



# ACRPC

*update* May 2009

## ACRPC Energy Committee Program: Community Wind Power

Thursday, May 28, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Some areas in our county are suitable for wind towers to provide supplemental electricity to a village center, community school, town offices or clustered residential neighborhood. Find out if your community can take advantage of this renewable technology and what it would take to make it happen. For more information, contact Elizabeth Golden at 388-3141 or [egolden@sover.net](mailto:egolden@sover.net).

## Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the ACRPC will be held on Wednesday, May 13th at 5:00 p.m. at the Kirk Alumni Center at Middlebury College (by the golf course). Delegates and Alternates are welcome to bring their spouse or another guest. Our speaker will be David Blittersdorf, one of the owners of NRG and Earth Turbines. Dinner will be a potluck provided by the Commissioners. Contact Thea Gaudette at 453-2038 about what to bring. Business attire.

## Annual Town Update

As we do every year, we will be sending out a form to collect each town's mailing information for Board members and other essential information. This information will be sent to Municipal Clerks and this helps the Addison County Regional Planning Commission stay current. To save expenses, we are converting to an email distribution of our newsletter and mailings. If you have an email address, please share it with your town clerk or send an email to our database manager, Elizabeth Golden, at [egolden@sover.net](mailto:egolden@sover.net).

## Commissioners Needed

In order for the ACRPC to fully represent the towns in Addison County, each town needs to appoint Delegates and Alternates who will participate in our monthly meetings and share information with their Selectboard, Planning Commission and ACRPC. If you are interested in local and statewide issues such as maintaining our farming community, creating jobs, business development, protecting natural resources, our energy supply, land use, zoning, funding opportunities, and public safety, for example, you may be just the person to represent your town and get involved in our active committees. Our meetings feature speakers on timely topics. Contact your Selectboard now to volunteer for this exciting position!

## Middlebury Cross Street Bridge

The Cross Street Bridge in Middlebury is finally under construction! For information on the project team, construction schedule, plans, conceptual drawings, photos and more, check out the Town of Middlebury website: [www.middlebury.govoffice.com/](http://www.middlebury.govoffice.com/) and click on the highlighted "CROSS STREET BRIDGE INFORMATION AND UPDATES."

## Commission Calendar

May	1	9-3:30	Rural Water Training
	4	6-10	EMS Training
	6	9-12	MPO Meeting
	8	12:00	Energy Committee Meeting
	12	7-9	Middlebury Farmer's Market Meeting
	13	5:00	Full Commission Annual Meeting @ Kirk Alumni Center - Potluck Dinner
	14	9-12	Western Corridor Meeting
	20	7:00	Western Corridor Plan Public Input
	21	7-9	ACSWMD
	25		Holiday - Offices Closed
	26	7:00	Natural Resources Committee
	27	6:30	Executive Board
	28	7-9	Energy Program: Community Wind Power
June	5	12:00	Energy Committee Meeting
	10	7:30	Full Commission Meeting
	11	9-12	Western Corridor Meeting
	17	7:00	Transportation Advisory Committee
	18	7-9	ACSWMD
	23	7:00	Natural Resources Committee
	24	6:30	Executive Board

Meetings are open to the public and unless otherwise noted held at ACRPC. Selected minutes are available online at [www.acrpc.org](http://www.acrpc.org). 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.*

# News & Events

## The Census is Coming!

On April 20, 2009, U.S. Census employees will begin visiting every community in Vermont during the first major field activity in preparation for the 2010 Census. By visiting addresses in every community, the Census Bureau will know where to send questionnaires and enumerators in 2010. Using hand-held computers, Census employees will walk through your community to identify the location of every housing unit. Address canvassing in Vermont will begin April 20, 2009 and end July 2, 2009. Your cooperation and patience are appreciated.

### The Census: A Snapshot

**What:** The census is a count of everyone residing in the United States.

**Who:** All U.S. residents must be counted—people of all races and ethnic groups, both citizens and non-citizens.

**When:** Census Day is April 1, 2010.

**Why:** The U.S. Constitution requires a national census once every 10 years. The census will show state population counts and determine representation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

**How:** Census questionnaires will be delivered or mailed to households via the U.S. mail in March 2010. Census workers will visit households that do not return their questionnaires.

### 2010 Census Timeline: Key Dates

**Spring 2009:** Census employees go door-to-door to update address lists nationwide.

**Fall 2009:** Recruitment begins for census takers to support peak workload.

**February-March 2010:** Census questionnaires are mailed or delivered to households.

**April 1, 2010:** Census Day.

**May-July 2010:** Census takers will visit households that did not return a questionnaire by mail.

**December 2010:** The Census Bureau delivers population counts to the President.

For more information on the Census in general and the 2010 Census in particular, please visit [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

## Coverts Upcoming Training

The Vermont Coverts Cooperators is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating forest landowners in good stewardship practices. Upcoming training includes:

### 2009 Cooperator Training

**June 5-7, Coutts-Moriarty Camp, Derby**

**September 11-13, Kehoe Conservation Camp, Hydeville**

Nominations are being accepted for participants to the 2009 training which provide an opportunity for landowners to learn sound forest stewardship and wildlife management. If you or someone you know is interested please forward their contact information.

### Game of Logging for Forest Owners

**Saturday, May 9, 2009 - Level 1**

**Sunday, May 16, 2009 - Level 2**

**Saturday, May 23, 2009 - Level 3**

Coverts Cooperators James Stack and Ronald Theissen host Northeast Woodland Training, Inc. for a Game of Logging series in Andover, VT. The cost is \$150 per person, per level, or sign up for all three for \$400. Class size is limited to 10 participants and preference will be given to those who register for all 3 levels.

### Bats in Your Woods, Thursday May 14th, 5-9 Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Biologist Scott Darling and Landowner Incentive Program Coordinator Jane Lazorchak will discuss the Natural Communities associated with Vermont's bats and what you as a landowner can do to enhance your forests for bats. We will then head out into the field to mist net some bat species and see these fascinating creatures up close. The workshop is free but pre-registration is requested.

Contact Lisa Sausville at (802) 388-3880 or [lisa@vtcoverts.org](mailto:lisa@vtcoverts.org) for information on these training opportunities.

## Vermont Safe Routes to School

Safe Routes to School is about kids in grades K-8 walking and biking to school, routinely and safely. SRTS integrates elements of transportation, economics, health and physical activity, environmental awareness and safety into one program. Phase I of the Vermont SRTS Program provides funding and services for outreach, education and training. Phase II covers infrastructure improvements. For more information and support in applying for funding, contact Elizabeth Golden at ACRPC at 388-3141 or [egolden@sover.net](mailto:egolden@sover.net).

# News & Events

## **VELCO Long Range Transmission Plan Meetings**

A series of public meetings to discuss the draft 2009 Long Range Transmission Plan will be held throughout Vermont. This document is a technical analysis, looking out 20 years and updated every three, that identifies where electricity load growth will require transmission upgrades, new generation or increased energy efficiency to maintain reliability. The public process will provide an opportunity for individuals and entities interested in Vermont's electric transmission system to understand and potentially influence the future of that system by sharing information about activities that may influence future electricity transmission needs, projected peak load and/or potential solutions. The long range transmission plan is available at [www.velco.com](http://www.velco.com). For more information and questions please contact VELCO at (802) 282-2631 or e-mail [publicoutreach@velco.com](mailto:publicoutreach@velco.com).

The remaining public forums are scheduled as follows:

- Tuesday, May 5 at 5:30 pm - Sheraton Hotel, Burlington
- Thursday, May 7 at 5:30 pm - Catamount Arts Academy, St. Johnsbury
- Wednesday, May 13 at 5:30 pm - Marlboro Tech Center, Brattleboro
- Monday, May 18 at 1:30 pm - VT College of Fine Arts, Montpelier

## **Transportation Enhancement Project Funding & Paving Grants for FY09 & FY10 Available**

The Vermont Agency of Transportation recently announced the availability funds for the enhancement-type projects. The first round of available funding is for the 2009. \$3.77 million has been set aside for projects that will have final construction plans and bid documents ready by 11/15/09. The application deadline for these project funding applications is May 15, 2009. Generally speaking, the successful project candidates will have design plans, the necessary permitting, and right of way in place by the November deadline. The project maximum is \$300,000, and a 20% local match (with no more than 10% in-kind match) is expected.

The second round is for the 2010 fiscal year and includes 2.77 million of available funding. This will follow the traditional enhancement requirements, cycle and process. The application deadline for this program will likely come in mid-to-late summer. This program does not directly use ARRA stimulus funding, so it does not have the short deadlines and significant restrictions and oversight that go with stimulus funding.

In addition to Enhancement funding, a Class II/Class III paving grant program is available as well. The criteria and deadlines are the same as those listed in the 2009 Enhancement funding listed above. Eligible projects will have a total project cost falling between \$375,000 and \$937,000; with a minimum local match of

\$75,000 and a max of \$187,000. The program includes those projects designed to address the top 2 inches of overlay...this does not include reconstruction projects. The only road classes eligible are Rural Major Collectors or above. The towns must be able to commit the local match funding in writing by 1-15-2010. These projects must be completed during the 2010 construction season.

If towns are interested in pursuing one of these grant programs, please 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.

## **Transportation Study Underway in the Western Corridor**

Over the past 18 months Addison Regional Planning Commission has been partnering with the Vermont Agency of Transportation, the Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization, and the five Regional Planning Commissions in western Vermont to develop a strategic transportation plan.

This plan will identify effective ways to improve the safety and efficiency of the transportation system in a coordinated and balanced manner throughout western Vermont over the next 20 years. Recommended strategies are expected to promote economic vitality in the region while maintaining Vermont's unique and valued quality of life. The plan will develop strategies that enhance the quality of life for communities along the Western Corridor and support the region's economy through transportation investments. Detailed information is available at [www.vtwesterncorridor.org](http://www.vtwesterncorridor.org).

Public input will be sought through public meetings planned for each of the five planning regions in Vermont's Western Corridor as well as at the Vermont Agency of Transportation in Montpelier.

Meetings have been scheduled as follows:

May 20, 2009, 7 p.m. Addison County Regional Planning Commission, 14 Seminary Street, Middlebury

May 27, 2009, 7 p.m. Franklin-Grand Isle Workforce Investment Board Training Facility, Precision Tools, Swanton

May 28, 2009, 7 p.m. Rutland Regional Medical Center, Leahy Center-Conference Room A, 160 Allen Street, Rutland

June 2, 2009, 9 a.m. Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization, 110 West Canal Street, Winooski

June 3, 2009, 1 p.m. Vermont Agency of Transportation, National Life Building – Board Room – 5th Floor, Montpelier

June 3, 2009, 7 p.m. Equinox Hotel – Bennington Room, 3567 Main Street, Manchester Village

In addition, a public opinion survey that asks how the public views transportation in Vermont's Western Corridor has been launched. The on-line survey, available at [www.vtwesterncorridor.org/survey](http://www.vtwesterncorridor.org/survey). It may also be accessed thru a link provided on the Addison County Regional Planning Commission website.

# Grants

## Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provides a significant amount of funding directly to states and municipalities through the EECBG to help them address the following objectives:

1. Reduce fossil fuel emissions;
2. Reduce total energy use;
3. Improve energy efficiency in the transportation, building, and other appropriate sectors.

AARA provides \$3.2 Billion in national funding for EECBG, to be divided as follows:

- 1.9 Billion to be distributed by formula to “eligible local governments” through the Department of Energy
- \$784 Million to be distributed by formula to States
- \$56 Million for a national competitive grant program to be administered by DOE that will give priority to small states (with populations of less than 2 million)
- \$400 Million for a national competitive grant program to be administered by DOE

Funding and Eligibility Breakdown for VT:

- DOE will make a direct allocation to each of the 10 highest-populated cities/towns in VT;
- DOE will make a direct allocation to the State of VT, which will be required to pass not less than 60% of its block grant funding to local governments that are noted slated to receive formula funding directly from DOE; and
- All VT communities that did not receive a formula allocation from DOE or the State of VT may be eligible to apply for funding through one of the national competitive grant programs; at least one of these programs will give priority to small states like VT.

DOE is working to publish guidance regarding how they will administer the program and provide specific instructions on how to apply for funding. For further updates, you should consult [http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/wip/block\\_grants.cfm](http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/wip/block_grants.cfm) or call 1-877-337-3463.

Municipal leaders in communities that are interested in receiving funding should begin planning now. This includes generating project ideas, assessing costs, and determining priorities, so you are ready to use the funds effectively and quickly when they are disbursed. Block grant funds can be used to conduct energy audits, make efficiency improvements, retrofits, develop infrastructure like bike lanes and pedestrian paths, renewable energy installations on governments buildings, LED street lighting, and much more.

## Green Energy Development Fund Awards

Governor Jim Douglas announced yesterday that the Department of Public Service (DPS) will award \$2.57 million from the Clean Energy Development Fund (CEDF) for renewable energy projects throughout the state. The goal of the CEDF is to increase the development and deployment of combined heat and power (CHP) technologies and renewable energy generation. “These awards will help our state as we continue to expand our efficiency and renewable energy efforts from funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act,” the Governor said. The DPS received 39 proposals seeking \$5.3 million in funding, in response to the CEDF grant solicitation issued in January. The following projects were selected for grant awards:

Pre-Project Financial Assistance:

- \* Biomass-Fueled Combined Heat & Power Project with District Energy Heating System in Brattleboro, Town of Brattleboro: \$20,000
- \* Georgia Mountain Community Wind Project, Georgia Mountain Community Wind, LLC: \$75,123
- \* Troy Hydroelectric License and Feasibility Study Project, Jonathan & Jayne Chase: \$48,375
- \* Montpelier Community Energy System, City of Montpelier: \$75,000
- \* Bolton Wind Power Project, Green Mountain Clean Energy, LLC: \$82,700
- \* Vermont Pellet Works Biomass Cogeneration Feasibility Study, Vermont Biomass Energy Corporation: 25,000
- \* Rutland Wastewater Treatment Facility Digester Co-Generation Project, Rutland Redevelopment Authority: 25,000
- \* Sunrise Village Northwind 100 Project, Sunrise Homeowner’s Association: \$25,000

Large-Scale Systems:

- \* Camel’s Hump Middle School Solar Photovoltaic Project, Mt. Mansfield Union School District: \$250,000
- \* St. Francis Xavier School Proposal for Photovoltaic Power System, St. Francis Xavier School: \$250,000
- \* Monument Farms Anaerobic Digester, Monument Farms: \$250,000
- \* Shore Acres Farm Pole Mount Photovoltaic System, Shore Acres Farm: \$20,000
- \* Tracking System for Net Zero Building at The Putney School, The Putney School: \$221,000
- \* Rock of Ages Wind Turbine Replacement, Northern Power Systems: \$130,000
- \* Heritage Aviation Solar Photovoltaic System, Heritage Aviation: \$20,000
- \* Shelburne Farms Solar Photovoltaic Project, Shelburne Farms: \$250,000
- \* Joneslan Farms Small Digester, Brian & Steve Jones: **\$250,000**
- \* GWR Engineering Photovoltaic Colony, Bill & Karen Root: \$31,920
- \* Williams Hill Community Renewable Energy Project, Peter Schneider & Jessica Donovan: \$33,250
- \* Barrett Green Business Building Solar Photovoltaic Installation, Barrett Enterprises: \$32,760

Special Demonstration Projects:

- \* Riverside Industrial Center Biomass Cogeneration, Economic Development Group, Inc.: \$250,000
- \* Carbon Harvest Energy - Randolph Landfill Gas-to-Combined Heat & Power with Agricultural Integrations, Carbon Harvest Energy, LLC: \$200,000

Information on CEDF is available at: [http://publicservice.vermont.gov/energy-efficiency/ee\\_cleanenergyfund.html](http://publicservice.vermont.gov/energy-efficiency/ee_cleanenergyfund.html)