



ACRPC

update July 2009

**ACRPC Energy Committee Program:
Power with Heat Recovery
Thursday, June 23, 7:00-9:00 p.m.**

Nick Ponzio will present a free program on an essential energy topic - how we can utilize the “waste” heat generated from power production to heat our homes, fuel our industries, and reduce environmental damage from the dumping of excess heat into our air and water. For more information about the program, contact Elizabeth Golden at 388-3141 or egolden@sover.net.

**Public Meeting presented by the
Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences
on Sustainable Dairy Agriculture
Thursday, July 8 at 7:30 pm
ACRPC, Middlebury office**

Prior to our monthly Commissioners meeting, we will present a program featuring representatives of the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences. They are working with Agri-Mark and DMI, a national dairy organization, to develop a system for assessing the sustainability of dairy agriculture. In order to create this assessment, Manomet is holding a series of public meetings in different dairy communities to gather community input concerning how communities feel about their dairy farms. What do communities value? What do they dislike? Please join us for an interesting discussion concerning what constitutes sustainable dairy agriculture in Addison County. The public is invited to attend the Manomet Presentation and our Commissioners meeting, as well.

**Gardening to Absorb the Storm -
How to Create a Rain Garden
Thursday, July 9, 7-9 pm
ACRPC, Middlebury office**

ACRPC in collaboration with UVM Extension, is offering a free public workshop “Gardening to Absorb the Storm - How to Create a Rain Garden” at their offices at 14 Seminary Street, Middlebury. A rain garden is a bowl-shaped garden designed to capture and absorb stormwater runoff (rainfall from a roof, parking lot, or other impervious surface) into the ground after a storm. It also creates a visually pleasing landscape, attracts birds and butterflies to your yard, and cultivates diverse plant life. A rain garden benefits the environment by keeping stormwater out of streams and lakes, reducing water pollution, and improving water quality. The workshop will be presented by Emma Melvin, Water Quality Educator at UVM Extension. For more information about the Workshop, contact Elizabeth Golden at egolden@sover.net or 802-388-3141.

Commission Calendar

July	8	7:30	Full Commission
	9	7-9	Rainwater Gardens Workshop
	10	12	Energy Committee
	14	6:30	Scenery Preservation Council Hearing
	16	9-12	Transportation Advisory Committee
	16	7-9	ACSWMD
	22	6:30	Executive Board
	23	7-9	Power with Heat Recovery Program
	28	7-9	Natural Resources Committee
August	7	12:00	Energy Committee
	20	7-9	ACSWMD
	26	6:30	Executive Board TBD
	27	7-9	Reclaimed Water Program
	THERE IS NO COMMISSIONERS MEETING IN AUGUST		

Meetings are open to the public and unless otherwise noted held at ACRPC. 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.

Events & MPG's

Forest Workshop and Woods Walk Saturday, July 11, 8:30 am-noon Lincoln Library

Vermont Family Forests is presenting a workshop and woods walk entitled 'Conserving & Harvesting ENERGY in our Five-Town Forest' on Saturday, July 11th from 8:30 to 12 noon. Meet at the Lincoln Library for brief presentations on wood supply and use by Middlebury College's Marc Lapin and UVM's Lini Wollenberg. Then carpool to a family forest on West Hill to see Bill Torrey's small-scale logging operation.

Given global climate change, peaking oil supplies, and challenging economic times, our workshop and design charette will focus on this question: "Can we use substantially more wood for energy while also being ecologically-sustainable, energy-efficient, local, and fair (SELF)."

The workshop is free and open to the public. No pre-registration required. It will happen rain or shine. The session will be a great outing for the whole family except pets. For more information call Vermont Family Forests at 802-453-7728 or by e-mail at info@familyforests.org.

Annual Rooftop to River Rain Garden Contest

You are invited to enter the 2009 Rooftop to River Rain Garden Contest, if your rain garden is located in the Lake Champlain Basin (see www.lcbp.org for a map). Six winners will be chosen based on originality, native plants, stormwater reduction, and other categories. Registered contestants will receive the Vermont Rain Garden Manual and free on-site technical guidance. Registration forms will be available at the July 9 workshop at ACRPC, or you can download a form at www.vacd.org/winooski/2009RainGardenContestFlyer&RegistrationForm.pdf. Registration is open until August 15, 2009. The Manual is available at www.vacd.org/winooski/VtRainGardenManual.pdf or you can purchase a copy at the Workshop for \$6. For more information about the Contest, contact Ashley Lidman at ashley.lidman@vt.nacdnet.net or 802-865-7895 x104 or visit www.vacd.org/winooski. For technical assistance, contact Emma Melvin at emelvin@uvm.edu or 802-859-3086 x340.

The Contest is sponsored by the Vermont ANR, UVM Extension, Lake Champlain Sea Grant, Vermont Watershed Grant and Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District.

Municipal Planning Grants

Municipal Planning Grants (MPGs) will be available once again this year. The total funding for MPGs was reduced from around \$800,000 available in previous years, to \$408,700 for fiscal year 2010. Given the state's financial challenges, the fact that funding is available at all can be credited to the important work communities like yours have undertaken with help from the MPG program.

Key Dates:

Applications due: September 30, 2009

RPC Confirmation of Municipal Planning Process: September 30, 2009

Award Decision: November, 2009

Project Completion Date: May 9, 2011

Online Application Training Dates: September 1, 3-5 pm and September 19, 12-2 pm

Municipalities may apply for up to \$15,000 for single applications or up to \$25,000 for multi-town (consortia) applications. No local match is required at this time but only one application per municipality may be submitted.

Please note that all outreach about the MPGs will be by email, and all applications must be submitted on-line.

Begin by reviewing the program at http://www.dhca.state.vt.us/Planning/GMS/MPGProgramDescription_FY10.pdf.

Meet with your local planning commission, selectboard and other entities to discuss and agree on a project. Municipal organizations other than the planning commission (e.g. conservation commission) may apply but must have approval from both the planning commission and selectboard.

Review the sample application at <http://www.dhca.state.vt.us/Planning/GMS/SampleApplication.doc>, draft your application and develop a work plan and budget for your project with input from your regional planning commission (ACRPC) and/or a private consultant.

For further information, contact Wendy Tudor at VT Dept. Housing and Community Affairs at 802-828-5249 (direct line), or toll free at 800-622-4553. You may also contact Elizabeth Golden at ACRPC at 802-388-3141 or egolden@sover.net for assistance.

News & Events

VBSR Summer Interns Available

Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility Summer Intern Program: A Great Way to Grow Your Business!

Hire an Intern to:

- ~Attract New Talent
- ~Complete Short Term Projects
- ~Evaluate Long Term Potential

Testimonials:

~Evan Goldsmith, Hope for Women, LLC.

“VBSR’s intern program was very useful for us to fill a research and data analysis gap in some of our programs. Within a week of submitting our request we had multiple qualified candidates contact us, and soon after we had the finished work in hand. The program was a great solution for these 15-20 hour projects and I definitely plan on using it more in the future.”

~Liz Brenna, Ben & Jerry’s:

“VBSR made the process of finding an intern an easy and enjoyable experience. After providing a brief description of what we were looking for, VBSR sent over a ton of outstanding students applicants to choose from. They made the process simple and easy and now we have a wonderful intern for the summer. VBSR is the best way to find an intern, we wouldn’t do it any other way!”

There are 44 Internships state wide from graphic design and renewable energy, to data research and marketing. Contact Tara Pfeiffer-Norrell, Intern Program Manager, Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility, 60 Lake Street, Suite 3G, Burlington, VT 05401 at tarap@vbsr.org, or call 802-862-8347.

Transportation Enhancement Project Funding & Paving Grants

The Enhancements Program is an exciting and innovative program for non-traditional transportation-related projects managed by the Vermont Agency of Transportation. This program can be a funding source for activities such as new sidewalks, bike paths, historic preservation, environmental mitigation, and more. Its goal is to aid in the creation of a multi-modal and environmentally sustainable transportation system that encourages non-motorized use and enhances Vermont’s historic landscapes and human scale of development.

All local authorities, not-for-profit organizations and federal/state agencies are eligible to apply by submit-

ting a pre-application letter by August 10, 2009.

This is the first step in the application process. VTrans will then sponsor two required informational workshops on August 24 and August 25 about the application process and program requirements. Since there are a number of new important changes in the program, attendance at one of these workshops is mandatory for all applicants.

Final and complete applications are due to the Office of the Secretary of Transportation postmarked or in-hand by Tuesday, October 13, 2009.

For detailed information, you can visit the VTrans Enhancement Program website at <http://www.aot.state.vt.us/progdev/sections/ltf/Enhancements%20Program/EnhancementsHomePage.htm>

If towns are interested in pursuing an Enhancement Grant application, please feel free to contact Rick Kehne (388-3141) at Addison Region Planning Commission, or Curtis Johnson at the Vermont Agency of Transportation (828-0583) for more detailed information.

Scenery Preservation Council Hearing July 14 at 6:30 pm at ACRPC

Over the past several years, several towns have passed resolutions desiring to join and expand the Lake Champlain Byway. Currently, the byway runs the length of Route 7 in Chittenden County and Route 2 in the Lake Champlain islands, but only Middlebury and Vergennes have joined the byway in Addison County. The Council will conduct a hearing on whether Ferrisburgh, Cornwall and Orwell may join the Byway and whether Middlebury may extend the expanse of Byway in town out to its borders. If all towns join and designate the portions of Routes 7, 30, 74 and 73 that run through their respective towns, the byway will be considerably expanded in Addison County and will begin to provide a seamless connection to the Route 30 Byway in Rutland County.

Byways provide incentives for people to travel a little more slowly than an interstate and seek to promote economic development by attracting tourism dollars to a region. They also make certain activities eligible for federal byway grants for improvements to the byway. Both Middlebury and Vergennes have been very successful in securing byway money to enhance their communities’ infrastructure along the byway. If you are interested, please attend the hearing on July 14 or contact Adam Lougee at 388-3141 for more information.

Grants

Renewables and Energy Efficiency Improvements

The U.S. Department of Agriculture requests proposals for Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements. This program will provide support to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to purchase and install renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements. \$51.6 million expected to be available, up to 1,100 awards anticipated. Responses due 7/31/09. For more info, including Regional contacts, go to: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-12178.pdf>. Refer to Sol# RDBCP-09-REAP-RES-EEI. (Grants.gov 5/29/09)

Renewable Energy Feasibility Studies

The U.S. Department of Agriculture requests proposals for Renewable Energy Feasibility Grants. This program will provide support to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to conduct feasibility studies for renewable energy systems. \$6 million is expected to be available, up to 150 awards anticipated. Responses due 7/31/09. For more info, including state specific contacts, go to: <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppId=47628&mode=VIEW>. Refer to Sol# RDBCP-09-REAP-FEASIBILITY. (Grants.gov 5/29/09)

High Penetration Solar Deployment – Recovery Act

The U.S. Department of Energy requests proposals for High Penetration Solar Deployment. The objectives of this RFP are to: 1) Develop the needed modeling tools and database of experience with high penetration scenarios of PV on a distribution system; 2) Develop monitoring, control and integration systems to enable cost-effective widespread deployment of small modular PV systems; and 3) Demonstrate the integration of PV and energy storage into Smart Grid applications. \$17.5 million is expected to be available, up to 13 awards anticipated. Responses due 7/30/09. For more info, contact Andrea Lucero at Andrea.Lucero@go.doe.gov or go to: <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=47579>. Refer to Sol# DE-FOA-0000085. (Grants.gov 5/27/09)

The Recovery homepage (<http://www.recovery.gov/>) has links to State-level Recovery sites where you may be able to track down some sub-grantee opportunities. Washington State's Recovery site does an outstanding job showing where WA Recovery funds are going and who to contact for more info. Here's a link to all of the State sites: <http://www.recovery.gov/?q=content/state-recovery-page>.

Solar Market Transformation - Recovery Act

The U.S. Department of Energy requests proposals for Solar Market Transformation. The overall goal of this initiative is to increase the quality and availability of instruction relating to the installation of PV and solar heating and cooling systems (SHC). Areas of interest include: 1) Addressing workforce development needs of the solar industry, both for grid-tied PV systems in residential, commercial, and utility markets, and for SHC systems. Responses due 7/30/09. For more info, contact Nancy Kiyota at nancy.kiyota@go.doe.gov or go to: <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=47586>. Refer to Sol# DE-FOA-0000078. (Grants.gov 5/27/09)

Ground Source Heat Pumps – Recovery Act

The U.S. Department of Energy requests proposals for the Geothermal Technologies Program: Ground Source Heat Pumps. Through this RFP, DOE seeks to increase the deployment of ground source heat pumps through new commercialization strategies that incorporate: 1) Innovative commercial-scale or residential community technology demonstration projects; 2) Data gathering and analysis related to system costs, performance, and installation techniques; and 3) A national GHP certification standard. \$50 million is expected to be available, up to 21 awards anticipated. Responses due 8/6/09. For more info, contact Genevieve Wozniak at genevieve.wozniak@go.doe.gov or go to: <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=47731>. Refer to Sol# DE-FOA-0000116. (Grants.gov 6/2/09)

Geothermal Technologies - Recovery Act

The U.S. Department of Energy requests proposals for the Geothermal Technologies Program for geothermal systems research, exploration, demonstration, and development. Areas of interest include: 1) Validation of Innovative Exploration Technologies; 2) Geothermal Energy Production from Low Temperature Resources, Co-produced Fluids from Oil and Gas Wells, and Geopressured Resources; and 3) Geothermal Data Development, Collection, and Maintenance. \$170 million is expected to be available, up to 60 awards anticipated. Responses due 7/22/09. For more info, contact Genevieve Wozniak at genevieve.wozniak@go.doe.gov or go to: <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=47584>. Refer to Sol# DE-FOA-0000109. (Grants.gov 5/27/09)