



ACRPC

update April 2009

ACRPC Energy Committee Program: Energy Technologies for Agriculture

Thursday, April 23, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

There is tremendous potential for using renewable energy technologies on farmland and generating energy from traditional farming practices. A panel of farmers and other agricultural experts will share their experiences and research on how to use these technologies and practices on your farm. For more information, contact Elizabeth Golden at 388-3141 or egolden@sover.net.

Annual Town Update

As we do every year, we will be sending out a form to collect each town's mailing information for Board members. This information will be sent to Municipal Clerks and this helps the Addison County Regional Planning Commission stay current with all board members' information. The mailing will be sent out around the first week of March, after Town Meeting Day and Clerks will be asked to return the information by the end of April. This will allow Towns enough time to meet with their local boards and reorganize, if needed.

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission will be asking Clerks for Board members email addresses. If you currently have an email address and would like your email added to our database, please share with your local clerk or you may contact Elizabeth Golden at Addison County Regional Planning Commission at 388-3141 or at egolden@sover.net.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the ACRPC will be held on Wednesday, May 13th at 5:00 p.m. at the Kirk Alumni Center at Middlebury College (by the golf course). Delegates and alternates are welcome to bring their spouse or another guest. Our speaker will be David Blittersdorf, one of the owners of NRG and Earth Turbines. Dinner will be a potluck provided by the Commissioners. Mark your calendars now. For more information, contact Adam G. Lougee, Director, ACRPC at 388-3141.

Town Officers' Education Conferences May 6th Holiday Inn & Conference Center, Rutland

For selectboard, planning, zoning, and development review board members; conservation commissioners; regional planners; library trustees; listers; town clerks and treasurers; and other municipal staff and volunteers.

Pre-registration is required. Register online at <http://regonline.com/2009toec> Forms can be obtained by calling Mary Peabody at 802-223-2389 x13. Registration fee is \$60.00 (lunch included). Conference doors open at 8:00 am. Opening session is at 8:45 am. Workshop Sessions are 9:45 am-3:30 pm.

Commission Calendar

April	3	12:00	Energy Committee
	6	7 am	Legislative Breakfast, Orwell Fire House
	8	7:30	Full Commission
	9	7:30a	Way To Go Business Kickoff Breakfast
	9	7-9	ACSWMD
	13	7 am	Legislative Breakfast, Bridport Grange Hall
	13	6-8	Western Corridor Feedback Meeting
	15	7 :00	TAC
	22	6:30	Executive Board
	23	7-9	Energy Technologies for Agriculture
	25	10-2	Earth Day Fair on Middlebury Green
	27	9-1	Western Rail Corridor
	28	7-9	Natural Resources Committee
	29	5:30	VELCO Public Meeting, Holiday Inn Rutland
May	3	12:00	Energy Committee
	4	8:30 -2:45	Green Energy Conference at Davis Center, UVM, Burlington
	4-8		Way To Go! Commuter Challenge
	6	8:00	TOEC, Holiday Inn, Rutland
	13	5:00	Full Commission Annual Meeting/ Potluck Dinner at Kirk Alumni Center
	14	9-12	Western Corridor
	20	7:00	TAC
	21	7-9	ACSWMD
	26	7-9	Natural Resources Committee
28	7-9	Wind Power Program	

Meetings are open to the public and unless otherwise noted held at ACRPC. Selected minutes are available online at www.acrpc.org. For further info, contact 388-3141.

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News & Events

Charting a Course to Green Energy in Vermont Bringing Together Energy Activists and Mapping Technology Professionals

May 4, 2009

**Davis Student Center at the University of Vermont
Burlington, VT**

The Vermont Spatial Data Partnership (VSDP – supported by VCGI) is planning an exciting conference. The conference will bring together mapping technology professionals and green energy activists to learn more about existing energy/mapping projects as well as to explore how mapping technology can help municipalities, nonprofits, businesses, and the state as a whole implement the use of green energy.

Examples of some of the topics that will be presented include:

- Local Solutions to Global Energy Challenges – Steve Letendre and John Van Hoesen
- Green Mountain College VT Renewable Energy Atlas – Mike Brouillette, VCGI
- IT meets ET: The Marriage of Broadband and Renewable Energy – Steve Sharp, VCGI
- Montana Energy: Montana's Energy Project and Resource Showcase (an interactive mapping web site) – John Waterman, GCS Research
- Food Waste to Biogas in Central Vermont - David Healy, Stone Environmental, Inc.
- How Much Do We Know About the Biomass Resource in Vermont? - Robert Turner, R. J. Turner Company

For more information, go to http://www.vcgi.org/commres/?page=../events/greenenergy_2009/default_content.cfm To participate, contact Leslie Pelch at lesliep@vcgi.org.

Smart Growth Awards

Smart Growth Vermont is once again seeking nominations for our two major awards: the Smart Growth Awards (given to projects, plans, or initiatives that exemplify smart growth principles) and the Arthur Gibb Award for Individual Leadership (given to an individual whose leadership has brought about a positive and lasting change in the way their community or the state integrates growth and conservation). This awards program honors projects initiatives, and plans anywhere in the State of Vermont that demonstrate smart growth principles in action.

“Smart growth” refers to an approach to land use that revitalizes neighborhoods, protects farmland and open space, keeps housing affordable, and provides more transportation choices. Smart growth is good for the economy, communities, and the environment. Please take a look at the nomination materials and give some thought as to whether any person, organization, or company in Addison County might be a good candidate for either award.

The deadline for submitting nominations is April 30. For more information about the awards or to learn about past recipients, please visit their website at <http://www.smartgrowthvermont.org/help/awards07/> You may also contact Jason Van Driesche, Program Director, Smart Growth Vermont at 802.864.6310, or jason@smartgrowthvermont.org.

Legislative Breakfasts

The final Legislative Breakfast will be held at the Bridport Grange Hall after the Legislative Session is adjourned for the year. Check your local paper for date and time. For more information about the Legislative Breakfast Programs, contact Jim Morse at 388-2653 or petal05753@lycos.com.

Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility 2009 Spring Conference! “On the Long Trail: Sustaining Success”

Tuesday, May 5, 2009

Full Day Conference

Hilton Hotel, Burlington, VT

Monday evening, May 4, 2009

6th Annual Terry Ehrich Awards Dinner

Northern Lights Cruise Boat

Lake Champlain, Burlington, VT

View the full conference agenda and register on their web site www.vbsr.org The Spring Conference is open to both VBSR members and non-members. Lodging is available at the Hilton Hotel at discounted rates for conference attendees. Rooms are available for Monday, May 4 and Tuesday, May 5 at the special rate of \$149/night. Please call the Hilton Hotel directly at 802-658-6500 no later than Monday, April 20, to make reservations. If you have any questions about the conference, please contact us at (802) 862-8347, or e-mail Rita Bothfeld at ritab@vbsr.org.

Earth Day Fair Saturday, April 25, 10 am - 2 pm Middlebury Town Green

Earth Day will be celebrated in Addison County on the Middlebury Town Green, or in case of rain, in St. Stephens Church basement. Events include:

Drumming - bring your own percussion instrument or use ours, and join in the opening circle

Music - enjoy a variety of teen, college and community performers at the gazebo

Local food - sample delicious foods from Middlebury Natural Foods Coop and American Flatbread

Exhibits - learn what local schools and environmental and energy organizations are doing and how you can join their efforts

Way to Go! signup - register for the May 4-8 program at the fair

Children's procession - honor nature and spring in costumes, or come as you are, for a walk through the Winter Farmer's Market at Town Hall Theatre at 1 pm

Green home tour - depart from the green at 2 pm for a tour of the Putnam's zero-net gain home in Weybridge

News & Events

VELCO Long Range Transmission Plan Meetings

A series of public meetings to discuss the draft 2009 Long Range Transmission Plan will be held throughout Vermont in late April and May. This document is a technical analysis, looking out 20 years and updated every three, that identifies where electricity load growth will require transmission upgrades, new generation or increased energy efficiency to maintain reliability. The public process will provide an opportunity for individuals and entities interested in Vermont's electric transmission system to understand and potentially influence the future of that system by sharing information about activities that may influence future electricity transmission needs, projected peak load and/or potential solutions.

Consideration of Non-Transmission Alternatives (NTAs), such as local generation or energy efficiency, that may be able to avoid or delay the need for transmission reinforcement, begins with the identification of reliability issues contained in this analysis. The long range transmission plan will be on-line and available at the beginning of April at www.velco.com. Public outreach related to the draft analysis will be conducted through April and May. The public outreach will include traditional and electronic media to publicize the release of the analysis, a website to share the results of the analysis and gather input, engagement of key regional partners, and five statewide public forums.

The public forums are scheduled as follows:

Monday, April 27 at 5:30 - Holiday Inn, Rutland
Wednesday, April 29 at 5:30 pm - Lake Morey Resort, Fairlee
Tuesday, May 5 at 5:30 pm - Sheraton Hotel, Burlington
Thursday, May 7 at 5:30 pm - Catamount Arts Academy, St. Johnsbury
Wednesday, May 13 at 5:30 pm - Marlboro Tech Center, Brattleboro
Monday, May 18 at 1:30 pm - VT College of Fine Arts, Montpelier

For more information and questions please contact VELCO at (802) 282-2631 or e-mail publicoutreach@velco.com.

Addison County Way To Go! Commuter Challenge May 4-8, 2009

Registration is now open for the sixth annual Way to Go! Commuter Challenge. This event encourages the use of cheaper, healthier, and more earth-friendly transportation alternatives to driving alone. Everyone who commits to walk, bike, telecommute, carpool, take the bus or use any alternative to driving solo will receive free giveaways and be entered in a drawing to win great prizes-iPods, Newton battery-powered mowers, burton snowboards, overnight stays, restaurant gift-certificates, yoga, golf and ski passes, and more! Last year in Vermont nearly 3,000 Way to Go! participants saved

an estimated 237,000 commuting miles, 206,000 pounds of carbon dioxide, and \$49,000 in transportation expenses. Organizers have set this year's goal to save at least 500,000 pounds of CO₂, so be sure to register today! Online registration is fast and easy at www.waytogovt.org

Businesses can compete in the "2009 Workplace Commuter Challenge" to see who can encourage the highest percentage of employees to walk, bike, telecommute, carpool or take the bus to work from May 4-8. The winning employers will receive awards at a ceremony on June 5.

Similarly, schools can compete through the Way to Go! School Challenge. New this year is a challenge to Vermont Communities. Who will be Vermont's "greenest commuting town or city? The winner will be based on the highest participation rate of residents.

Business Owners Way to Go! Kickoff Breakfast

Business owners in Addison County are invited to a breakfast kick off meeting for the Addison County Way to Go! Commuter Challenge at the Addison County Regional Planning Commission's offices at 14 Seminary Street in Middlebury Thursday, April 9th from 7:30 to 8:30 am. The Way to Go Challenge runs from May 4-8, 2009.

Deb Sachs will explain how the program works and how we can help you promote this week-long event at your company. Please visit www.waytogovt.org before we meet and bring your questions.

We will share with you how National Life in Montpelier as well as many other businesses have created effective campaigns and helped commuters choose alternate commutes that save money and save carbon.

We will also have information on Go Vermont, the state's new rideshare program, as well as information on ACTR. There are excellent Way to Go promotional materials available to help you including a flyer that fits into pay check envelopes.

Learn how you can encourage your employees to reduce their use of single occupancy vehicles.

Please RSVP if you will be able to attend the kick off meeting - Nadine Canter Barnicle, Community Relations Manager, Addison County Transit Resources at nadine@actr-vt.org or call at 388-1946.

Grants

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provides a significant amount of funding directly to states and municipalities through the EECBG to help them address the following objectives:

1. Reduce fossil fuel emissions;
2. Reduce total energy use; and
3. Improve energy efficiency in the transportation, building, and other appropriate sectors.

AARA provides \$3.2 Billion in national funding for EECBG, to be divided as follows:

- 1.9 Billion to be distributed by formula to “eligible local governments” through the Department of Energy
- \$784 Million to be distributed by formula to States
- \$56 Million for a national competitive grant program to be administered by DOE that will give priority to small states (with populations of less than 2 million)
- \$400 Million for a national competitive grant program to be administered by DOE

Funding and Eligibility Breakdown for VT:

- DOE will make a direct allocation to each of the 10 highest-populated cities/towns in VT;
- DOE may make a direct allocation to each of the 10 highest-populated counties in VT;
- DOE will make a direct allocation to the State of VT, which will be required to pass not less than 60% of its block grant funding to local governments that are noted slated to receive formula funding directly from DOE; and
- All VT communities that did not receive a formula allocation from DOE or the State of VT may be eligible to apply for funding through one of the national competitive grant programs; at least one of these programs will give priority to small states like VT.

DOE is working to publish guidance regarding how they will administer the program and provide specific instructions on how to apply for funding. For further updates, you should consult http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/wip/block_grants.cfm or call 1-877-337-3463.

Municipal leaders in communities that are likely to receive funding should begin planning now! This includes generating project ideas, assessing costs, and determining priorities, so you are ready to use the funds effectively and quickly when they are disbursed. Block grant funds can be used to conduct energy audits, make efficiency improvements, retrofits, develop infrastructure like bike lanes and pedestrian paths, renewable energy installations on government buildings, LED street lighting, and much more.

Rural Fire Protection Task Force Dry Hydrant Grant Program

This grant program enables towns to improve fire suppression capabilities and implement their water supply plans. This may be the last year the Task Force receives funding. Overall goals are to save lives, by reducing response time and improving both public and firefighter safety; enable fire fighters to have year round drafting capability; reduce risks to property, both public and private; and lower insurance premiums, both public and private.

Applications must be received by May 1, 2009. Awards will be made by May 31. The maximum grant available for any individual dry hydrant installation is \$2,500. All field work must be completed asap, including permitting. A 24% local match of total project cost is required. Match can be met through pre-owned material, as well as in-kind services such as volunteer time and equipment usage. For more information, contact Troy Dare, Engineering Technician, at 828-4582, or dryhydrantguy@yahoo.com.

Source Water Protection Programs

USDA Rural Development Utilities Service - offers loans, grants, and loan guarantees to rural areas and to communities with a population of 10,000 or less. Funds can be used for installing, repairing, improving or expanding drinking water, wastewater, solid waste, and storm drainage facilities as well as for land acquisition, legal fees, engineering fees, capitalized interest, equipment, initial operating and maintenance costs, and project contingencies. Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants are provided after a natural disaster to extend, repair, and perform maintenance to water infrastructure. Go to www.usda.gov/rus for more information.

EPA Drinking Water State Revolving Fund - awarded to states, who then offer low-interest loans to drinking water systems to improve infrastructure. Go to www.epa.gov/safewater/dwsrf.html

EPA Clean Water Act Fund - annual, revolving fund for water quality project low and no-interest loans, up to 100% of the project costs, with a repayment schedule up to 20 years. Go to www.epa.gov/ownmitnet/cwfinance/cwsrf/ for more information.

EPA Non-Point Source Implementation Grants - awarded to states to implement nonpoint source projects and programs, including best management practices installation for animal wastes, pesticide and fertilizer control, stream bank restoration, and lake protection/restoration. Grantees are required to provide 40% of the total project cost. Go to www.epa.gov/owow/nps/cwact.html

EPA Five Star Restoration Grant Program - provides grants of \$5-20,000 to community-based groups for restoring wetlands and streams. Go to www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/restore/5star.