



# ACRPC

*update* May 2011

## Way to Go! Commuter Challenge May 16 - 20, 2011

For nearly a decade, a growing number of Vermonters have pledged to try a new way of commuting during the week-long Way to Go! Commuter Chal

## Commission Calendar

May 2011

3	7:00pm	Natural Resources Committee
4	4:30-6:30pm	Addison County River Watch Collaborative (ACRWC)
11	5:15pm	Annual Meeting at Bridport Community Hall
12	7:00pm	Community Emergency Response Teams, Middlebury Police Dept.
13	8:15-10:00am	ACTR Board
15	8:15-10:00am	ACTR Board
16	4:00pm	Energy Committee
18	4:00-6:00pm	ACORN Wholesale Collaborative
19	7:00pm	Addison County Solid Waste Management District
23	4:00pm	Brownfields Committee
23	5:00-6:30pm	ACORN Network
25	7:00pm	ACRPC Executive Board
25	4:30-6:30pm	ACRWC Meeting
25	6:30 - 10:30pm	Local Emergency Planning Committee, VT State Police Barracks
31	6:00-8:30pm	Regional Energy Roundtable

**First Public Hearing on Revised Draft of Natural Resources Plan**  
ACRPC Office, Middlebury  
Wednesday, June 8, 7:00pm

Click on Regional Plan in header of [acrpc.org](http://acrpc.org) website to download the updated plan.

lence being held this year on May 16 – 20. The Way to Go! Commuter Challenge is an annual statewide event promoting economical, environmentally friendly, safe alternatives to driving solo.

Last year the campaign received one of ten awards as part of the Federal Highway Administration's Exemplary Human Environment Initiatives (EHEI). The EHEI recognizes outstanding examples of transportation projects that improve conditions for human activities while protecting the natural environment.



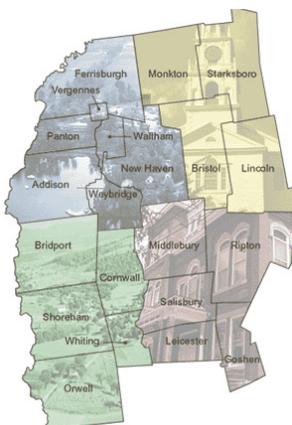
For one week in May more than 3,000 Vermonters pledged not to drive alone. Together those commuters eliminated more than 220,000 vehicle miles traveled, conserved 9,758 gallons of fuel, and saved nearly \$30,000 in transportation-related expenses. Their efforts resulted in a net reduction of about 200,000 pounds of transportation-related pollutants.

In Addison County 16,924 fewer miles were driven by 219 people that week, saving 8.25 tons of carbon.

Business and communities compete for awards based

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



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# News

on the percentage of participation in Way to Go! Last year in Addison County, the National Bank of Middlebury and Middlebury College won awards from the Governor. Individual participants receive instant coupons when registering and are eligible for end of event raffle prizes, such as iPods, a Neuton® battery powered mower, Burton snowboards, overnight stays, restaurant gift certificates, yoga passes, spa treatments, bike tune-ups, golf and ski passes and more.

Visit the website at [www.waytogovt.org](http://www.waytogovt.org) to register, learn more details, and get announcements.

## Streets as Places

*“We shape our streets, thereafter our streets shape us.” – Winston Churchill*

**D**id you know that in Holland, towns have experimented with taking all road signage and markings away in villages for safer streets for their pedestrians? Did it work? Yes! Why? Drivers had to start paying really close attention to what was going on around them. The rate of pedestrian/car conflicts decreased tremendously. For more on this check out an article by Project for Public Spaces: <http://www.pps.org/articles/hans-monderman/>.

On Friday, April 29th ACRPC Land Use Planner Claire Tebbs attended the Historic Preservation and Down Town Conference at Green Mountain College. The conference was sponsored by Historic Windsor and the State’s Division for Historic Preservation. Claire attended the Streets as Places sessions. These sessions were led by Ethan Kent from the Project for Public Spaces, Lucy Gibson, a transportation planner with Smart Mobility, and Michael Oman from Oman Analytics. Participants were presented with case studies of successful public streets, participated in a ‘street audit’, and discussed opportunities and obstacles for Vermont streets and roadways, particularly in village or town centers, as it related to creating functional places for the car, the cyclist, the pedestrian and the business owner, to name a few.

Some take-away lessons: have a vision of the kind of

place you want to create partnerships at all levels of government and community and push that vision, justify places for standing and gathering for a diversity of user groups, and create ‘mental speed bumps’ – meaning intrigue and activity along the way, so that drivers want to slow down in your village center.

## Basic Emergency Operations Plans

**I**n January 2008 Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) convened a panel of experienced local emergency management directors and fire chiefs to develop the Basic EOP to replace the out-dated Rapid Response Plan (RRP). What used to be thought of as a plan to be used in the “first six-minutes” when an incident occurred was transformed into a usable document not only for planning purposes, but also to be used as a checklist during the response to an ongoing incident.



Using the RED bordered action tables at the beginning of the plan, a town can follow them as a basic checklist that mirrors the Incident Command System, providing a guide for appropriate actions during a disaster. In addition, there is a series of GREEN bordered tables that are designed to be filled out as part of a planning process where your town can identify its resources as well as its primary risks.

Information contained in the Basic EOPs GREEN tables, is crucial to the disaster management process in that it provides immediate current contact information. Other valuable information includes sheltering, coordination guidelines, at-risk populations and hazard information in the event a town or city is impacted.

**How does your town benefit by having an up-to-date Basic EOP?** Every community in the state should have an emergency operations plan which can be used to guide for response in case of emergency.

When a selectboard adopts a plan for their community, the State of VT recognizes its commitment to the safety of residents and by doing so, meets one of the requirements for enhanced state aid in the event of a disaster from Vermont's Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund (ERAF). During a Federally declared disaster, FEMA will reimburse up to 75% of costs incurred to publicly owned property like roads and bridges. The town and state split the remaining 25%. If eligible for ERAF, Towns may end up with only a 10% share.

**Basic EOPs are created and owned by the local municipality.** The local municipality is responsible for updating their Basic EOP each year to include any changes due to Town Meeting results or changes in appointed offices like that of Emergency Manager. To assist that process, Tim Bouton, ACRPC's Emergency Planner, creates an annual draft update for each community. These drafts were recently sent out to Emergency Managers and Selectboards for their review. Once adopted, copies of the adopted plan should be sent to VT Emergency Management and to Tim at the regional planning commission so he can keep a record. Tim is available to assist any community in the region in editing and adopting these plans. [tbouton@acrpc.org](mailto:tbouton@acrpc.org) or 388-3141.

**Post Script:** Since writing this article, the Addison Region has been hit by several waves of rain and associated flooding. The last week of April felt over 4" of rain fall in our region causing road damages in some of our northern communities. Since water runs downhill, Lake Champlain was also hit and the highest water levels since 1869 have been exceeded by nearly a foot resulting in widespread lake shore damages. As of Monday 5/2, it looks like we will qualify for a federal declaration so appointed emergency managers in each community are out there trying to document reimbursable expenses. Keep your fingers crossed that it doesn't get any worse.

## 2011 Municipal Planning Grant Projects

Four Addison County Communities are well underway on their MPG projects. The planning commissions of Cornwall and Salisbury are working on community surveys to identify community perspectives, concerns and interests. Feedback from these surveys will be incorporated into the update of specific topics within their town plans, and will eventually influence town zoning and bylaws.



Last year, Leicester sent out a community survey and held a summer community forum in order to receive feedback for updating their town plan. This year, the municipal planning grant is being used to fund the rewrite of their 2003 plan.

Waltham is working with ACRPC to create design standards for their commercial highway district along route 7. This project has allowed the planning commission time to understand the boundaries and restrictions of this district, and to visualize what their current bylaws would allow in this area. The design standard will be incorporated into their bylaws as a way to guide development in a way that is both economically beneficial to the town, as well as aesthetically fitting within the scenic, rural character of this section of the Route 7 corridor. For more information on development in the Route 7 scenic corridor refer to *Views to the Mountain: A Scenic Protection Manual*, published by Smart Growth Vermont.

### **Wetlands: Delineation, Function and Protection**

*The Dudley H. Davis Center, UVM*

Monday, May 16, 8:30 - 4:30

At this workshop there will be morning presentations on a wide range of topics relating to wetlands, plus afternoon field trips. Visit <http://www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=950334> to register. Registration includes lunch & refreshments. \$40 if you register by May 8; \$45 after May 8; \$50 at the door.

# Events

## **Biomass Boiler Demo**

*Wood's Market Garden, Brandon*  
Monday, May 16, 1:00 - 4:00

The Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund and Wood's Market Garden are hosting the LEI Products' "Bio-Burner 100" demonstration to highlight the high efficiency, multi-fuel biomass burner / boiler system. Learn how you can heat with wood pellets, wood chips, grass pellets, shell corn, and more.

The demo day is an informal opportunity to meet with the LEI representative and others interested in biomass heat. They will be testing a variety of fuels, including wood pellets & wood chips, and higher ash fuels like switchgrass and shell corn.

## **Clay Plain Forest Learning and Doing**

*Monkton Methodist Church, Monkton*  
Saturday, May 7th (Green Up Day)

Join the Willowell Foundation and Vermont Coverts in a workshop and community tree planting event. Marc Lapin, Ecologist, Middlebury College Professor and Director of the Champlain Valley Clayplain Forest Project, launches the morning with a discussion of natural history and stewardship concerns. Mary Droege, Conservation Ecologist with The Nature Conservancy, will discuss TNC's clayplain forest restoration efforts in the Hubbardton/West Haven area. She will share lessons learned from their seven-year restoration project.

After a chili and cornbread lunch, participants will have an opportunity to get their hands dirty learning proper planting techniques and putting their own seedlings in the ground. Join the workshop for the morning, afternoon or the whole day. Talks and lunch 9am - 12:30pm and the Community tree planting 1 - 3pm.

For directions, visit [www.willowell.org/the-land/visiting](http://www.willowell.org/the-land/visiting). The event is free, but space is limited so RSVP to Kelsey Haigh of the Willowell Foundation at [kelsey@willowell.org](mailto:kelsey@willowell.org) or 802-349-2077.

## **Broadband Conference:**

**Citizen Leadership in a Connected Age**  
*Vermont Technical College, Randolph*  
Saturday, May 21, 8:00 - 5:00

Citizen leaders and technology experts will gather to network and identify positive changes that broadband technology can bring to Vermont communities.

The day's activities include:

- A keynote address by Matt Dunne, former VT state senator, Google Manager of Community Affairs.
- Panel discussions and presentations from business experts using broadband to help businesses do more with less, and to utilize the mobile Web.
- An education track to help school administrators and educators plan, implement and sustain 1:1 computing programs for schools.
- Models and best practices from e-Vermont partners to implement public Wifi, increase citizen participation and effectively utilize all the online resources your public library has to offer.
- Workshops for nonprofit fund-raising online.

Visit <http://www.snellingcenter.org> to find out more and to register.

## **Build a Walkable, Livable Community For All Ages**

*Hilton Hotel, Burlington*  
Friday, May 6, 9:30 - 2:30

Join AARP for a dynamic and interactive day with Dan Burden, one of the nation's leading authorities on walkability and livability. Learn how complete streets principles, smart growth and a community design that supports active living contribute to successful aging.

Space is limited so please RSVP via [vt@aarp.org](mailto:vt@aarp.org) or 802-951-1315. Free.

Dan Burden brings together many disciplines and issues -- street design, traffic calming, living streets, public safety, bicycling, and greenways -- into a holistic vision for creating healthy, livable, sustainable and prosperous communities. Time Magazine named Burden as "One of the Six Most Important Civic Innovators in the World."