



Green Mountains, Blue Water

Earth Care News - September 2021

Celebrating Sacred Waters!



Photo courtesy Donna C. Roberts

- Celebrating Sacred Waters, this Saturday, September 11
- *Rooted for Healing* Green Team Summit, Sept. 12-14
 - EAN Summit Virtually & In-Person, Sept. 15
 - Senator Sanders Vermont Climate Town Meeting
 - Religious Responses to the IPCC Report
 - Tell EPA to Support Clean Car Rule
 - STOP LINE 3! VTIPL Co-sponsors Rally, Sept. 24
 - *Standing in Solidarity with Indigenous Leaders to Stop Line 3*
 - VT Emergency Rental & Utility Assistance Programs
 - *Towards Freedom* Traveling Exhibit through Sept. 9

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-Celebrating Sacred Waters - this Saturday, September 11

Please join VTIPL for a *Celebrating Sacred Waters* gathering at Shelburne Bay Park, on Saturday, September 11, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. We especially welcome young people! Space is limited. Register [here](#). What a

delight it will be to gather after many months of strictly virtual activities!

The morning begins with an Opening Blessing offered by Chief Don Stevens of the Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk-Abenaki Nation, along with other faith leaders, followed by an orientation to the LaPlatte River watershed. **When you register, choose among three activities:** a UVM geologist-guided walk through the forest; a canoe paddle led by Elizabeth Lee, Director of Education of Lake Champlain Maritime Museum which provides canoes and life vests; or time to create inspired by nature with prompts for writing, photography, etc with VTIPL's Donna Roberts. Please bring journals. Please do not bring your own watercraft.



Participants are invited to bring a small water sample from a favorite body of water to combine during a closing ritual as we honor the essential role of water in our lives. Please bring a chair if you need one. Consider bringing a lunch for a picnic after the closing. Please wear a mask if you are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Fee: \$8. per person; \$25. per group of 4; kids 12 & under free. (We're happy to waive this fee if needed; [write to VTIPL](#).)



Take this moment to appreciate our natural world in community. Partners include: All Souls Interfaith Gathering; Ascension Lutheran Church; Clean Water Network; ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain; Lake Champlain Committee; Lake Champlain Maritime Museum; and Lewis Creek Association. **Register at**

[VTIPL](#).



Pr. Nancy Wright shares about the sacred nature of water.



***-Rooted for Healing
Green Team Summit,
Sept. 12 – 14***

VTIPL is pleased to be a partner of the 3-day virtual gathering, *Rooted for Healing*, a free Summit organized by Illinois IPL/Faith in Place

on the evenings of Sunday, September 12 - Tuesday, September 14. We

hope you will join us for this immersive and interactive virtual journey into healing. We often live in a place of disconnect from our communities, history, land, food, spirit, and bodies, which many believe are the root causes of today's environmental and social crises. In the Summit, we will practice ways to heal these broken bonds, and share ways to help us grow more resilient as a community. This is increasingly important as we face daunting climate news such as the recently released IPCC Report (see newsletter story). Take a virtual forest bath in a meditative journey through a forest, tour a farm bringing local produce to communities, gather in a racial healing circle, learn to create a simple recipe from in-season ingredients and more. There's even an eco-bedtime story for kids on September 14, at 9 p.m. [Register for Summit Schedule.](#)



-Energy Action Network Summit Virtually and In-Person, Sept. 15

Achieving a Just, Thriving, and Sustainable Future for Vermonters is the theme of the EAN's Summit on Wednesday, September 15.

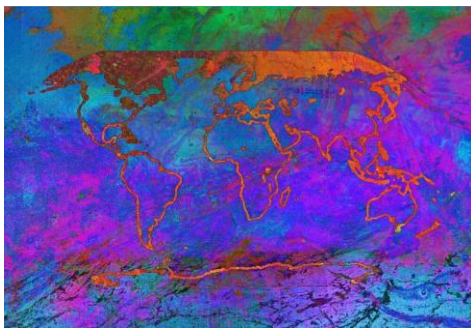
EAN hopes that many will be able to gather in person at Sugarbush Resort in Warren, VT. EAN is also offering a virtual option, though can't guarantee that every element of the in-person agenda will be available virtually. Click here for more information and [registration.](#)



-Sen. Sanders Climate Town Meeting - *We Must Be Aggressive*

VTIPL Board member Richard Butz played a key role in a recent virtual Climate Town Meeting with Senator Bernie Sanders organized by Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network

(VECAN) to address the climate crisis and discuss federal investments to support this work in Vermont. Richard was one of three municipal energy leaders representing Town Energy Committees to comment following a presentation by Sen. Sanders in the discussion on climate components of the \$3.5 trillion reconciliation bill working its way through Congress. Sen. Sanders expressed his wish for Vermont to become not only a “green leader” of the U.S., but also the world. Underscoring the urgency of the climate crisis, he said we need to “make clear the urgency of the moment”, and “We must be aggressive”. The event recording is available on YouTube. [YouTube](#). Here’s a recent opinion piece in The Guardian by Sen. Sanders summarizing the reconciliation package. [Article](#).



-Religious Responses to the IPCC Report

You’ve probably heard of or read about the latest report from the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, known as IPCC, released in early August. Written by 234 climate scientists, the report provides the most up-to-date

research on our global climate crisis, including, a “physical understanding of the climate system and climate change, bringing together the latest advances in climate science, and combining multiple lines of evidence from paleoclimate, observations, process understanding, and global and regional climate simulations.” [Access IPCC Report](#).

Our friends at Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology have shared the following articles highlighting religious responses to the report:

Environmental leaders: UN climate change report can spur prayerful action, by Dennis Sadowski, Catholic News Service. Crux. [August 11, 2021](#).

Earth’s climate outlook grim but not hopeless, faith leaders say, by Brian Roewe. EarthBeat. [August 10, 2021](#).

'Signs of times have never been clearer' says churches group after UN climate report rings alarm bells, by Peter Kenny. Ecumenical News. [August 9, 2021](#).

-Tell the EPA to Support the Clean Cars Rule

Did you know that transportation is the #1 source of carbon pollution in the United States? That means the most important climate change policy we have on the books is vehicle fuel efficiency. This is referred to as the “Clean Cars rule”, and it’s up for revision right now. The Obama administration worked with automakers and implemented a strong clean car rule that significantly boosted vehicle fuel efficiency requirements. The rule was gutted by the Trump administration, but the current EPA is now reviewing and revising the rule. We have a chance to weigh in on the strength of the new Clean Cars rule now. This is a critical time for people of faith and conscience to make their voice heard in support of the cleanest car standards possible. Let the EPA know you support the Clean Cars rule. [Send your comment here](#).



-STOP LINE 3! VTIPL Co-sponsors Rally on September 24

VTIPL has accepted 350VT's invitation to co-sponsor the upcoming STOP LINE 3 Rally on September 24 in Burlington's Battery Park at 5 p.m. after meeting at City Hall Park at 3 p.m. Line 3 is a Tar Sands

Pipeline which Enbridge is constructing through Minnesota. Tar Sands are the most corrosive and carbon intensive fossil fuel. If built, the pipeline would cross many bodies of water, including the Mississippi River, as well as indigenous land, in violation of Native American treaties. Please come to the Sept. 24 rally and bring signs! We'll share updates via [VTIPL's Facebook page](#). In addition to VTIPL, sponsors to date include: 350VT, Essex Resists, Extinction Rebellion VT, People's Kitchen, and Upper Valley Affinity Group. Event [Facebook page](#).

Standing in Solidarity with Indigenous Leaders to #StopLine3

A reflection from IPL President Rev. Susan Hendershot on her time in Minnesota protesting the Enbridge Line 3 pipeline:

“In June, I spent three days in northern Minnesota, joining 350 religious leaders and 2,000 individuals, including dozens of IPL leaders, standing in solidarity with Indigenous relatives to block the Enbridge Line 3 tar sands pipeline. Our Indigenous relatives opened wide their arms and their hearts to us. They told us stories of their ancestors; they educated us on treaty rights and the harm that has been done in the name of so-called progress; they drummed and taught us their songs so we could lift our voices together; they taught us about their sacred Manoomin, what we refer to as “wild rice”, that is grown in the sacred waters. Our Native siblings understand about looking back seven generations and forward seven generations when decisions are made. It isn’t just about us in this moment, but decisions have consequences for those who come after us. The pipeline work that is already underway is a desecration of the sacred land, water, air, and all of our relatives—especially those whose very culture and way of life is at risk.”

-Vermont Emergency Rental (& Utility) Assistance Program

With the recent Supreme Court ruling against the CDC’s eviction moratorium, many renters may soon be facing housing insecurity. The good news is that there is apparently enough funding available to help every eligible Vermonter. Vermont Emergency Rental Assistance Program offers rental and utility assistance to eligible Vermonters to help them avoid eviction or loss of utility service using funds from the federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program. For requirements and applications, [contact ERAP](#). In addition, the 2021 Vermont COVID-19 Arrearage Assistance Program is a state government program providing financial assistance to those facing utility disconnection due to past-due bills for their electric, landline phone, natural gas, water, and sewage services. Residential and business bills can be eligible for assistance. Apply before October 25, 2021. Applications are available on the Department of Public Service [website](#).



-Towards Freedom Traveling Exhibit through Sept. 9

Vermont Racial Justice Alliance reminds us that there's still time this week to see the Hampton History Museum's Traveling Exhibit, *Towards Freedom*, on display at Burlington's Fletcher Free Library through September 9. This coincides with the kick off

of VRJA's campaign *Abolish Slavery* in the Library's main reading room on that date. The exhibit was recently featured during the Third Annual Vermont First African Landing Day commemoration. First African Landing Day educates about the heritage, struggles, and triumphs of the first Africans who were brought to the shores of what would become the United States in 1619. Governor Scott proclaimed Vermont First African Landing Day on August 24, 2019. Info. about the [exhibit](#). Contact [Vermont Racial Justice Alliance](#).

[Donate Now](#)

Thank you so much for your interest in and support of our work!

We really couldn't do it without you.



Photo courtesy Donna C. Roberts

