



ACRPC

update February 2010

**ACRPC Energy Committee Program:
Green Building
Thursday, February 25, 2010
7:00 - 9:00 PM**

**ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Program:
The Potential Impact of Global Warming
on Addison County and Vermont
Wednesday, February 10, 2010
7:30p.m.**

Chris Hoffman, Architect at Breadloaf Associates in Middlebury will present a program on Green Building for Residential Construction. The program will cover everything from site selection, building orientation, massing, and layout, to air circulation, heating systems, windows, insulation and special design features. Whether you are building new or renovating your home, this program will offer a wealth of advice.

This month ACRPC is pleased to have Dr. Arnold Bloom join us for a lecture and discussion on global warming and its implications for Addison County and Vermont. Dr. Bloom has been on the faculty of the University of California at Davis for thirty years. His publications range from major reviews on the economics of resource allocation in plants to the future of agriculture under rising carbon dioxide levels. He has coauthored the standard textbooks on Plant Physiology and Plant Mineral Nutrition. His soon-to-be-released textbook *Global Climate Change: Convergence of Disciplines* is being adopted as the national standard for American universities. Please join us for an informative discussion regarding the latest predictions about the climate in this area during the next few decades, the latest projections for the economics of various energy sources and how changes might impact Addison County.

Commission Calendar

	1	7-9 PM	ACoRN Energy Co-op
	2	6-8 PM	Farmer's market
	3	7-9 PM	Energy Committee
February	10	7:30 PM	Full Commission Meeting and Program: Dr. Arnold Bloom speaking on Global Warming
	11	5:00 PM	ACRWC
	12	8-10 PM	ACTR Board
	15	7-9 PM	ACoRN Energy Co-op
	17	7:00 PM	Transportation Advisory Committee
	18	7:00 PM	ACSWMD
	23	7-9 PM	Natural Resources Committee
	24	6:30 PM	Executive Board
	25	7-9 PM	Green Building, presented by Chris Hoffman, Breadloaf Architects
March			
	1	7-9 PM	ACoRN Energy Co-op
	10	7:30 PM	Full Commission
	12	8-1 PM	ACTR Board
	15	7-9 PM	ACoRN Energy Co-op
	17	7:00 PM	Transportation Advisory Committee
	18	7:00 PM	ACSWMD
	25	7-9 PM	Global Warming Mitigation Strategies, presented by Patrick Parenteau,

Addison County Young Professionals

A group has been formed to attract young, career oriented professionals living and/or working in Addison County, to bring them together for the sake of opportunity; be it networking, business development, community service, or just friendship. There are no mandatory requirements to be part of the group other than valuing your career and being a professional between the ages of 21 and 39. You can be as involved as you choose and there is currently no membership dues. The group meets on the second Wednesday of each month from 5:30 - 6:30 pm. Their next meeting is on Wednesday, February 10. All meetings will have a mingling/networking component and some will include presentations relevant to the members such as the first time home-buying experience or business etiquette. Contact Mike Corbett at michaelmcorbett@hotmail.com for more information.

Meetings are open to the public and held at ACRPC unless otherwise noted. For further info, contact 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.

ICS 200 Course

ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents is designed for personnel to operate efficiently during an incident or event within the Incident Command System. This course focuses on the management of single resources and on the first few hours of any event or incident.

It will be held at the New Haven Public Safety Building, Route #7 on February 9, 11, 16, and 23, from 6:30-9:30 pm. Attendees will include Local Emergency Managers, Police, Fire, EMS and Highway Dept. supervisors, Local Officials, CERT members and others who may be called upon to work in a supervisory position within the Incident Command System. A minimum of 15 and a maximum of 25 students will be accommodated due to space restrictions. There is no cost to attendees.

Contact Tim Bouton at tbouton@sover.net or 388-3141 or Dean Gilmore at deano@gmavt.net or 453-5006; preregistration is required.

VLCT Program

A program on 'Making the Most of Municipal Planning Data Resources' will be offered on Wednesday, March 10 at 7 pm. A town uses various data to help develop the town plan and other planning documents. How to apply or analyze this information effectively to guide decisions on economic and housing growth, natural resources, transportation, and facility planning can sometimes mystify the citizen planner. This evening workshop will examine how to find and apply readily available census and other planning resource data to help develop planning policy. Go to the VLCT website www.vlct.org/eventscalendar/upcomingevents/ for the most up to date list of events.

Report on Critical Paths Released

Critical Paths: Enhancing Road Permeability for Wildlife in Vermont has just been released by the National Wildlife Foundation in Montpelier. To see the whole report and the details of each priority crossing, go to: http://online.nwf.org/site/PageNavigator/Regional%20Office%20Websites/NortheasternNRC_Events. For more information, contact Chip Knight at (802) 552-4331 or email knightc@nwf.org.

Local Government Day in the Legislature Wednesday, February 24, 2010 Capitol Plaza Hotel and Conference Center, Montpelier

Local officials are invited to a special day at the Vermont State House to hear about the status of pending legislation from VLCT and Vermont Municipal Clerks' and Treasurers' Association representatives, attend legislative hearings, and speak with their representatives and senators at the Vermont Legislature. Registration is \$30 .00 with lunch; \$15.00 without lunch - please specify when registering online.

Visit www.vlct.org/eventscalendar/ to register online, or fax your registration to (802) 229-2211. If you need registration materials please call 1-800-649-7915. Registration deadline is February 17.

Census Bureau on Facebook

The Boston Region of the U.S. Census Bureau is pleased to announce their new presence in social media. Through a Facebook page and a Twitter account, there are even more ways for you, your organization, and the public at large to interact with and learn about the 2010 Census.

To help them get this vital conversation started in social media, please become a fan of our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/USCensus.Boston), follow them on Twitter (www.twitter.com/uscb_boston), and encourage your community and friends to do the same. Use your own social networks to help ensure a complete and accurate count. If you have any questions please call 617-223-3610 or e-mail boston.pdsp@census.gov.

Resources for Municipal ADA Compliance

State and federal laws place a wide range of obligations on municipalities to ensure that their practices and programs do not discriminate against persons with disabilities. The most well known of these laws is the Americans With Disabilities Act (the ADA). The ADA prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in employment, state and local government, public accommodations, commercial facilities, transportation, and telecommunications. Many informative documents are available through the Department of Justice website, www.ada.gov/.

ACTR Expands Routes

Addison County Transit Resources (ACTR) will launch its much anticipated shuttle bus system expansion beginning with the Saturday Burlington LINK on Saturday, March 6, 2010. Starting Monday, March 8, 2010, the Middlebury Shuttle Bus and the Tri-Town Shuttle Bus will begin their new schedules. The Shuttle Bus Expansion will put 40% more bus service on the road around the county, which allows ACTR to strengthen and improve its existing schedule.

The Tri-Town Shuttle Bus service will be split to create two connected routes: the Tri-Town Vergennes and Tri-Town Bristol buses. Service frequency will improve from every two hours to every hour with five morning runs and five afternoon runs Monday through Friday. For the first time, Vergennes will have a direct connection to Middlebury. The two routes will connect at the new Park & Ride in New Haven Center to exchange passengers traveling between Bristol and Vergennes.

The Middlebury Shuttle Bus will be reconfigured to include 5 connected loops – 4 running in the north and west of town that connect to a 5th loop along Route 7 South. Service on the Route 7 South loop will run every 30 minutes all day long from 6:30 am to 7 pm. The other 4 loops will run every 30 minutes during peak hours and every 60 minutes during non-peak hours. Like all ACTR bus routes, this route will connect at Merchant's Row in Middlebury to allow for transfers. The Saturday service will remain the same.

Service on the Saturday Burlington Link will change from two round trips to four round trips each Saturday. The route will stay the same but the new schedule will allow for early evening service to and from Burlington.

ACTR was notified last October that it was awarded grant funds from the State of Vermont to expand its shuttle bus service. A PowerPoint presentation with details of the proposed expansions, including draft maps and schedules, is available at www.actr-vt.org. Once in place, ACTR will continue to closely monitor its services to ensure the expansions are as effective as possible. Future system tweaks may also occur based on actual route performance and additional community feedback. ACTR will publish new bus schedule brochures as well as new signage at all bus stops. For more information, contact ACTR at 388-1946.

Dept. of Energy Announces New Regulations to Facilitate Weatherization of Subsidized Affordable Housing

Shortly after the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) was signed into law, HUD and the Department of Energy (DOE) announced an interagency effort to improve the energy efficiency and livability of HUD assisted and LIHTC homes by minimizing barriers to participation of these homes in the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). DOE has now announced that hundreds of thousands of HUD, LIHTC and USDA multifamily apartments meet certain WAP eligibility requirements without the need for further evaluation or verification by the State WAP administering agency or local subgrantee. In doing so, DOE has significantly reduced the burden of evaluating WAP applications for these multifamily properties.

For a property to be eligible for WAP, the owner must demonstrate that no less than 66% of the building's households have incomes at 200% of poverty or less. DOE has concluded that existing income verification procedures for HUD assisted, public housing, and LIHTC properties are sufficient for determining eligibility for WAP. As a result, HUD will identify properties that are income eligible and no further income verification process by the owner will be required.

Under WAP, a grantee must establish procedures that ensure a tenant is not subject to rent increases for a reasonable period of time after weatherization work has been completed. In addition, a grantee is required to ensure that WAP expenditures are focused solely on property enhancements that provide weatherization benefits and do not result in undue or excessive enhancement to the value of the property.

In addition, property owners must demonstrate that weatherization benefits will accrue primarily to multifamily tenants. This can easily be demonstrated through utility cost savings in cases where tenants pay utilities directly. DOE has now clarified that property owners can also meet this requirement through other means. As a model, DOE cited the State of Washington's policy recognizing that preserved low-income housing, added comfort, and environmental health benefits as a result of weatherization upgrades can be considered direct benefits to tenants.

For information on HUD's ARRA programs, see www.hud.gov/recovery; for information on DOE's weatherization program, go to www.eere.energy.gov/wip.

Opportunities

Work Projects Wanted

The Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) is currently accepting project proposals for the 2010 and 2011 seasons. The VYCC provides work crews on a weekly or monthly basis to towns, agencies, or organizations in need of short-term crew services. Crews work on public lands (including private lands with public easements), waters, or buildings. The VYCC receives funding from federal, state, and local governments or organizations and through a variety of fundraising efforts by development staff.

These grants and gifts help to cover some of the work crew operating costs. Project sponsors cover the balance of the costs in return for the work accomplished. Often the VYCC will partner with project sponsors to apply for a variety of grants which can cover the balance of these costs.

If you are interested in making improvements to paths, trails, and other community resources, do not delay; the VYCC expects to have a limited number of crew weeks available in 2010. Please contact Justin Kenney at 802-434-3969 ext.140 or justin.kenney@vycc.org for more information.

Municipal Education Grants

Applications for the FY10 Municipal Education Grants (MEGs) will be accepted any time until May 15, 2010 or until available funding runs out. MEGs offer up to \$800 reimbursement for on-site training of local volunteer officials dealing with land use planning and regulation, including all-boards training. The MEG Program Description and the quick and simple application form is available online at: <http://www.dhca.state.vt.us/Planning/MEG.htm>. DHCA can often issue a grant agreement within a week of receiving the application.

MEGs will fund core training on the roles, responsibilities and statutory requirements related to municipal land use planning and regulation. Training on various specific topics that may be of interest to planning commissions and other boards such as energy, stormwater, transportation, natural resources, etc. will not be eligible this year. Training on Ancients Roads, however is eligible.

If you have any questions about MEGs contact Brenda Greika at 802-828-3243, brenda.greika@state.vt.us. If you have questions about training content, feel free to contact Faith Ingulsrud at 802-828-5228 or faith.ingulsrud@state.vt.us.

Wildlife Habitat Grants

LCBP has released a new round of implementation grants, focused on wildlife habitat and connectivity improvement. These Wildlife Habitat Protection and Improvement Grants of up to \$10,000 support habitat restoration and wildlife connectivity in the Lake Champlain Basin. Great Lakes Fishery Commission funds supporting this grant category were secured by Senator Leahy. Applications are due March 1, 2010. Please see the LCBP website for more details: <http://www.lcbp.org/research.htm> or contact Kathy Jarvis at (802) 372-3213 or kjarvis@lcbp.org.

Census Job Opportunities

The U.S. Census Bureau is looking for hundreds of temporary workers to help count everyone in Vermont in 2010. Most of the jobs are for people who will work in the field earning \$13.50 an hour. Workers are needed to drop off census questionnaires at homes in March, and conduct face-to-face interviews in late spring and early summer with Vermonters who fail to return their questionnaires by mail. Positions are part- to full-time, with many requiring evening and weekend hours. Applicants need a driver's license and car for transportation. Applications include a 30 minute multiple choice test, which is available on-line. For more information and to complete an application, go to www.2010censusjobs.gov.

VTrans Launches Web-Based Carpooling Program

The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) through its 'Go Vermont' initiative has launched a new, state-of-the-art ridesharing program. The new program offers those seeking to carpool an Internet tool to search for others who rideshare. The new, web-based program replaces the Vermont Rideshare Program. The new tool is reported to offer quick and easy service for people looking to rideshare not only within Vermont, but anywhere within the entire tri-state area of Vermont, Maine and New Hampshire.

'Go Vermont' is VTrans' web-based clearinghouse for all kinds of alternative transportation options, including carpools, vanpools, public transit, and rail services, as well as park and ride locations. 'Go Vermont' can be accessed at www.connectingcommuters.org or by calling 800-685-RIDE. Registering with 'Go Vermont' automatically qualifies carpoolers for a "guaranteed ride home" in case of emergency.