



ACRPC

update

August 2008

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Announced

Vermont has received a federal disaster declaration for the storms and flooding which occurred June 14-17, 2008. Federal Public Assistance (PA) funding is available for state and local governments on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and repair or replacement of public infrastructure damaged by the storms and flooding in Addison and Franklin counties only.

The HMGP grant program is funded through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and is administered by Vermont Emergency Management (VEM). VEM is accepting HMGP applications only from towns in the affected counties of Addison, Franklin, Orleans and Rutland. Federal funds are available to cover up to 75% of project costs. There is a 25% local match requirement.

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ACRPC Welcomes New Staff Member Elizabeth Golden

Elizabeth Golden has recently joined the ACRPC staff as our Land Use Planner. She will assist our member Towns with Municipal Planning Grant applications, revisions to their Town Plans, and Zoning Regulations questions. She will work with the Energy Committee on energy program planning, community outreach, and its myriad of activities. She will also assist the Local Government Committee, which reviews and approves Town Plans. Elizabeth will be project manager and researcher for a number of energy and other natural resources projects. Elizabeth will also assist with Commission meetings, improving our website, maintaining our databases and GIS mapping.

Elizabeth has a background in environmental, regional, community and land use planning, as well as geography and public policy. She has worked as a planning consultant, environmental educator, conservation coordinator and research associate. She holds degrees in City and Regional Planning from Rutgers University in New Jersey and Environmental Planning and Geography at the University of Cincinnati in Ohio. She was previously an ACRPC Commissioner representing Shoreham and active on the Energy, Natural Resources, TAC and other committees over the past six years. We welcome Elizabeth as our newest staff member!

.....And Says Farewell to Amy Diller

ACRPC is also saying goodbye to its Watershed Planner Amy Diller this month. In addition to her watershed related tasks, Amy has worked on the Newsletter, with the Natural Resources and Brownfields Committees, and as the Regional Safe Routes to School Coordinator. We wish her well in her new role as Trail Management and Protection Director with the Catamount Trail Association.

Commission Calendar

Month	Date	Time	Committee
August	1	12:00	Energy Committee
	20	7:00	Transportation Advisory Committee
	26	7:00	Natural Resources Committee
	27	6:00	Executive Committee
	24	7:00	Energy Workshop: Weatherization
			No Full Commission Meeting
September	5	12:00	Energy Committee
	10	7:00	Full Commission
	17	7:00	Transportation Advisory Committee
	23	7:00	Natural Resources Committee
	24	7:00	Executive Committee
	25	7:00	Energy Workshop: Wood Supply

Meetings are open to the public, and unless otherwise noted, held at ACRPC.

Selected minutes are available online at www.acrpc.org. For further information, contact ACRPC at 388-3141

This newsletter is financed through the State of Vermont Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the State of Vermont. All programs of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission are handicapped accessible.

News & Events

ACRPC Energy Committee Programs

The ACRPC Energy Committee offers a free public program each month on energy conservation and renewable energy technology. The programs are presented by professionals in the respective technologies. Each energy program provides useful and up-to-date information on current energy issues and technology. They also offer the opportunity for citizens to get answers to their immediate questions on whether the technology is appropriate to their circumstances, within their budget, and worth the investment. Programming is underway for future programs well into the winter months. All programs are held at the ACRPC offices, typically on the fourth Thursday of the month. Ample parking is available on the side and rear of the building. Be sure to arrive early if you want a good seat and some homemade chocolate chips cookies, courtesy of Bob McNary, Energy Committee member. If you are unable to attend, you can watch the presentation on Middlebury Community TV, channel 15 at 6 a.m. on Friday and Saturday mornings immediately following the program, and on the following Monday evening at 8:30 p.m. They are also available to download at middleburycommunitytv@comcast.net.

The August program will be on Weatherization for Residential Buildings and will be held on Thursday, August 28 from 7:00-9:00 pm. The program will be presented by Mr. Fred Lugano, a retired expert on indoor air quality, energy conservation, and building durability. Fred has many years of experience in building renovations, as the owner of Lake Construction in Charlotte. He has written several key articles on fixing cold, damp, moldy, and drafty houses using cellulose sealing and practical climate control. He is particularly skilled at solving difficult building problems that involve preserving the structure, providing comfort, and improving indoor environmental health.

Mr. Lugano's presentation will include an overview of the principles of thermal and moisture protection and passive weatherization methods that improve building performance, stabilize indoor environments and save on energy costs. There will be ample time during the program to ask questions that apply to your home and gain valuable insight from this industry expert. Information on financing weatherization modifications and local weatherization funds available to low-income households will also be provided.

Future Energy Programs at ACRPC

- 8/28/08 - Weatherization for Energy Savings
- 9/25/08 - Wood Supply for Firewood, Chips and Pellets
- 10/23/08 - Financing Homeowner Renewable Energy Projects
- 1/22/09 - Local and Individual Wind Power Projects
- 2/26/09 - Community Hydro Power Projects
- 3/26/09 - Generating Electricity with Photovoltaics

For additional information on the ACRPC Energy Committee programs, contact Elizabeth Golden at (802) 388-3141 or egolden@sover.net.

Hazard Mitigation Grants continued from page 1...

We encourage you to identify potential hazard mitigation sites in areas within your jurisdiction and apply for funds under the HMGP grant program. Typical hazard mitigation projects include: local roads or bridges that are regularly flooded, undersized culverts, stream bank erosion, inadequate road ditching, acquisition (buy-out) of damaged homes in the designated floodway, etc. HMGP funds are limited for this disaster. Therefore, if you have a larger project (i.e. greater than \$90,000 in total cost), you may wish to apply for a grant under FEMA's Pre-Disaster Mitigation competitive (PDM-C) program which is open to all Vermont communities and which provides greater funding levels.

To be eligible for a HMGP grant, please note the following FEMA requirements:

- 1) Communities must have a FEMA approved and adopted Local Mitigation Plan no later than the date the grant funds are awarded
- 2) Communities must be participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), if a special flood hazard area is identified in the community
- 3) The application must be completed in full, including: maps, list of alternative proposals, engineering plans, hydrology studies (if needed) and a benefit-cost analysis (BCA).

The deadline for HMGP applications for DR 1778 (June 14-17 flooding events) is Friday, December 5, 2008

The HMGP application is available on VEM's website at www.dps.state.vt.us/vem. Contact Ray Doherty, State Hazard Mitigation Officer at (802) 241-5258 or at rdoherty@dps.state.vt.us, or Tim Bouton at tbouton@sover.net.

News & Events

Public Radio Series on Land Use Policy

A series examining on-the-ground impacts of land policy began airing in February on National Public Radio. *Shifting Ground* was produced by David Baron, an award-winning author and journalist who has worked in public radio for more than 20 years. The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and The Orton Family Foundation, based in Middlebury, provided support for the development of the *Shifting Ground* series, which was acquired and edited by NPR. Stories from the series are archived and available on the website www.shifting-ground.com.

Baron said he hopes the series will stand out not just in substance, but in style. "Stories about land use are often technical and abstract. Zoning, setbacks, comprehensive plans -- just mention the terms, and eyes glaze over," he said. "We decided the key would be storytelling, and though the stories are place-specific, they touch on issues that listeners can relate to, wherever they live." Stories in the series are based throughout the country and address issues such as conservation easements, suburban growth, siting of wind farms, and the difficulties of removing homes from eroding banks.

Excerpted from www.cyburbia.org.

Greening Up Your Bottom Line

Learn what Vermont businesses (and municipalities) are doing to reduce their environmental impacts and improve their bottom lines. Small businesses of 50 employees or less, who attend this conference, are eligible for technical and financial assistance for energy efficiency and / or environmental projects as funding allows.

Panel topics include:

- Why Measure Your Carbon Footprint (plus a detailed session on How to Measure this)
- The Low Hanging Fruit of Energy Efficiency
- Alternative Space Heating Systems
- Greening Up Your Office
- Greener Printing Options
- Choosing Environmentally Friendly Electronics Products
- Speed Greening and Poster Session (for businesses to provide information on environmental stewardship projects)

View the agenda and register online at <http://www.vtsbdc.org/green.cfm>.

Lake Champlain Basin Program Grants

The Lake Champlain Basin Program has announced funding for several local grant programs in 2008. Applications for the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership (CVNHP) grants will be available soon (\$100,000 total funds). The LCBP will also boost Quadricentennial programs by offering \$50,000 in special "Quad" grants later this summer.

In August, the LCBP will release a request for proposals for its familiar local implementation grants program, which supports projects by local watershed groups and other organizations. A total of up to \$140,000 will be available for these programs. A mini-grant program to help farmers implement water quality improvement projects also will be available (up to \$35,000 total).

All RFPs and grant announcements will be posted on the grant page of the LCBP website at <http://www.lcbp.org>.

Water Supply Facilitation and Mediation Program

A new program of facilitation and mediation services is being offered by the State of Vermont's Water Supply Division. The program will provide the services of an impartial facilitator or mediator to help parties develop and negotiate complex interlocal agreements, user fee rates, operation and maintenance schedules, water allocations, consolidation and other matters related to providing drinking water to the public. Its goal will be to develop equitable agreements between willing parties. The program will serve public drinking water system owners, operators, governing boards and other interested parties, and will be funded by Drinking Water State Revolving Fund monies.

If you are interested in this facilitation or mediation, please contact Ashley Lucht at Ashley.lucht@state.vt.us or 802/241-3424.

Growth Centers Grants Available

DHCA is again making \$40,000 available to be awarded to one or more towns who are working toward growth center designation. The application is now available, and is due postmarked September 15, 2008. You may download the application from DHCA's web site at: <http://www.dhca.state.vt.us/Planning/GrowthCenters.htm>.

Please contact Wendy Tudor with any questions at wendy.tudor@state.vt.us

Grants

Cultural Facilities Grant Program

The cultural facilities grant program is administered by the Vermont Arts Council in conjunction with the Vermont Historical Society, the Vermont Museum & Gallery Alliance, and the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. The program awards grants on a competitive basis to assist nonprofit organizations and municipalities to improve community facilities used to provide cultural activities to the public. The purpose of the program is to enhance or expand the capacity of an existing building to provide cultural programming. Grants range from \$1,000 - \$20,000 and require a 1:1 cash match. Application deadline is Wednesday, October 1, 2008. The Arts Council will offer Cultural Facilities Grants Workshops in September. For more information, contact: Sonia Rae, Vermont Arts Council (802)-828-5425; srae@vermontartscouncil.org, or visit www.vermontartscouncil.org

Recreational Facilities Grant Program

The recreational facilities grant program provides competitive grants to municipalities and nonprofit organizations to stimulate the creation and development of recreational opportunities in Vermont Communities. The program requires a 3:1 match from the recipient and caps awards at \$25,000. This program requires that there be demonstrated community support, both financial and grassroots. Application deadline is September 5, 2008. For more information, contact: Diane Nealy, Department of Buildings and General Services (802)-828-3519; Diane.Nealy@state.vt.us, or visit www.bgs.state.vt.us

Human Services and Educational Facilities Competitive Grant Program

The human services and educational facilities grant program is directed to award matching grants to municipalities and nonprofit organizations for capital costs associated with the major maintenance, renovation and development of facilities used for the delivery of human services and health care, or for the development of educational opportunities in Vermont communities. The program requires a 3:1 match from the recipient and caps awards at \$25,000. Application deadline is September 12, 2008. For more information, contact: Diane Nealy, Department of Buildings and General Services (802)-28-3519; Diane.Nealy@state.vt.us, or visit www.bgs.state.vt.us

FY09 Municipal Planning Grants

This year, towns will be required to use an online application system to apply for Municipal Planning Grants (MPGs). The state will be contacting towns directly at the end of August providing them with access to the online application instructions, a schedule for training/coaching opportunities and other information. The Proposed schedule for FY09 MPGs is as follows:

- New applications instructions mailed to towns & available on web - September
- Regional confirmation of municipal planning process due - September 30, 2008
- Training for online applications - TBA (September & October)
- Grant applications due - October 31, 2008
- Grant decisions - December 31, 2008

For more information about this grant opportunity, visit <http://www.dhca.state.vt.us/Planning/MPG.htm> or contact Elizabeth Golden at egolden@sover.net.

Historic Preservation Grants

The Vermont Legislature appropriated \$180,000 for the 2009 Historic Preservation Grant Program, administered by the Vermont Division of Historic Preservation.

Preservation projects that promote public enjoyment of Vermont's architectural heritage are eligible to apply for grant funding. A building must be owned by a municipality or a non-profit organization and must be listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places in order to qualify for funding. Approximately fifteen matching grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$15,000 will be awarded. Completed applications are due by 4:30 p.m. on October 6, 2008. The Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation will review all of the applications and select the grant recipients and supply written notification of the results to applicants by January 2009.

The Grant Manual and Application are available at <http://www.historicvermont.org/financial/hp.html>. If you have any questions that are not covered in the Grant Manual, contact Devin Colman at (802)828-3043 or at devin.colman@state.vt.us call 802-828-3043 for assistance.