

VERMONT

ELECTRIC



## CEO Update: Entering 2021, Committed to Strength, Innovation, and Resilience

By Rebecca Towne

Despite the uncertainty and disruption that began in 2020 and has continued into 2021, at VEC we are feeling optimistic about what this new year will bring. We have a full plate and we are excited about fresh opportunities to improve service to our members.

Of course, during the last few months, many VEC members have been squeezed in heart-wrenching ways by the pandemic. If this is you or those you love, please know we are committed to working with you to assure you have safe, reliable electricity for your home this winter. However, as the COVID-19 vaccine becomes reality in our community, many of us are breathing a collective sigh of relief.

So, what's in store at VEC? First, reliability. Every year we take significant new steps to reduce the chance of unplanned outages. And, if there are outages, we strive to keep them as short as safely possible. This involves extensive investment in tree trimming, rebuilding infrastructure to make it more resilient, and proactively finding and addressing issues with our poles, wires or transformers so that we can reliability serve the energy our members rely on every day.

An important element of reliability, of course, is grid innovation. We continue to learn from, and employ, cutting edge energy storage technology, for example. Storage, mainly in the form of batteries of various types, will play a larger role on VEC's system in 2021 and beyond than it ever has before. This is an exciting development and one that will allow VEC to reduce power and transmission costs, among other benefits.

We also continue to evaluate how we could help use our infrastructure to be a catalyst in the deployment of broadband technology for underserved parts of our service territory. It's a very expensive proposition, and new costs aren't something we take lightly. Nonetheless, the pandemic certainly laid bare the need for better digital service in many parts of Vermont, so our board continues to look at what options will have meaningful impact for broadband deployment and an appropriate financial profile.

Today, our system delivers power to you that is 75 percent carbon-free and 59 percent renewable. It will only increase over time as we consider the health of the planet, future costs, and our legacy as an energy leader. As we improve the profile of our power supply, our energy transformation work

becomes more important than ever – transitioning away from fossil fuel toward the electric grid. Last year saw a record number of heat pump installations in our service territory, for example, which is great news. Whether it's a heat pump, electric vehicle, or electric lawn equipment, our energy transformation program can help you be part of reducing Vermont's emissions.

Finally, like other businesses, the pandemic has forever changed the way VEC operates. While we miss connecting personally with you, we also have deployed new technology that has improved many of our processes and opened us up to fresh possibilities. And as we emerge from the pandemic, we will continue to redefine the most effective, efficient way to operate. Further, we will be seeking the best ways to blend remote technology with the all-important value of in-person connections with our members, as we pursue our mission of delivering affordable, reliable, and safe energy services.

As always, please contact us with questions or comments. If you have not already, sign up for email updates by filling out the online form here: <https://vermontelectric.coop/newsletter-signup>.

Wishing you a safe and healthy 2021.

# VEC Offers a Range of Energy Transformation Incentives for 2021

VEC is continuing to offer a wide variety of bill credits this year for members who purchase certain electricity-powered devices for their homes or businesses to transition away from fossil fuels.

"These incentives are designed to help members choose technologies for heating and cooling their homes, for transportation, even cutting the lawn, that are more modern, cleaner and less expensive over the long term," said Jake Brown, energy services planner at VEC.

One important change from last year's incentives is that VEC is partnering with Efficiency Vermont to offer a single point of purchase incentive for ductless heat pumps. The result is that members will get VEC's incentive, combined with the Efficiency Vermont incentive, at the time they buy the heat pump instead of applying for the credit post-purchase. However, members who install heat pumps in buildings that meet thermal efficiency criteria can get another \$150 bill credit directly from VEC.



A plug-in electric vehicle is charged outside VEC headquarters in Johnson. Photo VEC/Kevin Goddard

Brown said more than 1,600 VEC members have taken advantage of VEC's Energy Transformation program bill credits since the co-op began offering them in 2017.

### 2021 bill credits are available for:

- Heat pumps: For ductless, ducted, and air-to-water heat pump total incentive amounts,

visit Efficiency Vermont for the joint VEC-Efficiency Vermont incentive amounts at <https://www.efficiencyvermont.com/rebates/list/heat-pump-heating-cooling-system>; VEC members can apply for a \$150 VEC bill credit if the unit is installed in a building that meets thermal efficiency criteria.

- Pellet stoves: For qualifying pellet stoves, a bill credit of \$150, plus another \$150 if the unit is installed in a building that meets thermal efficiency criteria.

- Heat pump water heaters: For qualifying heat pump water heaters, a bill credit of \$250.

- Electric vehicles: For plug-in electric vehicles, a bill credit of \$250 for purchases (new or used) and \$50/year for leases; for all-electric vehicles, a bill credit of \$500 for purchases (new or used) and \$100/year for leases.

- Electric vehicle charging equipment: For home Level II chargers, \$250 (with additional \$50 incentive if members allow VEC to communicate with the charger); and for publicly-available charging stations, \$500 per connection.

- Other machinery: For residential lawn mowers, \$50; and for commercial-scale mowers and electric forklifts, \$1,000.

- Modular Homes: For a Zero

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# Board of Directors – An Opportunity to Serve

VEC is seeking petitions from eligible candidates for three seats on the board of directors that are up for election in May.

“Serving on the board is a great opportunity to be engaged in the dynamic, exciting electricity sector and at the same time serve your community,” said Rebecca Towne, VEC’s chief executive officer. “If you have ever thought about it - even if you are not sure you want to commit to running - please be in touch with VEC to learn more.”

In order to run for the board, a candidate must be a VEC member and may not be employed by the cooperative. Candidates must have a principal residence within VEC service territory and in the district they are running to represent. Directors are elected to serve four-year terms.

The board generally meets in the afternoon on the last Tuesday of each month, either at VEC’s main office in Johnson or virtually via teleconference if safety guidelines call for that. Directors receive a stipend and mileage reimbursement for attending meetings and have training opportunities to learn more about energy issues and the cooperative model.

Completed applications, including a petition signed by VEC members, are due by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, March 15. To learn more or request application materials, please call Laura Kinney at 802- 730-1172 or email her at lkinney@vermontelectric.coop.

Below is a list of the seats that are open in 2021 and the towns they represent:

## District 2

Coventry, Derby, Newport City

## East Zone

Albany, Averill, Avery’s Gore, Barton, Bloomfield, Brighton, Brownington, Brunswick, Canaan, Charleston, Coventry, Craftsbury, Derby, Ferdinand, Glover, Greensboro, Guildhall, Holland, Irasburg, Jay, Lemington, Lewis, Lowell, Lyndon, Maidstone, Morgan, Newark, Newport City, Newport Town, Norton, Sheffield, Sutton, Troy, Warners Grant, Warren Gore, Westfield, Westmore, Wheelock



Board member Paul Lambert and his daughters Meredith (left) and Jacqueline at the 2019 annual meeting at Jay Peak Resort.

## West Zone

Alburgh, Bakersfield, Belvidere, Berkshire, Bolton, Cambridge, Eden, Enosburg, Essex, Fairfax, Fairfield, Fletcher, Franklin, Georgia, Grand Isle, Highgate, Hinesburg, Huntington, HydePark, Isle LaMotte, Jericho, Johnson, Milton, Montgomery, Morristown, North Hero, Richford, Richmond, Sheldon, Shelburne, South Hero, Starksboro, Stowe, St. Albans Town, St. George, Swanton, Underhill, Waterville, Westford, Williston.

## Save the Date

VEC will be holding its 2021 Annual Meeting of the Membership on Saturday, May 8. The meeting will be held remotely in our continued effort to keep our members and staff safe. Please stay tuned for details.

# What are Roles, Responsibilities of the Board?

Vermont Electric Co-operative is governed by a 12-member Board of Directors that represent the membership. Below we spell out some of the details of how the board operates.

## Q: What is the role of the VEC board of directors?

A: The board has fiduciary responsibility setting broad policy in accordance with statute and the co-op bylaws in determining the overall operation and direction of the co-op. VEC’s twelve directors are elected by co-op members to represent districts and zones. Once elected, directors serve four-year terms. The board elects the following officers: President, First and Second Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The board is also responsible for the hiring and oversight of VEC’s chief executive officer and for reporting the past year’s progress at VEC’s Annual Meeting of the Membership.

## Q: What are some of the board’s specific responsibilities and tasks?

A: Among other things, the board reviews and approves the co-op’s financial management, and related retirement of patronage capital, when it’s financially feasible. The board reviews and approves the annual strategic plan as well as longer term, high level, multi-year planning. Some of the discrete issues the board has tackled recently have included power supply and renewable energy, utility scale battery storage, system upgrades, and vegetation maintenance investment. Importantly, board members represent the co-



Board president Rich Goggin, left, and board member Rich Westman at the 2019 annual meeting.

op in communities across the service territory. Board members bring questions and concerns from VEC members to the full board and staff when necessary.

## Q: How much time does it take Board members to do their work and do they get compensated for that time?

A: The board generally meets for a half day every month. Board committees - Finance, Power Supply & Operations, Member Communications, Governance & Ad-hoc – meet as required in addition to the monthly board meetings. There is considerable time spent in preparation for meetings and board decision-making. Board members also attend training sessions on topics such as co-op financial man-

agement, cybersecurity, and emerging technologies so they can make informed and thoughtful decisions on behalf of member owners.

Board members are paid a stipend of \$375 for a board meeting and \$200 for committee meetings, which includes not only the time spent in the meetings but also the time to prepare for the meetings via information packets sent to each board member. This stipend is benchmarked with other electric coops nationwide to be sure we are fairly and reasonably compensating board members. Compensation for the individual board members are included in VEC’s tax documents which are made available on the VEC website once they are filed.

For more information about serving on the VEC Board of Directors, or application materials, please contact Laura Kinney at 802- 730-1172 or email lkinney@vermontelectric.coop.



Board member Carol Maroni representing VEC at the Albany Energy Fair in 2019.



# A Good Time for Co-op Community Solar?



Would you like to save money on your electric bills and support a cleaner energy future? Maybe it's time - if you have not already joined in - to check out VEC's Co-op Community Solar.

With Co-op Community Solar you make an upfront payment to sponsor panels in existing solar arrays and then receive a fixed, guaranteed monthly bill credit for either 10 or 20 years. In the end, the bill credits total more than the upfront payment.

The program is:

- Customizable - you can sponsor as many panels as you want, with certain caps.
- Flexible - you can add panels any time, or even leave the program - and get a partial refund.
- COVID-Safe - you can set up your sponsorship entirely remotely, via phone and email. Enrollment involves no on-site installations, or in-person meetings.

Candice Campbell of Derby sponsored panels several years ago and says she's glad she did.

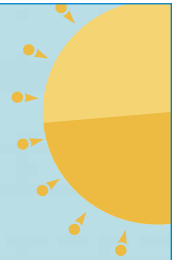
"This program takes the burden off the homeowner for maintenance, which is great. I really commend VEC for developing a program where people can participate in solar so easily," Campbell said.

Another VEC member, Alejandra Barrenechea of Williston, is also happy with her decision to sponsor panels in the program.

"By sponsoring panels in VEC arrays, I didn't have to worry about maintenance, or cutting trees on my own property, and I could still reduce my carbon footprint," she said. "It was the best of both worlds. I don't think there is any negative to this program and I'd highly recommend it to other VEC members."

Find out more here: <https://vermontelectric.coop/co-op-community-solar>, or call Member Services at 1-800-832-2667.

## Solar Power For People, Not Profit.



Vermont Electric Cooperative is member-owned and committed to the best interests of our members and their communities. This is why we developed VEC Co-op Community Solar—an easy and efficient way for all VEC members to get great value while supporting clean electricity.

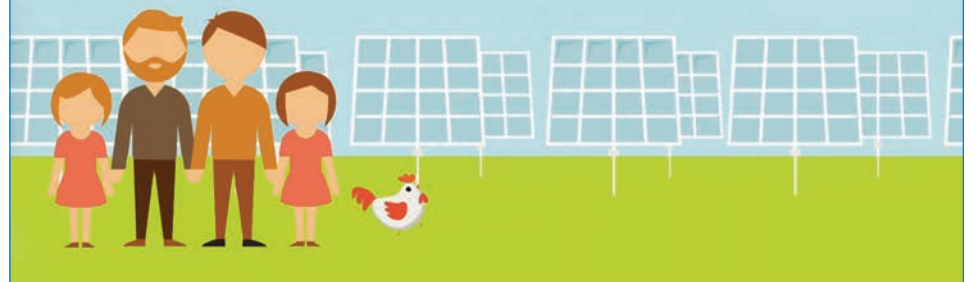
VEC Co-op Community Solar is perfect for folks renting their home and for houses with a shady site or unsuitable roof.

Members simply make a one-time upfront payment (starting at just \$100) to sponsor a portion of the solar array and receive a guaranteed fixed monthly credit on their electric bill.

Participants can opt out at any time for any reason, and get back a prorated portion of their sponsorship. Ten and twenty year terms are available and so is affordable financing.

With projects up and running in Alburgh, Grand Isle and Hinesburg, now is a good time to support solar with VEC Co-op Community Solar.

**For more information, visit [vermontelectric.coop/solar](https://vermontelectric.coop/solar) or call 1-800-832-2667.**



Headquartered in Johnson, Vermont Electric Cooperative serves 32,000 members, 2,882 miles of distribution line, 2,056 square miles of territory, and 75 communities in eight counties.



## Is your Usage Creeping up? Here are Some Tips

VEC Key Account Manager Dave Lahar, at left, is one of VEC's experts in energy efficiency. Below he offers tips for members to address high electricity usage.

**Q:** Winter is a time when people often see upticks in electricity use. What are some steps members can take to reduce their usage?

**A:** First, the more information you have, the better. Being able to monitor your usage is a good first step toward reducing it. If you haven't already, consider signing up with VEC's online portal, SmartHub at <https://vermontelectric.coop/smarthub>. With SmartHub you can set daily and/or hourly usage alerts so you can get a feel for when your usage is high. The more information you have, the easier it will be to understand what energy-saving steps might be most helpful.

**Q:** What are typical big electricity draws in a house that members should be aware of?

**A:** Check your heating. Operating your heating

system - even if your fuel is not electricity - can increase electricity usage. So, adding weather-stripping and tightening up your home can save electricity, as well your heating fuel, if the two are different. Consider a "set-back" or smart thermostat to help save at night or when you are away from home. Also, avoid using space heaters. There are usually more efficient ways to heat indoor space.

**Q:** How about heating water?

**A:** Heating water, however it's done, is an energy-intensive task. Make sure there are no leaks in hot water lines or faucets. Reduce the amount of hot water you consume by moving to cold water clothes washing, taking showers instead of baths, or filling a sink if you hand wash dishes rather than letting the water run while you wash. Consider insulation of your hot water pipes, and make sure there are no gaps where cold air can get in and around your hot water tank. If you have an electric hot water tank, consider adding a tank wrap.

**Q:** Are there other steps members can take?

**A:** Absolutely. Take advantage of energy efficient technologies. Consider LED lightbulbs, particularly for those areas that are used most. Look for promotions at point-of-purchase, and check out promotions at Efficiency Vermont. If your TVs, monitors, printers or other home equipment is equipped with energy-saving features, take advantage of them. Use plug strips for entertainment and home office equipment that can be turned off when the equipment isn't being used. If you are buying a new appliance or equipment, shop for the most efficient products. Look for Energy Star rated products and visit Efficiency Vermont's Marketplace at <https://marketplace.encyvermont.com/> to find and compare energy efficient products all in one place.

Remember: information is a great first step so if you have not signed up for SmartHub, consider doing so today.



# Thinking About an Electric Vehicle?

State Incentives for low- and moderate income Vermonters continue

State of Vermont incentives launched last year to help income-qualified Vermonters to buy electric vehicles are continuing in 2021.

Households with a total adjusted gross income of as much as \$125,000 are eligible for these state incentives. For instance, a married couple filing jointly with an income up to \$125,000 can get a rebate of \$2,500 off an all-electric vehicle (AEV). The incentive amounts are more generous for Vermonters with lower incomes and are intended for new cars costing \$40,000 or less.

VEC members, irrespective of their income, can add to the state incentives with VEC's Energy Transformation bill credits - \$250 for a plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV) or \$500 for an AEV - and depending upon personal circumstances, there could be federal tax credits available as well.

In certain cases, there are also incentives for used vehicles for lower-income Vermonters available through MileageSmart, an initiative to get more high MPG cars on the road in Vermont. To qualify, the car needs to be rated at 40 MPG combined or higher. Electric vehicles are eligible. Learn more here: <https://www.mileagesmartvt.org/>.

"When you stack up all the incentives, you start to see pretty significant discounts, and that's just for the purchase price of the car," said Jake Brown, energy services planner for the Co-op. "Generally, electric vehicles are less costly to run and maintain over the long term, so there are additional savings as well."

Tax Filing Status	Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Limits	State Incentive Amount	
		Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle	All-Electric Vehicle
Individual filing as single or head of household	\$50,000 or less	\$3,000	\$4,000
	Over \$50,000 up to \$100,000	\$1,500	\$2,500
Individual filing as qualifying widower	\$50,000 or less	\$3,000	\$4,000
	Over \$50,000 up to \$125,000	\$1,500	\$2,500
Married filing jointly	\$50,000 or less	\$3,000	\$4,000
	Over \$50,000 up to \$125,000	\$1,500	\$2,500
Married filing separately	\$50,000 or less	\$3,000	\$4,000
	Over \$50,000 up to \$100,000	\$1,500	\$2,500

## A Small Snapshot of Used AEVs and PHEVs on the Market

Below is a small sampling of cars for sale advertised on Cars.com on Jan 6, 2021, available within 250 miles of Johnson, Vermont. There are other makes and models available as well. These prices are before credits, discounts, or tax incentives.

### Plug-in Hybrid (PHEV)

- Toyota Prius Prime: \$19,100 - \$24,900
- Chevy Volt: \$9,590 - \$13,990
- Ford Fusion Energi: \$27,995 - \$34,827

### All Electric (AEV)

- VW e-Golf: \$13,000 - \$20,000
- Nissan Leaf: \$5,900 - \$10,990
- Chevy Bolt: \$13,595 - \$17,997

## Every Month, A Winner!

Since last summer, six lucky VEC members have each won a \$100 bill credit in our ChargetUp drawing. Do you have electric-powered equipment – maybe an electric snowblower – you'd like to enter to win? Here is how it works: VEC's new ChargetUp program allows members who purchase certain types of electric-powered items that have traditionally been powered by fossil fuels – including electric snowblowers, weed whackers, hedge trimmers, chainsaws, and motorcycles for instance - to enter the monthly drawing by sharing a photo of the equipment and some notes about their experience with it.

VEC member Frank Rillo of Eden, the September Chargetup winner, owns an Ego battery powered weed whacker and says it's "light, portable, quiet and instant-on," and notes that when he walks around his yard between trim jobs, the device isn't idling like a gas trimmer would.

Other winners have noted the time saved by not having to buy jugs of gasoline and fill gas tanks.

The ChargetUp program is complementary to VEC's Energy Transformation Program in that it offers an incentive for the purchase of electricity-powered devices that displace fossil fuels like gasoline or diesel fuel. However, products for which VEC already offers an Energy Transformation Program incentive, such as electric vehicles, cold climate heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, and pellet stoves are not eligible for ChargetUp drawings.

Find more here: [vermontelectric.coop/chargetup-program](http://vermontelectric.coop/chargetup-program).





# Celebrating Nearly Four Centuries of Combined Experience at VEC



Every year VEC honors employees who are celebrating benchmark work anniversaries. Before the pandemic, VEC celebrated these achievements at annual all-employee gatherings. For safety reasons, we did not gather in person in 2020 so we are marking these milestones virtually. Above is our staff gathered outside our Johnson offices during our last all-employee gathering in the fall of 2019.

Every year, VEC proudly recognizes our employees who are celebrating benchmark anniversaries at the co-op. In December, we honored 27 employees who have a combined 395 years of dedicated service to VEC members.

"Appreciating the everyday, recognizing individual achievements, and celebrating group successes are all part of how we support each other here at VEC," says Human Resources Manager Sally Lumbrá. "These committed employees – and many others – are what make the co-op tick, all in support of providing safe, affordable, and reliable energy services to our more than 32,000 members," she said.

In 2020 VEC recognized the following employees for their benchmark anniversaries:

#### 5 YEARS

- Shawn Booth
- Andrea Cohen
- Michael Cole
- Travis Elwood
- Lindsey Fenton
- Cade Seguin
- Brian Sylvester
- Tucker Williams

#### 10 YEARS

- Matthew Anderson
- Liz Blaney-Brown
- Isaac Gillen
- Chris Ingalls
- George Jacobs
- Caroline Mashia
- Dylan Morrill
- Craig Jewett

#### 15 YEARS

- Sara Packer
- Scott Rockwood

#### 20 YEARS

- Laurie Desautels
- Brian Ricard
- Margaret Viens

#### 25 YEARS

Mark Bennett

#### 30 YEARS

- Scott Gillespie
- Mark Hinton
- Steve Rossignoi

#### 35 YEARS

- Steve Coulter
- Deb Machia

## Energy Transformation

from page 1

Energy Modular Home, \$500

- Custom opportunities: VEC's Clean Air Program (CAP) can help replace fossil fuel usage, and reduce carbon emissions, through electric service upgrades or line-extensions. Each project is customized to meet the needs of the member and the co-op. Contact VEC if you think you might have a suitable project for the CAP program.

Brown noted that VEC's bill credit program benefits the entire co-op membership – not just those who take advantage of the program - because the incentives pay for themselves through additional electric sales.

Over the past three years, VEC has exceeded its goals for the incentive initiative, known as the Energy Transformation Program, and helped eliminate the consumption of over five million gallons of fossil fuel. That's the equivalent of taking over 14,000 cars off the road for one year.

Some of the VEC incentives are in addition to other qualified incentives or rebates, including Efficiency Vermont incentives at <https://www.energysavings.com/rebates>, new statewide electric incentives at <https://www.drivetheelectricvt.com/why-go-electric/purchase-incentives>, as well as potential tax incentives.

Learn more about these opportunities on VEC's Energy Transformation incentives page or by calling 1-800-832-2667.



## Have you changed your phone number recently, or moved to cell phone only?

From time to time, VEC has to utilize planned outages in order to repair or upgrade our system. When we do that, we send an automated phone call and email to affected members alerting them to the start time and expected duration of the interruption. In an effort to continue to improve our communications, we are requesting that members email us, at their convenience, the best telephone number(s) for this purpose. Please email [support@vermontelectric.coop](mailto:support@vermontelectric.coop).

You can also update the information by logging into your SmartHub account either on the web or through the app.

Thank you!





## Convenience! 100 percent.

That's how one VEC member recently described our online portal SmartHub. SmartHub allows you to track your usage by hour, get bill notifications, schedule payments, and even pay your bill with just a few mouse clicks.

"We love SmartHub," said Patty Titus of Hinesburg, another VEC member who uses the tool. "It lets us see our usage so we can make changes in how we use electricity so we can lower our bills," she said. "It's also easy to pay your bill through the portal, and we love the outage feature too."

You can get access to SmartHub on the homepage of VEC's website by clicking on the SmartHub button. If you were already enrolled in eBill, our previous online payment service, simply enter the same e-mail and password that you've always used. If you are a new user, click on the new user option on the SmartHub homepage. To create an account, you will need your account number, the last name of the first person listed on the account (or business name), and e-mail address. If you have questions or need help signing up, please call VEC's Member Services Department at 1-800-832-2667.

Here are some comments about SmartHub from other members that we recently received on Facebook:

**"I love it. So easy to do anything I need to. Pay bills, look at my usage, report an outage, and more!"**

**"Use it for outages, bill payment and historical comparison around usage."**

**"So easy to pay your bill and look at your usage!"**

## Paperless Delivery Now Available for Co-op Life

In an effort to accommodate the changing reading preferences of our membership, we are now offering members the opportunity to opt out of receiving a hard copy of Co-op Life mailed to their homes or businesses. Instead, we will send those members a simple email with a quick summary of Co-op Life stories and links to the online version.

Co-op Life is our time honored, flagship publication that for years we have mailed directly to all of our members. We remain committed to delivering it to our many members who want a hard-copy publication to hold in their hands. At the same time, we want to accommodate members who prefer to get information digitally, so we are offering that option for those who would like it. If you would like to receive a link to the online version rather than a hard copy of Co-op Life, please email [support@vermontelectric.coop](mailto:support@vermontelectric.coop).



## Wearing is caring!

Masks not only prevent the spread of COVID-19, they let friends, neighbors, and essential workers know you care. Wearing a mask in public is a simple way to keep Vermont safe, healthy and thriving. Please do your part by wearing a mask when needed.



### Important Annual Notice Regarding Herbicide Use in the Maintenance of Electric Utility Rights-of-Way

The Vermont Public Utility Commission has set forth rules under PUC 3.600 pertaining to the use of herbicides in the maintenance of electric utility rights-of-way. Each spring, herbicide applications may begin on or after April 1st. These rules afford you important rights and duties. Vermont electric utilities maintain electric line rights-of-way with several methods, including the selective use of herbicides on trees and brush. They also encourage low-growing shrubs and trees which will crowd tall-growing species and, thus, minimize the use of herbicides. Methods of herbicide applications may include stump, stem injection, basal, soil, and foliar. **Only electric utility rights-of-way that have tall-growing tree species with the potential of threatening the electric utility system are treated.**

#### If you reside on or own property in Vermont within 1000' of an electric utility right-of-way:

- **Sign up to receive written notification** from your local electric utility of plans to apply herbicide on any ROW within 1000' of your property or the property where you reside. Check nearby poles for tags identifying the utility and/or pole number, complete the form below and submit it to your local electric utility by mail before February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to be added to the notification list. If determined to be qualified, you will receive notification from the utility at least 30 days prior to scheduled herbicide application.
- **You are responsible to make your local electric utility aware** of the location of any potentially affected water supply, and of any other environmentally sensitive area where herbicide application ought to be avoided.
- **Watch and listen for public service announcements** in newspapers and radio ads noting upcoming herbicide applications.
- **Check with your local electric utility** regarding the vegetation management cycle near your particular line.
- **You have the right** to request, in writing, that the utility refrain from applying herbicides in the process of clearing the right-of-way, and the utility may offer alternatives such as herbicide stump treatment or herbicide stem injections.
- **You have the right** to refuse, in writing, the use of herbicides whatsoever at no cost to you if the type of lines in the right-of-way are **distribution lines**, bringing electric service directly to individual customers.
- **You have the right** to refuse, in writing, the use of herbicides whatsoever by paying a \$30 administration fee if the type of lines in the right-of-way are **transmission lines** or **sub-transmission lines**, bringing electricity to or between substations.

**For more details, or to ask additional questions, please contact your local electric utility, or one of the following:**

<b>Vermont Electric Co-op</b> <b>42 Wescom Road</b> <b>Johnson, VT 05656</b> <b>1-800-832-2667</b>	<b>Agency of Agriculture</b> <b>Public Health &amp; Ag. Resource Mgmt</b> <b>116 State St., Montpelier, VT 05602</b> <b>1-802-828-2431</b>	<b>Department of Public Service</b> <b>Consumer Affairs &amp; Public</b> <b>Information</b> <b>112 State St., Montpelier, VT 05620</b> <b>1-800-622-4496</b>
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**Based on the information above, if you believe you qualify to be notified in advance of pending herbicide applications in the rights-of-way, mail the request below to your local electric company before February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021.**

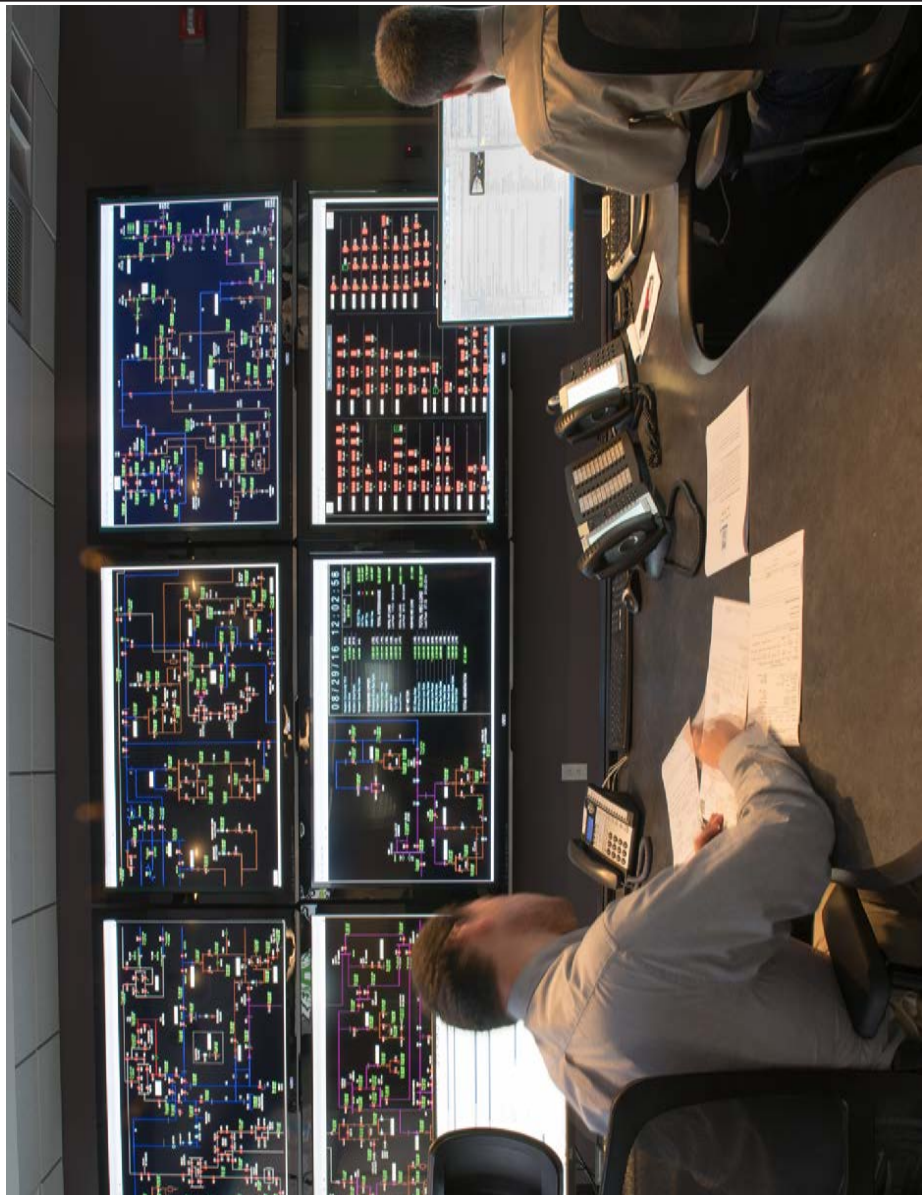
<b>Resident/Property Owner Request to be Added to Herbicide Treatment Notification Mailing List</b>			
Name		Town/City of Affected Property	
Street Address		Home Phone Number	
Town		Work Phone Number	
State	Zip Code	O.K. to use work number? (circle one)	Yes      No
Electric Utility Account Number		Best time to contact you	
Affected Property:    Year-Round Residence    Summer Residence    Commercial Property    Water Supply    Organic Farm    Land Other (Circle all that apply)			
Line/Pole Identification:			
Utility Initials		Pole Numbers	
Please fill out this request completely to help us determine if you qualify for herbicide treatment notification. <b>MAIL THIS REQUEST TO YOUR LOCAL ELECTRIC UTILITY AT THE ADDRESS LISTED ABOVE BEFORE FEBRUARY 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021.</b>			





Winter 2021

Volume 78 Number 1



VEC's control center at our Johnson headquarters is staffed seven days a week, 24 hours a day 365 days a year. This is the heart of operations. The highly-trained control center operators monitor the power system as well as VEC crews in the field, and take member calls regarding outages during non-business hours. Photo VEC/Kevin Goddard.



Vermont Electric Cooperative Inc.  
42 Wescom Rd.  
Johnson, VT 05656

PRSR STD  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit #1  
N. Haverhill, NH

## Vermont Electric Cooperative Board of Directors

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