



ACRPC

update

November 2010

Lincoln, Bristol and Starksboro Receive Transportation Planning Funds

This fall the Transportation Advisory Council (TAC) voted to allocate Transportation Planning Initiative (TPI) funds to Lincoln, Bristol and Starksboro. Lincoln proposes a study to analyze safe pedestrian and bicycle routes to and from the town center to the Lincoln elementary and preschool. Their planning efforts are intended to coincide with the VT Agency of Transportation bridge replacement project that will be happening in the same vicinity as the study area. Bristol's project looks to create a conceptual analysis of pedestrian and bicycle facilities to connect downtown Bristol to Lincoln Road and Bartlett Falls. Analysis will include both on-road (or in alignment with road) and off-road options. Starksboro proposed a feasibility study for transforming the Starksboro Village main street into a 'complete street', making this portion of Route 116 a safe route for all users of all ages and abilities. Street elements Starksboro is looking to include are: sidewalks, bike lanes or shoulders, re-

duced travel lanes, pedestrian crossings, median islands, curb extensions, and street trees. All three projects look to support a more physically active community environment, where walking and biking are safe and enjoyable ways to get around the village. Proposals submitted, but declined include Addison's Bi-State Park Greenway Study.

For more information, contact Rick Kehne ACRPC 388.3141 or rkehne@sover.net

The Vermont Transportation Energy Report

The University of Vermont's Transportation Research Center, Vermont Clean Cities Coalition, recently published an informative report on Vermont transportation energy consumption. The mission of the Vermont Clean Cities Coalition (VCCC) is to reduce the state's reliance on fossil fuels for transportation. The annual report provides policy makers with relevant and timely data on the status of fuel consumption, vehicle purchases, transportation expenditures, and travel behavior, and is intended to form the basis of data-driven policy discussions and initiatives. Here is an excerpt from the report's introduction:

Approximately 20 pounds of carbon dioxide (CO2) is produced for every gallon of gasoline consumed. The transportation sector contributed 57% of Vermont's GHG emissions in 2007. In contrast, nationally, transportation accounts for 33% of the GHG emissions from fossil fuel combustion. The large percentage of emissions generated by the transportation sector in Vermont makes it an important policy focus within the state. In this report, we focus on factors that impact transportation energy demand, including trends in vehicle fleet composition and Vermonters' travel patterns. Last year, we reported that 2008 saw substantial increases in energy expenditures by both consumers and government programs (including Medicaid and the Depart-

Commission Calendar

November 2010	5	8:30am-4:30pm	VPA Fall Conference (Flat Bread, Middlebury)
	8	7:00pm	ACORN Energy Co-op
	9	7:30pm	Ripton Regional Hearing (Ripton)
	10	7:00pm	Full Commission Meeting
	12	8:15-10:00am	ACTR Board Meeting
	15	7:00pm	Energy Committee
	17	7:00pm	Transportation Ad. Com. Meeting
	18	7:00pm	Addison County Solid Waste Management District Meeting
	22	7:00pm	ACORN Energy Co-op
	24	6:30pm	Executive Board Meeting
	29	5:30-7:00pm	ACORN Board Meeting (location TBD)

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.

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ment of Education). Last year's report also showed that while Vermonters are highly dependent on their personal vehicles, the overall fuel efficiency of the Vermont fleet appeared to be increasing and total Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) in the state declined. In this year's report, we show that in 2009, consumer spending on transportation dropped, presumably due to lower fuel costs, although expenditures by government agencies increased. In 2009, both VMT and the number of hybrid vehicles registered in Vermont increased.

If you would like to read the whole report it is available at the following website: <http://www.uvm.edu/~transctr/cleancty/pdf/UVM-TRC-10-017.pdf>

or contact: Karen Glitman, UVM Transportation Research Center 210 Colchester Avenue Burlington, VT 05405 (802)656-8868

Acorn Energy Co-op Offers Free Weatherization Programs:

“Weatherizing Your Home – From Top to Bottom”

Acorn Renewable Energy Co-op, a member-owned energy cooperative, will be presenting a two-part Program on **Wednesday, November 10 and December 8 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Ilsley Library Community Room, 75 Main Street (rear entrance) in Middlebury.

Do you have a cold, drafty house? Or a damp, moldy house? Are your heating bills breaking your budget? Do you have a pellet stove or plan to add a solar panel? Learn how to solve your air and moisture problems, reduce your heating costs, and incorporate renewable energy into your home, to make it healthy, safe, comfortable and affordable. The first of the two presentations will begin with a brief introduction to indoor air movement and heat loss and what is needed to protect the health and safety of your indoor environment. The focus will be on basement insulation systems and dealing with moisture problems in your home. The second presentation will focus on how sealing and insulating your attic can lower your heating bills and make your home comfortable. Plan to attend both programs to find out how to create a comfortable and affordable home.

Both educational programs will be presented by Fred Lugano, a local weatherization expert and author. He has many years of experience designing and installing weatherization systems, and correcting faulty systems installed by others. He will clarify the misconceptions

about moisture, air flow and indoor air quality, and explain the proper way to weatherize your home to protect both your home and provide for a safe, comfortable living environment. Contractors and homeowners are encouraged to bring their unresolved questions and seek his advice on the problem areas in their homes. Mr. Lugano is also an experienced lecturer and author of acclaimed articles on weatherization. Copies of his articles will be distributed during the programs.

Future presentations offered under the Co-op's Energy Program will cover additional topics focusing on current energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable energy issues. The Co-op is also planning tours on renewable energy options and welcomes additional program suggestions. Local energy and conservation experts will present and lead the discussion and Q & A sessions. For more information contact: Elizabeth Golden-Pidgeon, Acorn Energy Co-op Educational Program Manager (802) 598-2388 or email: elizabethgolden@shoreham.net

The Future of Vermont's Working Landscape Summit

Vermont State House in Montpelier

December 10, 2010, 9am - 4:30am

Fee: \$25

This Summit will highlight the challenges facing the agricultural and forest-based enterprises that are at the foundation of Vermont's Working Landscape. Summit participants will review a Working Landscape Action Plan developed by the VCRD-founded Working Landscape Steering Committee.

Sponsored by the Vermont Council on Rural Development. For more information contact: 802-223-6091 or info@vtrural.org

e-Vermont Offers Free Digital Resources for Rural Towns

Vermont towns can get free help in learning how to take full advantage of the Internet to create jobs, drive school innovation, provide social services, and increase civic involvement. Eleven communities plus Grand Isle County are already seeing benefits from the e-Vermont Community Broadband Project including consulting for businesses that want to grow their e-commerce, a digital forum to connect neighbors, computers for selected school

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classes, expanded access to the Internet at town libraries, and free trainings in computer skills. Twelve more communities statewide will be selected to participate, but local groups must apply no later than **November 17th to be considered.** The complete application guidelines, background on e-Vermont, and a summary of what the first 12 pilot towns are working on are all posted online. Municipal leaders and other local organizations that are interested in learning more can visit www.e4vt.org or contact Helen Labun Jordan, e-Vermont Project Director, at 802-225-6091 or by email at Helen@vtrural.org.

Request For Proposals

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets and Agency of Natural Resources - SFY 2010 Livestock Exclusion Grants

As part of the State of Vermont's on-going efforts to reduce the amount of phosphorous and sediment entering surface water, the Agency of Agriculture, in partnership with the State's Clean and Clear Program, is currently seeking proposals to implement on-farm livestock exclusion from surface waters throughout Vermont. In this instance, livestock includes bovine and equine species, and implementation includes fencing, alternative watering systems, and stream crossings. Eligible respondents include Vermont municipalities, local or regional governmental agencies, non-profit organizations, or citizen groups. Budgets for these proposals are expected to be between \$5,000 and \$50,000 including the cost of materials. Deadline for submissions is 4:00pm Friday, November 19th.

For more information or to discuss potential projects, please contact Laura DiPietro at: 802.828.1289 or email: laura.dipietro@state.vt.us

Notice of Municipal Planning Grants for FY 2011

Another reminder that the MPG deadline is fast approaching. If you're looking for assistance in this process and have not contacted ACRPC, please do so as soon as possible. Projects eligible for funding include zoning and subdivision bylaw updates that bring them into conformance with the municipal plan, infrastructure planning or related projects such as community surveys, feasibility studies, and capital improvement programs, and projects related to growth centers and designated downtowns or village centers. Individual towns may apply for funding amounts between \$1,500 and \$15,000

and consortiums may apply for up to \$25,000. There is a required 50% match from the municipality for any amount awarded over \$8,000 for individual Towns and a 50% match over \$15,000 for consortiums. **The grant application deadline is November 30th.** Recipients of the grants will be announced by the end of the calendar year.

For more information contact: Claire Tebbs ACRPC
388.3141 or ctebbs@sover.net

Vermont Watershed Grants

The 2011 Project Year grant applications are now available.

Vermonters have an opportunity to protect and restore watersheds through the Vermont Watershed Grants program. Half of the proceeds derived from the sale of the Vermont Conservation License Plate go towards funding the Vermont Watershed Grants program. The program in turn then distributes grants for local and regional water-related projects in Vermont.

Grant funds are available for water-related projects that:

- Protect or restore fish and wildlife habitats;
- Protect or restore water quality, and shorelines;
- Reduce phosphorus loading and/or sedimentation as part of Clean & Clear objectives;
- Enhance recreational use and enjoyment;
- Identify and protect historic and cultural resources;
- Educate people about watershed resources; or
- Monitor fish and wildlife populations and/or water quality.

Who May Apply

Municipalities, local or regional governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations, and citizen groups are eligible to receive Watershed Grants for work on public or private lands. Individuals and state and federal agencies are not eligible to receive funds directly, but may be partners of a project.

Application Information

Grant awards are made on an annual cycle, with applications due in the fall of the year and funding decisions made the following mid-winter. **The application deadline is Friday, December 3, 2010.**

For more information contact:

Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation
Water Quality Division

Phone: 802.241.3777 or 802.241.3770

Fax: 802.241.3287

Website: www.vtwaterquality.org

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