is constituent contact with legislators essential to getting policy passed? What makes legislators listen? Hear from citizen legislators as they share what it will take to persuade members of the General Assembly to support bold climate action.

Mary Sullivan of Burlington is a Democratic state legislator. After working on the campaign of U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy, she worked for over three years in the Senator's DC office. She worked at several newspapers over the years. She has held jobs in the communications field at the University of Vermont, Vermont Housing Finance Agency, and Trinity College, along with being a freelance writer. Most recently, Mary was the Director of Communications at Burlington Electric Department. Mary has served on many boards, including a six-year stint recently on the board of The Intervale Center. She currently serves on the board of CarShareVT and 350VT.

Mary Hooper of Montpelier, is a Democratic state legislator serving since 2009. She was born in Heidelberg, Germany, where her father was serving in the army. She has lived in Montpelier since 1979. She has been the executive director of the Vermont Association of Conservation Districts, Deputy Commissioner and Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industry, the first executive director of the Montpelier downtown association. She served four terms as Mayor of Montpelier and on a number of City Boards and Commissions and other organizations, including Capstone (the regional community action agency), the Hunger Council, and the Vermont College of Fine Arts.

Tom Hughes is the Energy Independent Vermont Campaign Director. Tom's comes from roles in executive leadership as CEO of Sunward Systems, a Vermont-based solar thermal business, and as Executive Director of Democracy for America. For two decades Tom held various roles on political campaigns at both the state and national levels. He also spent time as Advance Team Lead in the White House during the Clinton Administration. Tom has volunteered in support of clean energy in Vermont serving as a board member and officer for both the Energy Co-op of Vermont and Renewable Energy Vermont.

Lunch Discussions

Calling All Students

Find other activists at your school and find out about other actions coming up!

Gallery

Awards & Recognition

Media Activist Award

Bob Farnham is a veteran climate activist with a specialty in digital communications. He runs the Bob the Green Guy website and commands a considerable social media presence. He's been described as "the digital age's equivalent of a charismatic itinerant preacher blended with Johnny Appleseed." Bob uses his digital skills to spread the word about the value of clean renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainability and the need to end reliance on fossil fuels.

Youth Activist Award

The Vermont Youth Lobby Last April, over 200 young Vermonters from 20 different schools and universities marched in Montpelier to participate in the largest youth-focused political rally in Vermont history. These students were united in their belief that greater political reform must be taken to address climate change.

Business Leader Award

Jen Kimmich co-founded The Alchemist in 2003 with her husband John. As General Manager of their brewery and distribution company, Jen oversees all financial planning, operations, marketing and distribution logistics. Jen has a keen interest in all issues surrounding poverty, inequality and working families. She currently works on the public policy committee for Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility and is the board chair of the Main Street Alliance of Vermont.

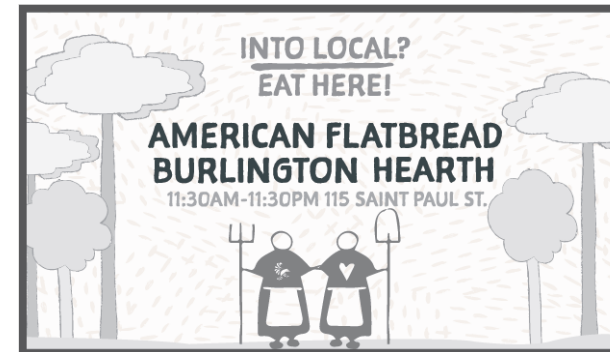
Community Leader Award

Alan Johnson is a committed, informed, and motivated energy expert and community leader. He was the driving force behind the development of a climate action plan for Hartford, and from his seat now on the Selectboard, helped motivate the municipality to explore hiring a full time energy coordinator. Alan always shows up and speaks up - in local meetings, at public hearings, in legislative meetings and far beyond. He has an ability to frame the issues based on the facts of science and good policy foundations. He is clearly moved and motivated by the opportunity he sees in creating a clean energy economy, as well as the responsibility to future generations.

Climate Solutions Summit

Business Sponsors:

Gold Sponsors:



Silver Sponsors:

- Myer's Bagels
- The Bagel Place

Bronze Sponsors:

- Danforth Pewter
- Groennfell Meadery

Special Guest: David Zuckerman

David Zuckerman of Hinesburg is a Progressive/Democrat Senator and is the Lieutenant Governor-Elect of Vermont. He is co-owner/operator of Full Moon Farm, Inc., a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) vegetable, chicken, and swine farm, with his spouse Rachel Nevitt. David served on the Burlington Electric Light Commission, and American Farm Bureau's Young Farmer and Rancher Committee. He is also a member of the Chittenden County Farm Bureau, Northeast Organic Farming Association-VT, and Rural Vermont. David has been recognized by the Vermont Childrens Forum, Women Helping Battered Women, and The Vermont Natural Resources Council.

Conference MC: Larry Montague

Larry Montague grew up in the Adirondacks. He attended SUNY Adirondack and studied forestry at Paul Smith's College. He began writing poetry and hip hop music in junior high and has been doing it ever since. He firmly believes Hip Hop can (and will) save the planet. Larry lives in Huntington, Vermont, with his wife Jamie and their daughter Francesca. He works as an outreach coordinator for Friends of the Winooski River, based in Montpelier.

Keynote Speaker: Vanessa Gray

Vanessa Gray is a 23 year-old Anishinaabe'kwe organizer from the Aamjiwnaang First Nation in Ontario, Canada. As an organizer with Aamjiwnaang and Sarnia Against Pipelines, Vanessa works with community members to address climate change, environmental racism and health issues resulting from the high levels of toxic chemicals that contaminate her area, which has been dubbed "Chemical Valley". This past December, Gray was arrested for shutting off a valve of an Enbridge pipeline carrying bitumen through her traditional territory. ~~As a result Vanessa faces two criminal charges that could mean 25 years to life in prison.~~

And her charges were dropped Wednesday!

Bring the Coalition Home with You:

Climate Action Teams in Your Community

Workshop 2: Skills 11:35-12:20 Boardroom

See pages 11-13 in the toolkit for more materials

Montpelier might be where legislation is signed, sealed, and delivered, but it isn't where the critical political action happens in Vermont. The only way to get strong climate legislation – from a mandate for 90% renewable energy by 2050, to a carbon pollution tax, and beyond – is to collaborate with your neighbors and show the folks in Montpelier that they must take action to protect our environment and continue to build a clean energy economy. Join this workshop to discuss how to better unite the various climate/social justice groups in your community, or find your niche.

Dotty Kyle and her husband Eric have been grassroots supporters of environmental causes for years. You name it and Dotty has done it – from signing petitions to testifying on the Comprehensive Energy Plan and speaking directly with her legislators, Dotty has been a clear and consistent voice promoting the health and welfare of Vermont's people, environment, and strong locally based economy. More recently, Dotty and Eric opened up their home to host an Energy Independent Vermont (EIV) house meeting, working with EIV organizers and their neighbors to build local support for a price on carbon pollution.

Hannah Huber is an organizer with VNRC. Originally from southwest Michigan, Hannah spent the last decade living in New York's Adirondack Mountains, and moved to Vermont in the spring of 2015 when she learned about the opportunity the state had to lead the nation with a price on carbon pollution. She has also held positions educating citizens about solar energy and invasive species management, worked in the fungi herbarium at the New York Botanical Garden, and was active in the fossil fuel divestment movement and other climate action efforts at college.

Adam Maxwell directs VPIRG's field operations, leading a team of organizers as they work with Vermonters of all walks of life to create a cleaner, greener, and more prosperous future for all. After college, Adam worked in conservation politics for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition, growing and managing a coalition of diverse organizations committed to habitat conservation and outdoor recreation. Early in 2016 he migrated back east to make a home in Vermont with his wife, Caroline. Adam immediately began volunteering on the Energy Independent Vermont campaign and only a few short months later was hired as Field Director.

Messaging and Telling Our Campaign Story

Workshop 2: Skills 11:35-12:20 Blackbox

See page 9-10 in the toolkit for more materials

All campaigns are important and complicated on some level. To be successful we each have to be able to distill it down into something we can explain in 1 min or less- to your in-laws, your neighbor or the stranger behind you in line. This workshop will share a tried and true method. You will leave having written a short and sweet pitch to capture on video or social media (see *page 7 for more info on the video project!*)

Sylvia Broude is the Executive Director for Toxics Action Center. She oversees Toxics Action Center's six New England offices and supervises a team of staff that organizes with nearly 100 communities each year. Sylvia joined Toxics Action Center more than 10 years ago after working with Sierra Club, MoveOn PAC, and the Fund for the Public Interest. She has directed Toxics Action Center's work in recent years to prevent a wave of new incinerator proposals across the region and win progress towards zero waste as well as to transition New England away from coal-fired power plants and to clear the way for clean energy. She studied political science and anthropology at Yale.

Sandra Levine is a Senior Attorney with Conservation Law Foundation in Montpelier. Her work focuses on climate change, clean energy, land use, transportation and natural resource protection. She regularly appears before the Vermont Public Service Board and has been active in cases regarding the Vermont Gas pipeline, the Vermont Yankee Nuclear facility, regional transmission projects, and energy efficiency. Prior to joining CLF, she practiced law privately, taught at Vermont Law School, worked for the Vermont Prisoner's Rights Office and for the Vermont Department of Public Service and served as a judicial law clerk at the Vermont Supreme Court. She earned her BA at the University of Vermont and JD at Suffolk University Law School.

Shiona Devine works with VPIRG on the campaign to price carbon pollution. She grew up in Southern California, and has worked on campaigns to ban fracking and to stop the overuse of antibiotics on factory farms. She moved to Vermont to study Natural Resources with a concentration in Sustainable Community and Ecological Design. She believes that this work is so important, because if we are going to have a societal evolution towards sustainability, then everyone is going to need to be in the loop about it.

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Other Opportunities Throughout the Summit:

Video and Social Media Project: Put a Price on it Vermont Declaration

The Energy Independent Vermont team wants you to share one reason why you're fighting to put a price on carbon pollution in Vermont, and today EIV is hosting a booth to record your declaration and will help you share it widely. In ten seconds or less, we want you to declare why you support putting a price on carbon pollution. There will be example declarations and help at the booth if you need some inspiration. EIV will email you with your video to share with your networks, and we will share across our online channels, from social media to our website.

We'll be using the hashtags **#PricePollutionVT** to track stories locally and **#PutAPriceOnIt** to share with the national network working on this issue.

Arts

We're very lucky to have a vibrant presence of artists throughout Vermont. The expression of one's relationship with nature through visual art is a wonderful way to bring people together. At this point in time, the intersection of the artist community and the environmental community is essential in making true progress on climate action. Some of these pieces portray the beauty of our wonderful planet; others are symbolic of the environmental effects from our current political debacle. We hope that these pieces restore hope for the future, and remind folks that they are amongst billions of human beings fighting for mother earth!

Information Tables:

There are several tables in the lobby with information about other organizations and activism happening in the area. Please see what others are doing in your area and pick up more information to take home!

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Carbon Pricing and the Economy:

A Business Perspective

Workshop 1: Panel Discussions 10:30-11:30 Blackbox

Putting a price on carbon pollution is not only good for our environment - it's also good for our economy. All over Vermont, socially responsible businesses are reducing their carbon footprints, weatherizing their shops and buildings, and powering their work with clean energy. Join business leaders for a discussion on how Vermont can use this policy to grow the local economy.

Paul Fleckenstein is a BPI certified energy auditor with a 20 year background in both residential and commercial energy efficiency work. He has a B.S. in environmental engineering from the University of Florida and an M.A. in Economic Anthropology from Goddard College. Paul lives in Burlington with his wife and two teenagers in a 130 year-old house where he tests many of the latest energy efficiency products.

Bram Kleppner is CEO of Danforth Pewter in Middlebury, where he has instituted company-wide profit-sharing and partially paid maternity leave. He also converted Danforth to 100% solar-generated electricity, making Danforth the world's first solar-powered pewter workshop. He serves on the Governor's Advisory Council on Health Care Financing and as Co-Chair of Vermont's Medicaid/Exchange Advisory Board, Chairman of the Board of both the Vermont CURE, and of the Population Media Center.

Ricky Klein is the head brewer, Chief Visionary Officer, and devoted drinker at Groennfell Meadery in Colchester. He also really, really likes to pour drinks for other people, so he can usually be found at the Mead Hall or out at brew festivals. In addition to his quotidian responsibilities, Ricky also stars in the YouTube video series Ask the Meadmaker, writes extensively for homebrewers and other industry professionals, speaks around the country about craft mead, develops the menu for Colchester's Mead Hall, and builds things from wood.

Daniel Barlow will moderate. He has served as VBSR's Public Policy Manager since the Fall of 2010. He represents the organization's more than 750 members at the Vermont State House, lobbying on issues such as economic development, health care, clean energy, and employment law. Previously, Dan worked as a political reporter for the Vermont Press Bureau, was the recipient of a 2009 New England Associated Press award, and was a frequent guest on Vermont television and radio programs. Dan also serves on the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee at Downstreet Housing and Community Development. His hobbies include summer camping in Vermont State Parks and exploring the state's historic cemeteries. He lives in Barre with his partner and a cat.

Making the News:

Writing Letters to the Editor

Workshop 2: Skills 11:35-12:20 Gallery

See page 7-8 in the toolkit for more materials

Those who want to protect the fossil fuel status quo have seen the progress we've made, and now they're redoubling their efforts to spread misinformation and fear about our proposal. In the past few weeks we've already seen opponents of our plan spreading half-truths, scare-tactics and some crazy bad math both online and in the press. And now they're taking to the airwaves with misleading ads opposing a carbon pollution tax. The best tools we have to fight back are our own voices. And one of the most effective ways to get those voices heard is a letter to the editor (LTE) in your local paper. We will be talking about why letters matter and sharing the best practices in LTE writing, along with tips for getting started and ways to make sure your letter gets published. There will also be chance for Q&A and opportunities to share ideas with one another. So whether you're an experienced LTE writer looking to share your wisdom, or someone new to the campaign who needs some pointers on how to write an LTE -- this will be excellent session to attend.

Shaina Kasper is Toxics Action Center's Vermont State Director and also works as a community organizer in New Hampshire. Before coming to join Toxics Action Center, Shaina worked as a field organizer for Progressive Massachusetts, and as a Regional Field Director on the Raise Up Massachusetts Campaign. At Toxics Action Center, Shaina works out of the Montpelier office to assist local community groups to clean up hazardous waste sites, and promote clean water, safe energy, and zero waste. She is also the lead coordinator for this Summit.

Emma Schoenberg is the membership coordinator at VPIRG where she has also organized on the Divest VT Campaign. She is a lifelong Vermonter, born and raised in Montpelier. She graduated from UVM in 2014 where she studied environmental studies and was active in food and social justice campaigns. Emma interned with Rural Vermont in 2013 focusing on Raw Milk education and outreach.

Sue Deppe, M.D., is a psychiatrist with years of health reform and environmental advocacy behind her. She has written newsletters, articles, opinion pieces and legislative testimony. She has taught about emotion, spirituality and restorative practices on three continents. She is Chair of the Colchester Energy Task Force.

I Read It On the Internet:

Using digital communication to educate friends, push back on fossil-fuel industry misinformation and inspire others to action

Workshop 2: Skills 11:35-12:20 Film House

See page 6 in the toolkit for more materials

This interactive panel discussion and workshop will outline the importance of both earned and owned media in our campaign – with a special focus on the digital space. We'll discuss the current media atmosphere surrounding Energy Independent Vermont and what we can do to help shape the narrative, educate people in our own digital circles and dispel the falsehoods being pushed by the fossil fuel industry and their backers. We'll share tips to help you become an effective digital communicator including social media trends and best practices. We'll also provide information about the Energy Independent Vermont Emergency Media Team and how you can become involved in that effort.

Zach Tomanelli is the Communications and Technology Director at VPIRG. Before joining VPIRG, Zach was an Online Organizer and Community Director at the progressive news and activism website Firedoglake where he worked on everything from environmental protection to drug policy reform. He's also spent time at the American Civil Liberties Union, Democracy Now! and Fairness & Accuracy in Reporting. Zach is a 2011 graduate of Ithaca College with a bachelor's degree in journalism. In his role at VPIRG, Zach manages all of VPIRG's advocacy and outreach communications including emails, web posts, social media, mailings and publications. He also oversees data, information and internal technology operations.

Megan Stokes is the Development Director for Toxics Action Center. She coordinates the organization's fundraising and communications with its membership base and donors. Megan got her start working on environmental issues with MASSPIRG, organizing students on college campuses around campus recycling and state global warming legislation and before her current work with Toxics Action Center, she oversaw campaign offices across the country for organizations building membership and educating citizens on critical environmental issues.

Keil Corey is the Outreach and Communications Coordinator at the Vermont Natural Resources Council where he manages digital and print communications, media and public relations and event organizing. He is also a partner in the Energy Independent Vermont communications team.

Bob Farnham is also a panelist. See his biography on page 16.

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A Win-Win:

Progressive Tax Reforms and Carbon Pricing that Benefits All

Workshop 1: Panel Discussions 10:30-11:30 Film House

Pricing carbon pollution would impact every Vermonter who goes to the gas station or uses fuel to heat their homes. At a time when home energy costs are a burden for many Vermonters, why make costs go up? Panelists will discuss what must be included in a carbon tax bill to mitigate the cost increase for low income folks and people living in poverty. How will taxing what we burn affect low-income Vermonters? What are some proposals on the table to reduce this burden? Come to this panel to find out!

Karen Lafayette is the legislative advocate for the Vermont Low Income Advocacy Council, an organization dedicated to giving a voice to the poor, the elderly, those living with disabilities, and low-income working families in the policy making arena of state government. Karen is a native of Burlington and served as a State Representative in the Vermont Legislature from 1993 to 2000. She is currently a lobbyist representing the interest of vulnerable Vermonters and those entities fighting for economic justice and disability rights.

Paul Zabriskie is engaged in the policy and advocacy arenas for energy efficiency and conservation in Vermont. His diverse experience in environmental engineering drives a passion for whole systems solutions to the inefficient use of resources and adoption of renewables. He directs and administers multiple programs and initiatives that reduce energy waste and CO2 emissions while improving the health, safety and durability of homes.

At Capstone Community Action he oversees the organization's Weatherization Assistance Program, providing home efficiency solutions to low-income Vermonters; 3E Thermal, a multi-family housing energy retrofit service; and EnergySmart, a social-enterprise home performance contracting service. Paul is also helping to roll out Zero Energy Now, an innovative home energy improvement program that takes a comprehensive approach to energy use, providing efficiency upgrades, renewable heating (such as heat pumps and biomass) and solar PVs.

The Moral Imperative for Bold Climate Action:

People of Faith Speak

Workshop 1: Panel Discussions 10:30-11:30 Gallery

Global warming is here now. Those who are suffering now are those who live closest to the margins: the poor, the infirm, children, the elderly, but none of us will remain exempt, and congregational aid can only go so far. What we do now matters. As people of faith, we are deeply and urgently concerned about climate change as a threat to Creation and as a harm to the most vulnerable people. We are ready to move into the future in hope.

Dr. Alan Betts of Atmospheric Research in Pittsford is a leading climate scientist. He is a frequent speaker on climate change issues, and their moral significance. You can read his columns, and see his radio and TV interviews at alanbetts.com.

Soryu Forall got a degree in Economics at Williams College and focused on a carbon tax. But he realized that further information will not help us with a problem that has already been proven and the solutions understood. Until people see global warming as a moral issue, the world will burn. Therefore, Soryu joined a religious order and asks people to sacrifice everything for life on earth.

Margaret Gish is currently a junior at the University Of Vermont majoring in elementary education and minoring in environmental studies and special education. She became involved in the environmental movement in 2010 when she was trained by Al Gore's organization A Climate Reality Project to give presentations about climate change. Since then she has spoke at various conferences around Vermont urging all to have hope for the future.

Amy May has a background in Conservation Biology and Environmental Education where she focuses on connecting people to the natural world. While most of her work has been in the secular world, she has been involved with Jewish Gardening projects and is currently teaching a Jewish Environmental elective in the Hebrew School at Ohavi Zedek.

Betsy Hardy will moderate. She is the Coordinator and staff person for Vermont Interfaith Power & Light (VTIPL); she's served in this position since 2006. VTIPL is a Vermont nonprofit working with faith communities to address climate change, and Betsy is a founding member. She has a Master's degree in Science and Environmental Education from Cornell University. She lives in Richmond in a house built in 1907 which is now net zero.

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Bold Climate Action for Livable Communities

Workshop 1: Panel Discussions 10:30-11:30 Boardroom

In some ways, Vermont has fared better than other rural states in keeping our communities livable for people of all ages and abilities and maintaining working local economies. Yet, global warming, peak fossil fuels and shifting populations and demographics mean the challenges that rural communities face won't be going away anytime soon. This panel will discuss how climate solutions – including putting a price on carbon pollution – could contribute to enhancing the quality of life in our cities, towns, village centers and rural communities. And how pushing for policies that promote livability can strengthen and support bold climate policies.

Jason Van Driesche joined Local Motion as Education and Safety Manager in 2009, was Director of Advocacy & Education from 2012-2015, and is now Deputy Director. He oversees Local Motion's advocacy work and technical assistance services, supporting local advocates and local governments that want to make their communities better places to walk and bike. Jason is also responsible for building and expanding Local Motion's highly successful BikeSmart program, the Safe Streets Project, Local Motion's bike commuter workshops, and other initiatives designed to make biking and walking safer and easier. He lives in Burlington's South End, where he bikes and walks to work year round.

Deb Sachs, is Co-Executive Director of Net Zero Vermont, a non-profit advancing projects that support a shared vision for vibrant, people-centered downtowns and low carbon solutions. She is an expert in sustainable development, energy efficiency and behavior sciences. Deb's 25 years of experience in several award winning projects includes the annual Way to Go! Challenge and the 10% Challenge. She is currently advancing an exciting new project, the Sustainable Montpelier 2030 Design Competition, to help the City reach net zero energy by 2030. Deb is CEO of a small sustainability consulting firm, EcoStrategies, and volunteers her time for the Vermont Rail Action Network and Community Resilience Organizations. Deb has a master's in Natural Resources Planning.

Keil Corey will moderate. See his biography on page 12.

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