



# Acorn Energy Co-op e-News

Issue No. 35

Thursday, October 31, 2013

Member Owned  
Renewable Energy Products and Services

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## Join our list

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Dear ,

This is the 35th 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:

- Electric Vehicle Workshop - **this Saturday!**
- Status of our Wood Pellet Supply
- Residential Solar PV
- Two new board members

Finally, we encourage you to visit our website frequently at [www.acornenergycoop.com](http://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



Like us on [Facebook!](#)

## Electric Vehicle Workshop on Saturday

The Acorn Energy Co-op and the Addison County Regional Planning Commission will be presenting a **free Electric Vehicle Workshop and Demonstration**, from 1 to 3 p.m., on Saturday, November 2 at the Addison County Regional Planning Commission offices and parking lot located at 14 Seminary Street in Middlebury. Come see a wide selection of electric vehicles (EVs), including a Nissan Leaf, Chevy Volt, Tesla, Smart EV, plug-in Prius, and more! Meet owners and take a ride in an EV.

Acorn Energy Co-op board member **Taborri Bruhl**, who drives a 2013 Nissan Leaf, will discuss performance, available models, rebates and incentives, as well as environmental issues and trends in the industry. **Bruce Bentley**, an energy innovator at Green Mountain Power in Rutland, will be bringing his Chevy Volt, and will give a presentation on EV charging infrastructure developments in Vermont. A question and answer session with the presenters will follow both talks.



"If you already have an EV, you might want to come and offer some insight into how it is working for you," says Energy Co-op president Peter Carothers. "If you don't yet have one but are considering whether or not to buy one, this event should provide you with the facts you need to make an informed decision."

The workshop, which is part of the Energy Co-op's Education Series, is free and the public is welcome.

### Vermont Wood Pellet Update



Our allotment of Vermont Wood Pellets for the 2013-2014 heating season is **nearly sold out!** Because of their tremendous popularity, there are only a limited number of tons available as the mill is already running at capacity.

We have a few tons available for delivery on November 26, our last delivery date until January 14 (which is our last delivery date of the season). If you are hoping for delivery on January 14 and you have not yet reserved your tons, please place your order as soon as possible—first come, first served.

We also have a very limited supply of pellets available for pick up between now and the end of the season (or when the supply runs out, whichever comes first). Call Gwen to check for availability (385-1911). Once they're gone, they're gone for this heating season!

### Residential Solar PV

A growing number of our members have taken advantage of our partnership with Green Earth Energy (GEE) of Brandon for the custom design and installation of residential solar PV systems. With the additional 5% Acorn Energy Co-op member discount offered by GEE, the prices for these systems have been very competitive with those offered by others. Installations can continue right through the winter, so there's

no need to hesitate if you're interested.

After an initial evaluation, Jim Crawford of GEE will make a free visit to your home to take a closer look at your site and to gather information to make a proposal. Systems can be purchased outright, or financed with a loan through our partnership with the National Bank of Middlebury. Speak with any community lender there for more information.



For some members, taking the 30% federal tax credit is not an option. We are exploring avenues for making a lease option possible, so stay tuned.

Contact Gwen (385-1911) with your address, annual electricity usage in kW hours, and annual electricity cost to get started.

### Welcome New Board Members!

We are very pleased to announce that two new members have recently joined our board:



**Taborri Bruhl** majored in journalism and history at Texas A&M, where he earned his bachelor's degree in 1989. He then spent four years as an officer in the Marine Corps, and served in the First Gulf War in Kuwait. After leaving the Marine Corps in 1994, he returned to school and got his teaching certification, and began teaching history at Bryan High School, in Bryan,

Texas. In 2003 he completed his Master's Degree in History from California State University, and he and his family moved to Vermont the following year. He currently teaches economics and AP European History at Rutland High School. Taborri, his wife Susan, and their three children live in an off-grid house in New Haven powered by solar and wind. Recently, Taborri has been writing about sustainability issues at [www.sustainableus.org](http://www.sustainableus.org).

**Benjamin Marks** is an attorney who has worked with regulated utilities and represented clients before the Vermont Public Service Board since 2004. He has experience with permitting solar and wind electric generation projects. Prior to working with regulated utilities in Vermont, Ben worked as an attorney in New York City. He attended Amherst College where he graduated *magna cum laude* with a B.A. in English literature and graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law with a J.D. in 1997. Ben lives in Cornwall with his wife, Elizabeth Morrison, a professor at Middlebury College and their two children.



**Welcome Taborri and Ben!**

## Upcoming Events

### **2013 Vermont Community Energy and Climate Action Conference - Climate Action! Strengthening Connections and Advancing Total Energy Solutions**

**Saturday, December 7, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

**Lake Morey Inn, Fairlee, VT**

This year's VECAN conference is all about getting serious about climate action in Vermont by strengthening partnerships and advancing total energy solutions. The day offers 14 timely workshops, roundtable discussions on hot topics, tremendous networking opportunities and a fantastic keynote speaker - May Boeve, director of [350.org](http://350.org), who is an inspiring, motivated and powerful young climate leader.

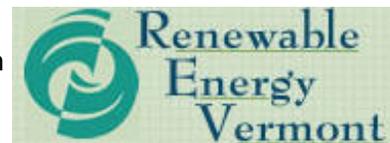
Designed to inspire, support and grow the statewide network of town energy committees and other energy-ambitious Vermonters, this one-day conference emphasizes clean energy and climate action strategies that can be implemented locally. Workshops and roundtables will address energy efficiency, transportation, renewable energy, legislative action, coalition-building and other essential solutions needed to meet Vermont's energy and climate goals. Click [here](#) 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.



Efficiency Vermont

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.

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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](mailto:info@acornenergycoop.com) or call us at 802-385-1911.

**Sincerely,**

Peter Carothers, President  
Acorn Energy Co-op