



ACRPC

update

November 2014

Creative Economy Survey

Vermont thrives on creative thinkers willing to take the risk of putting their unique business ideas into action. The Vermont Office of the Creative Economy (OCE), within the Vermont Department of Economic Development, provides support to such individuals.

OCE has prioritized five focal areas for support: Film and New Media, Advertising and Marketing, Games and Software Development, the Manufacturing Arts, and Arts and Cultural Organizations. The OCE supports Vermont's world-class creative talent through

networking, research, and technical assistance.

Visit their website and learn more about the work of the OCE, and if you are a Vermont business owner, take their current survey!

Go to: http://accd.vermont.gov/business/innovation/creative_economy

For more information contact OCE Director, Lars Torres: 802-917-1788

Village Center and Downtown Designations

Several of our Addison County towns participate in the State Designation program. East Middlebury, Orwell and New Haven have 'Village Center' designation. Bristol, Middlebury and Vergennes hold 'Downtown' designations. There are 24 official 'downtown' designation in the State, and more than 100 'village center designations. What does this mean? And should your town participate?

This State program provides incentives for towns to encourage growth and development within compact village and downtown centers. Act 59 now requires designation applications, filed after July 1, 2014, be clearly supported within a town plan prior to application submission.

The following is from the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development's website:

Vermont's landscape of compact centers surrounded by rural land is integral to our economy, community spirit and brand cache. Accordingly, Vermont has established a framework of "designations" to provide incentives to encourage communities to maintain this

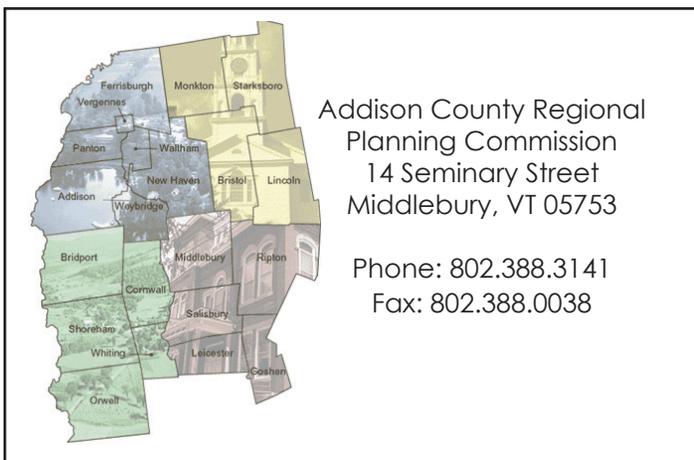
This newsletter is financed through the State of Vermont Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the State of Vermont. All programs of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission are handicapped accessible.

Commission Calendar

NOV. 2014

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|-------|------------------|--|
| 12 | 6:15pm | Natural Resource Committee mtg. |
| | 6:30pm 7:30pm | Plan re-write Committee mtg. Full Commission Mtg. |
| 19 | 7-9pm | Transportation Advisory Com. |
| 20 | 6pm | ACSWMD Mtg. |
| 27 | | Office Closed for Thanksgiving |
| 28 | | Office Closed for Thanksgiving |
| Dec 3 | 6:30pm | Executive Board Mtg. |

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

land use pattern.

These programs are also designed to help align our environmental, housing, and transportation policies, programs, regulations, and public investments to maintain and enhance the landscape cherished by Vermonters and visitors alike.

In a nutshell, the village center designation provides tax credits to property upgrades of historic, commercial properties within compact village areas, and also provides priority consideration for state and federal planning/implementation grants for that town.

The downtown designation program is designed for larger town centers and goes further in depth in supporting local revitalization efforts with specialized training, dedicated staff and funding to help downtown organizations build and foster strong communities. Benefits of this program include tax credit programs, funding priority, special transportation funding opportunities, traffic calming authority and more.

Please check out the Department of Housing and Community Development's website for more information: http://accd.vermont.gov/strong_communities/opportunities/revitalization or talk to ACRPC staff to determine if your Town could benefit from the designation program.

Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Hazard Mitigation Plans document a town's commitment to reducing, avoiding or preventing damages due to a disaster. Mitigation projects can range from increasing the size of a bridge or culvert to starting an education program for residents on how to protect their homes from lightning. An adopted plan makes a town eligible to apply for mitigation grants and for additional assistance in the event of a declared disaster. Currently 5 towns in the Addison Region have written and adopted mitigation plans (Lincoln, Bristol, New Haven, Ripton and Orwell). An additional 4 are currently in the process of developing these plans with assistance from regional planning staff (Ferrisburgh, Bridport, Leicester, and Cornwall). ACRPC has ap-

plied for funds that will allow us to assist another 6 communities in the Addison region (Addison, Goshen, Monkton, Panton, Salisbury, and Shoreham) bringing a total of 15 communities committed to mitigating their risks to disaster.

Damages from Tropical Storm Irene are a great example of how mitigation can work. The Addison Region's mountain towns received similar amounts of rain during Irene as towns on the east slopes of the mountains. We did not, however, experience the same damages. One difference was the amount of mitigation that has been done in our region in the past 15 years. Since the 1998 flood event, towns that have been hit with high waters have worked to upsize their culverts and stabilize their roadsides. During Irene, most of these improvements held and damages were limited. Mitigation Works!

Efficiency Vermont Community Forums

Efficiency Vermont is creating a three year plan for Vermont's Energy Efficiency Utility – and they need your input:

- What programs and initiatives are working well?
- What should their top priorities be for the next three years?
- What needs improvement?
- How can they better serve all Vermonters and help them reduce energy costs?
- What should they be doing to support the state's goal for 90% renewable energy by 2050?

Please join Efficiency Vermont Director Jim Merriam at one of five Community Forums he is hosting around the state this fall. Each forum will feature a brief presentation, followed by open discussion. A light supper will be provided.

October 27 – St. Albans

October 28 – Barre

October 29 – Lyndonville

November 5 – Bennington

November 6 – Brattleboro

December 10 – Richmond

December 11 - Brandon

Events/Grants

Can't make one of the forums, but still want to provide feedback? They will be posting an online survey next week.

Those who are interested in attending should RSVP by visiting <https://www.encyclopediaofvermont.com/About-Us/three-year-plan> or calling: 1-888-921-5990. RSVP is requested, but not required.

Financing the Working Landscape Conference

Thursday, November 6th 8:30-2:30

American Legion Hall, 49 Wilson Road, Middlebury, VT

Addison County Relocalization network (ACORN) and the Addison Economic Development Corp is sponsoring this conference for food producers, farmers, funders, businesses, and anyone else dedicated to Vermont's working landscape. Have a new idea, product, business you would like to promote? They are still accepting applications for the *Challenge Presentation & Entrepreneur Showcase* - so Apply Today! For more information and to register go to: www.addisoncountyledc.org

Lecture at UVM:

Do Local Businesses Cash in from Green Transportation?

Dr. Kelly Clifton

November 4, 2014

Davis Center, UVM

Sugar Maple Ballroom Davis

Learn how economic development, consumer spending, and travel behavior are impacted by new walking and biking infrastructure. Kelly Clifton will present recent research conducted in Portland, Oregon that connects policies and decisions concerning land use and sustainable transportation to local businesses and the economy.

Two Workshops

Farm Human Resource Management Training for Vermont Producers

Monday Nov 10th 8:30 - 4pm

DoubleTree Hotel in Burlington

or

Wednesday, Nov 12th 8:30 - 4pm

Yankee Farm Credit 52 Farm View Drive, White River Junction

Cost: \$30 Includes follow up.

RSVP: by Nov. 1, 2014

Louise Waterman VT Agency of Agriculture

802-828-6900 or Louise.Waterman@state.vt.us.

Small Business Disaster Planning Workshop

Wednesday, November 19

8:15am at the Ilsley Library in Middlebury

Addison County Economic Development Corp. and the Vermont Small Business Development Center are co-hosting "Disaster Recovery for Your Business". This free workshop will focus on basic emergency planning and business continuity concepts for small businesses. Tim Bouton ACRPCs emergency planner will present and participants will begin the process of developing their own emergency plan.

The event is free but please register at:

<http://addisoncountyledc.org/services/events>.

Questions? Call 388-7953

VECAN's 7th Annual Vermont Community Energy and Climate Action Conference

December 6, 2014 8-5pm

Lake Morey Inn, Fairlee Vermont

This one-day conference emphasizes clean energy and climate action strategies that Vermonters can help implement.

For details visit: vecan.net.

EPA Invites Communities to Apply for Assistance to Build Resilience, Pursue Revitalization

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today invited communities to apply for technical assistance to implement smart growth development approaches. EPA is offering this technical as-

Grants

sistance through the Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities program to help communities across the country, including underserved communities, coastal communities, small cities and rural areas, adopt sustainable growth strategies. The program aims to increase resilience to natural disasters and strengthen the economy while protecting human health and the environment. The Building Blocks program provides quick, targeted technical assistance to communities using tools with demonstrated results and widespread application.

Communities may apply for assistance on one or more of the following topics:

- Bikeshare planning
- Equitable development
- Infill development for distressed cities
- Sustainable strategies for small cities and rural areas
- Flood resilience for riverine and coastal communities

If selected, a community will work with an EPA-supported team of experts during a one-to-two-day workshop, where participants will learn about relevant strategies, policies, and practices.

EPA will select up to 25 communities through a competitive process. Selections will be made in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Transportation through the Partnership for Sustainable Communities. This interagency collaboration coordinates federal investments in infrastructure, facilities, and services to get better results for communities and use taxpayer money more efficiently.

Applications will be accepted between October 23 and November 20, 2014. EPA will host a webinar to discuss the program and the application process on Thursday, October 30, 2014, from 3 to 4 p.m. EDT.

More information on the Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities program: <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/buildingblocks.htm>

More information on the webinar: <http://www.epa.gov/dced/webinars/index.html>

More information on the Partnership for Sustainable Communities: <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/partnership/index.html>

Brown Fields Funding

The EPA just released their grant guidelines for assessment and cleanup funding. You can review the guidelines here: <http://www.epa.gov/region1/brownfields/index.html>

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will be requesting proposals for funding assistance on projects November 10th - December 15, 2014. The deadline to submit an application is December 19, 2014.

The application for funding is available on DEC's web page: <http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/wastediv/SMS/brownfields-home.htm>

Please contact Trish Coppelino, Brownfields Program Manager: 802.249.5822 for further questions.

The Lake Champlain Basin Program's 2014 Local Implementation Grants

Since 1992, the LCBP has awarded more than \$5.20 million to 832 projects in New York and Vermont through competitive Local Implementation Grants. Funded projects cover all actions in the Plan, including phosphorus reduction, prevention of the spread of nuisance species, public education and outreach, and restoration of important cultural heritage sites.

The deadline for submitting LCBP grant proposals is November 5, 2014 at 4:30 p.m. Grant guidelines and applications for each category are found on the Lake Champlain Basin Program's website at <http://www.lcbp.org/about-us/grants-rfps/available-grants/>.

For further information about these grant opportunities or to obtain hard copies of the guides and applications,

Grants

please contact the Lake Champlain Basin Program office, 54 West Shore Road, Grand Isle, VT 05458 or call at (802) 372-3213 or call (800) 468-5227.

Vermont Watershed Grant

VTDEC 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 DEC's Ecosystem Restoration Program 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

Awards made up to \$15,000, depending on project category type. Category types and the maximum grant amount for each project category type are as follows:

- Education and outreach – up to \$7,500
- Planning, assessment, inventory, monitoring – up to \$5,000
- on-the-ground implementation – up to \$15,000

Application deadline is Friday, November 21, 2014.

Check out DEC's website for details:

http://www.watershedmanagement.vt.gov/lakes/html/lp_watershedgrants.htm

