



Acorn Energy Co-op e-News

Issue No. 41

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Member Owned
Renewable Energy Products and Services

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Dear ,

This is the 41st edition of the Acorn Energy Co-op's e-Newsletter, published periodically to keep you apprised of happenings in the Co-op and informed of upcoming events.

See below for news about:

- **Wood Pellet Update**
- **Cold Climate Heat Pumps**
- **Vermont's Comprehensive Energy Plan**
- **More Electric Vehicle Fast-Chargers in Vermont**
- **Newest board member Ben Lucarelli**

Finally, we encourage you to visit our website frequently at www.acornenergycoop.com to access the wealth of information about energy efficiency, renewable energy, and other money-saving strategies available there.

Please pass this e-Newsletter along to friends, neighbors and family who may not be aware of the Co-op and its activities and plans.

Thank you for your ongoing support,

The Acorn Energy Co-op Team



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Wood Pellet Update

We kicked off this season's pellet sales on July 1st. Orders started coming in immediately, as the majority of customers decided to take advantage of the discounted pricing that was offered through August 15th. We reserved a total of 300 tons of pellets before the season, of which 250 tons have been sold.

Our first delivery of bagged pellets took place on August 25th and the majority have now been completed with an October 23rd delivery.

Bulk deliveries had a later start than planned, as they were delayed due to some last-minute issues between our supplier, Vermont Wood Pellet Company and our delivery service.

Consequently, our first bulk delivery took place on October 10th. We apologize for the inconvenience this caused some of our bulk customers, and thank them for their patience.

At this time, we are nearly finished with the majority of deliveries, and expect to sell out the remainder of our allotted pellet supply by winter. If you are considering purchasing pellets for the later part of the season, do



not hesitate to let us know as soon as possible. You can still download an order form from our website and give a call to reserve. There is also still time to place an order for a November 13th bagged delivery. Prices for a ton of bagged pellets start at \$314 for a minimum of two tons delivered. Don't forget to use your member discount for pellet purchases.

Bagged pellets are also available for sale for \$5.95 a bag at the [Middlebury Natural Food Co-op](#), and can also be purchased at \$285 per ton, if you are capable and willing to pick up and haul it yourself.

Our deliveries may have started with a slow pace, but once begun, were made promptly. Thanks to Chip and crew at Vermont Renewable Fuels for their delivery efforts on behalf of our pellet customers.

If you have any questions about ordering wood pellets, please contact Mary Mester at 385-1911 or info@acornenergycoop.com.

Cold Climate Heat Pumps Increasingly Popular

About 18 months ago, we rolled-out our exciting new Cold Climate Heat Pump initiative. Since then, CCHPs have become increasingly popular across the state, as more and more Vermonters discover the comfort, convenience, and cost savings that these versatile devices offer.

Now you can save money on your heating bill while reducing your dependence on fossil fuels at the same time! The Acorn Renewable Energy Co-op makes it easy and affordable for you to cut your heating bill and make your home more comfortable year round-with a "Mini-Split" Cold-Climate Heat Pump! Better yet, these units can easily be installed as retrofits in existing homes.

Want to save even more? We've teamed up with [Weatherization Works](#) of Pawlet, and **Structural Energy Corp** of Middlebury, two highly regarded energy efficiency and equipment installation companies, who are **offering our members a \$300 discount** off the price of installing a "mini-split" CCHP in your home!

Best of all, this Acorn Energy Co-op member discount is *in*

addition to any rebate that you might receive from **Efficiency Vermont** (rebates of between \$300 to \$400 are currently available for approved units).

If you live in Addison County or north, you might want to work with SEC, and if you live in Rutland County or south, you might want to try Weatherization Works, but either company will be happy to give you an estimate, regardless of where you live in West Central Vermont. Both companies install Mitsubishi mini-splits sized specifically for your home.



Please contact us first to make sure that you qualify for these member-only discounts. Call for a free evaluation, at 802-385-1911

Countdown for public comment on Vermont's Comprehensive Energy Plan

The comment and review period is open **until November 9, 2015** for Vermont's Comprehensive Energy Plan (CEP) Update. Comments can be made to Vermont's Public Service Department in writing at energyplan.vt.gov.

To date, there have been four public hearings for oral and written public comments. The one remaining hearing is today, October 29, at the Rutland Regional/Leahy Community Health Education Center, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. This will be your last chance to comment in person before the CEP is finalized and approved at the end of this year.

The CEP addresses all Vermont's energy resources including electricity, thermal energy, transportation, and land use over a 20-year period. The last plan adopted in late 2011 set a goal of meeting 90% of Vermont's energy needs with renewable sources by 2050. The new draft update 2015 builds on this goal with:

- Targets to reduce total energy consumption per capita by 15% by 2025, and by more than one third by 2050.
- Three end-use sector goals for 2025: 10% renewable transportation; 30% renewable buildings; and 67% renewable electric power.

Significant additions to the plan include:

- Act 56 a Renewable Energy Standard
- Expansion of the Standard Offer program and net metering program.
- Thermal Efficiency Task Force
- Updated building energy codes and a Vermont residential building label
- New financing pilot including the Heat Saver Loan
- Multi-state Zero Emission Vehicle memorandum of understanding

More Electric Vehicle Fast-Chargers in VT!

By Taborri Bruhl

My wife and I each drive a Nissan Leaf, which are all-electric vehicles with a range of about 80 miles. We love the cars, and have collectively driven about 70,000 all-electric miles in the last three years. For the last year we have powered the cars (and our house) nearly exclusively with a grid-tied 13 kW solar PV system. In addition to saving many thousands of gallons of fossil fuel every year, we find the cars to be speedy, quiet, fun to drive, reliable, and virtually maintenance free. And, with more DC fast-chargers being installed in Vermont, we can now go virtually anywhere in the state quickly and easily, as this type of charger charges the cars in about 30 minutes.



New DC fast-chargers have recently been installed in Danville and in Essex, augmenting Vermont's existing fast-charger locations in Burlington, Montpelier, Barre, White River Junction, Quechee, Waterbury, Middlesex, Middlebury, and Rutland. With another fast-charger in Greenfield, Mass., just south of Brattleboro, and combined with over 70 Level-2 chargers across the state, all of Vermont is now within easy travel distance of public charging stations.

My wife and I recently took an overnight trip to New Hampshire using several of these chargers, and this summer we drove one of the Leafs all the way to St. Louis and back. (For more details about that trip, go to www.sustainableus.org and click on the "Minimalist-Eco Road Trip" button on the sidebar. To see a map of all Vermont chargers, go to

www.plugshare.com.)

For more information about these and other charging locations, see the PlugShare website at www.plugshare.com.

Ben Lucarelli -Profile

Benjamin Lucarelli of New Haven is the newest member of our board of directors since joining earlier this year. He attended Hobart and William Smith Colleges, where he majored in Economics and English.

After relocating to Vermont from New Jersey via Boston in 1989, Ben established his own business in the Champlain Valley and ran *Lucarelli Woodworks* from 2000- 2012. He ran a small operation of custom woodworking building cabinets, kitchens, baths, furniture, bookcases and entertainment centers, including installations.



In 2012, he attended the Passive House Academy, where he caught the bug for creating energy efficient homes. He realized then, how detailing a passive house with specific methods could aid in its energy efficiency.

The main source of fuel in the Lucarelli homestead is wood pellets. Ben has been burning pellets for heat since 2012 and with the purchase of a Buderus pellet burner in 2013, three to four tons of wood pellets per year are all that are necessary to keep warm.

[Vermont Wood Pellets](#) are his only source of heat for his 2000 sq ft home that he built with efficiency in mind. His home has 24 inches of insulation in the attic, triple glazed windows, and an insulated basement.

He currently builds custom homes with Conner & Buck of Bristol, where the aim is to create energy efficient housing. He feels that the primary method of building efficiently is to focus on air sealing and insulation of the home. Ben also attends the yearly [Efficiency VT](#) conferences.

When he is not working, he spends time with his three children or playing co-ed ice hockey in Middlebury.

Ben joined the Acorn Energy board because he "loves talking about passive house efficiency and learning more about what the co-op is doing." His knowledge about energy efficient construction is an asset for the co-op and our membership.

Don't Forget - Join or Renew Online!

It's easy to **join the co-op or renew your membership** online at our [website](#). To join, click on "**Join Today**." To renew, enter your username (your email address) and click on "**Forgot Your Password**" to set up your password.

Comprehensive Energy Plan Public Hearing

October 29 - Rutland

Rutland Regional Medical Center 77 CVPS/Leahy Community Health Education Center

The goal is to solicit Vermonters' thoughts on the state's energy future. This is a great opportunity to shape this important plan, outlining a vision for efficient, renewable and independent paths to meet the state's goal of 90% renewable energy by 2050.

To find information about the CEP update, or to offer your thoughts on the plan visit: <http://www.energyplan.vt.gov>

Button Up Day- Cornwall

- **Dates:** Nov 7, 2015
- **Location:** Cornwall, Vermont, USA
- **Address:** 2629 Route 30
- **Time:** 2:00PM

This a joint effort of the Cornwall Energy Committee and Weybridge Energy Committee. joint effort. They will be tabling with weatherization info at Recycling Center in Cornwall, throughout the morning. Cider and donuts will be available. They will also be giving away LED bulbs for the first 40 attendees!

Button Up Day- Middlebury

- **Dates:** Nov 7, 2015
- **Location:** Middlebury, Vermont, USA
- **Address:** 40 Court Street #2
- **Time:** 2:00PM

The Middlebury Energy Committee is hosting a Button Up day event at Aubuchon Hardware. They will be tabling at the store with an information display and conversation.

Button Up Day- Weybridge

- **Dates:** Nov 7, 2015
- **Location:** Weybridge, Vermont, USA
- **Address:** 210 Quaker Village Road
- **Time:** 11:00 - 1:00

This is a joint effort of the Cornwall Energy Committee and the Weybridge Energy Committee. There will be a Free Button Up Workshop with a professional home performance contractor. The event will be held at the Weybridge School. Please RSVP to Fran Putnam at 802-388-1644

VECAN's 8th Annual Vermont Community Energy and Climate Action Conference **December 5, 2015**

9 a.m.-4:30 p.m

Lake Morey Inn, Fairlee, Vermont

This inspiring conference emphasizes clean energy and climate action strategies that Vermonters can help implement locally - and beyond.

The day is aimed at inspiring, supporting and growing the statewide network of town energy committees and building the capacity and expertise of any Vermonter interested in helping the state meet its ambitious but essential goal of getting 90 percent of our energy in 2050 with renewable energy.

Save the date and plan to attend! Registration will open soon... Stay tuned for all the details... Or, call Johanna Miller at 802-223-2328802-223-2328 or email:

jmiller@vnrc.org

RENEWABLE ENERGY VERMONT

Visit Renewable Energy Vermont's website for summaries on statewide renewable energy initiatives and incentives and professional training opportunities. REV is comprised of renewable energy companies, institutional and academic partners and concerned citizens of Vermont working to ensure the expansion of renewable energy statewide. Contact REV to locate your local renewable energy professional. REV members are available to speak to schools and civic groups on the many benefits of renewable energy.



EFFICIENCY VERMONT

Efficiency Vermont provides technical assistance and financial incentives to Vermont households and businesses, to help them reduce their energy costs with energy-efficient equipment and lighting and with energy-efficient approaches to construction and renovation.



For years it focused on improving electrical costs. Several years ago it expanded and helped Vermont launch **Button Up! Vermont** to help homeowners improve the thermal envelope of their buildings for improved heating and cooling. You can go to its website and click on "**Ask the Home Team**" for common sense answers to your building efficiency questions.

In addition, don't miss the current Efficiency Vermont supported deals in your local hardware store on all types of efficient CFL and LED lighting.

Thank you again for your continued support and enthusiasm. Our member-owned co-op continues to grow thanks to people like you. If you have specific questions about the Co-op, please e-mail us at info@acornenergycoop.com or call us at 802-385-1911.

Sincerely,

Greg Pahl, President
Acorn Energy Co-op