



2020 Cohort
Climate Catalysts
Community Leadership
Program



Amanda Carlson is currently employed as an EMT, and general project assistant to a local wood products manufacturer in Marshfield VT. She has had many different jobs to date including many years of management level work at Copper Mountain Resort in Colorado, graphic design and merchandise planning for a home products business, and most recently working at an Orthopedic doctors office as a medical assistant.

She became very concerned about climate change while living in Colorado and when she started attending lectures at the Rocky Mountain Institute. This turned into lots of reading about climate change, attending events, and for the past year getting involved in her local town energy committee. Amanda grew up in Lyndonville VT and attributes her low impact lifestyle to her ever conscious mother.

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Project: To work with the largest employers in central VT to incentivize the use of mass transit and carpooling, to decrease the usage of single occupancy vehicles.



Jason Cheney serves at the Chairman of the Jericho Planning Commission. He was born and raised in Chittenden County. He went to college in Connecticut at the UNH, Housatonic and Norwalk Colleges. Jason works in Business development for Engelberth Construction and spends his free time with honey bees and in the great outdoors.

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Project: As a member of the Jericho Planning Commission, and in conjunction with a recently adopted Master Plan for the commercial district Jason is working to develop a ride share/ park and ride focused on providing a safe location for alternate transportation connections.



Lynn Coale is the former Director/ Superintendent of the Patricia Hannaford Regional Technical School District in Middlebury VT. Lynn has over 40 years experience in education, workforce development, economic development and curriculum alignment. He has been a career and technical education teacher, high school principal, career center director, and a superintendent. He currently consults in the agriculture and food systems, and education sectors. Lynn has served on many community and state boards including: the Addison County Chamber of Commerce, Porter Medical Center, Addison County Economic Development Council, Vermont Pre-K 16 Council, Vermont Agriculture and Forest Product Development Board, and the University of Vermont Continuing and Distance Learning Advisory Board. He has worked collaboratively with both high schools and colleges to establish dual enrollment credit and industry recognized credentials for students in Wyoming and Vermont. Lynn has developed innovative programs in the areas of alternative energy, agriculture, and science technology engineering and mathematics.

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Project: The non profit that Lynn presently consults for (Addison County Relocalization Network, ACORN) has in their work plan to develop interest with farmers in Regenerative Agriculture. It is their strong understanding that these practices and the outcomes from implementation not only work to retain water, cool the planet, and build top soil but are also economically viable. They hope to convene interest groups, support learning communities, and develop several small scale experimental sites that practice Regenerative Agriculture.



Catherine Crawley has served as the communications manager for the National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis (NIMBioS) since 2009. She co-leads Stowe CAN (Climate Action Network) and serves as Chair of the Steering Committee of Healthy Lamoille Valley. She is Vice-Chair of the Stowe Town Democratic Committee and a delegate to the Lamoille County Democrats and the VT State Democratic Committee. Originally from England, she moved from Tennessee to Stowe with her husband and daughter in 2015. She has a Ph.D. in Science Communication from the University of Tennessee, an M.Ed. from Vanderbilt University, and a B.S in Communication from the University of Tennessee.

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Project: As co-leader of Stowe Climate Action Network, Catherine will work to develop a Strategic Action Plan to establish committee goals and objectives in order to guide and prioritize initiatives of Stowe's new green economy.



Stephen Dotson serves as Sustainability Coordinator to the Town of Brattleboro and has been active in a variety of environmental and social justice oriented nonprofit work. Some of the organizations he has worked with include the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association, the North American Sustainable Refrigeration Council, the Resilient Design Institute, the Rich Earth Institute, Envision Peace Museum, the World Wildlife Fund, and others. Stephen hails from Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains, where he first learned to climb trees. He serves as Putney's representative to the Windham Regional Commission and is a member of the Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies (SeVEDS) board.

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Project: An array of community groups in Brattleboro hold a shared interest in creating a community tool library, to enable a sharing economy and support repair cafes. They are hoping to develop a business plan, organize resources, and launch the library in the next 18 months.



Linda Gray is chair of the Norwich Energy Committee. She is retired and her key working experiences were as a legislative aide for a US Congressman, staff for the American Wind Energy Association, and at the Montshire Museum of Science. She grew up in Arlington Virginia, graduated from the College of William & Mary, and has lived in Vermont since 1986. Linda served 10 years on her local school boards and is currently an alternate commissioner for the District 3 Environmental Commission and a board member of Vermont Conservation Voters.

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Project: Linda's project is to develop a protocol for effective contacts with people who borrow e-bikes through the "lending library" that is being set up in the Upper Valley. One element they want to beef up for the loan program is their contacts with borrowers, so that a significant percentage of them become regular e-bike users.



Laurel Green has gardened in Windham County for 35 years while raising a daughter, earning a M.Ed. from Antioch N.E., completing a Permaculture Design Certificate, and teaching and leading in the Re-evaluation Counseling community. She and her life partner hosted a family of three asylum seekers for a year and a half. These days she is a member of her town's

Conservation Commission and Energy Sub-committee, is on the steering committee of her local 350VT climate action group, is active in her Unitarian Universalist church on climate justice issues and is on the leadership team of the Bellows Falls Community Garden.

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Project: As the chairperson of a new task force to "advance energy, efficiency and resilience" in Rockingham, Laurel wants to be sure that community organizing is built into the project (the project to be decided 2/13/20.) Her goal is to release initiative of individuals and teams as well as to create networks of support that empower people to take action.



Deirdre Holmes is an active member of the Charlotte Energy Committee. She holds a MA in Ecological Urban and Regional Planning, is self-employed as a property manager in Vermont and Montreal, and is currently pursuing a Permaculture Design Certificate. She grew up in a Dutch-American family in a passive solar house outside of Boston. She now lives in Charlotte with her husband and two daughters, where they have a recording studio, and a world music record label. She is also an assistant teacher in the Movement for Parkinson's class at the Flynn.

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Project: Having coordinated the farm-to-school program and Sustainability Committee at Charlotte Central School, Deirdre intends to follow the scaling up of school consolidation to convene a districtwide Climate Committee, including representation from district schools and town Energy Committees.



Madison Kremer serves as the development assistant and communications specialist for Shires Housing, a non-profit housing organization whose mission is to provide safe, decent, affordable housing in Bennington County. She previously served as the 2018-19 AmeriCorps VISTA member with the Bennington County Regional Commission where she helped organize new municipal energy

committees to support the implementation of municipal energy plans. Madison grew up in Massachusetts but, having lived in 3 countries and 6 US states, is passionate about learning from the challenges and efforts of communities worldwide that are endeavoring towards sustainability. She has a degree in Sustainable Community Development and Urban Studies from UMass Amherst, where she participated in the Divest UMass movement and worked for three years researching urban tree planting. Currently, Madison resides in Bennington where she can be found hiking with Zappa, her Australian Shepherd, and volunteering with the North Bennington/Shafsbury Energy Committee.

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Project: Madison is working to build engagement around residential energy solutions by developing tools and networks locally in Bennington County that help both renters and landlords.



Ann Lawless serves part time as Northeast Kingdom Outreach Coordinator for HEAT Squad. In 2018, she retired after 13 years as Executive Director of the American Precision Museum in Windsor. Now she serves on the Selectboard in the Town of Wheelock and is active with the Wheelock Community Initiative, a group seeking to bring social and economic opportunities to help create a vibrant town. She serves on the Vermont Historical Records Advisory Board (state archives) and the steering committee of VACDaRN, VT Arts & Culture Disaster & Resilience Network. She is a serious home gardener and composter.

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Project: Ann's project is to strengthen the capacity of NEK town energy committees and similar groups and encourage new groups to form. This means branching out beyond home weatherization (her job) to include electric efficiency, heating alternatives, transportation, making community buildings more efficient, and finding financial resources to make it all possible.



Rob Terry serves as the Executive Director at Merck Forest & Farmland Center (MFFC), where he leads a team dedicated to inspiring curiosity, love, and responsibility for natural and working lands while stewarding the organization's 3,200-acre forest, 60-acre farm, 35-mile trail network, and eight backcountry cabins. Prior to coming to MFFC, Rob worked as the Vice President of

National Programs for the Student Conservation Association, a national nonprofit that places 5,000 youth and young adults annually into conservation related service positions primarily with major federal land management agencies. A native of Maryland, Rob initially developed his

passion for the natural world climbing and whitewater kayaking on and around the Potomac River, just outside of Washington DC. Rob, his wife Anna, and their two young children currently return home to Rupert VT to dry their gear and prepare for their next adventure. Rob chairs the Shires Outdoor & Adventure Recreation Committee and serves on the board of the Bennington County Conservation District and the Velomont Chapter of the VT Mountain Bike Association.

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Project: Rob is working to engage regional landowners and working lands professionals throughout SW Vermont and beyond to develop a clearer understanding of how, in an economically viable way, to introduce practices that will sequester and store carbon while protecting resilient landscapes. Through demonstration, education, and educational workshops, Rob hopes to explore practices such as carbon smart forest management, regenerative agriculture, silvopasture, and landscape level conservation.



Adam Wechlser currently serves as an AmeriCorps Trainer with the Every Body Works program at ReSOURCE in Williston. He previously worked for the Environmental Program at the University of Vermont as a Research Assistant, focusing on wood pellet heating, and apprenticed as a Building Energy Consultant with Eco Houses of Vermont, LLC. Adam holds a B.S. in

Environmental Studies ('18) from UVM, with a concentration in green buildings and sustainability studies, and is a Certified Passive House Consultant (CPHC). Adam grew up in Jericho, where he currently lives, and serves on the Jericho Energy Task Force and PPMD's Adult Advisory Committee. adam.wechsler01@gmail.com, 802-734-5226

Project: As part of his service with ReSOURCE, Adam will work to develop a two-part Sustainability Plan for the organization. The first part will involve developing and implementing a food scraps management plan, and the second part will involve developing an energy retrofit plan for ReSOURCE's headquarters building in Williston.