



Acorn Energy Co-op e-News

Issue No. 42

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Member Owned
Renewable Energy Products and Services

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Dear ,

This is the 42nd 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:

- **Acorn Energy Solar 2 Update**
- **Wood Pellets Still Available**
- **What makes good solar in Vermont?**
- **Annual Meeting - Thursday, March 31 - Save the Date!**
- **Upcoming Events**

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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Acorn Energy Solar 2 Update

The co-op is making positive progress on the development of our second Community Solar Project, Acorn Energy Solar 2 (AES2), which will be located on Watch Point Road in Shoreham.

A project of this type requires many layers of agreements, permits, and contracts to be finalized during the development phase. We have the following agreements in place: initial funding to implement the project from Co-operative Insurance Company of Middlebury; the site; and the design-build contractor, Aegis Renewable Energy of Waitsfield. We also have support from the immediate neighbors, Shoreham's Select Board, and many other town residents.

Last November, we applied to the Public Service Board for a Certificate of Public Good (CPG), but at that point our application, along with dozens of others, encountered delays due to the heavy volume of applications as well as the fact that Green Mountain Power reached its statutory 15 percent renewables cap on November 9. We remain hopeful that our application will be approved after GMP's 2016 Net Metering Petition to the PSB for a temporary raise in the cap for an additional 7.5 megawatts is approved, hopefully in the next few months. AES2 is currently on the waiting list for projects to be considered under that petition.

Once we receive our CPG, we will then begin offering the opportunity to area residents to invest in the project and receive electricity production credits on their electric bills based on the number of panels subscribed. With all parts of the investments in hand we will then proceed to financial closing and construction.

Unlike many other solar projects in Vermont, the co-op will not sell the Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) to out-of-state-polluters or anyone else, enabling project participants to represent this as a truly "Green" project.

We are still working on compliance with the Vermont Small Business Offering Exemption rules, but once that is completed, we will be able to describe the details of how you can participate in AES2. Stay tuned!

Wood Pellet Update

We will be making our final pellet deliveries of bagged and bulk pellets for the season in March and wanted to give our members and customers the first chance to order. A limited number of tons are still available for this heating season (or to get a head start on next season).



We also have a few tons available for pre-arranged pick up in Middlebury for \$285/ton (\$280 for members) as well; please note that the Middlebury Natural Food Co-op will not be carrying our bagged pellets beyond the end of February.

If you would like additional pellets delivered to your home or to schedule a pick up, please complete a pellet order form and return the form to our coordinator, Mary Mester, with a check. She would be happy to assist you on the phone as well, if you would like to use your credit card for payment.

To access the order forms please go to:

[Pellet order forms.](#)

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

What makes good solar in Vermont?

Wednesday, March 16
at Ilsley Library, Middlebury
7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Save the Date!



Vermont has a target of 90% renewable generation by 2050, and the path to get there is largely paved with solar panels. Recently, however, some communities have expressed concern about how and where solar projects are being built across the state. From a lack of consensus on the definitions of "community solar" and renewable energy credits (RECs) to siting controversies surrounding many projects, to the recent Public Service Board decision to deny a large solar proposal in Bennington, Vermonters are questioning the solar development process.

Join us for a conversation to explore these issues, discuss what makes an acceptable solar project, and how we can make progress towards our 90% target.

Our expert panelists include **Gabrielle Stebbins**, former Executive Director, Renewable Energy Vermont; **Kevin Jones**, Professor, Vermont Law School; and **Ben Marks**, Regulatory Attorney and Acorn Energy Co-op Director. Legislators as well as representatives from Green Mountain Power have also been invited to join us.

Refreshments will be provided.

For more information, please contact Mary Mester at 385-1911 or info@acornenergycoop.com

Annual Meeting

Thursday, March 31
Save the Date!

Please join us for the 8th Acorn Renewable Energy Co-op Annual meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 31 in the lower social room at Two Brothers Tavern, 86 Main Street in Middlebury.

This year we're featuring a presentation by Acorn Energy Co-op board member **Taborri Bruhl**, entitled "*Here's How We Fix*

It! Solving the World's Sustainability Problems," that will offer the big picture view of existing technologies that could solve many of these problems, and the lifestyle changes that might result from their wider implementation and use.

Following the presentation, the Co-op will hold its annual business meeting, which will feature a report on the Co-op's activities to date, including a financial report by our treasurer and election of the board by members.

As always, we offer free hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. We are eager to hear our members' feedback and questions.

Hope to see you there!

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.

Upcoming Events

Biomass Heating

Northeast Biomass Heating Expo Comes to Burlington

March 30 - April 1, 2016

Burlington, VT

For more information visit:

<http://nebiomassheat.com>

Vermont Green Building Gala

VGBN Annual Meeting and VT's Greenest Awards Celebration

Thursday, **March 31** from 6:00 - 8:30pm

The Great Room at Main Street Landing

60 Lake Street, Burlington, VT

For more information visit: www.VTGreenBuildingNetwork.org

10th Leap Energy Fair

Saturday, **April 9th**, 2015, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Crossett Brook Middle School, Duxbury, VT

For more information visit:

<http://www.waterburyleap.org/>

Energy Independent Vermont Statewide Activist Training

Date: Saturday, **April 16, 2016**

Time: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Location: Barre Civic Center, 20 Auditorium Hill, Barre, VT 05641

[For more information or to register](#)

Some Helpful Links to More Renewable Energy Information

[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