

# VPIRG 2021 Annual Report



# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



2021 was quite a year. For all the challenges we continued to face, we accomplished some incredible things thanks to the dedication and generous support of the VPIRG community.

Inside these pages, you'll read about the tremendous impact we were able to have together, including:


- Making universally mailed ballots a permanent feature of Vermont elections;
- Banning toxic “forever chemicals” in consumer products;
- Collecting and delivering more than 10,000 signatures in favor of modernizing Vermont’s successful Bottle Bill; and
- Securing the most significant investments in climate action in state history.

Together, we’ve built the foundation for meaningful, lasting change here in Vermont. And as VPIRG celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2022, we’re taking time to reflect on and celebrate the incredible progress we’ve made not just in 2021, but over the last five decades.

We’re immensely proud to have a half-century track record of advancing the public interest in Vermont and so very grateful for supporters like you who have helped us achieve some landmark victories along the way. Together, we helped pass the Tooth Fairy Law, creating the nation’s first public dental health program for children. We shut down the Vicon incinerator, retired the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant, and banned fracking, single-use plastics, and a whole host of toxic chemicals. And we’ve fought for cleaner water, safer products, and a stronger democracy.

We’ll be commemorating this important anniversary all year long by hosting a series of grassroots events in communities across the state culminating in an exciting celebration on the campus of UVM (see details below). We’ll also be sharing the stories of current and former VPIRG staff and members who were so instrumental in securing these public interest victories and helping to make Vermont what it is today. And, because there’s so much more we can do together, we’ll be using this year to ensure that VPIRG is a vibrant, effective organization for years to come.

It’s an honor to be able to celebrate this milestone with you, and to continue fighting together for the public interest here in Vermont.

Onward,  
  
Executive Director



## Save the Date

Mark Your Calendars to Celebrate VPIRG’s  
**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**

To celebrate VPIRG’s accomplishments over the past fifty years (and the community who made it all possible!) and lay the groundwork for future successes, we’ll be hosting an evening shindig on the UVM campus on **Saturday, September 17, 2022**, featuring climate scientist and bestselling author Katharine Hayhoe. Please save the date and stay tuned for additional details.

*Can’t make it? No problem – there will be plenty of other opportunities to celebrate this year, including a series of small grassroots events in communities around the state.*



# ABOUT VPIRG AND VPIREF

Founded in 1972, the Vermont Public Interest Research Group (VPIRG) is the largest nonprofit consumer and environmental advocacy organization in the state. As a 501(c)4 nonprofit advocacy group, VPIRG conducts non-partisan public interest advocacy in support of priority public interest issues and campaigns and seeks legislative and policy solutions affecting Vermonters. Donations to VPIRG are not tax deductible.

VPIRG established the Vermont Public Interest Research and Education Fund (VPIREF) in 1975 as its 501(c)3 outreach and education arm in order to conduct independent research and public education on the range of issues on which we work. Donations to VPIREF are tax deductible.

For 50 years, we have brought the voice of Vermonters to public policy debates concerning the environment, health care,

consumer protection and democracy. The common mission of VPIRG and VPIREF is to promote and protect the health of Vermont’s people, environment and locally based economy; informing and mobilizing individuals and communities across the state. VPIRG advocates and organizers use independent research, policy analysis, public outreach and grassroots mobilization to design and implement effective strategies for each of our campaigns.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|   |    |  |    |  |    |
|---|----|--|----|--|----|
| <b>CLIMATE &amp; CLEAN ENERGY</b>           |    | <b>SUMMER CANVASS</b>                                    |    | <b>YEAR IN REVIEW</b>                            |    |
| A Launchpad for Bold Climate Action         | 4  | (Another) Unprecedented Summer                           | 14 | 2021 Year in Review                              | 18 |
|   |    |  |    | New Trustees                                     | 20 |
| <b>DEMOCRACY</b>                            |    | <b>CONSUMER PROTECTION</b>                               |    | <b>FINANCIALS</b>                                |    |
| VPIRG Secures Another Pro-Democracy Victory | 8  | Community Broadband Gets a Boost                         | 16 | Powered by You: Our 2021 Finances by the Numbers | 21 |
| <b>ZERO WASTE</b>                           |    | <b>ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH</b>                              |    | Supporters                                       | 22 |
| Campaign to Modernize Vermont’s Bottle Bill | 11 | VPIRG, Allies Enact Nation’s Strongest PFAS Chemical Ban | 17 |  |    |

# CONTACT

-  Phone

 Fax

 Email

 Web
- 802-223-5221

802-223-6855


vpirg@vpirg.org

www.vpirg.org
-  Twitter

 Facebook

 Instagram
- @vpirg

facebook.com/vpirg

@vpirg
-  Vermont Public Interest Research Group

141 Main Street, Suite 6

Montpelier VT 05602

# A LAUNCHPAD FOR **BOLD** CLIMATE ACTION:

## MAJOR VICTORIES IN 2021 SET THE PATH FOR SERIOUS CLIMATE SOLUTIONS AHEAD

For years, VPIRG has been pressing for smart solutions that would get Vermont on track to meet our climate goals, ensure a just transition to a cleaner, greener energy future, and provide an inspiring model for other states to follow.

But two things have always been missing: the political will to act and the state dollars to make it happen.

That all began to change in the fall of 2019 with the incredible organizing of VPIRG members, staff, and allies around the Climate Strikes. Another huge boost came in the fall of 2020 when that same grassroots movement successfully overrode the governor’s veto of the Global Warming Solutions Act. The Solutions Act turned Vermont’s climate goals into legally binding climate pollution reduction requirements, fundamentally changing the political calculus around climate action in our brave little state.

Then, in 2021, we pushed the Vermont Legislature to commit to the most significant investments in climate action in its history as part of the big budget bill.

As part of this package, legislators devoted \$46 million to direct climate spending. They also laid out a plan to put at least \$250 million over the next three years into cutting Vermont’s climate pollution.

Among the direct investments the legislature authorized on climate action: \$23 million will go to weatherization, with big investments in job training and low-income weatherization; \$10 million for a new “Affordable Community-Scale Renewable Energy Program”; \$5 million for the Clean Energy Development Fund, which will be used to further advance equity and climate action; and \$1.5 million for the Community Action Agencies to hire energy & financial advisors to work with low-income Vermonters.



In 2021, young Vermonters continued to be a force in the movement for bold climate action in Vermont and VPIRG continued to support their efforts. Seen here, members of Vermont’s Youth Lobby rally at the State House.

And those weren’t the only wins for climate funding. Championed by a host of legislators, VPIRG’s amazing members, and our many allies, the 2021 Transportation Bill contained the most significant investments to cut Vermont’s transportation pollution yet, while advancing our goal of creating a more

accessible and affordable transportation system for all Vermonters.

The Transportation Modernization Package included almost \$12 million for programs ranging from electric vehicle incentives to bike and pedestrian infrastructure, to zero-fare public transit and EV charging infrastructure,

with almost all of those investments aimed directly at reducing inequality in the transportation sector and costs for low-income Vermonters. The bill also started a process to create the “transportation equity framework” we’ve been working to make happen.

**CONTINUED ON PG. 6**

## VERMONT INVESTS IN CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

IN 2021, THE VERMONT LEGISLATURE INVESTED A COMBINED \$58 MILLION IN SUPPORT OF CLIMATE SOLUTIONS, ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT SUCH INVESTMENTS IN STATE HISTORY. THESE INVESTMENTS SUPPORT:

**LOW-INCOME  
WEATHERIZATION**



**JOB TRAINING FOR  
WEATHERIZATION**



**AN AFFORDABLE  
COMMUNITY-SCALE  
RENEWABLE ENERGY  
PROGRAM**



**THE CLEAN ENERGY  
DEVELOPMENT  
FUND**



**ENERGY &  
FINANCE SUPPORT  
FOR LOW-INCOME  
VERMONTERS**



**ELECTRIC VEHICLE  
INCENTIVES  
& CHARGING  
INFRASTRUCTURE**



**BIKE & PEDESTRIAN  
INFRASTRUCTURE**



**ZERO-FARE  
PUBLIC TRANSIT**



**NEW FACES  
& NEW ROLES  
on the CLIMATE  
& ENERGY TEAM**



**Sebbi Wu**  
Climate & Equity  
Advocate



**Liam O'Sullivan**  
Climate & Energy  
Associate



**Lily Seward**  
Climate & Energy  
Fellow



**Jordan Heiden**  
Climate Campaign  
Manager

To ensure that equity remains front and center in our work, we've retained graduating Fellow Sebbi Wu to serve as VPIRG's Climate & Equity Advocate – and he's not the only addition to our Climate team. We extended Climate & Energy Associate Liam O'Sullivan's Fellowship for a third year, brought on a new Climate & Energy Fellow, summer canvass veteran Lily Seward, to spearhead our youth organizing efforts, and welcomed a new Climate Campaign Manager, Jordan Heiden, to drive our campaign to change the narrative on climate in Vermont.

**Global Foundries**

In 2021, GlobalFoundries, the largest electricity user in Vermont, announced it was working on a deal with the Scott Administration to become a “self-managed utility,” cutting off its reliance on Green Mountain Power for electricity.

In doing so, GlobalFoundries declared it should be exempt from the state's renewable energy and energy efficiency programs. VPIRG and our allies quickly organized in opposition to this proposed deal, soliciting hundreds of petition signatures from VPIRG members to deliver to the Public Utilities Commission in opposition and helping organize a demonstration at GlobalFoundries Essex plant to bring attention to the proposed dirty energy deal.



Climate & Energy Fellow Lily Seward signs up new youth activists at a Vermont Youth Lobby press conference/protest outside the State House

Beyond those significant investments, the commitment to spend at least \$250 million over the next three years on climate action lays a foundation for the success of the Vermont Climate Council's Vermont Climate Action Plan. Created in 2020 by the Global Warming Solutions Act, the 23-member Vermont Climate Council was tasked with laying out a plan to hit Vermont's legally required climate pollution targets. Over the course of 2021, the Climate Council met regularly to consider comprehensive and equitable solutions to both reduce Vermont's carbon footprint and ensure our communities are prepared for existing and future impacts of climate change.

And every step of the way, we pushed to bring the work of the Council into the daylight – and to bring Vermonters into the work of the Council to ensure that its plan lived up to its mandate. Our team has worked tirelessly to involve our members and supporters in the Climate Council's process, and we're proud to say that hundreds stepped up to make their voices heard.

The release of the State's Climate Action Plan on December 1st, 2021 marked an important milestone for the fight for climate action in Vermont.

The Climate Action Plan calls for, among many other things: a clean heat standard, analogous to a renewable energy standard for the heating sector; dramatically scaled-up weatherization programs that will help many more Vermonters — particularly lower income and historically marginalized individuals — access weatherization services; and transportation investments to help everyone in Vermont access clean and affordable transportation options.

Crucially, the plan also calls for the adoption of a statewide environmental justice policy. Unlike many states, Vermont does not currently have such a policy — a glaring omission that must be remedied if we are to improve our state's environment and economy in an equitable way.

This was a big step, but in many ways, the hard work is just beginning. As policymakers move forward to consider these recommendations, we need to continue to make our voices heard and bring more voices into the process, particularly from historically marginalized communities.

Doing so will be necessary to make sure that our elected leaders turn these recommendations into real, tangible policies that cut carbon pollution and do so equitably — and that's exactly what we intend to see happen in 2022.

**Polluters Pay**

As Congress began to consider major infrastructure spending and the Build Back Better package in 2021, VPIRG joined a national effort in support of a “Polluters Pay Climate Fund.” The idea is a simple but necessary one: large fossil fuel corporations should pay into a fund based on their contribution to the climate crisis. The money raised – at least \$500 billion – would pay for climate solutions to clean up their mess. In August, we delivered petitions signed by more than 1,000 VPIRG members to the offices of Sens. Leahy and Sanders in support of the Polluters Pay Fund.



## VPIRG Secures Another Pro-Democracy Victory with Permanent Vote-By-Mail



In 2020, all registered voters in Vermont received a ballot in the mail as a means of keeping both voters and election officials safe in that first pandemic election. The one-time emergency measure backed by VPIRG and other democracy advocates, was a huge success as it contributed significantly to Vermont breaking all previous voter participation records.

In fact, voting by mail was so popular and successful that VPIRG immediately launched a campaign to make the policy permanent. The goal was to remove all unnecessary barriers to voting and to encourage as many citizens as possible to participate.

We put together a diverse coalition of organizations and businesses committed to making it easier for more people to vote. And we worked closely with Vermont Secretary of State Jim Condos and his dedicated elections staff to champion legislation to mail all active, registered Vermont voters a ballot for every general election.

VPIRG lead the charge to enact that emergency measure in 2020 — overcoming the reluctance of the governor to do so. And the inarguable success of that effort (2020 saw record voter turnout in Vermont) provided the momentum for us to enact permanent vote-by-mail in 2021.

The legislation, which was signed into law in

June, preserves in-person voting options and also directs Secretary of State Condos to work with municipalities and interested stakeholders on greater language access for non-English speaking Vermonters. It also creates a ballot curing process so small errors (like failing to sign the inner envelope when returning a ballot) can be fixed by voters.

This victory was essentially the culmination of a years-long project — led by VPIRG and our pro-democracy allies, and champions like Secretary of State Condos and House and Senate leaders — to make Vermont the most voter-friendly state in the nation.

**READ MORE ON PG. 9**

# The Most Voter-Friendly State in the Nation:

A Rundown of the Pro-Democracy Policies That Separate Vermont from the Rest of the Nation

**Early Voting:** In 2009, Vermont increased its early voting time frame to 45 days — one of the longest periods in the nation. An extended early voting period gives Vermonters a tremendous window of opportunity to consider their voting options and cast their ballot (either by mailing it in, dropping it off, or voting early in-person at their town clerk) during a time that is convenient and available to them.

**Primary Voting for 17-Year-Olds:** In 2010, Vermont voters overwhelmingly voted to amend the state constitution to allow 17-year-olds to vote in primary elections, provided they would turn 18 by the day of the general election — bringing more young people into the democratic process.

**Voting for Incarcerated Individuals:** Vermont is one of only two states in the nation (Maine is the other) that never took away incarcerated individuals' right to vote. While there remain structural barriers to incarcerated people exercising this right that should be addressed, Vermont's policy stands in stark contrast to others in the nation that restrict voting rights of people who are or were incarcerated.

**Election Day Voter Registration:** VPIRG played a major role in the establishment of this policy — enacted in 2015 — which allows all eligible voters to register to vote up to and on Election Day. Election Day registration — which ensures that, no matter your circumstance, if you are eligible and ready to vote, you can register and do so — is believed to increase participation from anywhere between 3 and 6 percent. Under previous law, voters had to be registered by the Wednesday before the election — effectively penalizing the first-time voter who forgets to pre-register, the busy mother who doesn't discover a problem with her registration prior to Election Day, or the grandfather who forgets to update his address after moving into a retirement facility.

**Automatic Voter Registration:** Believing that there should be as few barriers as possible to voting, VPIRG also supported Vermont's move to Automatic Voter Registration in 2016. Under AVR, Vermonters who apply for or renew their driver's license at the DMV who meet voter eligibility requirements are automatically registered to vote through the Secretary of State's office, unless they opt out of the system. This change has led to Vermont having among

the highest voter registration rates in the nation.

**All-Resident Voting in Certain Local Elections:** Voters in Montpelier and Winooski overwhelmingly approved, in 2018 and 2021 respectively, charter changes that would allow non-citizen, legal permanent residents to participate in local elections. All-resident voting allows the residents of a municipality — residents who pay taxes, buy homes and property, open businesses, and send their kids to school — to have a say in local matters in their community. The Vermont legislature approved these charter changes in 2021, but they were vetoed by Gov. Phil Scott. VPIRG encouraged our members to urge their legislators to override the governor's veto, which they eventually did.



### Work Ahead

Despite all of these tremendous victories, there is still more work to do to make Vermont's elections fairer and more accessible — and to make our democracy more representative.

In particular, VPIRG saw a big boost to our efforts to see Vermont adopt Ranked Choice Voting for more elections in 2021 when, on Town Meeting Day, Burlington voters overwhelmingly approved a charter change to use Ranked Choice Voting for city council elections going forward. VPIRG worked with a diverse coalition to lead the Better Ballot Burlington campaign, which educated Burlington voters on the issue and encouraged a yes vote on the charter change.

The Vermont legislature still needs to give final approval to the change — and we are advocating for them to do just that in 2022. And we're not stopping there, as VPIRG is advocating for the entire state of Vermont to adopt Ranked Choice Voting for presidential primaries and elections to federal office.

# Leave a Legacy

Become a Public Interest Protector

For **fifty years**, VPIRG has been a bold leader in the fight for a safer, healthier, and more vibrant Vermont. We're proud of our rich history and the incredible progress we've made over the decades. But our work is nowhere near done – and we know we can't do it alone.

As we celebrate our 50th anniversary in 2022, we're committed to ensuring that our next half century is even more impactful and transformative.

**We share your commitment to building a better future for all Vermonters.**

When you become a Public Interest Protector by making a planned gift to VPIRG or VPIREF<sup>1</sup>, you transform your vision into action and thereby ensure your values live on beyond your lifetime.

## YOU CAN LEAVE A LEGACY BY:

- Including VPIRG or VPIREF in your will
- Naming VPIRG or VPIREF as a beneficiary on one of your financial accounts
- Making a gift that pays you income for life with a charitable gift annuity

However you choose to give, your support will help guarantee the health and wellbeing of Vermont's people, environment, and locally based economy for generations to come.

For more information or to notify us of a planned gift, visit [www.vpirg.org/legacy](http://www.vpirg.org/legacy) or contact Emma Huvos at [ehuvos@vpirg.org](mailto:ehuvos@vpirg.org) or (802) 223-5221 ext. 10.

<sup>1</sup> Gifts made to VPIRG – a registered 501c(4) organization – are not deductible for the purposes of federal estate tax, but go to fund our critical advocacy and lobbying activities. Tax-deductible gifts may be made to VPIREF, VPIRG's 501c(3) charitable education and outreach arm.

## 50 Years in The Making: VPIRG Secures a Major Victory in our Campaign to Modernize Vermont's Bottle Bill



VPIRG's second Executive Director, Whitey Bluestein, testifying on behalf of the Bottle Bill. He is accompanied by Assistant Director Leigh Seddon (left) and Rep. Chip Stone of Montpelier (right)

The year 1972 is notable for many things. It was the year the Clean Water Act passed, and Watergate broke. The Space Shuttle Program was approved, the Godfather movie was released, and Vermont Yankee began operations. It was also the year Vermont's popular Bottle Bill law was passed and VPIRG as a nonprofit organization was born.

While VPIRG didn't have a hand in passing the original Bottle Bill, we have from our earliest days worked to defend and promote the program. In the nearly five decades since, it's become Vermont's most successful recycling law, with at least 75% of containers currently covered by the law being returned for deposit and recycling.

We're proud to share a birthday with this venerable piece of legislation, and through serendipitous timing, we're poised to make critically important updates to the Bottle Bill during our shared 50th anniversary year.

**Vermont's Bottle Bill legislation has remained largely unchanged since it was passed so long ago.**

In recent years, Vermont's program has fallen behind other states that have kept pace with the

development of new beverages like teas, sports drinks, and water in single serving plastic bottles. Vermont's Bottle Bill covers less than half of the beverage containers sold here, while Maine's law covers 91 percent. Nearly every Bottle Bill state has updated its program to include more containers than Vermont, including Oregon, Hawaii, California, New York, and Connecticut, all covering at least three quarters of all beverages sold in their states.

While VPIRG did successfully lead the charge to redirect unclaimed deposits from the beverage industry to state clean water projects several years ago, intense corporate lobbying efforts by the waste and beverage industries have blocked more fundamental modernization efforts, until now. In 2021, the logjam finally broke as VPIRG worked with legislative champions in the House to pass meaningful reform that would finally expand

the Bottle Bill to cover more containers like plastic water bottles, sports drinks, cider, and wine.

### How We Got Here

H.175, the House legislation to modernize Vermont's Bottle Bill, was introduced on February 3, 2021 by Rep. James McCullough. With leadership from Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife Committee Chair, Amy Sheldon, and key support from Representatives Kari Dolan and Kristi Morris, the bill had a thorough vetting with testimony from many witnesses.

Beverage company giants and regional waste industry behemoth Casella came out in full force against the proposal. Casella has very close ties to Gov. Phil Scott (including major sponsorship of his race car), so it was no surprise when administration officials also raised objections to the bill.

VPIRG's Paul Burns and Marcie Gallagher rallied a diverse coalition in favor of the legislation, including environmental experts, allies in the recycling industry, and support from VPIRG members across the state. When the vote came, the bill had bipartisan support and 8 of the 11 members voted in favor. This was a shocking result for the industry lobbyists who rarely lose.

Next, H.175 moved to the House Ways and Means Committee, where the opposition intensified. Our advocates were outnumbered in day after day of testimony, but the strength of our arguments once again prevailed. After amendments, the bill passed on a 7-4 vote and then cleared the House Appropriations Committee as well, putting it on a clear path to a full House vote.



Once again, industry opponents of the recycling program regrouped, and their tactics became more desperate. They put out misinformation, hired more out-of-state lobbyists, and even resorted to the kind of dirty tricks not often seen in Vermont.

In a March letter to legislators, John Casella (head of Casella Waste Systems) falsely claimed there was no difference in how Bottle Bill materials and single-stream curbside recyclables were processed. This, despite the fact that just three months earlier the Chittenden Solid Waste District paid a \$400,000 fine to the State for illegally dumping glass collected for recycling in curbside programs.

Casella also joined beverage industry opponents in hiring Massachusetts-based lobbying group Five Corners Strategies, a firm that specializes in driving “grassroots support” for projects like oil and gas pipelines, among others. Together, they conspired to create a group posing as concerned citizens that they called, “Vermonters for Recycling.”

Creating fake groups like this is sometimes called “astroturfing” (as opposed to grassroots

organizing), and through this vehicle the industry opponents coordinated a patch calling campaign that came as an unpleasant surprise for legislators and their constituents alike.

Despite the fierce and misleading opposition campaign, H.175 was passed on an incredible 99-46 vote in the House on April 16, 2021.

Where Do We Go Next?

Winning nearly 100 votes in the House (with several members absent) was a huge win for the environment, but there’s more work to be done before H.175 becomes law. It still needs to be passed by the Senate, where it will likely be taken up in 2022. And then it will need Gov. Scott’s signature, or if he vetoes the bill, a two-thirds override vote in the House and Senate.

The good news is that modernizing the Bottle Bill is incredibly popular with Vermonters. According to scientific polling conducted by VPIRG through Lincoln Park Strategies, 88 percent of Vermonters support the bottle deposit system, and 83 percent support an expansion to include more containers.

Bottle Bill modernization in Vermont has strong support across the political spectrum; 72 percent of self-described Republicans support the update, as do 78 percent of Independents, 90 percent of Democrats, and 94 percent of Progressives. “In these highly polarized times, it’s very unusual to see the breadth and depth of support for a program as we see for Vermont’s Bottle Bill,” said Stefan Hankin, President of Lincoln Park Strategies. “Vermonters don’t merely like the container redemption law, a large majority of them believe strongly that it’s time for it to be updated.”

VPIRG also devoted the 2021 Summer Canvass to our campaign to modernize the Bottle Bill. Through a combination of phone banking and door-to-door grassroots advocacy, our team of 30 dedicated canvassers spoke to more than 12,000 Vermonters and gathered over 10,000 signatures in support of H.175.

After many years of effort, this is the closest we have come to modernizing Vermont’s Bottle Bill. Working with our allies and leveraging strong member support, we will continue this fight to reduce waste, cut plastic pollution, and increase recycling.



(Another)  
**UNPRECEDENTED  
SUMMER**

For the second year in a row, it was a summer canvass like no other. Faced with the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, we opted to begin the 2021 Canvass virtually to ensure the safety of our staff and the greater Vermont community. Fortunately, armed with our experiences from 2020’s unprecedented fully virtual canvass, our team was able to put together an 8-week virtual canvass operation that enabled us to safely and successfully contact thousands of Vermonters in every senate district across the state through phone conversations, emails, and text messages.

As the summer progressed, thanks to the vaccine rollout and reduced case counts, we were able to return to doing what we do best: going door-to-door, renewing memberships, and rallying grassroots support—all of which gave a big boost to our campaign to modernize Vermont’s most successful recycling program: the Bottle Bill.

Hot on the heels of our victory in the Vermont House, where legislators passed H.175 to modernize the Bottle Bill, VPIRG canvassers worked to galvanize public support for this important piece of legislation. They knocked on more than 27,000 doors and gathered

more than 10,000 petition signatures from enthusiastic Bottle Bill supporters across the state. Our outreach also resulted in hundreds of personalized messages being sent to senators. Grassroots actions like this are our best tool for affecting change, and as always, our members rose to the challenge.

Though we had less than half of our usual complement of canvassers and only six weeks of in-person canvassing, the 2021 Canvass was still an incredible success – and one that wouldn’t have been possible without the incredible team who made it all happen.

**Reflections from the Canvass Leadership Team:**

“If there’s a silver-lining to the COVID-19 pandemic, it’s the fact that it has presented us with an opportunity to do things in new and creative ways, to look critically at the past and identify how we can improve. Having to run a hybrid model with virtual and in-person canvassing forced us to digitize what was a historically analog and paper-based operation. While the transition came with its own set of unique challenges, it gave us the opportunity to become more organized and have access to more information than what was previously possible.”

– SAM MCGINTY, TURF DIRECTOR

“It was really exciting to be able to show up at the doors of Vermonters who had never had a canvass visit before, after only reaching former supporters in 2020 [through the virtual canvass]. A lot of folks were really excited to get involved in a local organization doing the type of work VPIRG does...it’s always fun to share our work with new people!”

– SEBBI WU, RECRUITMENT, ONBOARDING, AND TRAINING DIRECTOR

“2020 was a year that really exacerbated people’s mental health struggles, and I really appreciated how we were able to bring a group of people together who hadn’t been part of an in-person organized community group in over a year. We took so much time in the months leading up to the canvass trying to prepare a welcoming, safe space for people to reintegrate into a social environment. Canvassing is such a unique job ... that’s why we put such importance into trainings, relationship building, and making sure staff were aware of the individual needs of canvassers.”

– MOLLY FELDMAN, OFFICE HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATOR

“It was so great to be back out going door-to-door and talking with members that we hadn’t seen in nearly 2 years. In 2019, I spent a lot of time canvassing in the Northeast Kingdom. Although we did not get out to as many folks or towns as we typically do, we did take one camping trip up there. I got to canvass the same area in Craftsbury and got to reconnect with members I had personally canvassed in 2019. It was a really special experience and really highlighted how personal this work can really be.”

– LILY SEWARD, RECRUITMENT ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

“I was in Charlotte and spoke to a young mom who was relatively new to Vermont and had never been canvassed. While chatting with her, I mentioned that I also advocate on protecting people from toxic chemicals, specifically the ‘forever chemicals’ PFAS. She surprised me by already knowing all about PFAS and shared that she is a cancer survivor and works for a beauty company that also lobbies to ban toxic chemicals from cosmetics nationally. We exchanged contact information, I’ve been in touch with this new member and her company to help make it happen. Months later, we’ve been able to gain some momentum around banning toxic chemicals from cosmetics! It’s amazing to think that we could have this incredible law at the end of the session that might not have happened if I hadn’t knocked on that door.”

– MARCIE GALLAGHER, COORDINATION DIRECTOR



**Summer 2022 begins at your door... we hope!**

As we look towards the summer of 2022 and what will hopefully be a return to normalcy, we have to thank our incredible members. Our canvassers work hard, but equally important are the people on the other side of the door.

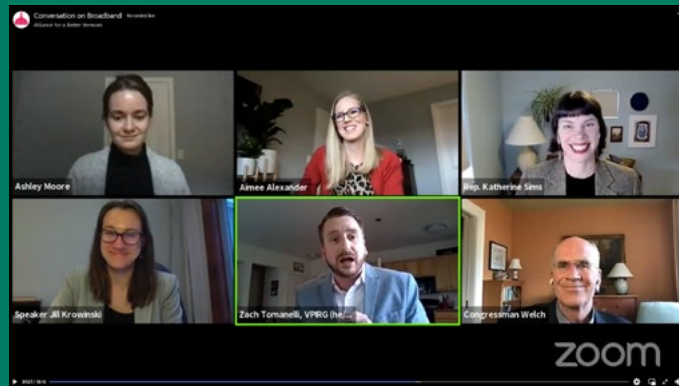
Your support is what has allowed us to continue operating during these unprecedented times, and the compassion you have showed to our staff has not gone unnoticed, so thank you.

As with most things these days, we can’t say for sure what the future holds for the VPIRG canvass. We certainly hope to see you at your

door in 2022, in greater numbers than ever, but the health and safety of our staff and membership comes first. Either way, keep an eye out – there may be a VPIRG canvasser biking up your driveway sooner than you think!

# COMMUNITY BROADBAND GETS A BOOST:

## Why 2021 Was a Milestone Year for Bridging the Digital Divide in Vermont



In 2021, VPIRG's Zach Tomanelli took part in a virtual discussion, hosted by the Alliance for a Better Vermont, on Vermont's path to universal broadband with several policymakers including Vermont Speaker Jill Krowinski and U.S. Rep. Peter Welch.



If Vermont finally achieves its goal of bringing reliable, affordable, high-speed internet to every Vermonter, we'll likely look back on 2021 as the year that really became possible.

Of course, universal high-speed service has been a goal — in Vermont law no less — since 2014. It's also been a priority of VPIRG's for years. But in 2021, the Vermont legislature enacted Act 71 into law — the most significant investment in state history to provide world-class broadband internet service to every Vermont resident.

This legislation is monumental not just because of the substantial funding it provides, but because it's a major endorsement of and investment in the community-owned broadband model that VPIRG, local broadband advocates, and certain legislative leaders have been championing for years.

Instead of directing precious resources to the same large telecoms that have failed to deliver universal access to Vermonters, Act 71 invests in community-based solutions.

This legislation directs \$150 million toward the state's Communications Union Districts and small telecom providers to build out world-class, fiber-to-the-home networks in the next few years.

**Critically, Act 71 ensures that funding will only go to entities that have a plan to provide universal service in their territories—a provision VPIRG fought to keep in the legislation.**

The law also established the Vermont Community Broadband Board which is tasked with awarding these funds to deserving projects and guiding the buildout of fiber internet to unserved and underserved Vermonters in the next few years.

In November, the Community Broadband Board awarded the first \$10 million in grants to four different Communications Districts to clear the way for broadband construction in 2022. And in December, the Board facilitated the bulk purchase of 2,000 miles of fiber optic cable to build publicly owned broadband networks across the state.

VPIRG has long believed that jumpstarting community-owned broadband efforts is the key to addressing Vermont's connectivity issues. Act 71 supercharges those efforts and that's why we advocated so strongly for its enactment.

Community-owned networks are much more consumer-friendly than the giant telecoms. On average, they're more affordable and provide better speeds than large telecoms while prioritizing bedrock consumer protection principles like net neutrality and user privacy.

There is still a great deal more work that needs to be done to bridge the digital divide in Vermont — but 2021, and Act 71, will be seen as a major milestone in accomplishing that goal and VPIRG is proud to have played a role in making that achievement possible.



## VPIRG, Allies Enact Nation's Strongest PFAS Chemical Ban

VPIRG scored one of our biggest victories yet in the fight to protect Vermonters from harmful chemicals when legislators passed a sweeping ban in PFAS toxins in consumer products in 2021. Despite strident opposition from the chemical industry, VPIRG and our allies successfully argued that PFAS should be eliminated from food packaging, firefighting foam, ski wax, rugs, and carpets. The law also requires more disclosure on PFAS used in other products.

**PFAS, or poly- and perfluoroalkyl substances, are toxic chemicals that have been widely used in industry and consumer products since the 1950s.**

Known as "forever chemicals" because of their long lifespan, PFAS have been linked to harmful health impacts including high blood pressure, thyroid disease, kidney, and testicular cancers, and suppressed immune system function. Harm to the immune system due to

PFAS exposure has broad-ranging effects, from reduced ability to fight off viral infections to reduced responsiveness to vaccines, the latter being of particular concern during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Over the years, VPIRG has worked to raise awareness in the legislature about this harmful class of chemicals and establish frameworks for identifying PFAS contamination in drinking water. And Vermont is no stranger to PFAS contamination. In 2016, elevated levels of PFOA (a type of PFAS chemical) were found in hundreds of wells in Bennington County, close to the former ChemFab plant, which manufactured Teflon coating for over 30 years and released PFOA into the air.

Since then, elevated PFAS levels have been found in drinking water at a number of other locations around the state, including at sites in Grafton, Pownal, and Clarendon. In 2020, water testing found unacceptable levels of PFAS in seven public water systems across the state. Most were linked to firefighting foam or industrial manufacturing, but a strong correlation was found between contamination and ski towns, pointing to ski wax as a potential culprit of PFAS contamination in water.

Legislation aimed at addressing PFAS in consumer products had been passed by the Senate in 2020 but derailed in the House when the pandemic hit. The legislation was re-introduced in 2021 by Senators Ginny Lyons and Brian Campion as S.20. VPIRG worked closely with our allies including Conservation Law Foundation, Vermont Conservation Voters, Professional Firefighters of Vermont, and Seventh Generation, to build support for the legislation over weeks of testimony.

VPIRG's own Marcie Gallagher delivered compelling testimony and helped to marshal support for the bill as it cleared committee and headed to the Senate floor for a vote. Industry lobbyists continued to object, but our coalition was incredibly effective, which ultimately led to unanimous votes in favor of S.20 in the Senate on March 19th and in the House on May 11th, 2021. The bill was signed into law by Governor Scott one week later. S.20 represents the strongest PFAS legislation in the country and will help to pave the way for other states and the federal government to take action against this dangerous family of toxins.

# VPIRG 2021 Year in Review



## JANUARY

**VPIRG pushes Vermont leaders to call for Donald Trump’s resignation or removal in wake of Jan. 6 Capitol Riots:** We certainly didn’t expect to start the year urging our elected leaders to call for the removal of the president, but after supporters of then-President Donald Trump violently stormed the U.S. Capitol in an attempt to prevent the counting of electoral votes, we knew we had to act. In a matter of days, more than 1,600 VPIRG members added their names to a petition asking Vermont leaders to call for Trump’s removal from office – and they did. Gov. Phil Scott issued a statement calling for the president to resign or be removed, and the Vermont legislature passed a resolution calling for the same.

## FEBRUARY

**Better Ballot Burlington Campaign Launches:** VPIRG has long supported Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) as a way of making our democracy fairer and more functional – allowing voters to rank their preferred candidates for office thereby ensuring that we elect leaders with actual majority support and eliminate the spoiler effect in our elections. In 2021, we convened a diverse coalition (co-chaired by former Gov. Howard Dean and City Councilor Zoraya Hightower) in support of a proposed charter change in Burlington to require RCV to be used in races for City Council moving forward.



## MARCH

**Big wins for VPIRG supported ballot-items on Town Meeting Day:** The Better Ballot Burlington campaign was a huge success, with Burlington voters decisively approving the Ranked Choice Voting measure with 64% voting in support. But that wasn’t our only Town Meeting Day victory. VPIRG also supported successful ballot initiatives in Burlington that would allow the city to pursue climate solutions in the heating sector by granting the city local control of building heating systems and ensuring that any policies adopted as part of that effort prioritize Burlingtonians who are of low and moderate income, BIPOC, and otherwise disadvantaged.

**VPIRG and VT Legal Aid successfully push for extension of utility-shutoff moratorium:** In 2020, VPIRG and our friends at VT Legal Aid succeeded in getting the Public Utilities Commission to extend a moratorium on involuntary utility disconnections due to nonpayment of electricity, natural gas, and landline phone through the 2020-2021 COVID winter, to ensure that nobody would lose access to essential utilities as the COVID crisis continued. With that moratorium set to expire in March of 2021, and the public health/economic crisis continuing, we pushed for and won another extension of the moratorium.

## APRIL

**Vermont House passes Bottle Bill Modernization:** In 2021, VPIRG, our members, and allies made major progress on one of our longest standing priorities—modernizing Vermont’s popular and effective Bottle Bill. In April, the Vermont House passed legislation (H.175) that would expand the Bottle Bill program to include wine and non-carbonated drinks like water, iced tea, and sports drinks. Read the full story on pg. 11 for more.

## MAY

**Lawmakers give final approval to first-in-the-nation PFAS regulation:** The Vermont Legislature gave final approval to a nation-leading bill that would restrict the sale of certain consumer products that contain toxic chemicals known as PFAS — per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances linked to harmful health impacts. Read the full story on pg. 17 for more.

**VT Legislature goes big on climate:** As part of the budget process, the Vermont legislature devoted \$46 million to direct climate spending and laid out in no uncertain terms that over the next three years, they will be devoting \$250 million to cutting Vermont’s climate pollution. The legislature also included a VPIRG-supported Transportation Modernization Package in the Transportation Bill that included almost \$12 million for climate programs. Read more on pg. 4.



## JUNE

**Universal Vote-By-Mail becomes law:** After being unhelpful with efforts to put vote-by-mail in place for the 2020 election, Gov. Phil Scott ultimately reversed course in 2021 and signed into law VPIRG-backed legislation ensuring that every active, registered Vermont voter will receive their general election ballot in the mail going forward. Read more about how this victory is the latest in a long line of VPIRG backed policies that have helped make Vermont the most voter-friendly state in the nation on pg. 8

**Community Broadband Bill enacted:** Vermont policymakers made the most significant investment in state history toward providing world-class broadband internet service to every Vermont resident in 2021. Read more about how Vermont is becoming a model for providing broadband in a rural state and doing it without the giant telecom providers on pg. 16.

## JULY

**The Summer Canvass heads back to Vermonsters’ doorsteps:** For the second straight year, it was a summer unlike any other at VPIRG as we completed our first ever “hybrid” canvass. Out of an abundance of caution, we made the decision to kick off our 2021 canvass virtually, on the phones, with over a dozen new canvassers contacting thousands of VPIRG members remotely. Eventually, we were able to return to doing what we do best: going door-to-door, renewing memberships, and rallying grassroots support—all of which gave a big boost to our campaign to modernize Vermont’s most successful recycling program: the Bottle Bill.

## AUGUST

**VPIRG takes part in Make Polluters Pay campaign:** VPIRG joined a national effort to push federal lawmakers to establish a “Polluters Pay Climate Fund” to ensure that big fossil fuel companies pay for the climate devastation they have caused and to use that money to pay for climate solutions to clean up their mess. In August, we delivered petitions signed by more than a thousand VPIRG members to the offices of Sens. Leahy and Sanders in support of the Polluters Pay Fund.



## SEPTEMBER

**VPIRG endorses reproductive liberty amendment:** The VPIRG Board of Trustees voted unanimously to endorse the Reproductive Liberty Amendment that will appear on the Vermont ballot in 2022. If approved, this amendment would enshrine an individual’s right to reproductive freedom in the state constitution, ensuring that even if the U.S. Supreme Court overturns its longstanding precedent, Vermonters’ reproductive rights will be safeguarded.

## OCTOBER

**Coalition calls for phase out of mercury lighting in Vermont:** VPIRG joined the Mercury Policy Project and the Clean Lighting Coalition to release a report highlighting the environmental and health risks posed by mercury fluorescent light bulbs and other lighting products. The report provides concrete steps government, businesses and consumers can take to accelerate the transition to widely available LED lighting, which is mercury-free, more energy-efficient, and more cost-effective. The report’s release coincided with the launch of a VPIRG campaign to press Vermont environmental officials to ban the sale of mercury lighting in the Green Mountain State.

**Climate activists oppose GlobalFoundries dirty energy deal:** VPIRG delivered a petition signed by over 760 concerned Vermonters to the Vermont Public Utility Commission urging commissioners to reject GlobalFoundries’ demand to be exempted from renewable energy and climate laws. VPIRG members joined with other climate activists, including a large contingent from the Vermont Youth Lobby, to demonstrate at GlobalFoundries’ Essex plant, calling the microchip manufacturer out for this proposed dirty energy deal.

## NOVEMBER

**VPIRG calls on REI to go PFAS-free:** Many popular outdoor brands use PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) to waterproof their products — from jackets to boots. In November, VPIRG joined a national campaign to urge outdoor gear retailer REI to stop selling PFAS polluting products. The company has announced a phase-out of PFAS chemicals in a handful of product categories. This shows that REI executives know they have a responsibility to address PFAS, but it’s only a baby step that is nowhere near the scale that’s needed to address our toxic pollution crisis.

## DECEMBER

**Vermont Climate Action Plan adopted:** The Global Warming Solutions Act required that the Vermont Climate Council adopt an initial Climate Action Plan by December 1, 2021. On a 19 to 4 vote, the Council did adopt a plan that, while far from perfect, lays the foundation for Vermont to finally treat the climate crisis with the seriousness it demands and get on track to meet our climate requirements.

**VPIRG delivers 10,000+ signatures to Senate in support of Bottle Bill modernization:** As 2021 came to a close, canvassers from VPIRG’s summer campaign gathered at the Vermont State House to deliver the more than 10,000 petition signatures they collected to Senate President Pro Tem Becca Balint, urging the Vermont Senate to take up and pass H.175 – the legislation to update Vermont’s Bottle Bill.

# NEW FACES ON THE BOARD

## Anna Seuberling, President

Anna is an environmental studies major at the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources at the University of Vermont. Originally from Cincinnati, Ohio, she moved to Vermont in hopes of receiving her diploma and living in a culture that more closely aligned with her values. Anna first joined VPIRG as a canvasser in May 2021, before being promoted to Field Manager, where she was responsible for the daily operations of a small canvassing team. She is excited to bring her canvass experience and her fresh perspective on environmental and social justice to the VPIRG board as student trustee and board president.



## Diana González



Diana has over two decades of experience developing social change leaders in education, activism, and electoral politics through her work as a trainer and facilitator. She lives in Winooski and represented Chittenden 6-7 in the Vermont House of Representatives from 2014-2020; sitting on the House General committee as the Ranking Member and the assistant leader of the Progressive House caucus. She proudly worked on climate solutions, racial justice bills, and many labor rights bills.

Diana grew up in Southern California and has called Vermont her home since 2002. Her full time work is now as the Director of Leadership Programs at Equality Federation, the strategic partner to state-based organizations working to win equality in the communities we call home. In addition to her masters degree in Conflict Transformation from the SIT graduate institute she may one day finish her dissertation in Education, Leadership and Policy from the University of Vermont.

## Sinéad Murray

Sinéad is a senior at the University of Vermont majoring in Political Science and English. An interest in voting rights spurred by watching her father go through the naturalization process led her to Burlington, where she found a rich political community. In her time with VPIRG she has been a canvasser, field manager, and intern with the Climate & Energy Program, and she plans to return to the 2022 summer canvass after graduating. She is originally from Long Island.



# Powered by You: Our 2021 Finances by the Numbers

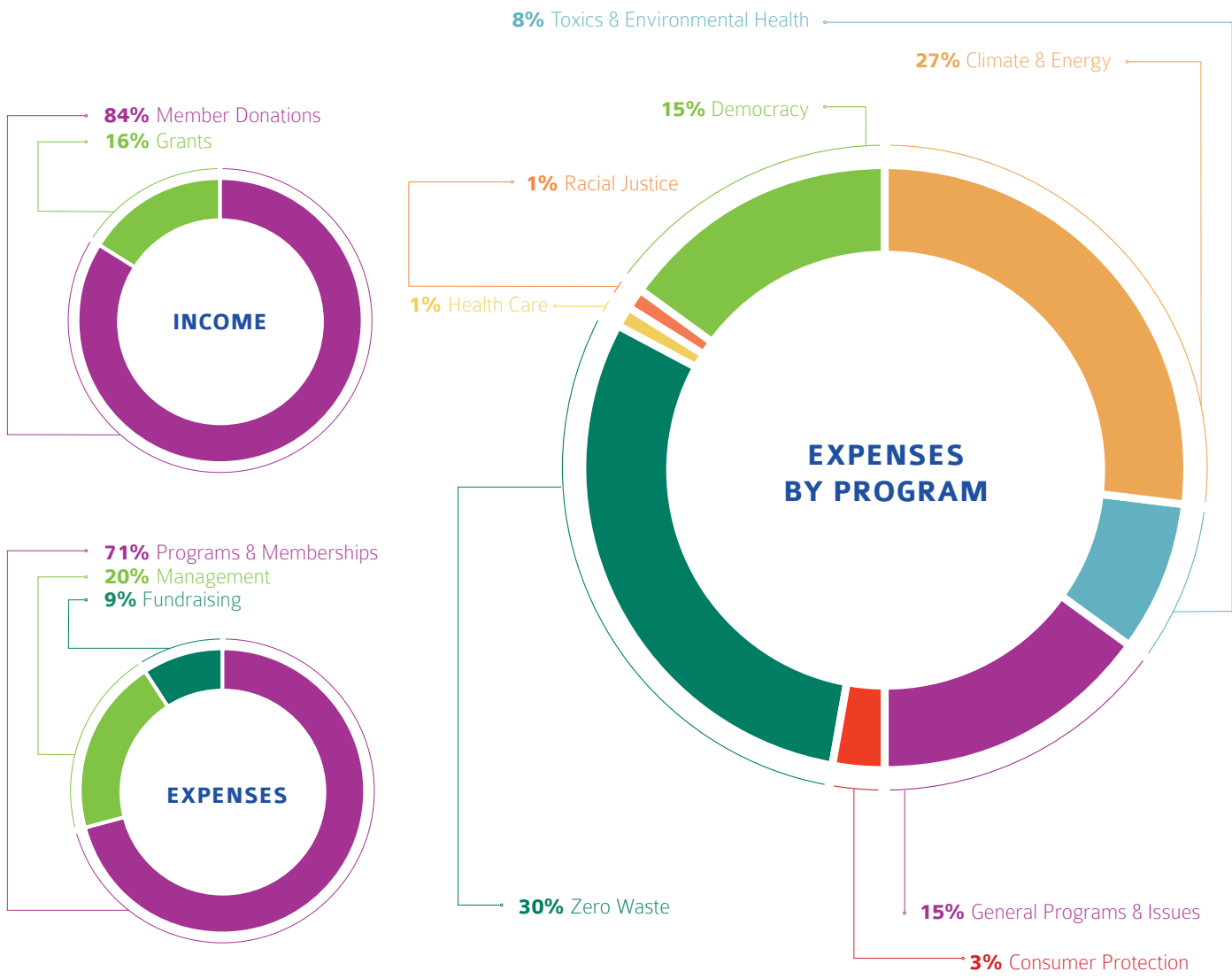
In 2021, despite facing ongoing challenges related to the pandemic, thousands of Vermonters continued to support VPIRG with grassroots contributions. The big-money special interests don't fund groups like ours, and we wouldn't take their money if they did. VPIRG is a people-powered organization and proud of it.

Your support allows VPIRG to continue to educate thousands of Vermonters every year about the critical issues we face and then

mobilize them in support of solutions that advance the public interest. So, thank you.

VPIRG and VPIREF combined income totaled \$1,995,862, of which more than \$1,669,366 came from individual member donations, 44% of that coming from our monthly sustaining members. Combined expenses totaled \$1,727,241. Program expenses and member services account for 71% of our expenses.

|          | VPIRG       | VPIREF    | TOTAL       |
|----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| Income   | \$1,308,186 | \$687,676 | \$1,995,862 |
| Expenses | \$1,168,439 | \$558,803 | \$1,727,241 |



# Supporters

**Note: While we wish we could thank every single member in this annual report it's impossible to list the thousands of VPIRG supporters statewide. The generosity of those listed in this report deserves special recognition.**

## Foundations & Grants

American Endowment Foundation  
Applied Materials Foundation  
Ben and Jerry's Foundation  
Blittersdorf Family Foundation  
Concept2 Fund  
FairVote Action  
Gay & Lesbian Fund of Vermont  
Green New Fund  
John Merck Fund  
Lintilhac Foundation  
Patagonia  
RepresentUs Education Fund  
Rockefeller Family Fund  
Ruth H. Brown Foundation  
Serena Foundation  
Seventh Generation Foundation  
State Alliance for Federal Reform of Chemical Policy  
Sustainable Markets Foundation  
The Salon Family Foundation  
The Tides Center  
Unite America

## Individuals

Maryanne Abad  
Craig and Samuel Abel-Palmer  
Shaurice Abney  
Jeff Adams  
Mary and Bruce Albert  
The Alchemist Brewery  
Barry Aleshnick and Martina Sczesny-Aleshnick  
Frances Alford  
Deborah Allen  
Wesley Allen and Susan Busier  
Chris Anderson and Nancy Ward  
Steve Anderson  
Jody Andreoletti  
Lu Ann Lovejoy  
Jo Anne Lamore  
Jim Antal  
Katherine Arthaud  
Ken Arthur  
Peter and Michele Asch  
Michael Atkinson  
Betsy Austin and Lawrence Damon  
Isla Awen  
Peter Backman  
Naomi and Jonathan Badger  
David Baker  
Susan Baldridge  
Phillip Bannister and Basha Freudenberg  
Christine Barnes and Gordon Perkinson  
Corey Barnes  
Marianne and Bob Barton  
Thomas Baskett and Diane Nancekivell  
Melita Bass  
Dennis Bates and Ann Hazelrigg  
Paul Bauers  
Trudi Beaman-Martinez  
Natalie Beckwith and Chris Swasey  
Bob Belenky  
Jesse Bell  
Bettina Berg and Chris Harlow  
Margaret Berlin  
Arthur Berndt  
Julie and Paul Best  
Michael Beyna  
Faith Bieler  
Desiree Biesheuvel  
Diana Bingham  
Mark and Katherine Bishop  
Eric Bishop and Barb Frankowski  
Paul Bishop  
Linda and Thomas Blakely  
Joseph Blakely  
Tiffany Bluernle and Elizabeth Shayne  
Whitey Bluestein  
Catherine Bock  
Tom Bodett and Rita Ramirez

Zon and Zon Easter  
Diana Eberhardt  
Linda Edelman and Greg Edwards  
William and Susan Edwards  
Amy Ehrlich  
David Ellenbogen  
Julie and Richard Elmore  
Georgia Eltabbakh  
Mary English  
David and Sandra Enman  
Martha Erickson and Mark Carbone  
Caryn Etherington  
Lisa Evarts  
Margaret Everitt  
John Evers  
Blake Fabrikant  
John and Katherine Feldmann  
Michael Fenzel  
Chantal Ferland  
David Feurzeig and Annelies Mcvoy  
Julie Filiberti  
Kim Findlay  
Anne Fines  
Deborah Cafiero  
Alicia Fisk  
Frances Fitzgerald  
Karen Flanagan  
Mollie Flanigan  
Mitch and Kim Fleischer  
Vicki and Manuel Fletcher  
Mark Floegel and Ada Puches  
Kim and Daniel Fodor  
Patricia Fontaine  
Florence Ford  
Gisele and David Fortier  
Jill Fox  
Terence and Janet Francis  
Janet Franklin  
Victoria Fraser  
Ben and Jennie Freeman  
Anne French  
Anne and Walter Frey  
Danit Fried and Roger Kessler  
Milton and Carolyn Frye  
Stephanie Gallas  
Bill and Patricia Gardner  
Debra Gardner-Baasch and David Baasch  
Helen Garvey  
Diane Geer and Richard Dreissigacker  
Richard Geidel and Nancy Braus  
Elizabeth and Anthony Gemignani  
Bonnie Gengras  
Sarah Gerdeman  
Kristine and William Gerson  
Elaine Geyer  
Christina and Peter Gibbons  
Sarah Gibson  
Tom Gilbert and Molly Barber  
Roger and Sandra Gillim  
Frederick Gimson  
Ann Goering and Sharon Hopper  
Jefferson Goethals  
Kathryn Gonzalez and John Waldron  
Rebecca Gooch  
Natalie and Wallace Good  
Elizabeth Goodman and William Gannon  
Virginia Goodman  
Jennifer Graham  
Jon Graham and Beth Frock  
Elizabeth Gray  
Linda Gray  
Jerry Greenfield and Elizabeth Skarie  
Tom Greiner  
Doris and David Grippin  
Patricia Guilfoyle  
Doreen Guillette  
Hobart Guion and Abigail Faulkner  
Michael and Jennifer Haas  
Mary Hadley and Steve Orzech  
Colleen Halley  
Judy Hamel  
John Hancock  
Jim Hand  
Thomas Hand  
Jacob Hansen  
Diana Harbour  
Marcy Harding and Daniel Martin  
Judith Harlow  
Andrew Harper  
Meg Harris  
Willa Harris

Lisa and Craig Harvey  
John and Margaret Haskins  
Bambi Hatch  
Raymond Hathaway  
Emmy and Rick Hausman  
Kim Hayden  
Thomas Hayes  
Deborah and Byron Haynes  
Martha and Douglas Heaberlin  
Chip Hedler  
William Heigis and Tricia Dwyer  
Tom Helm and Barbara Moulton  
Marcy Hermansader  
Eduardo Hernandez  
Jeffrey and Amanda Herzberger  
John Hescocck  
Susan Hessey  
Terrie Higley  
Kory Hirak  
Carla Hochschild and John Barbour  
Martina Hofmann  
Penny and Patrick Hogan  
Steve Holman  
Gail Holmes  
Wendy and Dan Fisher  
Alicia Fisk  
Frances Fitzgerald  
Karen Flanagan  
Philip Hooper  
Cynthia and Peter Hoppmann  
Greg Hostetler  
Anne and Ronald Houser  
Anna Howell  
Elaine Huang  
Edith Hubbell  
Thomas Hughes  
Kimberly Hunt and Alexander Messenger  
Gale Hurd  
Stephanie Hurley and Christopher Kilian  
Jeff Hutchinson  
John Hynes  
Anthony Iarrapino and Joslyn Wilschek  
Phyllis Iorlano  
Larry Isenberg  
Joy Jaffe  
Anne Jameson  
Jason Jamieson  
Paul and Mary Jane Ohlson  
Louise and Seth Jensen  
Peter Jewett  
Robert Johnson  
Cristine Jones  
David Juckett  
Amy Judd  
Janet Kahn and Rose Gowdey  
Sue Kavanagh  
Freiderike Keating  
Gary Keiser  
Robert and Dorothy Keller  
Kim Kelley  
Joanna and Robert Kelly  
Jean Kelly and Lee Rosen  
John Kelly and Sara Coburn  
Donald and Martha Kent  
Meredith Kenyon and William Bissonnette  
John Kern and Valerie Hurley  
Marc Kessler  
John and Jill Kiedaisch  
Beth Kiendl  
Jeanne Kiewel and Stuart Savel  
Lorraine and Warren Kimble  
Warren and Barry King  
Karen Klotz and Jerry Schneider  
Jane Knight  
Pam Koerper  
Karjala Koponen  
Natasha and Megan Kouns  
Dominic and Dorothy Koval  
Kim and Peter Kowanko  
Thomas and Katherine Kyle  
Thomas and Elizabeth Lackey  
Bethany Ladimer  
Lincoln and Lionel Lande  
Damon Lane  
Sara Larkin  
Terry and Rebecca Larsen  
Debra Lavalley  
Barbara and Joel Lazar  
Dwayne and Beth LeClair  
Shannon Leigh Broughton-Smith  
Joan and Helmut Lenes

Linda Lennox  
Ellen Lesser  
Diana Levine  
Gary Lewis  
Joan Liggett  
William Lintilhac  
Anne and Benjamin Littenberg  
Christopher Lloyd and Vassiliki Sinopoulos  
Todd Lockwood  
Melanie Loschiavo  
Mary Louise Pierson  
Stephen Lowe and Margaret Lowe  
Jane and Derek Lowell  
Sarah Lyda  
Jack Lyons  
Betsy Macisaac  
Janet Macleod  
Amy Macrellis  
Oliver Manice  
Steven and Debra Mardin  
Kristin Marriott  
Ellen Marsden  
Charles Martin  
Hilary Maslow  
Amy Mason  
Douglas Massey  
Margaret Mathauer  
Cecil Maxfield and Steve Lloyd  
Joanna May and Daniel Weinstein  
Michael McCarthy  
Bruce McCarty  
David McColgin  
Justina and Andrew McConnell  
Jeanne McCool  
Jim McCracken  
Louise McDougal  
Alida and Kevin McGuire  
Gregory McHugo and Mary Conrad  
Claudia McKay and Beth Dingman  
Denise McPeters  
Patricia and Christopher McVeigh  
Shani Mekler and Drew Gelfenbein  
Joerg Mellmann  
Helen Merena  
Greg Merhar and Debra Leonard  
Thomas Mertz  
David Merves  
Jens and Heike Meyer  
Robert Meyer  
Christy and Marc Mihaly  
Cathleen Miller  
Heather Miller  
Ronald Miller  
Elise and John Minadeo  
Keith Mintz  
Andrew and Lisa Mitchell  
Biff Mithoefer  
Kendall Mix  
Suzanne Montalvan  
Jen Montgomery  
James and Mia Moore  
Alan Moore  
Celine Moore and Erik Esselstyn  
George Moore and Margery McCrum  
Brian Morgan  
Greg Morgan and Toni Germain-Morgan  
Colleen and Richard Moulton  
Sally Moulton and Chris Huvos  
Barbara Mudge and G. Mudge  
Ryan Murphy  
James and Karen Neeson  
Nancy Newbury-Andresen  
Elizabeth Nickerson  
John and Ann Nordmeyer  
Joan and Clayton Norton  
Lisa and Thomas Nostroud  
Carol and Gerald Noyes  
Anne Oakes and Andrew Ohotnicky  
Vickie and David Obomsawin  
Sarah O'Brien  
Carol O'Connor  
Sharon O'Connor and Geo Honigford  
Brian Ogilby  
Jennifer Oldham  
Glenn Olf  
Rosemary Orgren  
Lee and Clark Orsky  
Lyman Orton  
Shay and Mikaela Osler  
Michael O'Sullivan  
Alan and Kathy Ouellette

John Owen  
Susan Ownings  
Christine Paeglow  
Joan and John Parker  
Alison Parker and Robert Fuller  
J Parker Huber  
Joseph and Alice Patalano  
Avram Patt  
Alan and Pam Patunoff  
Elizabeth Peabody  
Matthew Peake  
David Pearson  
Anthony and Patricia Pelton  
Lisa and Douglas Perkins  
Diane Perrin  
Timothy Perrin  
Alan Perry  
Teresa and Richard Pete  
J. Peter Young  
Elizabeth Peters  
Duane Peterson  
Anthony and Sue Pietricola  
Jane Pincus  
Joseph Piscotty and Carol Maulhardt  
Ellen Pitkin  
Maurice and Penny Plouffe  
Patricia Polk  
Lance Polya  
Debbie Pond-Reis  
Brian and Lindsay Post  
Melissa Post  
Jo-Ann Potter  
Andrew and Amy Powers  
Judy Pransky  
Richard Presson  
Bob and Ellen Primeau  
Douglas Pruitt  
Jennifer Przysinda-Patterson  
William Purdy  
Anders Pytte  
Geraldine Quinlan  
Pamela and Erin Quinn  
Will Raap  
Valerie Racine  
Bill and Alison Racolin  
Megan Randall  
Dave Rapaport and Jeanne Kirby  
Stacy and Jory Raphael  
Diana Raphael  
Hillary Read  
Dorianne Reil  
Aaron Reiter  
Greg Renallo and Kat Snead  
Piper and Alan Rexford  
Lynn Reynolds  
Jon Rickard  
Pam Rickard  
Dan and Shirley Ridgeway  
Steve Risberg and Annie Fetter  
Susan Ritz and Ethan Atkin  
Kelly and Matt Rizzo  
Kathleen Robbins  
Deborah Roberts  
Thomas Roberts  
Bradley and Linda Robinson  
Charlotte and Steve Robinson  
Kate and Andy Robinson  
Andrew Robinson and Janet Waterman  
Deborah Robinson  
Andrea Rogers  
Mary Rogers  
Jack and Penny Rohrbach  
Susan Roman  
Jennifer Ronconi  
Bill Roper  
Richard Roy  
Mathew Rubin  
Gilbert Ruff and Susan Bonthron  
Paul and Susan Rump  
Donna and Jeffery Rusik  
Jess and Robert Russell  
Sue Ryan  
Heather Salon and Adam Weinstein  
Michael Sateia  
Sarah Saul  
Wendy Saville and Thomas Clavelle  
Joseph Scaro and Janet Shepler  
Falko and Elizabeth Schilling  
Andrew Schlatter and Krista Coombs  
Katherine Schneider  
Kate and Bill Schubart

Paul Schulick  
Jan Schultz  
Megan Schultz  
Michael and Mary Scollins  
Rebecca and Lauren Scott  
Leigh Seddon and Ann Aspell  
Bari Shamas  
Del Sheldon  
Sandra Shenk and Charles Boright  
Katharine Shepherd  
Maria Short  
Dane and Joan Shortsleeve  
George Shover  
Diane and Donald Siegriest  
Jack and Elizabeth Simmons  
Joseph Slakas  
Taryn and Stuart Slote  
Barbara and David Smith  
Jacob and Meghan Smith  
Marijke and Mark Smith  
Margaret Smith  
Oakley Smith and Katherine Manaras  
Todd Smith  
Trudy Smith  
Julie Snow  
John Sollinger and Brenda Waters  
Richard Solomon and Lausinda Poirier-Solomon  
Nick Spadarrini  
Lydia Spitzer and Dottie Deans  
Elizabeth and Julian Sprague  
Jeffrey Sprague  
Elizabeth Squier  
Christine and Christopher Staffa  
Rosemarie Stahl  
Pam Steeg and Bruce Jamieson  
Elizabeth Steele  
Tim Steele  
Margaret Steggerda  
William and Jane Stetson  
David Stewart  
Ruth Stewart  
Sarah Stewart and James Cuno  
Ian Stokes  
Bill Stone  
Sophia Stone  
Kari Storm  
Bernard Stupski  
Robert Summers  
Sunsoil  
Sam Swanson  
Randy Taplin  
Holly Taylor and Alison Bechdel  
Mark Taylor and Kristin Root  
Dr. Terry Naumann  
David Thomas and Catherine Porter  
Mary Thome  
Peter Thoms  
Janet Thygesen  
Siu Tip Lam  
Susan and Bob Titterton  
Thayer Tomlinson  
Karen Towle and Larry Abell  
Mary Trammell  
Sheila Trask and Ian Brown  
Robert Tudek and Jennifer Allen  
Preston and Christine Turner  
Damian Turner and Lon Gilles-Turner  
Hillary Twining  
Johanna Vaczy  
Paul Vaczy and Barbara Karle  
Barth and Betty Vander Els  
Kathie Voigt Walsh and David Walsh  
Jennifer and Luman Wadhams  
Dana Wagner  
Elizabeth Wagner and Kelley McLean  
Pat and Peter Waite  
John Waldo and Mary Welz  
Ray and Jeannie Walker  
Kim Walker  
Kimberly Wallin  
Janet Wallstein and Jane Dewey  
Katherine Walsh  
Paul and Michelle Wangenheim  
Jenny Warshow  
Jim and Milde Waterfall  
Laurie Webb  
Denise Webster  
Benjamin Wein  
Peter Weith and Karen Fondacaro  
Michael and Phyllis Wells

Rachel Westbrook  
Jane Westervelt  
Frederick and Karen Weston  
James and Patricia Westrich  
Mary Whalen  
Kyle Wheel  
David White  
Tobin White  
Edward Whitney and Martha Howell  
Susan Whitney  
Richard Whittlesey  
John Widness  
Cassandra Wilday  
Sarah and Stuart Williams  
Stanton and Jennifer Williams  
Norman Williams  
Sidney Williams  
Ruth Wilmont  
Priscilla Wilson  
Jason and Dena Wimette  
Nat and Martha Winthrop  
Karen Witt  
Martin Wolf  
Dori and Jeff Wolfe  
Alexander Wolff  
Heidi and Kevin Wood  
Jean and Earl Wright  
Anne Wulffraat  
Matthew and Jennifer Wyman  
Kimberly Y. Kimball  
Elizabeth Yntema  
Mary Thome  
Josephine Thompson and Anne MacKsoud  
Margaret and Ronald Thompson  
Peter Thoms  
Janet Thygesen  
Thayer Tomlinson  
Larry Abell and Karen Towle  
Paula Tracy  
Ian Brown and Sheila Trask  
Robert Tudek and Jennifer Allen  
Damian Turner  
Preston and Christine Turner  
Gail Tuscany  
Barbara Karle and Paul Vaczy  
Johanna Vaczy  
Amy Van Nosfraud  
Barth and Betty Vander Els  
Stephanie Victoria  
Zancy VonHooks  
John Waldo and Mary Welz  
Kim Walker  
Ray and Jeanne Walker  
Kimberly Wallin  
Kathie Voigt Walsh and David Walsh  
John Walz  
Sayre and Dan Wardell  
Jenny Warshow  
Barbara Waters  
Brenda Waters and John Sollinger  
Laurie Webb  
Lee Webb  
Denise Webster  
Benjamin Wein  
Edward Weissman and Steven Smith  
Constance West  
Jane Westervelt  
Jennifer and TJ Whalen  
David White  
Susan White and Kenneth Brown  
Tobin White  
Richard Whittlesey  
Michael Wickenden  
William McKim and Cheryl Wilfong  
Norman Williams  
Sidney Williams  
Stanton and Jennifer Williams  
Jason and Dena Wimette  
Martha and Nat Winthrop  
Aaron Wisniewski  
Karen Witt  
Peter and Mina Wohl  
Dori and Jeff Wolfe  
Alexander Wolff  
Jonathan and Phoebe Wolfman  
Jean and Earl Wright  
Anne Wulffraat  
Matthew and Jennifer Wyman  
Kimberly Y. Kimball  
Elizabeth Yntema



Vermont Public Interest  
Research Group  
141 Main Street, Suite 6  
Montpelier, VT 05602  
[vpirg.org](http://vpirg.org)

NONPROFIT ORG  
U S POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
THE MAILING CENTER  
05641

## YEAR-ROUND STAFF



**Paul Burns**  
Executive Director



**Liz Edsell**  
Associate Director



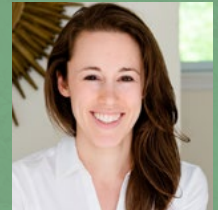
**Becca Mandigo**  
Finance & Administration  
Director



**Ben Edgerly Walsh**  
Climate & Energy  
Program Director



**Elijah Kushen**  
Communications  
Coordinator



**Emma Huvos**  
Development Director



**Jordan Heiden**  
Climate Campaign  
Manager



**Liam O'Sullivan**  
Climate & Energy  
Associate



**Lily Seward**  
Climate & Energy Fellow



**Marcie Gallagher**  
Environmental Advocate



**Melissa Harwood**  
Membership &  
Events Manager



**Molly Feldman**  
Environmental Associate



**Sam McGinty**  
Democracy Associate



**Sebbi Wu**  
Climate & Equity  
Advocate



**Tom Hughes**  
Senior Strategist



**Zach Tomanelli**  
Communications &  
Engagement Director

### VPIRG Board of Directors

#### OFFICERS

**Anna Seuberling**, President,  
Burlington, Student, UVM

**Chris Miller**, Vice President, South  
Burlington, Head of Global Activism  
Strategy, Ben & Jerry's

**Jen Duggan**, Secretary, Montpelier  
Deputy Director, Environmental  
Integrity Project

**Marianne Barton**, Treasurer,  
Moretown, Co-founder, Catalyst  
Clean Energy Finance LLC

#### TRUSTEES

**Aiko Schaefer**, Stowe, Director,  
Just Solutions Collective & Strategic  
Consultant

**Ashley Orgain**, Burlington,  
Global Director Advocacy &  
Sustainability, Seventh Generation

**Biff Mithoefer**, Dorset,  
Author and Yoga Teacher

**Diana González**, Winooski,  
Director of Leadership Programs,  
Equality Federation

**Drew Hudson**, Rochester,  
Executive Director, Environmental  
Action and Founding Partner at  
PowerThru Consulting

**Dori Wolfe**, Strafford,  
Owner and Principal, Wolfe Energy

**Duane Peterson**, Essex Junction,  
Co-Director, SunCommon

**Kanika Gandhi**, South Burlington,  
Agrichemical Section Chief,  
Vermont's Agency of Agriculture

**Mathew Rubin**, Montpelier,  
President, Spruce Mt. Design

**Dr. Michael Scollins**, South  
Burlington, Retired Doctor of Internal  
Medicine

**Sinéad Murray**, Burlington,  
Student, UVM

#### VPIREF Board of Trustees

#### OFFICERS

**Kati Gallagher**, President,  
Waterbury, Sustainable Communities  
Program Director, Vermont Natural  
Resources Council

**Falko Schilling**, Secretary,  
Montpelier, Advocacy Director, ACLU  
of Vermont

**Marianne Barton**, Treasurer,  
Moretown, Co-founder, Catalyst  
Clean Energy Finance LLC

#### TRUSTEES

**Bob Barton**, Moretown,  
Co-founder, Catalyst Clean Energy  
Finance LLC

**Crea Lintilhac**, Shelburne,  
Director, Lintilhac Foundation

**Jon Erickson**, Vergennes,  
Professor, University of Vermont