



# Vermont Climate Economy Summit: IDEAS TO ACTION

**February 22, 2016** | *Judd Hall, Vermont Technical College*

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The Vermont Council on Rural Development's **2nd climate economy conference** to **share the platform of the** Vermont Climate Change Economy Council **and frame common ground for action**

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Confronting climate change through innovative economic development can be a competitive strategy, one that will build national reputation, create jobs, and attract youth and entrepreneurship to the states that lead. In February 2015 over 400 Vermonters attended the Summit on "Creating Prosperity and Opportunity Confronting Climate Change." Participants shared their ideas on the ways that focused action around energy development, efficiencies, transportation renewal, waste recovery and many other arenas could significantly boost businesses and jobs for the future. At this event, VCRD founded the Vermont Climate Change Economy Council (VCCEC) with the one year mission of reviewing the ideas from the Summit, interviewing key stakeholders, and gathering information to build an action platform to advance Vermont's economy while reducing our collective carbon impact.

This 2<sup>nd</sup> Summit will review the findings and platform of the VCCEC, consider how this plan connects to a number of implementation arenas, from city government to business leadership, and then identify strategies to make Vermont a national leader in achieving climate economy business development, innovation and job creation for the future.

## Agenda

- 8:00-9:00**    **Registration, Coffee and Muffins**.....Judd Hall
- 9:00**        **Welcome and Introductions**  
*Dan Smith, VTC President*  
*Greg Brown, Chair, VCRD Board of Directors*  
*Judge William Sessions, Chair of the Vermont Climate Change Economy Council*
- 9:10**        **Senator Patrick Leahy**
- 9:30**        **Speaker of the House Shap Smith**
- 9:45**        **Introduction: Agenda for the Day & Overviewing the Platform of the Vermont Climate Economy Council**  
*Paul Costello, VCRD Executive Director*

10:10

## *Break*

10:30

### **Climate Economy Work Session I: Arenas for Action..... Breakout Rooms**

#### **“How do we advance elements of the climate change economy in our area of work?”**

*Panelists will have 8 minutes each to introduce themselves and their work and share their perspective on the topic.*

*Then, at the 45 minute mark, the Moderator will facilitate a conversation to include all attendees for them to share their perspectives on what they have heard and what is happening in this issue area.*

#### **A. City and Town Leaders**

*MODERATOR/FACILITATOR: **Mark Johnson**, [VTDigger.org](http://VTDigger.org)*

*PANELISTS: **Peter Elwell**, Town Manager, Brattleboro*

***John Hollar**, Mayor, Montpelier*

***Tom Lauzon**, Mayor, Barre*

***Chris Louras**, Mayor, Rutland*

#### **B. Youth**

*MODERATOR/FACILITATOR: **Patricia Coates**, Vermont State Colleges*

*PANELISTS: Vermont Student Leaders:*

***Carl Deithelm**, Green Mountain College*

***Morgan Easton**, Vermont Technical College*

***Gina Fiorile**, University of Vermont*

***Margaret Gish**, University of Vermont*

#### **C. State Administration**

*MODERATOR/FACILITATOR: **Deb Markowitz**, Secretary, Agency of Natural Resources*

*PANELISTS: **Chris Cole**, Secretary, Agency of Transportation*

***Noelle MacKay**, Commissioner, Department of Housing and Community Development*

***Chris Recchia**, Commissioner, Department of Public Service*

***Chuck Ross**, Secretary, Agency of Agriculture and Markets*

#### **D. Clean Energy Utility Leaders**

*MODERATOR/FACILITATOR: **Steve Zind**, Vermont Public Radio*

*PANELISTS: **Christine Hallquist**, Vermont Electric Cooperative*

***Kerrick Johnson**, VT Transco, VELCO*

***Scott Johnstone**, Vermont Energy Investment Corporation*

***Mary Powell**, Green Mountain Power*

***Patty Richards**, Washington Electric Coop*

#### **E. Vermont Business Leader Fishbowl**

*MODERATOR/FACILITATOR: **Ross Sneyd**, National Life Group*

*PANELISTS: **Chad Farrell**, Encore Redevelopment*

***Mark Foley**, Foley Services, Rutland*

***Joe Fusco**, Casella Waste Systems*

***Judy Geer**, Concept II and the Craftsbury Outdoor Center*

**F. Investors**

*MODERATOR/FACILITATOR: **Jolinda LaClair**, VT Agency of Agriculture and Marketing*

*PANELISTS: **Will Belongia**, VT Community Loan Fund*

***Jo Bradley**, Vermont Economic Development Authority*

***Kyle Clark**, DesignBook*

***Chuck Karparis**, VT State Employee Credit Union*

***Beth Pearce**, Vermont State Treasurer*

**G. Legislators**

*MODERATOR/FACILITATOR: **Lisa Gosselin**, VT Ski & Ride/Vermont Sports/Addison Independent*

*PANELISTS: **Christopher Bray**, Chair, Senate Natural Resources*

***Mary Hooper**, Co-Chair, Climate Change Caucus*

***Tony Klein**, Chair, House Natural Resources and Energy*

***Chris Pearson**, Co-Chair, Climate Change Caucus*

***Diane Snelling**, Vice Chair, Senate Natural Resources; Clerk, Senate Appropriations*

**H. Working Lands Leaders**

*MODERATOR/FACILITATOR: **Sarah Waring**, Center for an Agricultural Economy*

*PANELISTS: **Chris Brooks**, VT Pellet Company*

***Josh Faulkner**, UVM Extension*

***Allison Hooper**, Vermont Creamery*

***Ellen Kahler**, VT Sustainable Jobs Fund, Farm to Plate*

***David Marvin**, Butternut Mountain Farm*

12:00-1:00 *Lunch* ..... Cafeteria & Judd Hall

1:00 **Congressman Peter Welch**..... Judd Hall

1:05 **Vermont Lifetime Leadership Award Presentation**

*Presented to **Rick Davis**, The Permanent Fund for Vermont’s Children*

*PRESENTERS: **Hal Cohen**, VT Agency of Human Services; **Buzz Schmidt**, VCRD board member*

1:20 **Keynote Speaker**

***Danny Kennedy**, California Clean Energy Fund*

2:00 **Climate Economy Work Session II: Action**..... Breakout Rooms

**“How do we build action to advance the climate economy?”**

*In each breakout group, participants will discuss:*

*What is currently happening in this arena?*

*What potential action steps can advance Vermont as a center of climate change solutions, innovation and economic development?*

**I. Supporting Community-Driven Climate Economy Solutions**

*FACILITATOR: **Jenna Whitson**, VCRD*

**J. Developing Comprehensive Transportation Efficiencies and Systems Change**

*FACILITATOR: Karen Glitman, VT Energy Investment Corp*

**K. Advancing Comprehensive Home Efficiencies: Weatherization, Energy Retrofits and Next Stage Efficiencies**

*FACILITATOR: Scott Johnstone, VT Energy Investment Corp*

**L. Growing Climate Economy Entrepreneurs: Climate Economy Network Development Initiative**

*FACILITATOR: Ellen Kahler, Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund*

**M. Promoting Efficiencies and Energy Development through Clean Energy Finance Collaboration**

*FACILITATOR: Andi Colnes, Energy Action Network*

**N. Promoting Standards, Regulations & Incentives for Clean Energy and Efficiencies**

*FACILITATOR: Kathy Beyer, Housing Vermont*

**O. Pricing Carbon**

*FACILITATOR: Paul Costello, VCRD*

**P. Marketing Vermont as a National Climate Economy Leader**

*FACILITATORS: Steve Costello, Green Mountain Power; Dennise Casey, Casey Inc.*

**Q. Building a National Climate Economy Summit in Vermont**

*FACILITATOR: Nate Hausman, Clean Energy Group*

3:15

*Break*

3:30

**Vermont Climate Change Economy Council Members.....Judd Hall**

**Perspectives** ~ Each participant on the VCCEC will share one element that most excites them about the work ahead.

*Moderated by Chuck Ross, Secretary, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food, & Markets*

4:10

**Next Action: VCRD and Partnership**

*Paul Costello*

4:20

**Student Video Presentation of Conference Highlights!**

*Champlain College Emergent Media Program*

4:30

*Adjourn*



**Vermont Council on Rural Development**

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