



ENERGY ACTION NETWORK

Request For Proposals : Collecting Feedback on Vermonters' Needs and Challenges Accessing Clean Transportation Options

Contact Information

Cara Robeckek, crobeckek@eanvt.org, 802-552-8450

Timeline

- Request for Proposals released May 4, 2022.
- **Responses due by May 27, 2022.**
- Participating organizations will be selected and informed by June 2, 2022.
- All participating organizations will be asked to have at least one representative attend a planning meeting between June 6-17 to collaboratively decide on process and questions for collecting information.
- Information collection between June 20 - end of July.
- Report on findings due back to EAN by August 19, 2022.

Project background

The goal of the Energy Action Network's Clean Transportation Equity Action Team is to advance a collaborative process to identify Vermonters' challenges in the transportation and transit equity spaces and their experiences (if applicable) navigating existing clean transportation programs.

We are seeking 5 organizations whose constituents or communities may experience unmet transportation needs, and/or whose participants may be less represented in statewide conversations around clean transportation. We particularly aim to hear from Vermonters who experience high transportation cost burden and/or low transportation access, disproportionate transportation pollution, Vermonters with low income, youth, rural residents, those experiencing linguistic isolation, or those experiencing oppression or racism.

Each of the selected organizations will be asked to conduct a focus group, or similar conversations, with about 10 of their participants to learn about barriers to accessing clean transportation and public transit. The insights from these conversations will be shared with the VT Climate Council and other policy makers and partners working to advance clean, accessible transportation. The Network Action Team will assist in developing prompts and questions for focus group participants, in collaboration with the selected organizations, on topics such as:

1. What are Vermonters' leading transportation and transit challenges? Have these changed due to the COVID pandemic?
2. What are Vermonters' perceptions of clean transportation solutions including but not limited to walking, electric vehicles, public transit, biking for transportation, e-bikes, and smart growth?

3. What barriers do those who may benefit from clean transportation face that either keeps or delays them from pursuing solutions such as electric vehicles, EV charging, bikes/e-bikes, and other alternatives?
 - a. What resources would be needed to overcome those barriers?
4. What barriers do Vermonters face that either keep or delay them from utilizing public transit such as buses, rideshares, and trains?
 - a. What resources would be needed to overcome those barriers?
5. What are Vermonters' desired transportation services? What do people need to deliver on preferred transportation options?

We are interested in making sure that a diversity of stakeholders are heard in this process – to collect feedback that will inform a report that:

- Examines how equitable processes, programs, and approaches can best serve lower income, rural, more marginalized Vermonters.
- Outlines impactful opportunities to invest state and federal dollars for maximum benefit in terms of cost-effective and efficient GHG reduction strategies.
- Analyzes the potential benefits of the proposed investment approach, in terms of jobs, consumer savings, health benefits, etc

Deliverables and Payment

EAN has a maximum of \$15,000 available for this work. We are seeking up to 5 organizations distributed geographically around the state, each of which will receive \$2000 for:

1. Attendance at one planning meeting,
2. Conducting a focus group or similar conversations with approximately 10 of their participants using the agreed upon questions and structure,
3. Reporting their findings back to EAN in a brief written report.

In addition each organization will receive \$1,000 to pay their participants for their time as a focus group member.

EAN will send a check for \$2,500 to each organization as soon as they are selected. The final \$500 will be sent when the report is received.

Qualifications

The Clean Transportation Equity Team seeks partnering organizations with

- Demonstrated expertise with the priority populations in Vermont listed above.
- Ability to conduct the focus conversations and deliver a brief report back to EAN in the timeline listed above.

Interested organizations should fill in and submit the application below



ENERGY ACTION NETWORK

EAN Clean Transportation Equity Application

Please return this form by May 27, 2022 to Cara Robeck (cara@eanvt.org). If you prefer, it can also be mailed to EAN, 17 State Street, Suite 205, Montpelier, VT 05602

Organization Name	
Mailing Address	
Your Name	
Your E-mail address	
Your phone Number	

<p>If selected does your organization agree to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Have at least one representative attend the planning meeting● Gather information from about 10 participants between June 20 - July 31.● Report your findings back to EAN by August 19 in a written format.
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<p>Why should your organization be part of this research project?</p>	
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<p>If selected, how would you go about having a focus group conversation with your participants?</p>	
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<p>Describe the kinds of participants you would expect to be able to reach (such as age, gender, race, urban/rural, primary language, etc.)</p>	
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