



ACRPC

update January 2011

Municipal Planning Grants

We are happy to announce that five Addison County Towns, Cornwall, Leicester, Salisbury, Middlebury and Waltham, have received Municipal Planning Grants for 2011.

Cornwall, Leicester and Salisbury will use their funds to implement town plan updates. Waltham will create a set of design standards for their commercial district, and incorporate them into their zoning regulations, and Middlebury will implement a planning study to identify the optimal location for a passenger rail station within town.

Commission Calendar

January 2011	7	8:15-10:00am	ACTR Board Meeting
	10	4:30-6:30pm	Addison County River Watch Collaborative Meeting
	12	4:00-5:30pm	ACORN Wholesale Collaborative
	12	7:00pm	Full Commission Meeting
	17	7:00pm	Energy Committee Meeting
	20	7:00pm	Addison County Solid Waste Management District Meeting
	24	5:00-6:30pm	ACORN Network Board Meeting
	24	7:00pm	Emergency Management Directors Roundtable
	26	5:00pm	Local Emergency Planning Committee, VT State Police Barracks

Congratulations to these towns, and we look forward to working with you in the New Year.

VEIC to Present on PACE, an Innovative Financing Tool for Home Energy Projects

*Ilseley Public Library (downstairs), Middlebury
Jan. 19, 7:00pm-9:00pm*

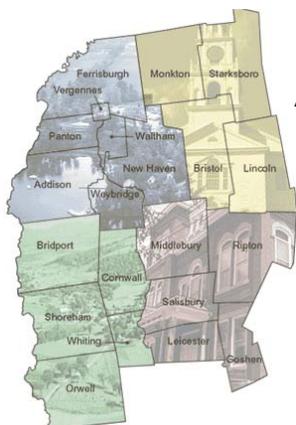
PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) is a relatively new mechanism that allows municipalities to assist property owners to invest in energy projects using financing that is repaid through assessments on individual property tax bills. In doing so, it overcomes a key financial hurdle for making investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy.

This event is co-sponsored by the ACORN Energy Co-Op and the Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) and the presenter is Peter Adamczyk from the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC).

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.

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



Addison County Regional Planning Commission
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Middlebury, VT 05753

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Benefits to Vermont Cities and Towns:

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

Come to the Ilsley Public Library in Middlebury on Jan. 19th to find out more about the program, have your questions answered, and learn about what towns can do to move PACE 2.0 forward in their communities. For more information, contact ACRPC Regional Planner Kevin Lehman at 802-388-3141 or email him at KevinL@acrpc.org.

Addison County Transportation Committee Funded Feasibility Studies for 2011

Every year, The ACRPC Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) funds two to three feasibility studies for towns in the region. We are preparing to kick off three studies in 2011.

The first feasibility study is for the Town of Lincoln and will identify options for improving bike and pedestrian accessibility between the village center, the elementary school, and the town forest. The East River Road between the village and school is heavily used by students coming to and from the school to both the village and the recreation fields in the village center. An area of primary concern has been Bridge 19 (the Truchon Bridge) that lies between the school and the village. It is an old, narrow bridge that has no shoulders or sidewalks. Visibility on both approaches is poor, thus putting pedestrian and cyclists at great risk as they cross the structure. The structure is scheduled for reconstruction and is currently in the early stages of design. The study steering committee will be working closely with VTrans design staff to implement safe and appropriate accommodations for non-motorized users. The study is scheduled for completion on August 30, 2011.

The second feasibility study is being performed for the Town of Starksboro and will look at improving pedestrian access within Starksboro village. We will be using a “complete streets” design approach to look for ways to reduce the impact of high speed traffic along VT 116

which bisects the town. Starksboro faces a common dilemma in Vermont. Minor arterial highways often pass directly through small towns. All too often, the high speeds and volumes characteristic of arterial highways have a significant negative impact on communities through which they pass. Crossing these roads safely is often difficult, or even impossible in some cases. This results in hardship for those living in the villages and for the local businesses as well. This study will look at options for making the village area both safer and more accessible for both residents and drivers. The scheduled completion date is August 30, 2011.

The final TAC study is being performed for the Town of Bristol and will look at ways to improve pedestrian access along VT 116 eastward from the village by Lord’s Prayer Rock and on to the New Haven River. This section of road is extremely dangerous for pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicular traffic. It is very heavily used during warm weather months because of the popular swimming holes along the river to the east of the village. Visibility along the road is poor due to vertical and horizontal curvature of the road. The area of Lord’s Prayer Rock is particularly dangerous because there is no shoulder and the edge of the rock protrudes right to the edge of the road travel lanes. This study will look for on and off road options for improving safety along this corridor. The study is scheduled for completion on August 30, 2011.

Anyone interested in participating in this project can contact Richard Kehne at ACRPC for more details (802-388-3141 or rkehne@acrpc.org).

Working Landscape Summit

On December 10th Claire Tebbs, ACRPC’s Land Use Planner, attended the Summit on the Future of Vermont’s Working Landscape. This Summit was hosted by the Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) and was organized to “advance working landscape policy and investment.” VCRD has recently written the Vermont Working Landscape Partnership Action Plan that identifies goals and objectives for creating a strong agricultural policy, culture and economy for Vermont now and into the future. The summit sought to grow partnerships with individuals, organizations, businesses and all levels of

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government to implement this Action Plan. The conference was held at the Vermont State House and opening words were given by Governor Elect Peter Shumlin, Speaker of House, Shap Smith and Secretary of Agriculture designee, Chuck Ross. The remainder of the day offered a series of panel discussions from those in the Vermont agricultural and forest production sectors, including cheese makers, fruit growers, and lumber producers.

While there are many on-the-ground efforts around the State related to local agriculture, VCRD's work is crucial in linking agricultural/forestry businesses with supporting State and Federal policy, and providing a common state-wide language and voice for this crucial piece of Vermont's identity and livelihood. Thank you to all those working in our agricultural and forestry sectors, laying the foundation for these efforts daily.

To find out how to join the Vermont Working Landscape Partnership, contact the Vermont Council on Rural Development at 802-223-6091 or online at vtrural.org.

Participate in a UVM Study Regarding Forest Carbon Offset Markets

You are invited to participate in an interview to support research on the participation of small-scale forest owners in carbon offset markets and the production of wood fuel. UVM is studying the interest that private forest landowners may have in carbon markets, the obstacles to their participation, and ways that markets can be made more accessible to small-scale participants. Interview topics covered include forest management goals, and level of interest in potential program designs. Please contact Ken Brown, a graduate student at the University of Vermont, to schedule an interview: krbrown@uvm.edu or 802-363-0030.

War of 1812 International Heritage Summit *Clinton Community College, Plattsburgh, NY* *Jan. 11, 2011, 9:30am - 4:00pm*

In 2012-2014, communities in the Champlain and Richelieu River valleys will commemorate the bicentennial of the War of 1812. This 200th anniversary provides an opportunity for collaboration among partners

in the region and across the U.S. and Canada. The War of 1812 International Heritage Summit will include:

- An historical overview of the conflict
- Presentations on commemorative activities in New York, Quebec and Vermont
- Updates on national preparations in North America
- Discussions on opportunities to collaborate on education, reenactments, marketing, and creating a legacy from the bicentennial

Contact Jim Brangan at 802-372-3213 for more information. Please RSVP to: jbrangan@lcbp.org.

Biomass Day at Vermont Wood Pellet Mill

VWP Mill in North Clarendon
Jan 15, 10am - 3:00pm

Meet local vendors and organizations dealing with a full spectrum of biomass options, including stoves, furnaces, bulk storage, biochar, standards, and incentives. Free. Hosted by VWP with support from Acorn Energy Co-op and others. From Middlebury & Rutland, take Rt 7 south to Route 7B. Mill is on right at 1105 Rt 7B. For more information call 747-1093 or 385-1911.

"Transportation and Community Character"

Middlebury College, Dana Auditorium (Rt. 125)
Feb. 10, 7:00pm

Traffic engineer Walter Kulash -- author of the book, *Residential Streets* -- will speak about the importance of transportation systems in creating the kinds of communities we desire. He is an engaging speaker who addresses problems common in many Vermont towns, including avoiding sprawl, dealing with the effects of disconnected street networks, changing motorist behavior through street redesign, and creating the transportation systems necessary to support walkable neighborhoods and shopping districts.

Event organized by the Middlebury Planning Commission and co-sponsored by the UVM Transportation Research Center, Chittenden County MPO, Rutland RPC, Smart Growth Vermont, and the Orton Foundation. For more information contact Chris Robbins at 802-388-1952 or e-mail her at a.c.robbins@comcast.net.

Grants

New Grant for Community-Based Energy Projects

Vermont Energy & Climate Action Network (VECAN) has a new grant for community-based energy projects called *Building the Power of Vermont Communities to Increase Energy Efficiency and Reduce Climate Change Impacts*. The VECAN program will support Vermont groups working on energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in their communities that support local sustainability. Goals of the initiative are:

- Build Vermont's leadership fostering and supporting energy and climate change strategies at the community level
- Decrease community carbon footprints
- Increase carbon-free energy independence by supporting the implementation of community based energy projects

Grants will range from \$1,000 to \$3,000, with an **application deadline of January 31, 2011**. Grant applications will be reviewed by a committee made up of the key VECAN support organizations and members of the VECAN Advisory Committee. The funding is made possible by a Dept. of Energy grant secured by Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders.

For more information or for help in applying, contact ACRPC Regional Planner Kevin Lehman at 802-388-3141 or email him at KevinL@acrpc.org.