

ACRPC

update May 2016

Addison County Sustainability Expo 2016

The Middlebury Energy Committee will be presenting the 2016 Sustainability Expo on Saturday, May 14 at Middlebury Union Middle School (MUMS), from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Sustainability Expo builds on the success of the previous 2015 Sustainable Living Expo, which was attended by over 500 residents and local business people.

The Expo will feature information packed exhibits and workshops, as well as many different interactive children’s activities, and delicious local foods. The at-

tendance fee is \$5 for adults, students, and children 16 and older, and free for children under 16 years of age.

This year, the Sustainability Expo is adding Community Transportation to its mix of exhibitors and workshops, including off-site events in the Addison County area, presented by the Middlebury Energy Committee and Go! Vermont.

Innovative and Interactive Workshops

The Expo will offer innovative and interactive workshops that deepen our understanding of sustainable living, covering all of the following areas including:

- Community Transportation
- Local Food
- Renewable Energy
- Green Housing
- Integrative Health and Healthy Ecosystems

Mark your calendar now to attend the Sustainability Expo 2016 on Saturday, May 14 at Middlebury Union Middle School!

2016 VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Grant Opportunity

The Agency of Transportation is now soliciting applications for projects this year through the Bicycle and Pedestrian Program. The intent of the VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program is to improve access and safety for bicyclists and/or pedestrians through the planning, design and construction of infrastructure projects.

The Bike/Ped Program provides funding for either a

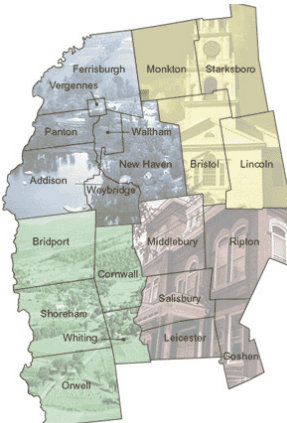
This newsletter is financed through the State of Vermont Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the State of Vermont. All programs of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission are handicapped accessible.

Commission Calendar

May 2016

11	5:00pm	ACRPC Annual Meeting Mary’s at Baldwin Creek Bristol, VT
18	7:00pm	TAC Meeting
19	7:00pm	ACSWMD Meeting
25	6:30pm	Executive Board Meeting

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



Addison County Regional Planning Commission
14 Seminary Street
Middlebury, VT 05753
Phone: 802.388.3141
Fax: 802.388.0038

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scoping study or a design/construction project for the following facilities:

- Bicycle lanes (on-road facility delineated with pavement markings and signs)
- Shoulders (generally a minimum of 3-feet wide to accommodate bicyclists)
- Sidewalks
- Pedestrian crossing improvements, including median pedestrian refuge islands
- Pedestrian signals
- Improvements that address requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act
- Shared-use paths (designed for use by both bicyclists and pedestrians)
- Pedestrian-scale lighting (not likely to rank highly as a standalone project, but eligible as a project component)

Projects may be combinations of any of the above facilities. Projects with the following emphasis will be considered favorably:

- Facilities that address a documented safety concern such as a high crash location
- Connectivity within overall bicycle and pedestrian networks
- Proximity and access to and within village centers and downtown areas
- Facilities that serve multiple uses e.g. access to businesses, residences and schools

In 2015, a “small projects” category was added that is funded with state dollars only and this type of project is eligible again this year. The intent of these projects is to implement necessary safety improvements like signs, pavement markings, crossing enhancements or on-road bike facilities through striping. These projects may be bid out or done by local forces. This category is not to be used to match federal funds on a larger project.

For a copy of the VTrans 2016 Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Guide and Application, visit here: <http://vtransengineering.vermont.gov/bureaus/mab/local-projects/bike-ped>.

You may also obtain a copy or ask any questions about the program or application process by contacting Jon Kaplan by phone at (802)828-0059 or email at jon.kaplan@vermont.gov.

As in previous years, there will be pre-application training sessions provided to potential applicants. It is strongly recommended that an official representative of the applicant attend one of these sessions. This year, the sessions will be provided as a webinar and attendees will log on to vtrans.webex.com. The two sessions are scheduled on Tuesday May 24, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM and Thursday, May 26, 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. You can participate in the training from any computer connected to the internet.

This year, it is preferred to submit applications in electronic format as Adobe .pdf files. Hard copy applications will still be accepted. Complete applications are due by 1:00 PM on July 15, 2016.

Applicants are strongly urged to work with your Regional Planning Commission. These organizations are invaluable resources and can help you refine your project.

Save the Date! Vermont Community Development Association - 2016 Spring Conference

The Vermont Community Development Association is pleased to announce their Spring Meeting on May 17, 2016, at the new State complex in downtown Waterbury. This year's theme is, “The Entrepreneurial Pipeline: The Role of Makerspaces, Co-working Spaces and Incubators.” Topics to be covered include:

- How conditions for organic growth and evolution are created
- What drives the demand
- Is the need being met?

Come hear how flexible workplaces are supporting Vermont's startup economy.

Tuesday, May 17, 2016 - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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New State Office Complex, Waterbury, VT

This will be a limited ticket event so don't delay in registering. Contact Theresa Bachand at VLCT for more information at (802) 229-9111, tbachand@vlct.org

Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions 2016 Tiny Grant Information

Grant range: \$250 - \$600

Grant application due: May 13, 2016

Grant award announcement: June 3, 2016

Mailing address: AVCC, 89 Main Street, Suite 4,
Montpelier VT 05602

Email address: vtconservation@gmail.com (AVCC Board)

AVCC Goals:

- To assist local committees/groups to become Conservation Commissions
- To increase the functioning capacity of existing Conservation Commissions, and
- To provide seed money and/or matching funds for specific projects in the broad categories of land conservation, education and outreach, stewardship and management, and planning.

Eligibility for funding. To be eligible for an AVCC Tiny Grant, groups must be:

- Vermont Conservation Commissions or local committees/groups that are working towards becoming a Conservation Commission and are paid members of AVCC

Other Stipulations. Groups must be a municipality or IRS certified 501(c)(3) public charity, or have fiscal sponsorship by a municipality or IRS certified 501(c)(3) public charity. Prior recipients of grants from AVCC must have completed those grants and closed them out. Grants cannot be used for general funds, dues or subscriptions.

Timetable. Applications must be submitted (or post-marked if sent by postal service) on or before May 13,

2016. Grantees will be notified of funding approval by June 3, 2016. Projects must be completed and a final report submitted by June 3, 2017. Extensions may be considered.

Evaluation Criteria for Grant Funding:

- Demonstrated need
- Evidence of matching funds and/or in-kind services
- Closely aligns with grant goals
- Project readiness
- Local support and volunteer involvement

Payment Process. The funds awarded under this grant will be available approximately a month after the awards are announced. Checks will be issued by the Vermont Community Foundation.

SOUL Tree Steward Course- June- Essex Junction

Are you interested in learning more about trees, tree care, and local stewardship of trees? Do you want to make a difference in your community?

The Stewardship of the Urban Landscape (SOUL) Tree Steward Program trains stewards and advocates for the trees, forests, and green spaces in which we live, work, and play. This June the program will be offered in Essex Junction, VT at the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation Office.

The multi-class program is designed for individuals who are interested in:

- Enhancing their understanding of trees and proper tree care.
- Understanding urban forestry as a field and in the context of Vermont.
- Being part of a cohort of regional citizens who are committed to improving their community's environmental, social, and economic quality through trees.

The course will cover tree health, identification, planting and maintenance, Vermont tree laws and policies,

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and management of roadside vegetation and town forests, among other topics. Participants are expected to attend all classes and to design and complete a volunteer project in their community.

The June 2016 SOUL course dates:
Wednesdays, June 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29 from 5:30-8:30pm.

Registration

Participants must pre-register and attend all classes. The course cost is \$30 before May 25th, \$40 afterwards. Registration is limited to 25 participants. Learn more about the SOUL Tree Steward Program at vtcommunityforestry.org/get-involved/tree-stewards.

Questions or to register, contact Gwen Kozlowski at gwen.kozlowski@uvm.edu or (802) 656-6646. To request a disability-related accommodation to attend, please call by May 18th.

Electric Vehicle Charging Station Grant

The Department of Housing and Community Development in partnership with the Agency of Natural Resources is pleased to announce approximately \$20,000 in Electric Vehicle Charging Station Grants for Designated Downtowns and Village Centers. This is the remainder of funding that has been available in previous grant rounds.

http://accd.vermont.gov/sites/accd/files/Documents/strongcommunities/cpr/EVGrant_Application_and_Guidelines_FY16_Round%204_160108.doc

Grant applications are due June 6, 2016. See the Electric Vehicle Charging Station Grant Application for eligibility, funding and application requirements. Any municipality with a Designated Downtown or Designated Village Center may apply for funding and must be submitted by the municipality. The maximum grant amount is \$20,000 with a 25% match requirement that can be cash or in-kind.

Priority consideration will be given to high priority areas that do not currently have an existing or planned EVCS in the designated downtown or village center and/or geographic location is close to major highways/roads. You can find locations for the existing electric vehicle charging stations in Vermont by following this link.

<http://www.driveelectricvt.com/charging-stations/public-charging-map>

The electric vehicle charging station grant is a great funding opportunity to expand the network of charging stations statewide and we look forward to working with you. Please contact Gary Holloway, the Downtown Program Coordinator at 802-828-3220 if you have questions or need assistance with the grant application.

Register Now for Resilient Vermont 2016 Conference!

Register now for Resilient Vermont: 2016, a conference intended to strengthen our climate, economic and social resilience.

Vermonters continue to face climate-related challenges like powerful storms and warming temperatures, all while navigating shifting economies and new policies. We must act now to protect our treasured people and places. Register for the first Resilient Vermont Network conference and gear up for the challenge.

This interactive event will bring together community leaders, municipal officials, organizations and agencies working to strengthen Vermont's resilience to climate change and other challenges. Gain the skills, ideas, inspiration, connections and resources for on-the-ground action to make us all stronger, more vibrant, and better prepared.

Conference Program

Friday, May 20

This dynamic conference day will bring together local

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and statewide resilience leaders, practitioners and community members to get new ideas, share resources, and make plans. Sessions include panel discussions, problem-solving collaboratives, field trips, networking opportunities, and a keynote address.

Saturday, May 21

Saturday is all about taking it home, giving you the concrete skills to plan and take action on the ground in communities and watersheds. Choose from hands-on skills workshops, or bring a team from your community for “Resilience Bootcamp.” This day-long training by Community Resilience Organizations will help you build a team, assess local resilience, and make an action plan.

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/resilient-vermont-2016-redefining-vermont-strong-tickets-24398844601>

2016 Downtown and Village Center Tax Credits

Vermont’s Downtown and Village Center tax credit program is one of the primary benefits of Downtown and Village Center designation, and supports revitalization seen in community centers across the state.

In 2016, \$2,200,000 in state income tax credits are available to projects that enhance the historic character and improve building safety of older and historic commercial buildings in these designated communities. The credits support general rehabilitation work, code compliance work, data and network wiring, and exterior improvements, and may be combined with the federal program.

Applications for the next round of tax credits are due Friday, July 1, 2016 by 4:30 pm and the Vermont Downtown Board will make allocation decisions when it meets July 25, 2016.

The application is now available on our website here: http://accd.vermont.gov/strong_communities/opportunities/revitalization/downtown. Applications can be

submitted electronically to caitlin.corkins@vermont.gov or to:

Caitlin Corkins
State of Vermont
Division for Community Planning & Revitalization
One National Life Drive
Davis Building, 6th Floor
Montpelier, VT 05620-0501

Please feel free to call or e-mail if you have any questions regarding the application or the program itself.