



ACRPC

update

November 2009

ACRPC Energy Committee Program: Wood Boilers Thursday, December 10, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Considering a wood boiler to heat your home, office, school or municipal building? Learn about the latest technology and system requirements, as well as the cost and potential for heating with wood. Basil Stetson and Roger Wallace will cover every aspect of both residential and commercial/institutional wood boilers. For more information about the program, contact Elizabeth Golden at 388-3141.

Emergency Planning Tabletop Exercises

The Addison County Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC #8), ACRPC, and VT Homeland Security will be hosting a tabletop exercise with disaster scenarios on November 12 for the towns of Starksboro, Monkton, Lincoln, Bristol and New Haven. For further information, contact Tim Bouton, 388-3141 or tbouton@sover.net.

Energy Star Incentives for Residential Customers

Efficiency Vermont is offering Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Incentives through December 2009. For more information, go to: www.encyvermont.com or call 888-921-5990. In addition, you can get information on the federal tax incentives on home improvements for up to 30% on materials (up to \$1,500 total tax credit) through December 31, 2010. For information go to <http://energytaxincentives.org>.

Commission Calendar

November	3	12:00	Brownfields Committee
	4	9-12	Western Corridor
	6	12:00	Energy Committee
	7	8:30-5	Environmental Action Conference, VTC
	9	12-2	ACORN Steering Committee
	11	7:30	Full Commission
	13	8-11	ACTR Board
	18	7:00	Transportation Advisory Committee
	19	5-9	ACSWMD
	25	6:30	Executive Board
	26		Holiday - Thanksgiving - Office Closed
	27		Holiday - Thanksgiving - Office Closed
December			
	2	9:00	Zoning Administrator's Roundtable
	4	12:00	Energy Committee
	5	8-4	VT Community Energy & Climate Action Conference, Lake Morey Inn, Fairlee
	9	7:30	Full Commission
	10	7-9	Energy Program: Wood Boilers
	17	7:00	ACSWMD
	23	6:30	Executive Board

ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Program: VT Covert Cooperator's Program Wednesday, November 11, 2009 at 7:30p.m.

ACRPC will present a pre-meeting discussion on Vermont's Covert Cooperator's Program. The program provides environmental education and woodlands management classes, specifically about managing for wildlife. Lisa Sausville, the Executive Director of the program will join us to speak about the education work of the program, and specifically how it relates to and what it has accomplished in Addison County. Please come join us for an interesting conversation regarding managing land for wildlife habitat.

The public is invited to attend any and all of our monthly presentations and Full Commission Meetings. For more information, contact Adam Lougee at 388-3141 or alougee@sover.net.

Meetings are open to the public and unless otherwise noted held at ACRPC. For further info, contact 388-3141.

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Events

Vermont Community Energy and Climate Action Conference Saturday, December 5

UVM Extension and the Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network (VECAN) invite you to attend the second annual Vermont Community Energy and Climate Action Conference at the Lake Morey Inn in Fairlee Vermont on Saturday, December 5th from 8:00-4:00. Conference registration is now open. The conference is for those interested in how Vermont communities can take action to increase energy efficiency and renewable energy for municipal government, businesses, and residents. The conference is geared toward town energy committee members, select board and city council members, conservation commissioners, professional and citizen planners, town public works staff, environmental business professionals, state government officials, academics, and concerned citizens.

The day will include concurrent workshop presentations, regional break-out meetings, and general sessions. The goal for the day is to provide strategies communities can implement to reduce energy costs and reduce the damaging greenhouse gasses released into the environment. Participants will gain an increased understanding of a wide range of opportunities for tackling energy and climate change at the local level, while also having an opportunity to network with other Vermont communities.

Workshops will be offered on a broad variety of renewable energy and climate action topics, such as community wind power, solar energy, bio-energy, energy planning, transportation, energy efficiency and potential funding strategies. Morning and afternoon conference keynote addresses will be delivered by Patrick Parenteau, Professor of Law and Senior Counsel, Environmental & Natural Resources Law Clinic at the Vermont Law School and Senator Bernie Sanders (invited) who will discuss progress on the climate change bill currently making its way through Congress.

For complete information and to register on-line, go to: www.regonline.com/VTEnergy.

Variations on a Theme: Guiding Development Through Planned Unit Development Thursday, December 10 at 7 pm

VLCT and ACRPC are presenting an interactive television workshop on PUDs at Hannaford Career Center in Middlebury. Gail Henderson-King will explain the broad authority granted municipalities in the PUD enabling legislation and the variety of ways towns may utilize section 4417 to address diverse development goals outlined in a town plan. Juli Beth Hinds will review the importance of clarity in PUD bylaws.

For more information go to: www.vitlink.org.

VLCT Planning & Zoning Forum Tuesday, November 10

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns will present a Planning & Zoning Forum on Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in Montpelier, Vermont. The Forum offers participants a chance to discuss some of the most pressing issues in municipal planning and zoning with officials from across the state. The workshop will provide a dynamic mix of legal information, practical solutions, and policy discussions, as well as many opportunities to ask questions and share experiences.

This workshop is designed for all local officials involved in the local planning and development review process. Zoning administrators, planning commissioners, DRB/ZBA members, town administrators, managers, and planners, selectboard members, and regional planning commission staff are all encouraged to attend.

Registration information: \$55.00 VLCT PACIF members, \$80.00 VLCT members, \$125.00 Non-members.

Visit www.vlct.org/eventscalendar/ to register online, or fax your registration to (802) 229-2211. If you need registration materials, please call 1-800-649-7915.

Environmental Action Conference 2009: Mobilizing the Grassroots for a Greener Vermont Saturday, November 7, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Vermont Technical College, Randolph

This year's Environmental Action Conference offers nearly two dozen workshops on the most timely topics of today, including tackling issues like climate change, renewable energy, water protection, smart growth development, transportation, conservation, solid waste management and many more, including many skills-building workshops. Anyone concerned with or working on any of these issues will benefit greatly from participation in this conference.

The candidates for Vermont governor have been invited to speak - not debate - about their priorities, positions and concerns regarding protecting Vermont's environment and tackling the state's energy and climate change challenges.

The conference offers the opportunity to share the collective wisdom, insight and experiences of a diverse group of people who are active in environmental fields and municipal government. Collective problem solving and collaboration are facilitated at this event.

For more information and registration go to: www.vtenvironmentalaction.org

Champlain/ Crown Point Bridge Update

State of Working Vermont 2009 Report Released

The first year of the recession hit hard in Vermont's private sector, especially in construction and manufacturing. About 6 percent of private sector jobs have disappeared since the recession started nearly two years ago. But the losses have also spread to the public sector in 2009, as state government made cuts to reduce state spending. The administration is on track to reduce the number of state jobs by more than 8 percent by the end of the year—eliminating a total of over 700 positions.

This year's report highlights these changes and their effects on Vermont's workers and their families. It argues that cutting state jobs has worsened the recession for the state's economy and its people.

Read the report, "The State of Working Vermont 2009." at <http://publicassets.org/publications/reports/swvt2009/>

Clean Energy Development Fund New Director

The Clean Energy Development Fund Board (CEDB) has selected Andrew Perchlik as its new Director. Perchlik is the current executive director of Renewable Energy Vermont (REV), the Vermont trade group for the renewable energy industry, which he started with a handful of renewable energy businesses in 2000.

Over the past nine years at REV, Perchlik has overseen the rapid expansion of the clean energy sector and the transformation of renewable energy from a marginal alternative to a popular mainstream reality. Prior to joining REV, Perchlik worked at the Vermont Department of Public Service as a renewable energy specialist.

The CEDF underwent a restructuring as the result of changes made in the 2008-2009 legislative session, leading to the creation of an independent oversight body, the Board. The Board has the responsibility for carrying out its legislative mandates, including promotion of renewable energy in Vermont, and now carries the added responsibility of directing the spending of over \$30 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds. Additional contributions from two Memoranda of Understanding with Entergy Nuclear Vermont bring the total funding stream to over \$43 million between now and 2012.

In addition, the CEDF continues to work closely with the Department of Public Service.

On Friday, October 6, the NYDOT and VTrans closed the Champlain Bridge to traffic, significantly impacting citizens and businesses within the region. Since that time, Addison County Regional Planning Commission's (ACRPC) staff has been working with its joint partners, Addison County Chamber of Commerce (ACCOC) and Addison County Economic Development Commission (ACEDC) to coordinate meetings, collect information, anticipate requests for action, and advocate for Addison County's businesses and citizens. Specific actions and activities by your joint partners include:

- ACCOC and ACRPC attended a meeting of citizens at Bridge Restaurant on October 20.
- ACCOC coordinated a business meeting in Middlebury on October 21st. All attended.
- ACRPC created a comprehensive list of requests from citizens meetings and delivered to VTrans and the Governor.
- ACEDC created a survey of business impacts to qualitatively define the impact of the bridge closure to the region and conveyed that to legislators and agencies.
- ACCOC created a website to communicate updates concerning the bridge with the region.
- All continue to work with VTrans to accept and disseminate information.
- ACRPC worked with legislators to create a "job description" of activities for the ombudsman in charge of the bridge for the Governor.
- ACRPC provided local office space and support for the Governor's representative.
- ACRPC charted all alternative transportation options and tracked progress of each.
- All took questions and information from Addison County citizens and businesses and direct them to resources available.
- All to continue to advocate for both short-term situations and long-term solutions to restoring full service at Crown Point.

Grants

LCBP Local Implementation Grants

The Lake Champlain Basin Program is currently seeking proposals for four grant categories:

- 1 - Pollution Prevention or Aquatic Invasive Species Spread Prevention
- 2 - Organizational Support
- 3 - Education and Outreach
- 4 - 2009 Pollution Reduction on Small Farms in the Missisquoi and St. Albans Bay Basins

These grants support local community and farmer involvement with the implementation of the comprehensive management plan, Opportunities for Action: An Evolving Plan for the Future of the Lake Champlain Basin. To learn more and to access grant guidelines and applications visit:

www.lcbp.org/grantrfp.htm.

For grant related questions contact Eric Howe at ehowe@lcbp.org or call (802) 372-3213 ext. 18. All applications are due on December 4, 2009.

Since 1992, the LCBP has awarded nearly \$3.6 million in grants. The LCBP will issue a request for proposals for approximately \$100,000 in Local Habitat Restoration and Connectivity Grants later this year.

USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Loans & Grants

Now is a great time to finance the capital project you have been planning! There is an unprecedented amount of available funds. We may not see this amount of \$\$\$ again for years! Apply now, don't miss out! To take advantage of unusual funding opportunities, we are not setting an application deadline for grants in 2010. We are encouraging all projects with defined budgets and matching funds to apply as soon as possible. Community Facilities Loans can be the match and we strongly encourage loan/grant combination applications.

While the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds are still available, we anticipate they will be committed early in 2010. Apply soon! First come, first served. Maximum ARRA grant is \$100,000; maximum regular program grant is \$50,000.

Loan funding is plentiful and we anticipate that it will remain so throughout the year. Interest rates remain low – 4.25% through December 31, 2009.

Addison County towns should contact Susan Poulin at 802-828-6032 or Susan.Poulin@vt.usda.gov

For detailed program information, go to www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/cf/cp.htm.

VT Community Energy Mobilization Project Seeks Local Energy Committee Participation

Efficiency Vermont is seeking applications from town energy committees, municipalities, regional planning commissions, and other entities to implement the Vermont Community Energy Mobilization Project (VCEM) Project in 2010. The VCEM project is based on the premise that local energy committees and other local community groups offer great promise for helping Vermont increase energy efficiency in residential buildings.

VCEM is an intensive four-month community-based effort designed to achieve quantifiable reductions in home energy use, stimulate an increase in the number of comprehensive energy retrofits, and increase awareness and understanding by Vermonters of home energy savings opportunities and resources. VCEM relies on community volunteers to conduct “home energy visits” to install energy saving products, conduct walk-through home energy assessments, and confer with property owners about energy saving opportunities in their homes.

All applicants must complete an application form by Monday, November 23, 2009. Efficiency Vermont will select between 10-15 applicants. Participants will be selected based upon their experience in implementing similar programs and commitment and readiness to implement the program within a tight timeline. Efficiency Vermont is also interested in achieving diversity in geography and population size. These details and others are specified in the “Request for Applications” document, available at www.acrpc.org/pages/activities/energy.

For more information, contact Paul Markowitz or Gabrielle Stebbins at Efficiency Vermont at 802-229-6307.

EECBG Grant to ACRPC

The legislature has allocated \$880,000 of EECBG funding to Vermont's ten regional planning commissions to use for county-level energy efficiency projects. In addition, the counties won an appeal for allocations based on the fact that they perform services for the county, even though they are not a level of government.

ACRPC is developing a program to utilize the funds most effectively. We plan to offer technical assistance to towns to develop strategies to save energy and increase their renewable energy resources, revise their Energy and Transportation Plans, and assist in writing funding applications. A portion of the funding will be earmarked to pay for energy audits on municipal buildings.

For more information see www.acrpc.org/pages/activities/energy or contact Elizabeth Golden at 388-3141.