

ACRPC

update

December 2016

ACRPC Hosts Municipal Energy Planning Training

On Wednesday, December 7th ACRPC hosted nearly thirty municipal officials for a training on Energy Planning and Act 174. The two primary focuses of the training were: (1) Act 174 and energy planning in Vermont at the regional and municipal level and (2) a review of municipal energy planning standards, what they are, what they mean, and how Addison County communities will meet them.

Essentially, these standards will be used by the Department of Public Service and Regional Planning Commissions to make determinations as to whether regional and municipal plans are consistent with state energy policy. Plans that receive an affirmative determination will receive substantial deference for their land conservation measures and specific policies when the Public Service Board considers orderly development in its review of siting applications. Act 174 details a set of planning requirements to receive a determination, including consistency with Vermont’s energy and climate goals and the inclusion of energy analysis across the building, transportation, and electrical sectors.

Act 174 establishes three pathways for a plan to receive a determination of energy compliance: 1) regional plans will be evaluated by the Department; 2) once their region’s plan has received an affirmative determination, municipal plans will be evaluated by their regional planning commission; and 3) until July 1, 2018, a municipality in a region that has not received a determination may apply to the Department for evaluation.

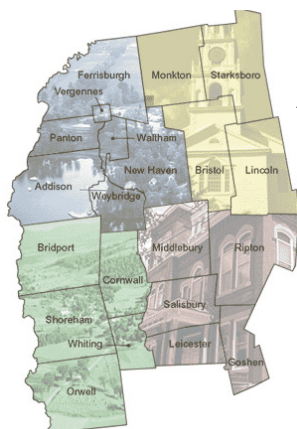
The standards build upon regional energy planning work already underway at all Regional Planning Commissions under contract with the Department. Regions will furthermore be providing analyses and maps that will enable municipalities to easily meet the Analysis & Targets and Mapping standards. Regions will also conduct at least two trainings in each region, will each be offering in-depth technical assistance to at least three municipalities, and will be compiling best practice language from those efforts, which will aid future municipalities in meeting the Pathways standards.

Commission Calendar

December 2016

14	7:00pm	Full Commission Meeting
15	7:00pm	ACSWMD Meeting
		NO TAC MEETING
		NO EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

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



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Grants, Workshops & Other Opportunities

The final standards and recommendations, along with an overview and regional and municipal guidelines, can be found here: <http://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/act-174-recommendations-and-determination-standards>.

The PowerPoint presentation from ACRPC's first of two training sessions is available here: http://54.172.27.91/Downloads/Other/Energy%20Planning/EnergyPlanningPresentation_20161207.pdf.

ACRPC will be updating its Energy page in the near future to include more information on Act 174 and regional and municipal energy planning, so please stay tuned. As always, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to call!

Monkton Park & Ride Open!

As of early November, Monkton's new park-and-ride is officially up and running. The park-and-ride is located in the gravel lot just west of the main lot at the Monkton Central School.

Monkton was able to convert this space into an official park-and-ride through the VTrans Municipal Park-and-Ride Grant Program, which is designed to help provide safe and convenient parking facilities to encourage the consolidation of travelers and the reduction of single occupancy vehicles on the roads. For more information about the VTrans Park-and-Ride Program, please visit here: <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/parkandrides>.

DHCD Announces Municipal Planning Grant Recipients

The Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development is pleased to announce \$464,000 in Municipal Planning Grant awards to 38 communities across Vermont. This year's Municipal Planning Grants, range from \$3,159 to \$20,000 with total

requests exceeding \$780,000. Competitively awarded, 69 total applications were reviewed with 38 projects selected throughout Vermont. Winning projects range from updating local regulations to better serve the farm and forest economy in Berkshire, a rural town at the Canadian border, to improving parking conditions in downtown Brattleboro. "These grants support diverse, locally-driven projects that address a range of issues from housing and economic development to steps that reduce future flood damages," said Josh Hanford, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Housing and Community Development.

The communities of Cabot, Manchester and Winooski and others recognize that the design of their downtown or village buildings, streets and sidewalks and how they relate to the surrounding neighborhoods directly impacts vitality of the community and the local economy. For this reason, they secured grant funds to help them develop projects and strategies to replicate the revitalization successes seen in other Vermont cities and towns. Similarly, through a public/private partnership, West Rutland will use its grant to redesign an underused 1970s mall, making it more useful, attractive and better connected to the village.

Addison County funding recipients include:

Cornwall: Protecting Working Lands and Natural Resources

- Building on the success of the VT Department of Fish and Wildlife's Community Values Mapping Project, Cornwall will update its regulations to preserve its working landscape and natural resources.
- Total Project Cost: \$18,680
- Grant Funds Awarded: \$15,120

Starksboro – Sustaining Rural Economy

- Grant funds will help the town engage citizens to chart a path towards reducing local flood risks, preserving scenic resources, and providing guidance to site renewable energy projects.
- Total Project Cost: \$9,100
- Grant Funds Awarded: \$8,733

Grants, Workshops & Other Opportunities

Awarded annually and administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), the Municipal Planning Grant Program works to strengthen Vermont communities. Since 1998, the program has provided over \$11 million to 234 cities and towns across Vermont to help them thrive by planning for future growth and development and improving the quality of life.

Project summaries and local contact information on the 38 grants working to make Vermont's communities stronger are available here: <http://accd.vermont.gov/sites/accdnew/files/documents/CD/CPR/MPG/CPR-MPG-FundedProjects-FY17.pdf>.

For more information on DHCD's MPG Program, visit here: <http://accd.vermont.gov/community-development/funding-incentives/municipal-planning-grant>.

Aquatic Nuisance Grant Program Opens

The Vermont Aquatic Nuisance Control Grant-in-aid grants program is now accepting applications for project year 2017 projects addressing aquatic invasive and nuisance species. The applications are due no later than Wednesday, February 8th, 2017. These grants provide financial assistance to municipalities and agencies of the state for aquatic invasive and nuisance plant and animal management programs – control, spread prevention, and educational projects. Funding for Grant-in-aid Grants comes from a portion of annual revenues from state motorboat registration fees and often federal funds. For the 2017 program, an estimated \$500,000 is available.

For a project to be considered for funds in 2017, a completed application package should be submitted in electronic format (PDF preferred), clearly marked, and emailed to David Pasco (david.pasco@vermont.gov) by 4:30 PM on Wednesday, February 8, 2017.

The 2017 application and instructions are available on line at: <http://www.dec.vermont.gov/watershed/>

[lakes-ponds/aquatic-invasives/funding](#). To request an application or for further information, you may also contact Ann Bove directly at 802.490.6120.

Better Connections Grants - Last Call!

VTrans and DHCD are pleased to announce \$200,000 in available planning grant funds to expand transportation options while fostering economic vitality for our businesses and communities. The program is open to municipalities and grant applications are due January 13, 2017.

ALL APPLICANTS MUST PARTICIPATE IN A PRE-APPLICATION MEETING WITH PROGRAM STAFF BY DECEMBER 16, 2016.

The Better Connections Program (formerly known as the Strong Communities, Better Connections Program) seeks to align state and local investments to increase transportation options, build resilience, and strengthen economic vitality in Vermont's community centers, through an annual grant program administered by Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans), in partnership with the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD). Municipalities annually compete for approximately \$200,000 in projects funds. A 10% local cash match is required.

The program supports implementation-focused, municipal planning initiatives that:

- Provide safe, multi-modal and resilient transportation systems that supports the Vermont economy;
- Support downtown and village economic development and revitalization efforts;
- Lead directly to project implementation.

For more information, visit here: <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/projects-programs/better-connections>.

For other ACCD funding opportunities, visit here: <http://accd.vermont.gov/community-development/funding>.