

Vermont Council on Rural Development presents:

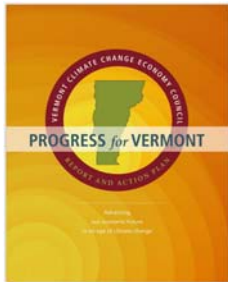
Vermont Climate Economy Summit IDEAS TO ACTION

February 22, 2016 | VTC, Randolph

Dear Summit Participant,

Thank you for attending VCRD's Vermont Climate Economy Summit: IDEAS to ACTION.

At last year's February Summit on "Creating Prosperity and Opportunity Confronting Climate Change," over 400 Vermonters 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 the 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 2nd Summit will review *PROGRESS for VERMONT*, 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.

Morning sessions will include panelists in crucial roles from state leaders to mayors, investors and students who will share their stories and perspectives on elements in the *PROGRESS for VERMONT* report. Afternoon sessions will feature lively discussions amongst all participants on categorical action arenas to advance Vermont's climate economy. Before the lunchtime keynote address by Danny Kennedy, VCRD will present its 2016 Lifetime Leadership Award to Rick Davis..

The Summit will serve as a founding point for the Vermont Climate Economy Partnership devoted to collective effort to advancing Vermont's climate economy.

Vermont can be in the forefront of economic innovation and model solutions in an age of climate change. Thanks for being part of it!

Paul Costello, *Executive Director*
Vermont Council on Rural Development

Produced by: Vermont Council on Rural Development

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www.vtrural.org | www.vtworkinglands.org | www.vtdigitaleconomy.org



Tweet your thoughts about the Summit using **#vtclimateeconomy**



For Wi-Fi: Join the “VTCGuest” network with:
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Summit Agenda

8:00 - 9:00 *Registration, Coffee and Muffins*

9:00 Opening and Welcome Judd
Dan Smith, *President*, Vermont Technical College
Greg Brown, *Chair*, VCRD Board of Directors
Judge William Sessions, *Chair*, Vermont Climate Change Economy Council

9:10 Senator Patrick Leahy

9:30 Speaker of the House Shap Smith

9:45 Introduction: Paul Costello, *Executive Director, VCRD*
 Overviewing the Agenda for the Day and “PROGRESS for VERMONT,” the Platform of the Vermont Climate Change Economy Council

10:10 *Break*

10:30 Breakout Sessions 1: Arenas for Action Breakout Rooms
“How do we advance elements of the climate change economy in our area of work?”
 Panelists will introduce themselves and their work and share their perspectives. Then attendees will share their perspectives on what they have heard and what is happening in this arena.

noon - 1:00 *Lunch*

1:00 Congressman Peter Welch Judd

1:05 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award: Rick Davis, *the Permanent Fund for Vermont’s Children*
 Presented by **Hal Cohen**, *VT Agency of Human Services*; **Buzz Schmidt**, *VCRD Board Member*

1:20 Keynote Speaker: Danny Kennedy, *California Clean Energy Fund*

2:00 Breakout Sessions 2: 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? and What potential action steps can advance Vermont as a center of climate change solutions, innovation and economic development?

3:15 *Break*

3:30 Vermont Climate Change Economy Council Members Perspectives Judd
 Each participant on the VCCEC will share one element that most excites them about the work ahead
MODERATOR: **Chuck Ross**, *Secretary, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets*

4:10 Next Action: VCRD and Partnership: Paul Costello

4:20 Student Video Presentation of Summit Highlights!
 Presented by **Champlain College Emergent Media Program**

4:30 *Adjourn*

- A. City and Town Leaders** Judd
 MODERATOR/FACILITATOR: **Mark Johnson**, *VTDigger.org*
 PANELISTS: **Peter Elwell**, *Brattleboro Town Manager* | **John Hollar**, *Montpelier Mayor* | **Thom Lauzon**, *Barre Mayor* | **Chris Louras**, *Rutland Mayor*
- B. Youth** Green 216
 MODERATOR/FACILITATOR: **Patricia Coates**, *Vermont State Colleges*
 PANELISTS: Vermont Student leaders: **Carl Deithelm**, *Green Mountain College* | **Morgan Easton**, *VT Technical College* | **Gina Fiorile**, *University of Vermont* | **Margaret Gish**, *University of Vermont*
- C. State Administration** Conant 105
 MODERATOR/FACILITATOR: **Deb Markowitz**, *Secretary, Agency of Natural Resources*
 PANELISTS: **Chris Cole**, *Secretary, Agency of Transportation* | **Noelle MacKay**, *Commissioner, Dept of Housing and Community Devel* | **Chris Recchia**, *Commissioner, Department of Public Service* | **Chuck Ross**, *Secretary, Agency of Agriculture, Food, & Markets*
- D. Clean Energy Utility Leaders**..... Conant 102
 MODERATOR/FACILITATOR: **Steve Zind**, *Vermont Public Radio*
 PANELISTS: **Christine Hallquist**, *Vermont Electric Cooperative* | **Kerrick Johnson**, *VT Transco, VELCO* | **Scott Johnstone**, *VT Energy Investment Corp* | **Mary Powell**, *Green Mountain Power* | **Patty Richards**, *Washington Electric Coop*
- E. Vermont Business Leader Fishbowl** Green 228
 MODERATOR/FACILITATOR: **Ross Sneyd**, *National Life Group*
 PANELISTS: **Chad Farrell**, *Encore Renewable Energy* | **Mark Foley**, *Foley Services, Rutland* | **Joe Fusco**, *Casella Waste Systems* | **Judy Geer**, *Concept2 and the Craftsbury Outdoor Center*

Morning sessions continued on next page ►►



- F. Investors** Green 116
 MODERATOR/FACILITATOR: **Jolinda LaClair**, *Agency of Agriculture, Food, & Markets*
 PANELISTS: **Will Belongia**, *VT Community Loan Fund* | **Jo Bradley**, *VT Economic Development Authority* | **Kyle Clark**, *DesignBook* | **Chuck Karparis**, *VT State Employees Credit Union* | **Beth Pearce**, *Vermont State Treasurer*
- G. Legislators** Conant 101
 MODERATOR/FACILITATOR: **Lisa Gosselin**, *VT Ski + Ride / VT 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** Green 224
 MODERATOR/FACILITATOR: **Sarah Waring**, *Center for an Agricultural Economy*
 PANELISTS: **Chris Brooks**, *Vermont Pellet Company* | **Josh Faulkner**, *UVM Extension* | **Allison Hooper**, *Vermont Creamery* | **Ellen Kahler**, *VT Sustainable Jobs Fund, Farm to Plate* | **David Marvin**, *Butternut Mountain Farm*

Afternoon Breakout Sessions: 2:00 - 3:15 pm

- I. Supporting Community-Driven Climate Economy Solutions** Conant 102
 FACILITATOR: **Jenna Whitson**, *Vermont Council on Rural Development*
- J. Developing Comprehensive Transportation Efficiencies and Systems Change** Conant 105
 FACILITATOR: **Karen Glitman**, *Vermont Energy Investment Corp*
- K. Advancing Comprehensive Home Efficiencies: Weatherization, Energy Retrofits, and.....** Conant 101
Next State Efficiencies
 FACILITATOR: **Scott Johnstone**, *Vermont Energy Investment Corp*
- L. Growing Climate Economy Entrepreneurs: Climate Economy Network Initiative** Judd
 FACILITATOR: **Ellen Kahler**, *Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund*
- M. Promoting Efficiencies and Energy Development through Clean Energy Finance** Green 124
Collaboration
 FACILITATOR: **Andi Colnes**, *Energy Action Network*
- N. Promoting Standards, Regulations, & Incentives for Clean Energy Efficiencies** Green 216
 FACILITATOR: **Kathy Beyer**, *Housing Vermont*
- O. Pricing Carbon** Green 224
 FACILITATOR: **Paul Costello**, *Vermont Council on Rural Development*
- P. Marketing Vermont as a National Climate Economy Leader** Green 128
 FACILITATORS: **Steve Costello**, *Green Mountain Power* | **Dennise Casey**, *Casey, Inc.*
- Q. Building a National Climate Economy Summit in Vermont** Green 116
 FACILITATOR: **Nate Hausman**, *Clean Energy Group*

Summit Highlights Video Presentation: 4:20 pm



VCRD is excited to welcome a team of students from the **Emergent Media Center at Champlain College** who will be working hard throughout the day to put together a video that captures participants' ideas in interviews and panel sessions as well as other event highlights. The students' will share their first draft at the close of the Summit at 4:20pm in Judd Hall. Their final video, with more interviews and content, will be available in the days to come. The Emergent Media Center is an academic Center of Excellence at Champlain College that creates a laboratory/studio environment in which students collaborate with each other, faculty, and clients to develop new concepts, processes, uses and applications for games and other emergent media. Thanks to the Emergent Media Center and these talented students for their contribution and their hard work to capture the day!

Meet Keynote Speaker: Danny Kennedy



Danny Kennedy, an internationally recognized opinion leader on climate and energy issues, is the author of *Rooftop Revolution: How Solar Power Can Save Our Economy – and the Planet – From Dirty Energy* (2012) and is Managing Director of CalCEF, a team of leading financial professionals, entrepreneurs, policy-makers, and scientists with deep experience and expertise in the clean energy field. He also serves as President of CalCharge, a groundbreaking public-private partnership working to accelerate the development, commercialization, and adoption of new energy storage technologies. Kennedy worked as a cofounder of Sungevity, Inc., the largest privately held solar company in the US and also co-founded SfunCube, the only incubator and accelerator solely focused on supporting solar entrepreneurs to succeed. In 2011, he earned the PBS Innovator of the Year award for “moving the planet forward.”

William Belongia, Executive Director, Vermont

Community Loan Fund | Will has served as the Executive Director of the VCLF since 2004 and as Chief Financial Officer for 11 years before that. Will earned a B.A. in Economics from University of Notre Dame, holds an M.B.A. from UVM, and is an alumnus of the Snelling Center for Government's Vermont Leadership Institute. Will serves on multiple boards including: CEI Capital Management, Vermont Rural Ventures, Working Lands Enterprise Board, Vermont Housing & Conservation Board's Housing Preservation Council, GMP Renewable Development Fund, Slow Money Vermont, and Building Bright Futures Facility Fund.

Kathy Beyer, Vice President for Development, Housing Vermont | Over the past 20 years, Ms. Beyer has been directly involved in housing development including new construction, historic rehabilitation, downtown and village centers, and preservation of at-risk housing. She originally joined Housing Vermont in 1990. She served in the VT Legislature in the mid-90s and also as Deputy Commissioner of the VT Department of Housing & Community Affairs where she provided policy and management oversight in housing, land use planning, historic preservation and community development. She returned to Housing Vermont in 2007. Ms. Beyer holds an M.P.A. degree from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and a B.S. Degree in Accounting & Economics from the University of Minnesota.

Rosalea W. “Jo” Bradley, Chief Executive Officer, Vermont Economic Development Authority | From 1997 to the present, Ms. Bradley has been the Chief Executive Officer for VEDA, the State of Vermont's Economic Development Finance Authority which has over \$230 million in assets. Previously, she was the Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer for the VT Agency of Commerce and Community Development. Ms. Bradley holds an MBA from Boston University and completed the Program for Senior Executives at the John F. Kennedy School at Harvard University. She lives in South Burlington, Vermont.

Sen. Christopher A. Bray, Vermont State Senator | Senator Bray, of New Haven, became a member of the Vermont House of Representatives in January 2007, serving two terms on the House Agriculture Committee. Chris received a BA in Zoology and MA in English from UVM and taught there for four years in the English Department. He is an alumnus of the Snelling Center for Government's Vermont Leadership Institute. Chris founded and still

operates Common Ground Communications, which provides writing, editing and production services to technical clients and the book publishing industry. Chris and his family operate an 82-acre farm in New Haven. In 2009, Chris was elected to the Board of Trustees of UVM and received VNRC's Legislative Leadership Award. In 2010, Chris received the Council of State Government's Toll Fellowship. In 2012, Chris was appointed to the VT Supreme Court's Professional Responsibility Program.

Chris Brooks, Co-Founder and CEO of the Vermont Wood Pellet Company | Chris is passionate about the sustainable use of forestry resources, and he brings those concepts with him to this venture. Previous to the formation of the Vermont Wood Pellet Company, Chris worked as a hands-on consultant, hired to develop and expand business strategies for many companies over the last 25 years. Chris grew up in rural Minnesota and Wisconsin where five generations of family lumber interests contrasted sharply with his father's regional presidency of the Sierra Club. This early influence taught Chris to find common ground from which to work toward a sustainable solution.

Greg Brown, Board Chair, Vermont Council on Rural Development | Greg has worked in regional and state planning in Vermont for 35 years. Greg began his career with the Windham Regional Planning Commission and then served as Director of Planning for the VT Department of Housing and Community Affairs where he administered state programs supporting local and regional planning. In 1998 he was appointed Commissioner of Housing and Community Affairs where he played a major role in crafting the Vermont Downtown Program. Greg currently devotes volunteer time to the Vermont Council for Rural Development and, to the Windham Regional Commission. He lives in Dummerston with his wife Carolyn.

Denisse Casey, Owner, Casey Inc. | Casey Inc. provides public affairs, communications and media services to clients. The company has successfully managed national, statewide, and local public affairs campaigns including grass tops outreach and grassroots organization. Throughout her career Dennise has led client initiatives through collaboration and creative thinking, offering an outside perspective and encouraging new ideas. From corporate branding to crisis management and from public relations to paid media, Dennise builds on existing strengths to help clients achieve their goals.

Kyle Clark, Co-Founder and Head of Product, DesignBook

Patricia Coates, Director of External and Government Affairs, Vermont State Colleges | Tricia is the Director of External and Governmental Affairs for the Vermont State Colleges. Previously, she served as State Director for Congressman Peter Welch. Tricia is a former high school history teacher. She and her husband, Michael, have two daughters, Madeleine and Maria.

Hal Cohen, Secretary, VT Agency of Human Services | Hal Cohen was appointed Secretary of Human Services by Governor Peter Shumlin in December 2014. Prior to that, Hal was the Executive Director of Capstone Community Action, an organization that serves over 18,000 people a year from numerous sites in Washington, Lamoille and Orange counties covering over 2,000 square miles in largely rural communities. Hal's professional and civic involvement has included sitting on a number of local and state boards such as the Vermont Council on Rural Development, the Central Vermont Workforce Investment Board, the Vermont Workforce Development Council, Food Works, EarthWalk Vermont, Central Vermont Hunger Taskforce, the Vermont Low Income Trust for Electricity and CAPLAW. Hal has an M.A. in counseling psychology from Antioch New England Graduate School and an M.S. in nonprofit management from the New School for Social Research. Hal and his wife, Shelley, raised three children in Montpelier and now reside in Middlesex, Vermont.

Chris Cole, Secretary, VT Agency of Transportation | Chris was appointed Secretary of the VT Agency of Transportation in September of 2015 by Governor Peter Shumlin. Before that he served as the Deputy Secretary of the Agency, preceded by his position as Director of the Agency's Policy, Planning and Intermodal Development Division. Previous to his work at the Agency of Transportation, he was the General Manager at the Chittenden County Transportation Authority; was employed by the VT Legislature as a Fiscal Analyst at the Joint Fiscal Office; and at the New York State Legislature, Office of Program and Counsel, as a Policy Analyst for the Transportation, Education, and Environmental Conservation Committees.

Andrea Colnes, Executive Director, Energy Action Network | Energy Action Network is a systems-based effort to transform Vermont's energy economy to one based on efficiency and renewables. Prior to joining EAN, Andrea spent much of her career working on natural resource public policy and coalition building in New England and nationally, focused on large-scale land conservation, sustainable forestry and energy. She worked on Vermont's first Comprehensive Energy Plan under Governor Madeleine Kunin, with the Biomass Energy Resource Center on community-scale biomass and atmospheric carbon research, as founding executive director of the Northern Forest Alliance, policy director of the Northern Forest Center, and deputy director of the Vermont Natural Resources Council. Andrea served as the policy leadership director for the Carsey Institute at the University of New Hampshire. She has a master's in Wildlife Conservation from the University of Maine and a BA in Political Science from Williams College.

Paul Costello, Executive Director, Vermont Council on Rural Development | Paul joined VCRD as Executive Director in 2000. Paul is a UVM alumni and holds a PhD in intellectual history

from McGill University. In addition to his work at VCRD, Paul is a member of the Housing Vermont Board of Directors and President Emeritus of the national Partners for Rural America organization.

Steve Costello, Vice President of the Generation and Energy Innovation at Green Mountain Power | Steve is responsible for generation operations and future development, as well as development of Green Mountain Power's Energy Innovation Center and Solar City Program in Rutland, Vt. Prior to that, he was Director of Public Affairs at Central Vermont Public Service.

Carl Deithelm, Student, Green Mountain College | Carl is a junior in the Renewable Energy and Ecological Design program at Green Mountain College where he works at the school's Sustainability Office as a Waste Diversion Specialist by taking recycling and food waste to the recycling dumpster and compost pile. Carl also works on personal projects that encourage environmental sustainability on campus with a focus on mitigating food waste. Projects include demonstrating how much food waste students throw away each week and creating incentives to reduce waste and starting a Food Recovery Network on campus to save pre-consumer food from the dining hall and distribute it to the community after the dining hall is done with it. Carl is a compost facility operator certified by the VT Agency of Natural Resources.

Morgan Easton, Student, Vermont Tech | Morgan is a third-year student at Vermont Tech studying Architectural Engineering and Sustainable Design and Technology. With the built environment consuming a majority of fossil fuels as well as being the biggest contributor to greenhouse gasses Morgan is fascinated by what solutions exist and being a part of addressing these issues. In the near future she hopes to work with City Planning and Energy Committees to establish solutions for reducing the energy consumed by the built environment.

Peter Elwell, Town Manager, Brattleboro | Peter is a Brattleboro native, has a B.A. in Political Science from Middlebury College, a Master of Government Admin from the University of Pennsylvania, and a 30-year local government management professional. He is excited about the climate economy work that is positively impacting Southeastern Vermont.

Jon Erickson, Professor of Ecological Economics, UVM Rubenstein School of Environment and Nat. Res. | Jon has published widely on climate change policy, renewable energy economics, and environmental management; led international research and education programs as a Fulbright Scholar in Tanzania and visiting professor in the Dominican Republic, Iceland, and Slovakia; produced Emmy award-winning documentary films on water, energy, and food system transitions; and founded and led numerous non-profit organizations including the U.S. Society for Ecological Economics, Adirondack Research Consortium, Deportes para la Vida, and Bright Blue EcoMedia.

Chad Farrell, President, Encore Renewable Energy | Chad is the founder of Encore Renewable Energy, a leading integrated clean energy company focusing on commercial, industrial and community-scale solar PV systems and 21st century solutions for underutilized property. At Encore, he has led collaborative efforts to

design, permit, finance, and construct numerous solar PV projects throughout Vermont, including the largest rooftop solar arrays in Burlington, the first 500kW commercial group net metering project, and what is currently the largest solar array in Vermont. Chad is a developer, project manager and environmental engineer with over 20 years of professional experience in the fields of environmental engineering, professional project management and renewable energy project development. He holds a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Bucknell University and an M.S. in Environmental Engineering from UVM.

Joshua Faulkner, Farming and Climate Change Program Coordinator, UVM Extension's Center for Sustainable Agriculture | In addition to his work with Extension, Joshua serves as Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Plant and Soil Science. Joshua holds a bachelor's degree in Biological Systems Engineering from Virginia Tech, and an M.S. and PhD from Cornell University in Biological and Environmental Engineering. In his role with Extension, he works to find successful adaptation practices for farmers and to make Vermont agriculture more resilient to climate change. He was raised on a beef farm in southern West Virginia, and currently lives in Starksboro, VT.

Gina Fiorile, Student, University of Vermont | Gina is a Sophomore Environmental Studies major at UVM. She is a lead organizer for the annual Vermont Youth Climate Summit and has worked as an intern at The Wild Center, the Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks, to develop the Youth Climate Summit Program. She is on the Board of Advisers at the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources and has been recognized as a Champion of Change for Climate Education and Literacy by the U.S. EPA and The White House.

Mark Foley, President, Foley Services | Mark is the fourth generation owner of Foley Services, the leading linen, uniform and mat rental Company in Vermont. Mark is also the owner of MKF Properties, a real estate management company which owns and manages commercial rental properties, primarily in Rutland's Historic Downtown. Mark lives in Rutland Town with his wife Kelly, and three children.

Joe Fusco, Vice President, Casella Waste Systems | Joe Fusco is an advisor to the chairman & chief executive officer of Casella Waste Systems, Inc., and is an adjunct instructor and co-chair of the Advisory Board for UVM's Sustainable Entrepreneurship MBA program. He is a former member of the board of directors of the Vermont Council on Rural Development, and served as a member of the Vermont Climate Change Economy Council. He is a teacher and frequent speaker in the areas of leadership development, organizational and problem-solving culture, business and cultural trends, economic development, and corporate responsibility and sustainability. He lives in Chittenden, Vermont.

Judy Geer, Director, Craftsbury Outdoor Center | Judy is a Director at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center, a non-profit whose mission incorporates lifelong sport, sustainability and land stewardship, while supporting the local community and economy. Judy is a former Olympian in the sport of Rowing, and is a co-owner of Concept2 in Morrisville.

Margaret Gish, Student, University of Vermont | Margaret Gish is a sophomore at UVM studying elementary education and minoring in environmental studies and special education. Margaret has been involved in the climate movement since she was trained by Al Gore's organization, the Climate Reality Project, in 2010. Since then she has studied nature deficit disorder in children, severe weather in Vermont, oil in Ecuador, and teaches children of all ages about the environment in summer and afterschool programs. She recently travelled to some of the most biodiverse areas of Ecuador and is learning about the copper mining conflict in the Intag region, and starting a club at UVM to help combat this issue.

Karen Glitman, Director of Policy and Public Affairs, Vermont Energy Investment Corporation | Karen leads the policy development and strategic direction in the promotion of electric, thermal, and transportation efficiency. She was VEIC's first Director of Transportation Efficiency where she developed and oversaw the strategic direction for VEIC transportation efficiency efforts as well as the development of a Transportation Efficiency Utility. She served as the Director of the UVM National University Transportation Center and interim co-director of the UVM TRC and is the author of numerous publications including the annual Vermont Transportation Energy Report. Previously she served as the Vermont Clean Cities Coalition Coordinator, and held various positions at the Agency of Transportation including Acting Secretary. She is a member of the Vermont Bar and served as a member of the Vermont House of Representatives from 1985-1990.

Lisa Gosselin, Vice-President, Addison Press | Lisa Gosselin is vice-president at Addison Press and editor of Vermont Sports and Vermont Ski + Ride magazines. Prior to joining this family business last spring, she served as the Commissioner of Economic Development for the State of Vermont. She has also been the editor of national magazines EatingWell, Audubon and Islands.

Christine Hallquist, Chief Executive Officer, Vermont Electric Cooperative | VEC is a consumer-owned electric distribution cooperative headquartered in Johnson that serves 34000 members. It has been a leader in the implementation of Smart Grid technology, starting with its first smart meter installations in 2005. Christine had been with VEC since 2000 and has served as its CEO since 2005. Christine spent many years working on biomass gasification technology for distributed generation. With her leadership, VEC has been recognized nationally for technical innovation. She is the Vice-Chair of Strategies and Technology for the National Rural Electric Cooperative and serves on VELCO's board.

Nate Hausman, Project Manager, Clean Energy Group | In his role, Nate works primarily on solar policy. He is an attorney licensed to practice in California and Vermont. He previously served as an associate attorney for the Austin Legal Group and as a visiting attorney for the Environmental Law Institute. Nate sits on the Executive Committee of the Vermont Chapter of the Sierra Club and chairs of the Chapter's Energy Committee. Nate holds a J.D. with a certificate in Environmental & Natural Resources Law from Lewis & Clark Law School and a B.A. from Colorado College.

John Hollar, Mayor, City of Montpelier | John has been actively involved in Montpelier public life for many years. He has served as mayor since 2012, and he chaired the Montpelier school

board from 2002-2010. He helped lead the city in the adoption of Net Zero Montpelier, a policy under which all of the city's energy needs will be met or offset by renewable energy by 2030. John is a partner with the law firm Downs Rachlin Martin. He is an avid mountain biker and cross country skier.

Allison Hooper, Co-Founder/CEO, Vermont Creamery | Allison started Vermont Creamery with Bob Reese on Don Hooper's hippie goat farm in 1984 when Americans didn't eat goat cheese. She has been a pioneer in the American Artisan cheese movement, a leader in sustainable and responsible business in Vermont and a mentor to young food entrepreneurs including her son Miles who manages the Ayers Brook Goat Dairy in Randolph Vermont. Together Ayers Brook Goat Dairy and Vermont Creamery are developing the dairy goat industry in Vermont, transitioning the farm to non-gmo and reducing carbon along the way.

Mary Hooper, Vermont House of Representatives | Mary was born in Heidelberg, Germany, where her father was serving in the army. She has lived in Montpelier since 1979 with her husband, Jim Slinkman, a physicist working for IBM. She has been the executive director of the Vermont Association of Conservation Districts, Deputy Commissioner and Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industry, and 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 Hunger Council, and the Vermont College of Fine Arts.

Claire Humber, Director of Resort Planning & Design, SE Group | Claire has been with SE Group for 25 years and has led both large and small resort projects throughout Canada, the United States, Scandinavia, Iceland, Korea, and Japan. This breadth of experience and expertise allows her to understand the interconnectedness and specifics of a wide range of topics—from development trends to multi-season operations to guest services and branding. Claire helps resort operators and developers conceive, plan and bring to life ski and mountain resorts that balance customer delight and loyalty, distinctiveness, operational efficiency, and cost-effectiveness. Claire is a member of the Kelsey & Norden Resort Real Estate research team, the Recreation Development Council of ULI, and the Vermont Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architecture.

Kerrick Johnson, Vice President of Strategy and Communication, Vermont Electric Power Company (VELCO) | Kerrick joined VELCO in 2006 to work on stakeholder relations as the company undertook the largest expansion in its history that ended with VELCO managing over \$1 billion in assets. He led VELCO's work to help secure the nation's only successful statewide smart grid project through a \$68 million DOE investment grant. Kerrick's responsibilities grew to include IT and telecommunications as the company built a statewide radio system and 1,400-mile fiber optic network. He worked with IBM leaders and other VT officials to conceive and begin execution of perhaps VELCO's most innovative project, the Vermont Weather Analytics Center – an energy data and analytics platform that enables lower weather-event related operational costs, optimized integration of renewable generation resources and increased grid reliability.

Kerrick attended Johnson State College and served four years in the US Air Force as an airborne Russian linguist.

Mark Johnson, Senior Editor and Reporter, VTDigger | Prior to his work at VTDigger, Mark Johnson covered crime and politics for the Burlington Free Press before a 25-year run as the host of the Mark Johnson Show radio program on WKDR and WDEV.

Scott Johnstone, Executive Director, Vermont Energy Investment Corporation | Scott brings a depth of experience in leading complex organizations in the private and public sectors. His past positions include Executive Director of the Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization, Secretary of the VT Agency of Natural Resources, and the Director of Public Works for the City of Burlington. Scott joined VEIC in 2008, and has led the organization through a period of strategic growth with a focus on results, measured in increased energy savings. Under his leadership, VEIC launched two energy efficiency utilities in Washington D.C. and Ohio, expanded its scope of services to include transportation and biomass, and gained statewide recognition as an employer of choice. Scott holds a B.S. in civil engineering from the University of Maine and a Professional Engineer certification.

Ellen Kahler, Executive Director, Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund | Ellen became the Executive Director of VSJF in late 2005 and prior to that served as the executive director of the Peace & Justice Center in Burlington. The VSJF uses early stage grant funding, technical assistance, and near-equity loans to catalyze and accelerate the development of markets for sustainably produced goods and services in Vermont. Their current focus is on the intersection between renewable energy (in the form of bioenergy), sustainable agriculture, and sustainable forest products. Ellen currently serves on the Board of Red Tomato, Energy Action Network, the Vermont Sustainable Agriculture Council, the Working Lands Enterprise Fund, and the Statewide Workforce Development Board. She is a graduate of Bucknell University in Pennsylvania with a B.A. in Political Science and from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University with a Masters in Public Administration.

Chuck Karparis, Senior Vice President of Lending for VSECU | VSECU is a credit union for everybody in Vermont. Chuck oversees the VGreen Loan Program, the statewide financial solution for energy efficiency, renewable and alternative energy projects, including green vehicles. VSECU's VGreen loan portfolio is approaching \$20 million. Chuck is a graduate of Columbia University, the University of Colorado, and is a former mayor of Montpelier.

Rep. Tony Klein, Vermont House of Representatives | Tony Klein was born in Bronx NY and became a resident of East Montpelier in 1986 after living in the Cabot/Marshfield area for 14 years. He is retired from a marketing and public relations career. He was educated at Columbia Grammar Prep School NYC, and earned a B.A. in government and public administration from the American University, Washington, DC. He is past chair of the East Montpelier Elementary School Board as well as the U-32 School Board, and a past member of the VT High School Field Hockey Officials Association. He is currently serving on the Board of Directors of The Peoples Health and Wellness Clinic. He is married to Jennifer Boyer and they have two grown children, and two grandsons.

Jolinda LaClair, Deputy Secretary, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets | Jolinda provides leadership to the Agency on policy development, program and personnel management, and legislative and strategic initiatives. Jolinda currently oversees the Working Lands Enterprise Initiative and Board, which has invested over \$3 million to date in Working Lands businesses for infrastructure development and technical assistance. She is past Chair of the Board for the Vermont Council on Rural Development, and served on the boards of the Vermont Community Foundation, Housing Vermont, Vermont Works for Women, and as a state Advisor for the University of Vermont Extension.

Thom Lauzon, Mayor, City of Barre | Thom is currently the longest tenured mayor in Vermont. Since Thom took office in 2006, Barre has experienced unprecedented growth in public and private investment and projects, most notably the Main Street Reconstruction Project, multiple brownfields remediation projects, the construction of Barre City Place, Summer Street Center, and the implementation of a multi-year, city-wide street reconstruction program. Barre is no stranger to the challenges that local communities face in the wake of climate change, having experienced devastating flooding from intense seasonal rain storms in 2011 and 2015. Thom is a certified public accountant and a partner at Salvador and Babic, P.C. in Barre. Thom and his wife Karen also run several real estate development companies that place a priority on redeveloping and repurposing properties located in Vermont's designated downtowns. Thom and Karen's greatest accomplishment is their two grown children, Alex and Miranda.

U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy, United States Senate | Patrick Leahy was elected to the United States Senate in 1975 and currently ranks first in seniority in the Senate. Leahy was born in Montpelier and grew up across the street from the Statehouse. He is a graduate of Saint Michael's College in Colchester and received his Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center. Sen. Leahy served for eight years as State's Attorney in Chittenden County where he gained a national reputation for his law enforcement activities and was selected as one of three outstanding prosecutors in the United States in 1974. Leahy is the Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and the senior-most member of the Appropriations Committee and of the Agriculture Committee. Leahy is the Ranking Member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on State Department, Foreign Operations and Related Programs. Patrick is has been married to Marcelle Pomerleau Leahy for over 50 years; they live on a tree farm in Middlesex. They have a daughter, two sons, and five grandchildren.

Lucy Leriche, Deputy Secretary, VT Agency of Commerce and Community Development | Prior to her current position, Lucy was a member of the Vermont House of Representatives from 2005-2012 for Hardwick, Stannard, and Walden in Caledonia County. She served as Assistant Majority Leader 2009-2010 and Majority Leader 2011-2012. She was a housing development and nonprofit organizational consultant, Director of Housing and Community Facilities Programs at the Vermont Community Loan Fund, and executive director of the Lamoille Housing Partnership. She graduated with a B.A. from Johnson State College and an M.A. in Interdisciplinary Humanities from Arizona State University.

Chris Louras, Mayor, City of Rutland | Mayor Louras began his career in public service after his graduation from UVM through his ten years of active duty military service. He returned to Rutland in 1994 to raise his children and to help run Sam Frank, Inc., a family-owned regional wholesale/distribution business. During this period in the private industry, he held several public sector positions including Rutland City Alderman and a term in the VT House of Representatives. He was elected to his first term as Mayor in 2007. As part of Rutland's Creative Economy initiative, he has focused on energy innovation and sustainability, with the goal of making Rutland a model of resiliency and energy independence.

Noelle MacKay, Commissioner, VT Department of Housing and Community Development | Noelle was appointed Commissioner by Governor Shumlin in January 2011. During her tenure, she has led community and economic development recovery efforts after Tropical Storm Irene hit Vermont; worked to restructure and stabilize staffing to enhance customer service and communication; collaborated with policy and funding partners to increase program impact; and directed efforts to update the state's smart growth designation programs and land use regulations. Prior to her appointment Noelle served as Executive Director of Smart Growth Vermont, where she worked with participants from across the spectrum to understand the factors that are changing our state, and to develop creative policies that increase economic activity and protect Vermont's distinctive brand. Noelle received a B.S. in biology from Mount Allison University and an M.E.S. from Dalhousie University.

Deborah Markowitz, Secretary, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources | Appointed by Governor Shumlin in 2011, Markowitz has shaped the environmental agenda of the state, focusing on the challenges of climate change, strategic land conservation, growing threats to forest health and integrity, and improving the water quality of Vermont's lakes and rivers. Markowitz served as Vermont's Secretary of State from 1999-2010. She graduated from UVM with a B.A. and received her Juris Doctorate degree from the Georgetown University Law Center. She was awarded an Aspen Institute Rodel Fellowship, and the Kennedy School of Governments' Cahn Fellowship. Markowitz serves as the Chair of Vermont's Climate Cabinet and represented Vermont on the White House Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience.

David Marvin, Founder, Butternut Mountain Farm | David Marvin is a sugar maker and forester. He is founder of Butternut Mountain Farm a family enterprise focused on production, processing and marketing maple products from its own farm and hundreds of others. The nearly 100 employee business provides diverse maple products to all market sectors food industry. In addition, he provides forestry consulting services to hundreds of clients. David currently serves on the boards of Shelburne Farms, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, the Northern Forest Center, Vermont Studio Center, and the International Maple Syrup Institute. David and his wife Lucy reside in Hyde Park as do their two grown children: Emma and Ira who are engaged in the family business.

Michael Nobles, President & CEO, Union Mutual of VT | Union Mutual is a property and casualty insurance company that writes \$165M of premium throughout New England and New York.

Michael is a graduate of UVM with a degree in Accounting. Michael served on the Twinfield School Board and served as chair for two years. He is active on several regional insurance boards and committees. He lives in Plainfield and has two daughters with his wife Tsana.

Beth Pearce, Vermont State Treasurer | Treasurer Pearce has almost 40 years of experience in government finance at both the state and local levels. As State Treasurer, she has emphasized the importance of maintaining Vermont's bond rating. Vermont has the highest general obligation bond ratings of any New England state. She continues her advocacy for conservative and affordable debt practices, prudent management of the pension systems, and responsible use of reserves. Pearce has a B.A. from the University of New Hampshire.

Rep. Christopher Pearson, Vermont State Representative | Rep. Pearson, of Burlington, grew up in Maine and was born in Alberta, Canada. He moved to Vermont in 1991 to attend UVM, where he graduated with a B.A. in psychology. In 1998, he got his start in Vermont politics working for then-Congressman Bernie Sanders. In 2006 he was appointed to the legislature to fill a vacancy. Pearson runs his own consulting firm specializing in helping non-profit clients with communication and organizing work. He is married to Lacey Richards and they have two daughters, Isla and Maeve.

Mary Powell, President, Green Mountain Power | Mary has served as President and CEO for Green Mountain Power Corporation since 2008, following seven years as Chief Operating Officer. Mary initiated and implemented a comprehensive restructuring of the company that dramatically transformed GMP's culture and was the backbone of a dramatic service quality improvement. She launched an ambitious energy vision to provide low carbon, low cost and reliable power to Vermonters and is leading an energy transformation in customer homes and businesses to deliver low carbon, low cost and comfortable total energy solutions. GMP is the first utility in the world to become a member of B Corp, to use energy as a force for good. In 2004 Mary was recognized by Fast Company magazine as one of the "top 50 fast leaders" in the US and in 2014 was recognized by Powergen as the Woman of the Year and recently as Vermont of the Year by the Burlington Free Press.

Chris Recchia, Commissioner, VT Department of Public Service | Chris was appointed Commissioner by Governor Peter Shumlin in January 2013 and served as Deputy Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources before that. Recchia has almost 30 years of experience as an environmental leader in the development of state and federal environmental and energy policy and the implementation of programs managing natural and energy resources. From 2007 to 2011, Recchia served as executive director of the Biomass Energy Resource Center, as executive director of the Ozone Transport Commission in Washington, D.C. and served as both Deputy Commissioner and Commissioner for the VT Department of Environmental Conservation. He holds a B.S. in Zoology from UVM, a Masters in Environmental Law from Vermont Law School, and a Masters in Natural Resource Policy and Management from Yale University.

Patty Richards, General Manager, Washington Electric Cooperative | Patty is proud to lead one of a few utilities in the nation that offer their members 100% renewable power. She has been on the Vermont utility scene for several years and understands the commitment and role renewable power plays for consumers, communities, and Vermont's plans to reach energy goals.

Chuck Ross, Secretary, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets | Chuck was appointed to his current position by Gov. Peter Shumlin in January of 2011. Prior to his current role, he served as Senator Patrick Leahy's State Director for 16 years. Before joining Leahy's staff, Ross was a farmer and legislator from Hinesburg, VT.

The Hon. William K. Sessions, District Judge, United States District Court District of Vermont | Bill Sessions is a Federal District Judge for the District of Vermont. After working in Private Practice for 17 years, the Judge held several government positions including: Commissioner and Vice Chair of the U.S. Sentencing Commission, Chair of the U.S. Sentencing Commission, Judicial Branch Committee of the Judicial Conference of the U.S., Second Circuit Judicial Council, and Judicial Conference of the United States, Advisory Committee on Evidence Rules. Judge Sessions is a graduate of Middlebury College and received his J.D from George Washington University. He also served as an Adjunct Professor at Vermont Law School from 1978-1995.

Arthur "Buzz" Schmidt, President, Retreat Farm, Ltd. | In addition to his work with Retreat Farm in Brattleboro, Buzz founded and led GuideStar USA and subsequently GuideStar International. These organizations report the work of the world's nonprofit organizations at online repositories in several countries. He has served on the boards of several organizations including: FB Heron Foundation, the Nonprofit Quarterly, Preservation Virginia, the Institute for Philanthropy (London), the Permanent Fund for Vermont's Children, and the Vermont Council on Rural Development. Buzz is a graduate of Princeton University and Stanford's Graduate Schools of Business and Education.

Brian Shupe, Executive Director, Vermont Natural Resources Council | Brian was appointed Executive Director of VNRC in 2011, after having served as its Sustainable Communities Program Director and Deputy Director. Brian received an M.S. in Urban and Regional Planning from Florida State University. Since moving to Vermont in 1988, he has served as Executive Director of the Mad River Valley Planning District and Director of Planning and Zoning for the Town of Stowe. For nearly ten years he was a founding partner with Burnt Rock Inc., Associates in Community Planning providing an extensive range of services to local governments, state and regional agencies, non-profit organizations and citizen groups. Throughout his career, Brian's professional focus has been on natural resource protection, growth management, and sustainable development. Brian lives in Waitsfield with his wife, Valerie, where he is involved with several community organizations.

Shap Smith, Speaker of the Vermont State House of Representatives | Shap Smith was born in Danbury CT, spent most of his childhood in Elmore VT, and became a resident of Morristown in 1999. Currently a lawyer, he was educated at Peoples Academy in Morrisville, earned a B.A. from UVM and a JD

from Indiana University. He is married to Melissa Volansky and they have two children. He is a past Director of Lamoille Home Health and Hospice.

Sen. Diane Snelling, Vermont State Senate | Senator Snelling has served in the Vermont State Senate since 2002 representing Chittenden County. Snelling is a strong advocate for the environment, especially clean water and land use. She has served on Senate Appropriations for 14 years and has been a member of the Senate Conference Committee on the Budget for 10 years.

Ross Sneyd, Director of Corporate Communications and Community Relations, National Life Group | Before joining National Life, Ross had a long career in the news media including as news director at Vermont Public Radio from 2007-2013 and as Statehouse reporter for The Associated Press for 18 years.

Nathaniel Vandal, Principal, Green Peak Solar | Green Peak is a Vermont-based solar company that focuses on developing large-scale energy systems for utilities, towns, school districts, businesses, and manufacturers in Vermont and New England. Nathaniel co-founded Green Peak Solar in 2012 with Chris Cadwell when they decided to bring their skills and background in renewable energy development on the west coast back to their home state.

Sarah Waring, Executive Director, Center for an Agricultural Economy | Sarah joined CAE in 2013. Prior to that, she served as Program Director for the Farm & Wilderness Foundation, a 73 year old non-profit outdoor education organization. From 2007 to 2009, Sarah managed the Council on the Future of Vermont for the Vermont Council on Rural Development, which has led to the Working Lands Initiative and state wide investment in working lands enterprises. Born and raised in Glover VT, Sarah earned her B.A. from Haverford College and her M.A.A. in Natural Resource Management from the University of Maryland.

U.S. Congressman Peter Welch, United States House of Representatives | Since his election to Congress in 2006, Congressman Welch has been a champion of working Vermonters and has been widely recognized as a skillful legislator who chooses governing over gridlock. After fighting housing discrimination in Chicago, earning a law degree from the University of California, Berkeley, Peter settled in Vermont's Upper Valley and served in the Vermont Senate. In 2006, he was elected to Vermont's seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Peter's accomplishments in Congress

reflect his strong commitment to bringing people together to find common ground on the challenges facing our nation. Welch is a Chief Deputy Whip of the House Democratic Caucus, a member of the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee, and serves on the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Peter lives in Norwich VT with his wife Margaret Cheney.

Jenna Whitson, Community and Policy Manager, Vermont Council on Rural Development | Jenna joined VCRD as Community and Policy Manager in January 2015 coordinating and leading the Community Visit Program and supporting VCRD's policy facilitation. Jenna moved to Vermont in 2009 and since has worked in outdoor education, community development, and food security. Jenna studied Conservation and Biodiversity at McGill University and holds a master's degree in Environmental Law and Policy from Vermont Law School.

Steve Zind, Vermont Public Radio | Steve has been with Vermont Public Radio since 1994, serving as host of VPR's public affairs programs Switchboard and Vermont Edition and as a reporter, based in Central Vermont. Many VPR listeners recognize Steve for his reports from Iran. He has been honored multiple times with national and regional Edward R. Murrow Awards, including two National Murrow Awards in 2011 for his reporting with the Vermont National Guard in Afghanistan.

VCRD's Lifetime Leadership Award: Rick Davis



Each year the Vermont Council on Rural Development recognizes a leader who has had a transformational effect on his or her community. This year VCRD will be recognizing **Rick Davis**, founder and leader of the Permanent Fund, who has impacted the entire state of Vermont by changing the way Vermonters understand the learning needs of young children and leading efforts to structurally advance early childhood educational opportunities. In honor of his accomplishments, VCRD will be awarding Rick with a Lifetime Leadership Award recognizing his service to the people, and especially the children, of Vermont.

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- Rutland Area Farm and Food Link (RAFFL)
- Rutland Regional Planning Commission
- SEON
- Seventh Generation
- Strolling of the Heifers
- SunCommon
- Sustainable Woodstock
- The Nature Conservancy - Vermont Chapter
- Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission
- Vermont Community Foundation
- Vermont Natural Resources Council
- Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund
- Vermont Technology Alliance
- Vermont Wood Manufacturers Association
- Vital Communities
- VT Environmental Consortium
- Wilmington Works
- Vermont Woodlands Association

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About the Vermont Council on Rural Development

The Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) is a non-profit organization charged by the federal farm bill to act as a neutral convener at both the local and policy level supporting the progress of Vermont communities. VCRD has helped over 40 communities throughout Vermont expand public engagement, set priorities for the future, and implement community and economic development action plans. Past VCRD policy efforts have supported progress in issues ranging from wood products to downtown revitalization, rural energy development, the digital economy, and Vermont's working landscape.



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