When it comes to the future of car and truck technology, VEC member Eric Nuse of Johnson has some simple, yet wise words: “People should know - things really are changing.”

As of January 2019, the number of electric vehicles or hybrid electric vehicles registered in Vermont rose by 28 percent over the previous year, up to a total of 2,985 vehicles registered in the state, according to Drive Electric Vermont. Not surprisingly, about two-thirds of those registered are plug-in hybrid cars that run on both electricity and gasoline. Popular cars (both straight electric and plug-in hybrid) were the Tesla model 3, Honda Clarity, Toyota Prius Prime, Nissan Leaf, Chevrolet Bolt, and Mitsubishi Outlander. Leasing appears to be a popular way for people to get a taste of going electric, with about 22 percent of plug-in vehicles registered being leased. And as the market matures, there seem to be an increasing number of used EVs for sale in the state. In a recent quarter, about 12 percent of plug-in cars registered were pre-owned, according to Drive Electric Vermont.

What do I see in these numbers? I see change, choices, and competition. In short, I see an exciting, fast-emerging marketplace in Vermont that will reduce pollution, cut costs, and increase the efficiency of how we get around.

Nationally and internationally, many vehicle manufacturers have turned their research and development efforts to electric vehicles. There are over 20 new models of vehicles coming out in the coming years, and the technology will soon bring us a variety of four wheel drive SUVs and pickup trucks. Battery costs are dropping and technology advancements are quickly boosting the distance that straight electric vehicles can go to 200 miles on a single charge, and in some cases further than that. Charging station infrastructure is expanding all the time, with over 200 charging stations in Vermont today, and when more cars show up there is no doubt the infrastructure will grow to meet drivers’ needs.

Meanwhile, Eric Nuse continues to get questions about personal experience as an early adopter. “It’s definitely a conversation starter!” Eric says. It’s definitely a conversation starter.

Read more about Eric on page 6.
Candidates for VEC's Board of Directors

Voting is an important way to exercise your voice as a member of the co-op!

Co-op members elect local representatives to serve on VEC’s twelve-member board of directors. The board sets policy for the co-op and is expected to represent the interests of the members.

The 2019 director election will be open for online and mailed ballots from noon on April 16, 2019 to noon on May 10, 2019. Members can also vote in person at VEC’s Annual Meeting on May 11, 2019 at Jay Peak Resort. Your ballot, along with voting instructions, will arrive by mail after April 16. If you need help voting, please contact us at 1-800-832-2667 or support@vermontelectric.coop.

District 1 — TERM EXPIRES 2023

**Don Worth – Island Pond**

I’ve served on the VEC Board of Directors for several years and have completed courses which led to certifications as a Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD), Board Leadership (BLD) and twice inducted into the Director Gold Program (DGP), the highest level of training. If reelected, I promise to continue my efforts to keep rates down while maintaining outstanding service to Co-op members. My goals are very simple…we need to keep the lights on by reducing outages and continue to ensure that you pay the lowest rates possible through astute purchases and selective investment in renewable energy, including community solar.

Before retirement, I was the Coordinator for the RSVP office in Newport, recruiting older volunteers in Orleans & Essex Counties. Born in Derby and raised in Island Pond, I graduated from the University of Maine, served in the U.S. Marine Corps and spent 26 years as a member of the U.S. Border Patrol. I presently serve as the Essex County representative to the U.S. Selective Service System and was promoted to the State Review Committee.

My wife, Miriam, and I have five children, ten grandchildren and live in Island Pond on land that was part of my grandfather’s farm.

District 6 — TERM EXPIRES 2023

**Paul Lambert - Georgia**

Dear Vermont Electric Cooperative Members:

It is with great enthusiasm that I submit my name as a candidate for the District 6 seat on Vermont Electric Cooperative’s (VEC) Board of Directors.

In brief, here is an outline of my experience and why I believe I am well suited for this position.

**Energy Experience:**
- 17 years working in Vermont’s energy industry (VEIC/Efficiency Vermont)
- Understanding of the emerging trends and technologies impacting utilities
- Understanding of business objectives and how energy costs/reliability impact decisions
- Understanding of regulatory process and requirements

**People & Community:**
- I am a VEC member in both Town of Georgia and Glover
- I know many of Vermont’s state, regional and local individuals & entities involved in energy
- I have a relationship & rapport with many VEC businesses, municipalities and residents

**Interest & Desire:**
- Energy touches all facets of our economy, community, environment and way of life
- The energy industry and the role of utilities is rapidly changing – this offers VEC an exciting challenge in balancing both short and long-term goals
- I care deeply about the communities of Northern Vermont as my wife and I raise our four children here

Thank you!

Paul Lambert
plambert@veic.org | C: 802-310-2740 | www.linkedin.com/in/PaulLambertVT

District 2 — TERM EXPIRES 2023

**Jody Dunklee – Fairfax**

My name is Jody and I am a VEC Co-op member.

I live in Morristown with my husband, three step-children, two dogs, and a kitten. I currently serve my community as an attorney for the state of Vermont. I also have private practice experience. Encompassing my legal career, I specialize in regulating electric utilities, including the Co-op. In my capacity regulating electric utilities, I worked with members of the VEC Senior Leadership Team and acquired a deep understanding of the issues that Vermonters face as our electric use evolves and our system ages. Electric utility innovation is inevitable, and I believe we must responsibly fashion solutions to meet members’ needs in the face of an aging system. We must maximize electric reliability for customers in a cost-effective manner. I welcome the opportunity to discuss your concerns and my candidacy with you. Please email me at stephighbottom@gmail.com. I request your vote.

As a Board member, I will bring a fresh, well-informed perspective and will work hard for our electric community.

District 3 — TERM EXPIRES 2023

**Caleb Magoon – Hyde Park**

My name is Caleb Magoon and I live in Hyde Park with my wife and son. I grew in Hyde Park and returned to Vermont following my studies at Boston University and several years of work. I own and operate two businesses—Power Play Sports in Morrisville and Waterbury Sports in Waterbury.

In addition to my business work, I am committed to working in the community. I have served on several local and statewide boards and currently serve as Chair of the Board of the Lamoille County Planning Commission. In this post I have spent a great deal of time studying and analyzing our local and regional energy systems for the purpose of energy planning.

Through this process I have learned a significant amount about our energy systems and the challenges Vermont faces in achieving its goals. In a responsible manner, I hope to use my business, boardroom and planning experience to tackle these challenges. While addressing these challenges is important, we need to do so while also maintaining the fiscal management of the organization and improving service to members.

Jody would be honored if you voted for me to help lead the VEC board into the future. Thank you!

Bylaw Changes Also on the Ballot

Besides Board of Director elections, VEC members are being asked this year to vote on two bylaw changes: the first change would remove the requirement that the annual meeting be on a Saturday (although there is no current plan to make such a change). The second change would remove the limit on patronage capital retirements to no more than 25 percent of the prior year’s margins.
Vermont Electric Cooperative

81st Annual Meeting of the Members and 2019 Election

Saturday, May 11, 2019
Jay Peak Resort
Hotel Jay Conference Center, 830 Jay Peak Road
Jay, Vermont

Program Agenda:
8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.  Complimentary member breakfast and exhibitor showcase
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  Business Meeting of the Membership; panel entitled Driving into the Future: Electric Vehicles in Rural Vermont with Dave Roberts of Drive Electric Vermont, Michele Boomhower of the Vermont Agency of Transportation, and local electric vehicle owner Eric Nuse; and questions and answers
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  Voting results, door prize raffle, and exhibitor showcase

Join us to...
- Learn about electric vehicles and other current energy issues and hear about VEC’s accomplishments during the past year as well as upcoming projects and initiatives
- Connect with your elected representatives on the board of directors
- Tap into energy information by visiting the exhibitor showcase
- Enjoy a complimentary breakfast buffet

Be sure to RSVP to our event by May 8 by dropping your RSVP card in the mail or emailing us at annualmtg@vermontelectric.coop
Co-op Community Solar - "A Clear Win"

Vermont Electric Co-op members continue to express interest in VEC’s Co-op Community Solar Program more than two years since the program was launched in late 2016. Approximately 180 members have sponsored solar panels in the program and have begun saving money on their electricity bills.

John Ward, a VEC board member from Newport recently sponsored panels in the program.

“People support Co-op Community Solar for all kinds of reasons,” Ward said. “For me it was a dollars-and-cents decision – I did the numbers and there was no question – it was a clear financial win for me.”

Under the program, members make an up-front payment sponsoring solar panels for either 10 or 20 years and receive a fixed solar energy monthly credit on their electric bill. By the end of the sponsorship, the total value of the bill credits exceeds the initial up-front payment.

Ward also noted that the program has appeal because of its flexibility. “You don’t need to put panels up in your yard or on your roof – and if you ever move, you’re not locked in because you can get a refund based on how long you’ve participated,” he said.

Here are some hypothetical scenarios:

- A member sponsoring 20 panels for 10 years would make an upfront payment of $4,695. That member would get a bill credit of $54.40 every month, totaling $6,528.
- A member sponsoring 20 panels for 20 years would make an upfront payment of $8,250.80. That member would get a bill credit of $62.40 every month for 20 years, totaling $14,976.

“Co-op Community Solar offers solid value to members, and puts clean electricity onto the local electric grid,” said VEC Energy Services Planner Jake Brown. “It’s easy and rewarding.”

As construction season approaches, VEC is urging members to keep safety in mind when using ladders. Here are key safety tips:

- Inspect ladders before use
- Before raising or extending any kind of ladder (metal pole, or other equipment) capable of reaching a power line, check in all directions for power lines. Keep ladders at least 15 feet away from lines.
- Set the base of the ladder on a solid base and at the correct 4-1 ratio angle (for every four rungs, place the latter back one foot)
- Extend the top of the ladder at least 3 feet above the landing
- If possible, screw a 2x4 cleat into the ground behind the ladder to prevent it from slipping
- Tie off the ladder at the top to prevent it slipping sideways
- When descending and ascending the ladder, always maintain at least three points of contact on the ladder, (i.e. two hands, one foot, or two feet, one hand)
Member Discount Program Adds New Partners, Boosting Number of Deals for VEC Members

Since it was launched last spring, VEC’s Member Discount program has expanded to include 22 businesses in our region that offer discounts exclusively to VEC members.

For most discounts, VEC members simply show a copy of their VEC electric bill and a photo ID. (Some businesses also ask for downloadable coupons for tracking purposes.)

Through the Member Discount Program, businesses offer bargains exclusively for VEC members on outdoor fun and entertainment, clothing and shoes, hardware, motorsports gear, and more.

“This platform connects our members with local businesses – something that’s right in line with VEC’s community focus,” said Jake Brown, VEC Energy Services Planner.

To see the specific discounts and the terms and conditions, please visit www.vermontelectric.coop/member-discounts.

That’s how one VEC member recently described our online portal SmartHub. SmartHub allows you to track your usage by hour, get bill notifications, schedule payments, and even pay your bill with just a few mouse clicks.

“We love SmartHub,” said Patty Titus of Hinesburg, another VEC member who uses the tool. “It lets us see our usage so we can make changes in how we use electricity so we can lower our bills,” she said. “It’s also easy to pay your bill through the portal, and we love the outage feature too.”

You can get access to SmartHub on the homepage of VEC’s website by clicking on the SmartHub button. If you were already enrolled in eBill, our previous online payment service, simply enter the same e-mail and password that you’ve always used. If you are a new user, click on the new user option on the SmartHub homepage. To create an account, you will need your account number, the last name of the first person listed on the account (or business name), and e-mail address. If you have questions or need help signing up, please call VEC’s Member Services Department at 1-800-832-2667.

Do you know a business that could benefit from promotion in VEC’s Member Discount Program? We have an info sheet and FAQs at www.vermontelectric.coop/member-discount-program or you can email VEC Energy Services Planner Jake Brown at jbrown@vermontelectric.coop.

Here are some comments about SmartHub from other members that we recently received on Facebook:

“I love it. So easy to do anything I need to. Pay bills, look at my usage, report an outage, and more!”

“Use it for outages, bill payment and historical comparison around usage.”

“So easy to pay your bill and look at your usage!”

The Farmyard Store in Derby has offered discounts since the beginning of the VEC Member Discount Program. Above, Jake Hamblett, a son of the store’s owner, is all smiles about the discounts available to VEC members.

Convenience! 100 percent.
VEC Recognized for Worksite Wellness

A healthy, safe workplace is a core value at VEC. For the sixth year in a row, we’re honored that the Governor’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sports recently recognized VEC for our worksite wellness programs. The awards provide an opportunity for the governor and health commissioner to thank businesses and organizations for their efforts to support a healthy Vermont workforce. These efforts help keep health care costs down, improve productivity and make Vermont a great place to live and work.

VEC employees regularly participate in a range of healthy activities including running and walking events, an annual onsite health fair, wellness challenges, and more.

Here, members of VEC’s Wellness Team join Vermont Health Commissioner Dr. Mark Levine (far left) and Governor Phil Scott (far right). From left to right are Katie Orost, Chris Connelley, Lisa Morris, Lindsey Fenton and Jeff Still. Thanks for all your leadership, VEC Wellness Team!

Electric Vehicles: How Do They Work in the Real World?

Eric Nuse, VEC member and owner of a Nissan Leaf, will bring his real-world experience owning an electric vehicle in Vermont directly to VEC members at our 2019 Annual Meeting at Jay Peak Resort on May 11.

Eric will be joining other panelists at the meeting discussing the EV marketplace in Vermont. He’ll talk about range, cost, and how his car fits into his life, and take questions from VEC members. And, of course, he’ll have the car on hand so members can check it out.

While Vermonters certainly aren’t buying EVs in droves – at least not yet - Eric senses a distinct uptick in interest in the technology.

“Some people I talk to are waiting a little while longer to see how it all works out with charging stations, or waiting for a truck or SUV, or for the range to increase to more miles on a charge,” he says. “But I think it’s on a lot of people’s radar, in a way it hasn’t been before.”

Eric himself is looking forward to a second electric vehicle for his own household perhaps in the coming year. And one thing is sure, when he does make his move, he’ll have more options to choose from (truck? all-wheel drive?) than ever before.

Pellet and Cord Wood Stove Rebates

High-efficiency pellet and cord wood stoves can be a renewable and cost-effective way to heat your home.

Adding a new stove:

- New stoves are eligible for a $650 discount

Replacing an existing stove:

- If replacing a wood stove that was never certified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), you are eligible for a $1,000 discount from the Renewable Energy Resource Center. (Prior to 1988, wood stoves were not certified by the EPA.) For more information about this funding from the Clean Energy Development Fund (CEDF), visit www.rcer-ct.org
- If replacing an EPA certified stove, you are eligible for a $650 discount, plus an additional $100 if your old unit is removed and disposed of at the time of installation

This offer is available through participating retailers. Model must be listed on qualified products list. Rebate offer and amount subject to change.

For information on participating retailers and qualified products, visit https://www.efficiencyvermont.com/rebates/list/pellet-stoves or https://www.efficiencyvermont.com/rebates/list/wood-stoves

VEC also offers a $150 bill credit for qualifying pellet stoves. For more information, visit www.vermontelectric.coop/energy-transformation or call 1-800-832-2667.
when people see him in his car. "They have lots of questions, like 'How does the vehicle drive? How about the range? What about the cost? To buy, and for fuel?''"

"Overall, it's been a really good experience for us," he says. "It's fun to drive and fun to keep going past all those gas stations particularly when gas prices are going up."

Are you interested in learning whether an EV could be in your future? You can start by checking out the Drive Electric Vermont website at Drveelectrivt.com. Or, browse the options offered online by a range of dealers across the state. Or, drop by a dealership. And don't forget to come learn more about EVs and our incentives for purchasing or leasing a car at VEC’s Annual Meeting at Jay Peak Resort May 11. Hope to see you there!
With warmer weather on the way, we’re looking forward to the season where infrastructure improvements and maintenance kick into high gear. Above, a VEC crew digs a hole to set a pole in Newport.

Ken Hoepnner 802-644-5771
1685 VT Route 108N, Jeffersonville, VT 05464
westzone2@vermontelectric.coop

Dan Carswell 802-933-4628
P.O. Box 802, Enosburg Falls, VT 05450
westzone1@vermontelectric.coop

Vermont Electric Cooperative
Board of Directors

District 1
Don Worth 802-723-6532
P.O. Box 450, Island Pond, VT 05846
district1@vermontelectric.coop

District 2
John Ward 802-334-6022
145 Mt. Vernon St, Newport, VT 05855
district2@vermontelectric.coop

District 3
Carol Maroni 802-586-7758
2426 Collinsville Rd, Craftsbury, VT 05826
district3@vermontelectric.coop

District 4
Mark Woodward 802-635-7166
110 Woodward Rd, Johnson, VT 05656
district4@vermontelectric.coop

District 5
Charlie Van Winkle 802-598-0128
88 Corbett Rd, Underhill, VT 05489
district5@vermontelectric.coop

District 6
Paul Lambert 802-310-2740
1758 Reynolds Rd, Georgia, VT 05478
district6@vermontelectric.coop

District 7
Rich Goggin 508-439-9166
30 Whipple Rd, South Hero, VT 05468
district7@vermontelectric.coop

Eastern Zone
Tom Bailey 802-766-2647
P.O. Box 114, Derby, VT 05829
eastzone3@vermontelectric.coop

Western Zone
Rich Westman 802-644-2297
2439 Iron Gate Road, Cambridge, VT 05444
westzone1@vermontelectric.coop

CO-OP LIFE is published quarterly by Vermont Electric Cooperative
42 Wescom Rd, Johnson, VT 05656 • 802-635-2331 • Toll Free: 1-800-VEC-COOP
www.vermontelectric.coop

Co-op Life Committee: Carol Maroni, Rich Westman, Mark Woodward, Don Worth