



ACRPC

update

December 2011

Is Your Town Considering PACE?

Now is the Time to Act

PACE, which stands for Property Assessed Clean Energy, is an innovative financing program for energy efficiency projects and renewables. To participate in the program in 2012, towns need to add PACE to the Town Meeting ballot. The deadline to warn new items is January 26. Please contact ACRPC Planner Kevin Lehman at 388-3141 or kevinl@acrpc.org for details on PACE and how to bring it to your town.

Key Provisions of PACE:

- * Enables municipalities to create and secure debt

for a PACE program if they choose, and to secure funding to pay for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects;

- * Participating property owners pay for the benefit through a special assessment charged as an additional line item on their property tax bills;

- * Non-participating property owners have no obligation to pay for any of the costs of a PACE district.

Benefits for Vermont Property Owners:

- * Overcomes a key financial hurdle for making investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy;
- * Incremental special assessment payments are low and fixed for up to 20 years, with no upfront cost;
- * Special assessment fees transfer to the new owner when the property is sold, or assessment obligation can be paid in full at transfer;
- * Energy bills are lowered and the property owner is helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Benefits to Vermont Cities and Towns:

- * Cities and towns can use PACE to become more self-reliant and energy efficient and contribute to meeting sustainability, climate, and energy goals;
- * Cities and towns can provide a valuable public service to the members of their community.

Benefits to Vermont's Economy:

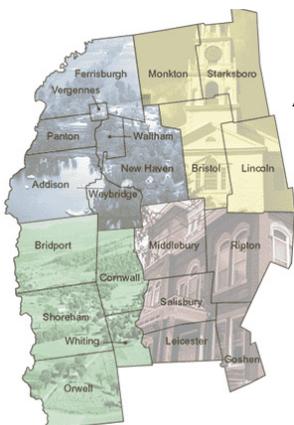
- * Could inject millions of dollars directly into the Vermont economy to make lasting energy and building infrastructure improvements;
- * Would provide a steady and growing demand for installers of energy efficiency and renewables;
- * Helps to establish a steady demand for energy efficiency and renewable energy products, helping suppliers and retailers expand their businesses.

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.

Commission Calendar

Dec. 2011	9	8:15-10:00am	Addison County Transit Resource
	14	7:30pm	Full Commission Meeting
	14	1:00-2:30pm	Addison County Transit Resource
	19	5:00-6:30	ACORN Network
	27	7:00pm	Natural Resources Committee
	28	6:30pm	ACRPC Executive Board
	28	5:00	Local Emergency Planning Committee, VT State Police Barrack

Meetings are held at ACRPC, 14 Seminary Street, Middlebury, and are open to the public.



Addison County Regional Planning Commission
14 Seminary Street
Middlebury, VT 05753

Phone: 802.388.3141
Fax: 802.388.0038

Events / Grants

Middlebury Green Drinks

*51 Main at the Bridge, 51 Main St., Middlebury
Wednesday, December 21, 5:00-7:00pm*

December's theme is celebration, including a toast to past and invited Spirit in Nature eco-spirit award winners: Bill McKibben, John Elder, Rebecca Gould, Steve Maier, Paul Bortz, Laura Asermily, Corrine Almquist, & Ann Hoover.

GreenDrinks.org is a global movement aimed at connecting people informally in cities throughout the world for the purpose of brainstorming and networking on green topics in a relaxed, relatively unstructured setting.

Middlebury Green Drinks meets the third Wednesday night of each month and features door prizes, free snacks, drink discounts and themes. 51 Main hosts a Blues Jam on Wednesdays from 8-10 pm following Green Drinks.

To suggest topic ideas, offer door prizes or sponsor refreshments or drink discounts, contact middleburygreendrinks@gmail.com or visit <http://www.greendrinks.org/VT/Middlebury>.

Follow-Up to Bloom Film

*Palace 9 Cinema in South Burlington
Thursday, Dec. 15, 7:00pm*

This new series (three 30-minute segments) is a follow-up to last year's Emmy Award-winning documentary, *Bloom: The Plight of Lake Champlain*, which addressed the main sources of phosphorus pollution that are contributing to the growing problem of algae blooms in Lake Champlain.

The new film further investigates pollution sources from wastewater, agricultural, and urban land use, but with a focus on design solutions.

The series features leading scholars and designers such as Bill McKibben, Maude Barlow, Bill Maclay and UVM professor John Todd, alongside farmers, ur-

ban planners, government officials, scientists, business leaders and environmental advocates.

2012 Federal Highway Administration Discretionary Grant Programs

FHWA recently announced the availability of funding via the 2012 discretionary programs. These discretionary programs represent special funding categories that FHWA solicits for candidates and selects projects for funding based on applications received:

1. Public Lands Highways (PLHD) - This program provides funding for transportation planning, research, and engineering and construction of, highways, roads, parkways, and transit facilities that are within, adjacent to, or provide access to Indian reservations and Federal public lands, including national parks, refuges, forests, recreation areas, and grasslands. Visit <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/discretionary/plhd2012info.htm> for a full description of the program.
VTrans Program Contact: Matthew Langham, at Matthew.Langham@state.vt.us or via phone 828.-5578

2. Transportation, Community and System Preservation (TCSP) - This program provides funding for a comprehensive initiative including planning grants, implementation grants, and research to investigate and address the relationships among transportation, community, and system preservation plans and practices and identify private sector-based initiatives to improve those relationships. <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/discretionary/tcsp2012info.htm>.

VTrans Program Contact: Susan Clark, at Susan.Clark@state.vt.us or phone 828.2629. If your municipality is interested in exploring this grant, please contact Rick Kehne at ACRPC (rkehne@acrpc.org or 388-3141).

USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Loans and Grants

The USDA has low interest rates for loans for municipal building projects (currently, 3.75%). In some

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cases, the loan term can be as long as 30 years; making monthly payments affordable.

Community Facilities serves non-profits and public bodies. These loans and grants are to renovate, repair, purchase or construct buildings which house community services. The money can also be used to purchase or repair equipment for the facilities.

Projects that will receive priority this year are:

- Library or educational construction projects
- Public safety equipment required by the Narrowbanding deadline
- Projects related to disaster recovery
- Child care and pre-school projects
- Project supports local food systems or food security such as farmer's markets or food pantries
- Healthcare related projects

Applications are accepted throughout the year, but applications submitted by January 20 will compete for the 2012 grant funding.

For more information, contact Karen Lynch at 802-828-6044 or Karen.Lynch@vt.usda.gov or visit http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/HCF_CF.html. If your municipality is interested in exploring this grant, please contact Adam Lougee or Kevin Lehman at ACRPC (388-3141).

Grant Opportunity for National Scenic Byways

The National Scenic Byways Program (NSBP) recognizes roads having outstanding scenic, historic, cultural, natural, recreational, and archaeological qualities. NSBP funding supports projects that manage and protect these intrinsic qualities, interpret these qualities for visitors, and improve visitor facilities along byways. Several towns in the Addison region are served by the Lake Champlain Byways.

Additional information on the NSBP can be found at <http://www.bywaysonline.org/>.

The following are projects that are eligible for assistance under the NSBP:

1. An activity related to the planning, design, or development of a State or Indian tribe scenic byway program.
2. Development and implementation of a corridor management plan to maintain the scenic, historical, recreational, cultural, natural, and archaeological characteristics of a byway corridor while providing for accommodation of increased tourism and development of related amenities.
3. Safety improvements to a State scenic byway, Indian tribe scenic byway, National Scenic Byway, All-American Road, or one of America's Byways.
4. Construction along a scenic byway of a facility for pedestrians and bicyclists, rest area, turnout, highway shoulder improvement, overlook, or interpretive facility.
5. An improvement to a scenic byway that will enhance access to an area for the purpose of recreation, including water-related recreation.
6. Protection of scenic, historical, recreational, cultural, natural, and archaeological resources in an area adjacent to a scenic byway.
7. Development and provision of tourist information to the public, including interpretive information about a scenic byway.
8. Development and implementation of a scenic byway marketing program.

Visit <http://www.bywaysonline.org> for more information or to apply.

Since grant applications in this area would be part of the Lake Champlain Byway, please contact Adam Lougee (388-3141 or alougee@acrpc.org) to get your application. The deadline is Dec. 12.