



ACRPC

update

October 2008

Vermont League of Cities and Towns Present Planning & Zoning Forum

Thursday, October 30, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Capitol Plaza Hotel and Conference Center
Montpelier, Vermont

This workshop is designed for all local officials involved in the local planning and development review process. The forum offers participants a chance to discuss some of the most pressing issues in municipal planning and zoning with officials across the state. The workshop will provide a dynamic mix of legal information, practical solutions, and policy discussions.

To register on-line, visit www.vlct.org/eventscalendar/.

Building Systems Emergency Preparedness Workshop

ACRPC Energy Committee has developed a unique Building Systems Emergency Preparedness Workshop specifically designed for town energy and service coordinators, emergency managers, emergency assistance providers and volunteers, and energy conservation professionals, developed in response to the anticipated need for fuel and housing emergency assistance this winter. The full day workshop will be presented Saturday, October 4, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the ACRPC offices by Fred Lugano, a retired expert on indoor air quality, energy conservation, and building durability. Bring your questions, concerns, and ideas to this workshop to share with the group. Anyone working on fuel and/or housing assistance this winter would be wise to attend this workshop to better serve those in need in your community. For more information or to register for this workshop, contact Elizabeth Golden at 388-3141 or egolden@sover.net.

2008 Addison County Conservation Congress

October 25, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Mount Abraham High School, Bristol
\$10 adults, \$5 students, \$8 lunch

We will focus on the future of our community in the face of the three clouds that are now looming large: peak oil (energy); climate change (environment); and financial crisis (economy), which will likely force deep, structural changes in our world over the next 10-15 years. This transition will be challenging on many levels and it will force us to rely on our local economies and communities for our basic needs. This also presents us with an unusual opportunity to create the world we really want. Join us to brainstorm our vision for 2020. Sponsored by Vermont Family Forests and Addison County Relocalization Network (ACoRN). Please pre-register at www.familyforests.org.

Commission Calendar

October	3	12:00	Energy Committee @ Nathaniel Electronics, Vergennes
	4	9:30	Building Systems Emergency Preparedness Workshop 9:30 am - 4 pm
	6	7:00	Low Carbon Diet Program
	7	6:00	LEMD Training for Emergency Managers
	8	7:30	Full Commission
	22	6:30	Executive Board
	23	7:00	Financing Renewable Energy Projects
	28	7:00	Natural Resources Committee
November	4		National Elections
	7	12:00	Energy Committee
	12	10:30	Emergency Biosecurity Training at American Legion 10:30-2:30
	12	7:30	Full Commission
	13	7:00	Energy Coordinator's Training Fair
	19	7:00	TAC
	25	7:00	Natural Resources Committee
	26	6:30	Executive Board
27,28		Thanksgiving Holiday-Office Closed	

Meetings are open to the public, and unless otherwise noted, held at ACRPC.

Selected minutes are available online at www.acrpc.org.
For further information, contact ACRPC at 388-3141

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.

News & Events

Hazard Mitigation Grants Disasters DR 1778, DR 1784, DR 1790

Vermont has received three separate federal disaster declarations for the storms and flooding which occurred in the state over the past summer. There are federal mitigation funds available to towns through FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Vermont Emergency Management is now accepting HMGP grant applications from towns and agencies in all Vermont counties in connection with the three declared disasters. Federal funds are available to cover up to 75% of project costs; however, please note that there is a 25% local match requirement. Typical hazard mitigation projects include the repair and mitigation of local roads or bridges that are regularly flooded, replacement of undersized culverts, remediation of stream bank erosion, appropriate road ditching, and acquisition (buy-out) of damaged homes in the designated floodway. Your project proposal need not be directly connected to the most recent declared disasters. If you have a larger project (i.e. greater than \$150,000 in total cost), you may wish to apply for a grant under FEMA's Pre-Disaster Mitigation competitive (PDM-C) program which is open to all Vermont communities and which provides greater funding levels.

You can review the project selection review criteria and download the HMGP application at www.dps.state.vt.us/vem. FEMA eligibility requirements:

1. Communities must have a FEMA approved and adopted Local Mitigation Plan no later than the date the grant funds are awarded;
2. Communities must be participating in the National Flood Insurance, Program (NFIP), if a special flood hazard area has been identified in the community;
3. The application must be completed in full, including: maps, list of alternative proposals, engineering plans, hydrology studies (if needed) and a full benefit-cost analysis.

Deadline for applications is Tuesday, March 31, 2009. Submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) to Vermont Emergency Management no later than Monday, February 16, 2009. The Letter of Intent should include a brief description of your proposal and the total estimated cost of your project.

Submit to: Ray Doherty, State Hazard Mitigation Officer,
Vermont Emergency Management, 103 South Main Street,
Waterbury, VT, 05671
(802) 241-5258, rdoherty@dps.state.vt.us.



A Vermont Home Energy Savings Campaign

Button-Up Vermont Home Energy Saving Workshops Available

Central Vermont Community Action Council, with funding from the State of Vermont, and in partnership with the Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network and Efficiency Vermont, is implementing an intensive public education program, "Button Up Vermont," to mobilize Vermonters on how to save energy in their homes.

Through a series of two-hour workshops around the state, citizens will learn about the fundamentals of how buildings lose energy and do-it-yourself opportunities for saving energy, including behavioral changes and low-cost weatherization measures.

This program will draw upon town energy committees, educational centers, and other community groups to coordinate workshops within each participating town. Participating groups will have primary responsibility for organizing the workshop for residents, distributing educational materials, working with local retailers to provide discounted weatherization materials, and publicizing the program in their communities.

Workshops will be conducted by a select group of trained, certified energy auditors delivering a prepared presentation/slide show. Button-Up Vermont will provide educational and publicity materials and arrange for a trained energy auditor to come to your community at no-cost. Information sessions are available throughout the state.

If you are interested in having a Button-Up Workshop in your community, please contact Diana Peduzzi, Assistant Coordinator, Button-Up Vermont at Button-up@cvcac.org (802-279-1708), or Paul Markowitz, Coordinator, Button-Up Vermont at paul@markowitzvt.com (802- 229-6307).

News & Events

Removing Barriers to Strengthen Communities: Affordable Housing and Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing at the Local Level

November 13, 1:00-4:00 pm
ACRPC, 14 Seminary Street Middlebury

Sponsored by the Addison and Rutland County Regional Planning Commissions, this training is designed to provide relevant information to realtors, lenders, affordable housing developers, property managers, and municipal officials. This workshop will:

- provide an introduction to Vermont and federal fair housing laws;
- discuss the current regulatory barriers to fair housing choice in Vermont;
- examine the legal requirements impacting municipal zoning practices;
- review available tools that enable municipalities to comply with those requirements; and
- explore planning concepts designed to encourage the development of affordable housing.

All municipalities receiving community development grants from the Vermont Community Development Program must complete a Fair Housing Training as a condition of funding. Any municipality dealing with issues such as affordable housing, group homes, residential care facilities, requests for accessibility modifications, or seeking VCDP funding, cannot afford to miss this workshop. Presented by Robert Appel, Executive Director, VT Human Rights Commission; Julie Kelliher, General Counsel, VT Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs; and Bekah Mandell, Director, CVOEO Fair Housing Project. To register call Kim Ianelli, CVOEO Fair Housing Project, 802-864-3334 x 108 or email kianelli@cvoeo.org.

ACRPC Hosts LEMD Training

On October 7 from 6-9 p.m., ACRPC will be hosting a Vermont Emergency Management Training for town emergency managers. This base level training will introduce appointed town emergency managers to the basic concepts of emergency management and what steps should be taken when a disaster strikes. Designed for new and experienced EM coordinators, this class will be followed by an advanced level training later in the year. Contact Tim Bouton ACRPC Emergency Management Planner at 388-3141 or email tbouton@sover.net.

Starksboro Receives \$75,000 for “Art & Soul Civic Engagement” Program

The project will employ the arts to engage citizens in discussions about their values and visions for the Town’s future. Middlebury College students will gather personal stories from residents, which will inform the art work and discussions. The townspeople will then translate those discussions into concrete actions to help Starksboro protect its heart and soul - the characteristics that define it, and that its residents value most, as growth and change occurs. As the town defines its future through revising its Town Plan, the use of storytelling and other artistic media will provide powerful new avenues for active and diverse participation. The program will serve as a pilot project which organizers hope to apply to other cities and town across the country.

The program is sponsored by the Orton Family Foundation, VT Land Trust, Town of Starksboro, Americans for the Arts, VT Arts Council, and Animating Democracy. For more information contact John Barstow, Orton Family Foundation, at 802-388-6336, or jbarstow@orton.org.

Invitation for Comments: Green Mountain National Forest Forest Plan Amendment #1

The U.S. Forest Service on the GMNF is proposing to change the management of remnant areas resulting from designation by Congress of new Wilderness in the 2006 New England Wilderness Act. Your comments will be considered as they conduct their analysis and prepare an Environmental Assessment that will disclose the resource effects from the proposed action and any alternatives that may be developed to address issues raised during this scoping process.

For further information, contact Melissa Reichert, Forest Planner at USDA Forest Service at 802-747-6754, or mmreichert@fs.fed.us, or fax her at 802-747-6766.

VT Tree Stewards Awards

The VT Urban and Community Forestry Council is requesting nominations for awards in five categories: community, practitioner, volunteer group, leader, and youth/student to those who promote forestry. Contact Danielle Fitzko at 802-241-3673 or danielle.fitzko@state.vt.us.

Grants

Municipal Planning Grants

All Municipal Planning Grant applications will be on-line for FY09. Grant applications are due October 31, 2008 and Grant decisions will be announced by December 31, 2008.

Municipalities must contact The Department of Housing & Community Affairs to register an Authorizing Official (AO). The AO may designate a staff member of the ACRPC as one of the "Writers" of the Grant application, if you wish our assistance in the application process. If you are planning to apply for a Municipal Grant this year, please contact Elizabeth Golden, Land Use Planner, at ACRPC to let her know of your plans and for assistance in the process at 388-3141 or email egolden@sover.net.

United Way IBM Computer Grants

United Way of Addison County is offering computers to county non-profit agencies through its partnership with IBM. This year, UWAC will award six Thinkcenter desktop computers and one laptop computer to organizations that provide youth education, job training and employment services, community and family services, literacy services or support for persons living with disabilities. Applications can be downloaded at: www.unitedwayaddisoncounty.org on the home page and are due by October 2, 2008.

FY09 Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund and Cleanup Grants

The FY09 Proposed Guidelines have been posted to the brownfields website at: <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/applicat.htm>. The proposal deadline is November 14, 2008. These grants may be used to address sites contaminated by petroleum and hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants. Opportunities for funding include: Brownfields Assessment Grants, funded up to \$200,000 over three years, (\$1,000,000 for Assessment Coalitions) to inventory, characterize, assess, and conduct planning and community involvement related to brownfield sites. Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Grants, funded up to \$1,000,000 over five years, to capitalize a revolving fund and make loans and provide subgrants to carry out cleanup activities at brownfield sites. Brownfields Cleanup Grants, funded up to \$200,000 over three years, to carry out cleanup activities at brownfield sites that are owned by the grant recipient.

Renewable Energy Projects Funding

Several funding options are now available from the Vermont Clean Energy Development Fund (CEDF).

Low-interest loans for renewable electric projects including wind, solar, hydro, farm methane, and combined heat and power systems. Until further notice, the loan interest rate will be 2%. Loans are available to fund up to 90% of an eligible project's cost, for amounts between \$50,000 and \$1,000,000. Individuals, businesses, nonprofits, and municipalities, and others may apply.

The CEDF is also providing Municipal Technical Assistance grants. This funding is designed to help municipalities, public schools, and Vermont State colleges investigate the installation of a wide variety of renewable energy generation technologies and combined heat and power systems. The maximum grant award is \$5,000, and funds can be used to pay for up to 90% of a project's cost; the grantee must match 10% of the project's cost in cash.

Funding is also available through the Vermont Small-Scale Renewable Energy Incentive Program. This Program provides grants to individuals, businesses, farms, schools, and municipalities for a portion of the cost of installing small-scale solar, wind, and hydropower systems. The CEDF will be providing nearly \$1.5 million over the next two years for these incentives. This will support the installation of approximately 250 renewable energy systems throughout the state, which could generate an estimated 540 MWh of electricity annually. Additional information on the Vermont Small-Scale Renewable Energy Incentive Program is available at: www.rerc-vt.org/incentives.

Additional information on the CEDF is available at: http://publicservice.vermont.gov/energy/ee_cleanenergyfund.html or contact Anne Margolis at 802-828-4017.

VT ANR Center for Clean and Clear Grants

Vermont municipalities, local or regional government agencies, non-profit orgs and citizen groups are eligible to receive CCC Ecosystem Restoration Grants. CCC is seeking one-page project pre-proposals due by October 10. The goals are to reduce long-term nutrient and sediment loading or increase storage in VT watersheds. Contact Julie Moore at 802-241-3687 or julie.moore@state.vt.us.