



# ACRPC

*update*

November 2011

## The Latest on Tropical Storm Irene

Below is the latest assistance-related information on Tropical Storm Irene.

1. FEMA Application Deadlines Extended to November 15th. Don't assume an entity won't qualify. If damaged occurred, or resources were used in response to Irene, apply! Let FEMA decide who or what does or does not qualify. You can access the RPA form here: <http://windhamregional.org/news/153-current-activities>

2. FEMA May Provide Up to 18 Months of Rental Assistance.

Homeowners who cannot live in their disaster-damaged homes and have used up their initial two months of rental assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency may be eligible for additional rental assistance. In all, FEMA may provide up to 18 months of rental assistance during repairs to a disaster-damaged home.

FEMA notifies all applicants by mail who received the initial two months of rental assistance and includes a form to use if they need to request assistance for additional months. The form must be completed and submitted according to the timetable FEMA provides in its letter about rental assistance.

Call the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-FEMA (3362) for more information.

3. FEMA Disaster Assistance for Vermonters with Insurance

Even if they have insurance, Vermonters may be eligible for grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for losses caused by Tropical Storm Irene.

State and federal officials urge everyone who has homeowners insurance, flood insurance or both to register with FEMA. They may have disaster-related losses their insurance does not cover.

Register online any time at [DisasterAssistance.gov](http://DisasterAssistance.gov) or call 800-621-FEMA (3362). The registration deadline for disaster assistance is Nov. 15.

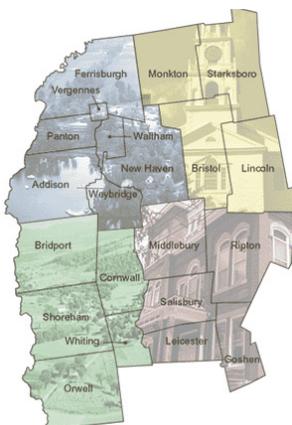
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## Commission Calendar

Nov. 2011	9	7:30pm	Full Commission Meeting
	11	8:15-10:00am	ACTR Board
	17	7:00pm	Addison County Solid Waste Management District Meeting
	17	7:30	Energy Committee
	23	6:30pm	ACRPC Executive Board
	28	5:00-6:30	ACORN Network

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

# News / Events

4. Private Accesses may be repaired with FEMA funds. Municipal officials can advise residents in their communities to register with the FEMA Individual Assistance (IA) Program to access funding to assist with the cost of repairs to their private driveways, roads and bridges. While this program may be able to cover some of the costs, residents should not expect it will cover all of the costs to return their access to its original state, particularly if there is a bridge or culvert involved which may entail permitting from ANR and may have more substantial costs associated with the repair.

To register for assistance call 800-621-FEMA (3362), or register online at [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov) or via a web-enabled mobile device at [m.fema.gov](http://m.fema.gov). Multilingual registration assistance is available. Those with a speech disability or hearing loss who use a TTY can call 800-462-7585 directly; or 800-621-3362 if using 711 or Video Relay Service.

5. NRCS EWP Application Deadline: November 18th is the last day NRCS will be accepting requests for assistance from sponsors (a town can be a sponsor) for the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program. The EWP can help protect properties (typically buildings) which are now in a state where additional watershed events could damage or destroy the property. Here's a link to information about the program (<http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/ewp>). If you have any questions, please contact Rob Allen, PE, at 802-951-6796.

## **Building Healthy Communities Training**

*Hampton Inn in Colchester or Holiday Inn in Rutland  
Nov. 16 (C) or Nov. 18 (R), 9:00 - 3:30*

This one day training will provide information, tools, and practice to individuals interested in creating new opportunities to bring public health voices and approaches to local policy decisions and efforts to increase physical activity and create access to healthy foods through:

\* concentrated mixed used development

- \* bicycle and pedestrian friendly communities
- \* access to parks, recreation facilities and open space
- \* access to fresh and healthy foods

It is highly recommended that community teams composed of community advocates, planners, and town officials attend this event together. Please share this announcement with partners in your community and encourage them to register and attend.

Visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/building-healthy-communities> to register. For additional information, please contact: Suzanne Kelley, VDH Physical Activity Coordinator, [Suzanne.Kelley@state.vt.us](mailto:Suzanne.Kelley@state.vt.us).

## **Art & Storytelling in Civic Engagement**

*Holley Hall, Bristol*

*Tuesday, November 15th, 6:30-8:30pm*

Find out how Starksboro residents used stories, artistic collaboration and community events to get to know each other better, discover shared values, and take action to help make a brighter future for everyone.

Learn, bring home ideas, meet the artists and organizers, enjoy the snacks.

For more information, visit [www.orton.org/projects/starksboro](http://www.orton.org/projects/starksboro) or contact David at [dhohenschau@orton.org](mailto:dhohenschau@orton.org).

## **Sustainable Transportation Alternatives**

*Ilsley Public Library, Middlebury*

*Wednesday, November 16, 7:00 PM*

The two-hour presentation and discussion will begin with Mark Smith, PE, a Senior Project Manager at Resource Systems Group in Burlington, speaking about Vermont's first Complete Streets Project, which has been implemented in Burlington. Smith has over 18 years of general civil, highway and traffic engineering experience and has provided technical assistance, design, permitting and management services for numerous local, regional and state projects involving traffic

# Events

analysis, intersection reconfiguration, and highway design.

In addition, Matthew Robinson, Landscape Architect with Landworks, Inc. in Middlebury, and Jan McCleery, Starksboro's representative to the Addison County Transportation Advisory Committee, will present a program on the Starksboro Complete Streets Project, which is in the design phase. Finally, Nadine Canter Barnicle, Community Relations Manager for Addison County Transit Resources, will present a program on Addison County's expanding Community Transportation Infrastructure.

Sponsored by ACRPC and the Acorn Energy Coop.

## **Financing the Working Landscape: Strategies for Mobilizing Local Capital**

*American Legion, Middlebury  
Thursday, November 10, 8:30 - 4:30*

On November 10, 2011 the regional capital community and Champlain Valley entrepreneurs involved in food, agriculture, and forestry industries will convene at the American Legion in Middlebury for a conference focusing on strategies for financing Vermont's Working Landscape. This unique event will be open to all entrepreneurs, investors, the capital community, and general public interested in financing Vermont's Working Landscape industries.

This event is being organized by the Addison County Relocalization Network (ACORN), the Addison County Economic Development Corporation (ACEDC), and the Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC). The conference is sponsored by the VT Farm Viability Program, the National Bank of Middlebury, Co-operative Insurance, Yankee Farm Credit, Worth Mountain Consulting and the VSJF Flexible Capital Fund.

This educational and networking event is unique in its approach as it is not only designed to educate the community about available resources for businesses in the emerging landscape economy, but will also feature

eight businesses that have been selected to "pitch" their enterprise to the general audience. Additionally, the event will feature a networking session where entrepreneurs will have the opportunity to meet individually with representatives from across the capital continuum.

Admission is \$30 for the conference (students: \$20) and includes a local foods lunch. Visit [www.acornvt.org](http://www.acornvt.org) to register or for additional details about the conference.

## **Community Energy & Climate Action Conference**

*Lake Morey Resort, Fairlee  
Saturday, December 3, 8:00 - 4:00*

Organized by the Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network and the UVM Extension Service, this daylong conference is for town energy committees, municipal officials, local and regional planners, and concerned citizens interested in reducing energy costs and tackling climate change.

This year's conference will feature Commissioner Elizabeth Miller with the Vermont Department of Public Service Commissioner and Secretary Deborah Markowitz with the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. Commissioner Miller will talk about the new State Energy Plan and what it means for communities, and Secretary Markowitz will discuss the work of the State's Climate Cabinet.

The conference will also feature environmental activist, actor, and writer Kathryn Blume who will talk about how one individual can make a difference in affecting climate change.

The day will include 14 different workshops focused on promoting efficiency and renewable energy at the local level, along with a number of different round-table discussions on topics designed to promote dialogue.

The conference registration fee is \$25, which includes a full lunch and morning refreshments. Visit

# Events

<http://www.vecan.net> to register. For more information, contact: Jessie Schmidt, UVM Extension at (tollfree): 866-860-1382 extension 203 or e-mail: [jessica.a.schmidt@uvm.edu](mailto:jessica.a.schmidt@uvm.edu).

**e-Communities in a Digital Age**  
*Lyndon State College, Lyndonville*  
*Saturday, November 19th, 9:00 - 4:00*

Join community leaders from around the state to share ideas and best practices for using online tools to create jobs, reinvent schools, attract visitors, improve civic involvement, and enliven Vermont communities.

Anne Galloway of VtDigger.org will be the keynote speaker. Session topics include mobilizing community resources during emergencies, a hands-on lab about digital tools for business, a showcase of how technology is expanding the classroom for 4-6th graders, and a preview of how town meetings can engage a wider audience.

Registration is \$20 and includes course offerings, refreshments and lunch.

For more information about the day and the e-Vermont program go to [e4vt.org](http://e4vt.org). Register online, by phone 802-859-3090, or by e-mail [joanna@snellingcenter.org](mailto:joanna@snellingcenter.org).

**Award-winning Documentary Bag It**  
*CVUUS, 2 Duane Court, Middlebury*  
*Thursday, November 10, 7:00 PM*

Bag It follows “everyman” Jeb Berrier as he tries to make sense of our dependence on plastic bags. Although his quest starts out small, Jeb soon learns that the problem extends past landfills to oceans, rivers and ultimately human health.

According to a press release about this screening, over two millions plastic bags are consumed every five minutes in the U.S. and less than 25% of these are recycled! The average American uses about 500 plastic bags each year, for about twelve minutes each.

The film explores these issues and identifies how our daily reliance on plastic threatens not only waterways and marine life, but human health, too. Two of the most common plastic additives are endocrine disruptors, which have been shown to link to cancer, diabetes, autism, attention deficit disorder, obesity and infertility.

The screening at CVUUS is part of Bag It’s campaign to urge 25 towns across the country to become “Bag It Towns” by the end of 2011. Doing so would require a town to ban plastic bag use voluntarily or via ordinance and/or to pass an ordinance that places a small charge on single-use disposable bags. Cities including Washington, DC and San Francisco, as well as cities in Ireland, Italy and China have already implemented similar policies to curb their plastic use.

This event is open to the public. A \$5 donation is suggested. For additional information, check out our website at <http://cvuus.wikispaces.com/Green+Sanctuary>.