



# ACRPC

*update*

March 2008

## commission calendar

March	7	12:00pm	ACRPC Energy Committee Location: ACRPC Office 14 Seminary St., Middlebury
	12	7:30 pm	ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Location: ACRPC Office 14 Seminary St., Middlebury
	19	7:00 pm	Transportation Advisory Committee Location: ACRPC Office 14 Seminary St., Middlebury
	25	7:00pm	ACRPC Natural Resource Committee Location: ACRPC Office 14 Seminary St., Middlebury
	26	6:30 pm	ACRPC Executive Board Location: ACRPC Office 14 Seminary St., Middlebury
April	4	12:00pm	ACRPC Energy Committee Location: ACRPC Office 14 Seminary St., Middlebury
	9	7:30 pm	ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Location: ACRPC Office 14 Seminary St., Middlebury
	16	7:00 pm	Transportation Advisory Committee Location: ACRPC Office 14 Seminary St., Middlebury
	22	7:00pm	ACRPC Natural Resource Committee Location: ACRPC Office 14 Seminary St., Middlebury
	23	6:30 pm	ACRPC Executive Board Location: ACRPC Office 14 Seminary St., Middlebury

Meetings are open to the public.  
Minutes are available on-line at [www.acrpc.org](http://www.acrpc.org).  
For further information, contact ACRPC at 388-3141.

## Brownfields Program Helps Silver Towers Camp in Ripton

ACRPC's Brownfields Program recently completed Environmental Assessment work at Silver Towers Camp in Ripton. Silver Towers is a residential camp for people ages six to seventy who are physically and mentally challenged. The camp is operated by the Vermont Elks Association. The assessment process included a historic review of the property, site visits to identify potential sources and sites of contamination, and locating, cleaning, and removing 15 underground storage tanks. Additional soil and water samples were collected following tank removals. The assessment work was completed by ATC, Inc of Williston, Vermont.

ACRPC's Brownfields Program provides funding and technical assistance to property owners and prospective purchasers working to redevelop properties for new or improved uses. For more on our Brownfields Program, visit our website or contact the office. To learn more about Silver Towers Camp, visit <http://www.silvertowerscamp.org/>.



Cleaning an underground storage tank at Silver Towers before removal.

*"We were very impressed with the professional and caring attitudes that we found working with ACRPC as we progressed through Phase I and Phase II of the environmental site assessment. With the help of ACRPC and their Brownfield Assessment Funding, we have cleaned up a pristine site located in the Green Mountain National Forest for future generations to enjoy. We could not have done it without you."*

*-Andy Cook, Vice President Vermont Elks*

## NEWS & EVENTS

### **Symposium on Global Climate Change, Monday, March 10th**

Middlebury College will host a Symposium on Global Climate Change at McCardell Bicentennial Hall, Room 216 at 4:30pm on March 10th. The Symposium will feature presentations by:

- ~Jonathan Isham, Luce Professor of International Environmental Economics
- ~R. Matthew Landis, Associate in Science Instruction in Biology
- ~Andrea Lloyd, Associate Professor of Biology
- ~Patricia Manley, Professor of Geology, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Research
- ~Jeffrey S. Munroe, Assistant Professor of Geology
- ~Steve Trombulak, Mead Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies
- ~Richard Wolfson, Benjamin F. Wissler Professor Physics

For more information, please contact Janet Wiseman at 802-443-5710 or [jwiseman@middlebury.edu](mailto:jwiseman@middlebury.edu).

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### **Fair Housing and Land Use Training, Thursday March 13th**

This training is designed to provide relevant information to individuals and municipal officials working on housing development, allocation or management. The workshop will: Provide an introduction to Vermont and Federal Fair Housing laws, discuss the current regulatory barriers to fair housing choice in Vermont, examine the legal requirements impacting municipal zoning practices, review available tools that enable municipalities to comply with those requirements; and explore planning concepts designed to encourage the development of affordable housing.

All municipalities receiving community development grants from the Vermont Community Development Program must now complete a Fair Housing Training as a condition of funding. Any municipality dealing with issues such as affordable housing, group homes, residential care facilities, requests for accessibility modifications, or seeking VCDP funding should also consider attending. Presenters include Robert Appel: Executive Director, Vermont Human Rights Commission, Julie Kelliher: General Counsel, Department of Housing and Community Affairs, and Greg Brown: Executive Director, Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission.

Register now to guarantee a seat. Hosted by Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission in South Burlington. Please register by sending your name and title to Kim Ianelli, Education and Outreach Coordinator for CVOEO Fair Housing Project by March 12<sup>th</sup> 2008. By email [kianelli@cvoeo.org](mailto:kianelli@cvoeo.org) or by phone 802.864.3334 x 108

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### **3rd Annual Vermont Town Forest Summit, Saturday, March 22nd**

Does your town have a town forest? Is it being enjoyed and used to its fullest? Is it recognized for the town asset that it is? Do you wish your town had a town forest? Explore answers to these questions (and more) at the Vermont Town Forest Summit in Hinesburg on Saturday, March 22 from 9 to 3. The event will be at the Hinesburg Town Hall, is FREE, and includes complimentary continental breakfast and lunch. For more information or to sign up to attend, contact Patricia Ayres Crawford with the Vermont Town Forest Project at [pacrawford@NFAinfo.org](mailto:pacrawford@NFAinfo.org).

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### **Stormwater Planning Assistance**

Are you addressing stormwater management in your town plan and zoning? For additional resources, assistance, or to arrange a presentation to your community, planning commission, or conservation commission, contact Amy at ACRPC.

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## NEWS & EVENTS

### **Vermont Organics Recycling Summit, Tuesday April 1st**

Recovering and composting organics, creating local foods systems, and developing renewable energy are hot topics across Vermont. This conference will look at whole system, community-level approaches to improving soil fertility, improving watershed health, and increasing local food systems and renewable energy. A morning panel discussion will address mapping, agricultural nutrient management, policy, collection, and anaerobic digestion. Afternoon roundtables will explore development of “community nutrient management plans” that can contribute to local economic and environmental health. The conference will be held April 1, 2008, 8:30am-4pm at Vermont Technical College, Randolph, Vermont. Registration is \$25 before March 15 and \$35 after March 15. For more information and to register online, visit <http://www.compostingvermont.org/> or contact Vicky Viens at 802-241-3448 or [vicky.viens@state.vt.us](mailto:vicky.viens@state.vt.us).

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### **Citizen Planner’s Conference on Sustainable Housing, Saturday April 5th**

Vermont Law School (VLS), the VLS Land Use Institute, and the Upper Valley Housing Coalition will be hosting the 3rd Annual Citizen Planners Conference on Saturday April 5, 2008, 9am-2:45pm at Vermont Law School in South Royalton. The Conference will focus on Sustainable Housing. Topics include community, affordability, and energy efficiency. \$35 online registration fee at [www.uvhc.org](http://www.uvhc.org) (ends March 21) or \$45 at the door. For more information contact Corb Moister at 802-291-9100 x114 or [cmoister@uvhc.org](mailto:cmoister@uvhc.org)

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### **Northern New England Low Impact Development (LID) Conference, Monday April 21st**

Are you interested in protecting your town infrastructure from flood hazard erosion, reducing stormwater and non-point source pollution impact on your local waterways, cleaning up Lake Champlain, or reducing the stress on your combined sewers systems? Planners, Zoning Administrators, Select Boards, Road Foreman, Planning, Zoning and Conservation Commission Boards are invited to come and learn about Low Impact Development. Topics include:

- ~How Low Impact Development Strategies reduce stormwater runoff, protect local waterways and reduce the risk of flooding
- ~How your community can encourage good site design and reduce the environmental impact of development
- ~What engineers and architects experienced in low impact design are currently working on
- ~Local resources available to help your community
- ~Projects that have reduced their environmental impact through Low Impact Development

The afternoon includes a tour of local sites to see examples of Low Impact Development in action. The conference will be held at UVM’s Davis Center from 8:30-4:15pm on April 21, 2008. Registration is \$25 and includes a conference workbook, continental breakfast, lunch, and refreshments. For more information, contact Emma Melvin at 802-656-9110 or [emelvin@uvm.edu](mailto:emelvin@uvm.edu).

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### **Council on the Future of Vermont Launches New Interactive Website**

The Council on the Future of Vermont (CFV) is a project of the Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) designed to learn about Vermont from Vermonters. For the next year, CFV will take public input throughout Vermont, and research trends. A comprehensive picture of the values, concerns, and aspirations of Vermonters will be published in 2009. The CFV project team has launched a new website where Vermonters can contribute their ideas to this discussion online and learn what others are thinking.

The site, [www.futureofvermont.org](http://www.futureofvermont.org), hosts a confidential survey designed by the CFV and run by UVM’s Center for Rural Studies. Community members can write in their answers to 5 open ended questions and read responses from other Vermonters around the state. The site also includes up to date News and Events. Take a moment to visit the site, contribute your ideas, and encourage your family, colleagues and staff to do the same.

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## NEWS & EVENTS

### Salamander Escorts: Coming to a Site Near You

For several years, Otter Creek Audubon and friends have been acting as “Salamander Escorts” where salamander habitat is badly fragmented by roadways in Salisbury and Monkton.

2008 marks the fifth year of the Salamander Escorts and they are expanding to include a new site. In addition to the traditional amphibian crossing in West Salisbury, volunteers will be moving salamanders and frogs off the road at an important spring migration site in northern New Haven. The new site is likely to have the same species and roughly the same numbers as the West Salisbury site. Both sites should have spotted, blue-spotted, red-backed and four-toed salamanders as well as wood frogs, spring peepers and American toads.

These amphibians move on warm, wet nights in early spring from their upland overwintering sites to nearby vernal pools, where they mate and lay eggs. At each location they must cross a road to reach the vernal pools. Although the locations are on fairly quiet roads, the escorts help move crossing amphibians out of harms way. They also keep track of the numbers of each species to gain insight into a remarkable but seldom observed annual migration and the amphibians that perform it. State Herpetologist and Middlebury College Research Scholar Professor Jim Andrews uses this data in his research.

The window for migration runs from March 25 to April 25. Activity starts about 8:30 pm and can go to 1 am. Volunteers gather data for at least an hour, possibly two, on a public road.

Please contact Warren or Barry King at 388-4082 or [Kinglet@together.net](mailto:Kinglet@together.net) to sign up for the 2008 volunteer list. Email is the preferred mode of contact, so please provide your email address. If you have no email, or if telephone is the only way you would receive a timely message, provide your telephone number.

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### NRCS to Host Soils Workshops

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is hosting a series of half-day workshops in April for soil survey users and interested parties. The meetings will introduce the latest innovations in soil science and technology and will serve as listening sessions to learn of questions, concerns, or needs regarding the soils information that Vermont NRCS currently provides and to get input on the future direction of the Vermont soil resource program. The NRCS staff is seeking feedback from natural resource professionals who use soil maps and data frequently, and also from the general public with little knowledge of soils.

Each workshop runs from 8:30am to 12:30pm, with registration from 8:30 to 9:00. The meeting locations and schedule are:

**April 8** - Burlington, Tuesday - ECHO Center, Community Room, 1 College Street, Burlington.

**April 10** - White River Junction, Thursday - Comfort Suites, Vermont Room, 102 Ballardvale Drive (on Route 5 across from the VA Hospital), White River Junction.

**April 15** - Brattleboro, Tuesday - Marlboro College Technology Center, Room 2 East, 28 Vernon Street, Brattleboro.

**April 17** - Rutland, Thursday - Franklin Conference Center at the Howe Center (Richardson Room), One Scale Avenue (off Strongs Avenue), Rutland.

**May 21** - Montpelier, Wednesday- Woodbury College – Training Space Room, 660 Elm Street, Montpelier.

Each meeting is free and open to all, but space is limited - please RSVP to Martha Stuart at 802-295-7942, x.28 or [Martha.stuart@vt.usda.gov](mailto:Martha.stuart@vt.usda.gov), with your name and preferred meeting location. For more information, go to <http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/Soils/index.html>

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