



Vermont Interfaith Power & Light
A faith-based response to global warming

Green Mountains, Blue Water

Earth Care News November

VTIPL's Climate Justice Series Continues

November 12 - *Rooting Out Structural Racism in American Agriculture*



(Photo courtesy Donna Roberts)

- Climate Justice Series - November 12, 7:00 p.m. *Rooting out Structural Racism in American Agriculture*
- VT IPL Youth Board Member Sylvia Burkman: *Refusing to Vote is Not Rebellion, it is Surrender*
- Voters of Faith Support Fighting Climate Change
- Pre-election Interfaith Service at Battery Park. November 2
- Protect the Results. Every Vote Counts. Montpelier, November 4
- Vote the Earth - *Earth Stanzas* - Center for Earth Ethics
- State Appoints Climate Council
- Other Events & Resources



VTIPL's Climate Justice Series

Thursday, November 12, 7:00 p.m.

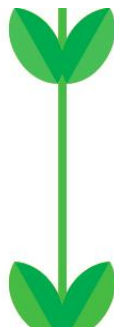
Rooting Out Structural Racism in American Agriculture

Vermont Interfaith Power & Light invites you to participate in this final event in our fall *Climate Justice Series*. Mark your calendars and plan to

join our discussion and presentation of Vermont Law School's extraordinary panel exploring issues of historical and contemporary racism and bias in U.S. farming and agriculture.

Panelists will discuss Black land loss, the connection between agriculture, environmental justice and environmental movements, and the role of lawyers in rooting out racism in the food system. The

presentation is part of the School's Embedded Racism in the Law Panel Series bringing together lawyers fighting structural racism in agriculture. Panelists include:



VLS PRESENTS
EMBEDDED RACISM IN THE LAW PANEL DISCUSSION

**ROOTING OUT
STRUCTURAL
RACISM IN
AMERICAN
AGRICULTURE**



-**Monica Armster Rainge**, Esq, Director of Land Retention and Advocacy, Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund;
-**Stephen Carpenter**, Deputy Director and Senior Staff Attorney, Farmers' Legal Action Group; and
-**Sherri White-Williamson** JD/MERL'18, Environmental Justice Policy Director, North Carolina Conservation Network. The event is moderated by Emily Spiegel. [Register for the Zoom event](#). Learn more about the Center for Agriculture and Food Systems at [VT Law School](#). Please share our Series information with your networks.

***Kiss the Ground* film at Mission Farm**

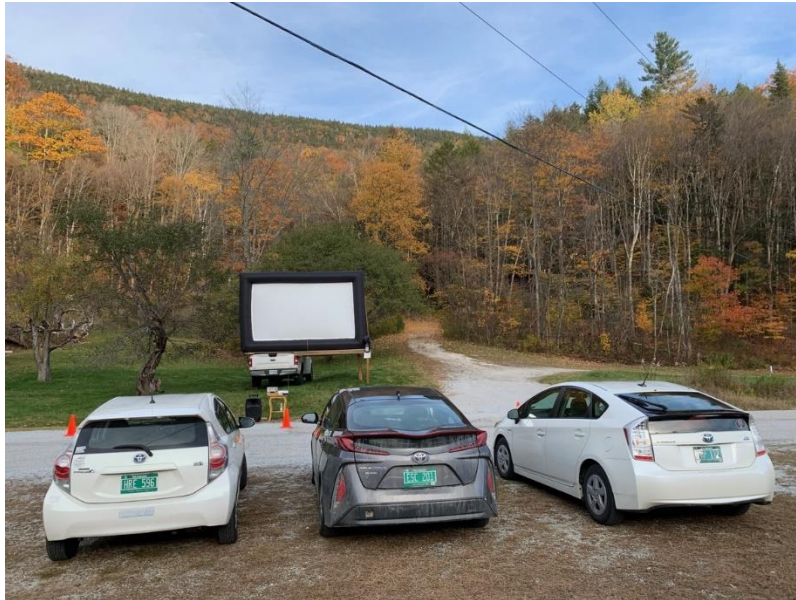
On October 18, more than 30 people gathered at Mission Farm in Killington, VT, safely distanced in chairs and cars, to view the popular new documentary film, *Kiss the Ground*, an event co-sponsored by VT IPL thanks to board member The Rev. Rachel Field who serves at the Farm. Delicious pizza was provided by American Flatbread. The film explores how regenerative agriculture is a key solution to climate change, and how important it is to have healthy soils which can better sequester or drawdown carbon, thus mitigating the devastating effects of a warming planet.



Mission Farm is on the path to becoming a prime example of regenerative farming. The film continues to be available on Netflix and can be rented for 24 hours for \$1 via [Vimeo](#). The film's website includes a video Q & A with celebrities, farmers, and activists featured in the [film](#). Thanks again to Mission

Farm for the partnership!

More event photos are on our [website](#).



A recording of *A Creation Justice Conversation*, the first event in our Series, featuring Rev. Dr. Nancy Wright and Rev. Dr. Arnold Thomas addressing climate change, racial and environmental justice, and spiritual leaders' responsibilities to address these crises, is available. The Zoom event and recording included an engaging post-presentation conversation.

[Recording.](#) Passcode: #AR0+1eG

Additional information about all events in the Series is on our website. *Many thanks to our Series sponsors: Mission Farm, VT Sierra Club, and Virginia Interfaith Power & Light.* Contact us for more information.

info@vtipl.org

VTIPL Youth Board Member Sylvia Burkman - *Refusing to Vote is Surrender*

With election day less than a week away, it's important to remember why voting is a civic duty, not something that can be taken for granted. Voting is the great equalizer of our democracy, where your voice is heard on a national scale, shaping the policies and future of your state and nation. But it's still easy to believe that one vote doesn't have an impact; choosing not to vote can seem like the only viable option. Nothing could be further from the truth. In the 2016 presidential election, 43% of eligible voters didn't cast a ballot. In the swing states Donald Trump won, his margin of victory was less than one percent. If voter turnout had been just a little higher, the election might have ended very differently. Refusing to vote is not rebellion, it is surrender. The impacts of abstention have been felt all over the U.S., especially regarding the environment. Crucial regulations from air pollution to endangered species and protected waters have been rolled back time and time again. Science and climate change are largely ignored. In late 2017, climate change was delisted as a national security threat. It is impossible to stay neutral in the upcoming election; this has always been the case, but now more than ever. Vote with the most vulnerable in mind: BIPOC, LGBT+ communities, among many others, including our planet. While it may seem that one vote doesn't make a difference, the impacts of this election will be resounding. Your vote is your voice. Use it to make a positive difference. (*Sylvia Burkman is a junior at South Burlington High School and a VTIPL Board Member.*)



Voters of Faith Support Fighting Climate Change

IPL and our partners released a new poll on October 22 that finds American voters of faith, including evangelical and mainline Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, and religiously unaffiliated voters, overwhelmingly believe climate change is happening and are worried about it. The poll from Climate Nexus, Yale University Program on Climate Change Communication, and George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication also finds more than seven in 10 (72%) voters support increasing federal funding to protect vulnerable communities from the impacts of extreme weather as part of the COVID-19 recovery. The poll also shows that religious voters care about

climate change and want to see the president and Congress take action on climate change in 2021. [Read full article.](#)



Protect the Results. Everyone counts. Every vote counts. November 4, 5 p.m., Montpelier

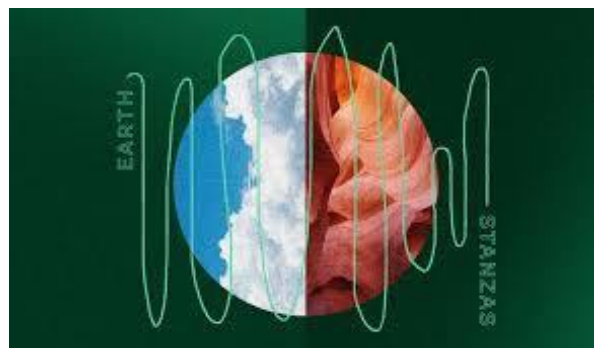
In an effort to protect our democracy and our values, VT IPL has joined Protect the Results, a non-partisan coalition of ally organizations intent on helping to ensure that every vote is counted in the upcoming election. As such, a mass mobilization is being planned, if needed, for November 4 in Montpelier on the State House Lawn. This candlelight vigil-style event with speakers will start around 5 p.m. The sincere hope is that both presidential candidates accept the results of the election after every vote has been counted (even if it takes days or weeks). Learn more via the link below. Signing up will allow you to be contacted the morning after the election to learn if this action is going forward. All attendees will be required to observe COVID-19 safety precautions, including mandatory mask-wearing with social distancing guidelines enforced. (A limited number of masks will be provided at the event.) There is another event scheduled for Saturday, November 7, at 12 Noon, which you can also register for below. A call will be made the morning after election day to determine whether we need to show up en masse to protect the results and defend democracy. Organizers will let us know if the event is going forward. [More information.](#)

Pre-Election Interfaith Service at Battery Park, November 2

A service of lament, healing, and hope on the eve of the election, takes place on Monday, November 2, at 6 p.m. at Battery Park, in Burlington. Music will be provided by Patti Casey. This event will include clergy and leaders from various churches of multiple faiths. [For information.](#)

Vote the Earth - *Earth Stanzas*, Center for Earth Ethics

As the election approaches, the Center for Earth Ethics at Union Theological Seminary and the Wick Poetry Center at Kent State University are



launching *Vote the Earth*, an interactive poetry project connecting place and voice. The aim is to help inspire voters to put their love for the Earth behind the power of their vote. The initiative expands on the Earth Day 50th anniversary *Earth Stanzas* community poem project. *Vote the Earth* is inspired by the *Where I Am From* poem by George Ella Lyons and invites us to view videos and poems on an associated map, and to share our own poetic voices. [Earth Stanzas](#).



State Appoints Climate Council

As a result of the passage of the Global Warming Solutions Act, a Climate Council has been appointed by Vermont's Speaker of the House and Committee on Committees. This means that the Council can begin meeting and begin the process of rule-making. VT IPL and

our partner climate coalition members are pleased with the following appointments:

- **Johanna Miller** - Vermont Natural Resources Council, serving as a member of a statewide environmental organization;
- **Lauren Oates** - The Nature Conservancy, serving as a member with expertise in the design and implementation of programs to increase resilience to and respond to natural disasters resulting from climate change;
- **Jared Duval** - The Energy Action Network, serving as a member of a VT-based organization with expertise in energy and data analysis.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to making this historic legislation a reality. Read about the Global Warming Solutions Act and its importance to Vermont's climate, public health, and economy in our website's [News & Events](#).

Other events and activities:

-Sunday, Nov. 1, 12 Noon, *Build Back Better: A Climate Conversation* with Rep. Sarah Copeland-Hanzas

This event features the Co-chair of the Vermont General Assembly Climate Solutions Caucus Rep. Sarah Copeland-Hanzas and other guests discussing the climate crisis in Vermont and what we can do about it. [Registration](#).

-Sunday, Nov. 1, 6:30 p.m., *Telling My Story: Race, Class & Gender*

A “unique and challenging program” comes to Chandler Music Hall in Randolph, co-sponsored by Chandler and BALE (Building A Local Economy). Conceived by Latina artist/activist Pati Hernandez, the performance includes local people not performers who explore the divisions that separate us as a society seeking to find common ground within difference. According to Hernandez, “Telling My Story aims to break down stereotypes about invisible populations, have participants experience the power of listening to and sharing their own stories, and emphasize the importance of critical presence in society”. The free program is open to up to 75 people. COVID protocols will be followed including mask-wearing and physical-distancing. For more information, contact [Chris](#).

-Thursday, Nov. 12 & Friday, Nov. 13, Farm to Plate Virtual Gathering

Vermont's 10th Annual Farm to Plate Network Gathering will be Thursday, November 12, 12:30-5 p.m. and Friday, November 13, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Why not enjoy the first day of the Gathering, take a dinner break, then join VTIPL's *Rooting Out Structural Racism in American Agriculture* event at 7:00 p.m.? Links to sessions will be sent to you prior to the Gathering via email. Register for \$30 for the Gathering. Organizers are offering to cover the registration fee for farmers, food workers, or food business owners who need assistance.

[Register for Gathering.](#)

**And
finally...resources
for hope in times of
chaos**

**-PBS Series, *The Age of Nature*,
Streaming**

After a national broadcast on October 28, episode 3 of this PBS series called, *Changing*, is available for free



Photo courtesy Donna C. Roberts

streaming, as are other programs in the series. This extraordinarily beautiful

documentary shows how restoring nature may be our best tool to slow global warming and provide hope for a more positive future. [Age of Nature.](#)

-*Sounds True* Podcast featuring Joanna Macy

Many of us are familiar with the profoundly powerful work of Dr. Joanna Macy, ecophilosopher, activist, and Buddhist scholar who's been at the forefront of movements for social justice and environmentalism for decades. She founded the *Work That Reconnects Network* and has written many books including *World as Lover, World as Self*. In this podcast, Dr. Macy speaks about hope in times of chaos and dissolution. As Macy reminds us, our relationship with Earth is a natural birthright - one that is actually the source of all our energy and joy. Amen! [Podcast.](#)

We greatly appreciate your financial contributions to our ongoing work at the intersection of faith, climate, and justice.

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