



# ACRPC

*update*

December 2010

## ACTR's Bus Schedules on Google Maps

ACRPC is proud to have assisted the Addison County Transit Resources (ACTR) in becoming the first Google Transit Partner in Vermont and one of the first rural community partners in New England. Over the past year ACRPC and a Middlebury College student have built the data files necessary to be accepted into the Transit Partner program. Transit on Google Maps is a public transportation planning tool that combines the latest agency data with the power of Google Maps. It integrates transit stop, route, schedule, and fare information to make trip planning quick and easy for everyone.

Transit on Google Maps is a cost-effective solution targeted at transit novices and seasoned travelers alike. This feature is available on selected mobile devices through Google Maps for mobile ([www.google.com/mobile/products/maps.html#p=default](http://www.google.com/mobile/products/maps.html#p=default)). Public transportation information is also included in Google Earth ([www.earth.google.com](http://www.earth.google.com)).

Users enter a departure time and starting / ending destinations into Google Maps, click on the Transit icon (a bus) and Google Maps will provide transit directions if available, stops, times and costs.

Visit ACTR's website at ([www.actr-vt.org](http://www.actr-vt.org)) to try out the tool.

## How to Increase Biking and Walking in Vermont

On Nov. 10th Jon Kaplan, the Manager of the Agency of Transportation's Bicycle and pedestrian Program, presented his findings from the 2009 International Scan of Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety and Mobility. Jon travelled with a national team to examine bike/ped infrastructure and operations in five European countries. His key findings were that both safety and awareness increase as the numbers of riders and walkers increase. Secondly, policies need to be implemented that give primacy to bikes and walkers. For example, bike lanes and barriers, high parking fees, good signage, public education, and monitoring enforcement.

Jon returned with several recommendations to help increase walking and biking in Vermont:

1. Create more pedestrian refuges at wide intersections
2. Promote passive detection of pedestrians at crosswalks to improve walk time/traffic flow
3. Create a traffic garden for training
4. Collect, analyze and publicize bike crash data by region
5. Implement bike/transit coordination

To view the entire presentation, visit the MCTV Online page of the Middlebury Community Television website ([www.middleburycommunitytv.org/vindex.php](http://www.middleburycommunitytv.org/vindex.php)) and click on "Planning Commission: 11/15/10."

## Commission Calendar

December 2010	3	9-11 am	ACTR Board Meeting
	4	9am-4pm	Community Energy and Climate Action Conference
	4	9am-4pm	Discover How "Green" Can Improve Your Home or Business
	6	7:00pm	ACORN Energy Co-op
	8	7-9pm	ATTICS: Tackling Moisture and Efficiency Workshop
	8	7:00pm	Full Commission Meeting
	10	8:15-10:00am	ACTR Board Meeting
	10	9am-4:30pm	Future of Vermont's Working Landscape Summit
	13	7:00pm	Energy Committee
	16	7:00pm	Addison County Solid Waste Management District Meeting
	20	7:00pm	ACORN Energy Co-Op
	22	7:00pm	Executive Board Meeting

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# News/Events

## **ACRPC Hires Regional Planner**

On Nov. 8th, the ACRPC hired Kevin Lehman to perform energy and brownfields redevelopment work, to write a corridor management plan for the Lake Champlain Byways program, and to manage the ACRPC's website and marketing efforts. Kevin brings an extensive background in business and project management, renewable energy and sustainability. In addition to his work for the ACRPC, he is in the final stages of his master's work at Marlboro College Graduate School (MBA in Managing for Sustainability) and serves on the boards of the Middlebury Natural Foods Co-Op and the Addison Country Relocalization Network. Kevin says, "I'm excited for the opportunity to work on these important issues with the RPC. Call or email me anytime if you want to talk about energy or brownfields." Kevin lives in Middlebury and can be reached at 803-388-3141 or kevinl@sover.net.

## **Community Energy and Climate Action Conference**

*Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee, VT*

*Sat., Dec. 4, 9am to 4pm*

This energy excellent conference is intended to help town energy and climate action coordinators, committees, planning commissioners, select board members and organizations plan and implement efficiency and renewable energy projects. The agenda includes concurrent workshop presentations, regional break-out meetings, and general sessions. Hosted by Vermont Energy Climate Action Network (VECAN) partner organizations, UVM Extension, VPIRG and Peak Oil Awareness.

Find out more at [www.vecan.net](http://www.vecan.net). Advanced registration is required (\$25).

## **Greener Mountains: Discover How "Green" Can Improve Your Home & Business**

*Holiday Inn (Rt 7) in Rutland, VT*

*Sat Dec 4, 9am - 4pm*

Visit with organizations and businesses to learn about energy efficiency, new technologies, and local food. Attend workshops on saving energy, renewable energy, local food, single-stream recycling, and Smart Grid systems coming to every home in Rutland County. Kid's Zone presented by Hands On Minds On ([www.handsonminds-on.com](http://www.handsonminds-on.com)). This free event is hosted by the Rutland Economic Development Corp with others as part of Rutland County Energy Challenge.

For more information, call 773-9147 or visit [www.rutlandcountyenergychallenge.com](http://www.rutlandcountyenergychallenge.com).

## **ATTICS: Tackling Moisture & Efficiency Workshop**

*Ilsley Library Community Conf. Room in Middlebury*

*Wed., Dec 8, 7-9pm*

When it comes to building efficiency, it's best to start in spaces below your feet and above your head. Fred Lugano, a former CVOEO weatherization trainer, explains how to handle attics correctly. Contractors and homeowners are encouraged to bring their unresolved questions to this free program hosted by Acorn Energy Co-op with support from others.

For more information call 385-1911.

## **Future of Vermont's Working Landscape Summit**

*Vermont State House in Montpelier*

*December 10, 2010, 9am - 4:30pm*

This Summit will highlight the challenges facing the agricultural and forest-based enterprises that are at the foundation of Vermont's Working Landscape. Summit participants will review a Working Landscape Action Plan developed by the VCRD-founded Working Landscape Steering Committee. Sponsored by the Vermont Council on Rural Development. Fee is \$25.

For more information contact the VCRD at 802-223-6091 or [info@vtrural.org](mailto:info@vtrural.org).

# Grants

## **Food Systems Grant from UVM**

The University of Vermont Center for Rural Studies (CRS) has set aside \$35,000 from U.S. Dept. of Agriculture to help fund three or four food system projects (\$12,000 each). The program will accept proposals to fund new or continuing projects. Examples of projects that could be funded include research and evaluation of food system practices, development of technical assistance, market analyses for local and regional products, and the creation of new collaborative relationships.

Due 12/9/10. Visit [www.uvm.edu/crs](http://www.uvm.edu/crs) to find out more.

## **Regional Stakeholder Grant**

The Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership (CVNHP) and Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) are offering grants up to \$2,200 to provide coordination for Regional Stakeholder Groups to organize, coordinate, and convene regular meetings among CVNHP stakeholders.

Due 12/22/10. Visit [www.champlainvalleynhp.org/grants.htm](http://www.champlainvalleynhp.org/grants.htm) to find out more.

## **Emergency Shelter Generator Grant**

Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) has approximately \$100,000 in EMPG funds available to assist Vermont municipalities with emergency shelter generators, homeless shelter generators and/or associated wiring costs. Awards will be based on the number of applications, costs, geographic diversity and ability to supply local match. Additionally, all municipalities applying for these funds must have an updated Basic Emergency Operations Plan and must also be National Incident Management System (NIMS) Compliant.

Due 12/29/10. Visit [www.vem.vermont.gov/home/generators](http://www.vem.vermont.gov/home/generators) to find out more.