

## Vermont Environmental Consortium News Alert

**1st Annual Vermont Conference on  
Community-Based Approaches to Energy and Climate  
Change  
Saturday, December 6th  
9am-4pm  
Vermont Technical College**

The University of Vermont Extension Service and the Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network invite you to attend the First Annual Vermont Conference on "Community-Based Approaches to Energy and Climate Change" on Saturday, December 6, 2008 from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm at the Vermont Technical College in Randolph, Vermont. Conference registration, refreshments, and exhibitors begin at 8:00 am, with the conference starting at 9:00 am.

This full-day conference is for individuals interested in how Vermont communities can take action to increase energy efficiency and renewable energy for municipal government, businesses, and residents. Through workshop presentations, regional break-out meetings, and plenary sessions, we will examine how Vermont communities can reduce energy costs and our contribution to greenhouse gases. Participants will gain an increased understanding of a wide range of local opportunities for tackling energy and climate change at the local level, while also having an opportunity to network with other Vermont communities.

We are excited to announce that the keynote speaker will be Glen Brand, Co-Founder and Director of the Sierra Club's Cool Cities program who will speak about: "Generating Local Energy Solutions: Solving Global Warming One Community at a Time." Cool Cities is the Sierra Club's major grassroots organizing vehicle to global warming solutions. Workshop topics include:

- Vermont Town Initiatives on Energy and Climate Action
- Energy Planning at the Local and Regional Level
- Promoting Public and Alternative Transit in Your Community
- Biomass Heating for Municipal and School Buildings
- State-Level Energy Policy and Legislation
- Creative Community Campaigns to Reduce Energy Use
- Community-Supported Renewable Energy Projects
- Transition Towns: Responding to the Challenges of Peak Oil and Climate Change
- Building an Effective Town Energy Committee
- Implementing a No-Idling Campaign
- Tools and Approaches for Reducing Energy Use in Town Buildings
- Energy-Related Funding Opportunities for Town Initiatives

This conference is geared toward town energy committee members, selectboard and city council members, conservation commissioners, professional and citizen planners, town public works staff, environmental business professionals, state government officials, educators, and concerned citizens.

Full conference registration fee (\$20/person) includes entry to all workshops and general sessions, exhibit hall, and lunch. To register, visit

[www.regonline.com/VTEnergy](http://www.regonline.com/VTEnergy).

For more information, call Mary Peabody, UVM Extension Service at 802-223-2389 or email at [mary.peabody@uvm.edu](mailto:mary.peabody@uvm.edu).

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