



# ACRPC

*update* October 2009

## ACRPC Energy Committee Program: Water Reclamation Thursday, October 22, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Emma Melvin, Water Quality Educator at UVM, will present a program on water reclamation, including the capture and reuse of rainwater, and graywater, stormwater and wastewater management, and how to create effective rain gardens.

For more information about the program, contact Elizabeth Golden at 388-3141 or [egolden@sover.net](mailto:egolden@sover.net).

## Emergency Planning Tabletop Exercises

The Addison County Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC #8), ACRPC, and VT Homeland Security will be hosting a series of tabletop exercises with disaster scenarios in the Addison region. Community leaders from several towns will be invited to attend to practice their emergency plans together on a fictitious disaster. These regional groupings will be encouraged to cooperate and share resources with each other to manage the exercise scenario.

The following exercises are scheduled: October 8 for the towns of Cornwall, Ripton, Weybridge, Goshen, Salisbury, and Middlebury; October 22 for the towns of Addison, Bridport, Ferrisburgh, Panton, Waltham and the City of Vergennes, and 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](mailto:tbouton@sover.net).

## Commission Calendar

	Day	Time	Event
October	2	12:00	Energy Committee
	7	7-9	Middlebury Button Up Workshop
	8	5-10	Emergency Management Tabletop Exercise
	12	12-1:45	Addison County Relocalization Network Steering Committee Meeting
	13	7-9	Know What To Do About the Flu Q&A Session, Middlebury American Legion
	14	7:30	Full Commission
	15	7:00	ACSWMD
	22	7-9	Energy Program: Water Reclamation
	22	7-9	Emergency Management Tabletop Exercise, Addison Fire Station
	27	7:00	Natural Resources Committee
November	28	6:30	Executive Board
	4	9-12	Western Corridor
	6	12:00	Energy Committee
	11	7:30	Full Commission
	13	8-11	ACTR Board
	18	7:00	Transportation Advisory Committee
	19	7:00	ACSWMD
	24	7:00	Natural Resources Committee
	25	6:30	Executive Board
	26/7		Holiday - Thanksgiving - Offices Closed

## H1N1 Informational Meetings Planned

ACRPC has been asked to coordinate a series of informational meetings for the public to learn about the upcoming flu season and how to prepare for it. Four kick-off meetings have been scheduled around the state to coincide with Public Safety districts and LEPCs are being asked to host county-wide meetings as well. The Addison County session "Know What To do About The Flu" is scheduled for October 13, from 7-9 pm at the Middlebury American Legion. Invitees include Town Health Officers, Town Emergency Managers, Select Board members, School officials, First Responders and the general public. Presenters will include representatives from the VT Department of Health and Emergency Management.

For further information, contact Tim Bouton, 388-3141 or [tbouton@sover.net](mailto:tbouton@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

## **USGBC Second Public Comment Period Recognition of Certified Wood Products in LEED**

USGBC has opened a second public comment period on the revised Forest Certification Benchmark. While the Benchmark has been fundamentally improved since last year's initial draft, it is still lacking key components of exemplary forest management. If approved by a ballot of USGBC members, this Benchmark will define exemplary forestry for the USGBC and will be the measure by which forest certification programs are judged for recognition in the LEED rating system. It is critical that you make your voice heard to ensure that none of the defining qualities of exemplary forestry are diluted, made optional or overlooked. The public comment period will close on October 14, 2009. You will find the draft benchmark at the USGBC website:

[www.usgbc.org/LEED/LEEDDrafts/RatingSystemVersions.aspx?CMSPageID=1458](http://www.usgbc.org/LEED/LEEDDrafts/RatingSystemVersions.aspx?CMSPageID=1458).

## **350: A Day of International Climate Action Saturday, October 24 on the Middlebury Green**

Come down to the Middlebury green on October 24, for 350: A Day of International Climate Action and take part in an extraordinary day of ACTIONS bringing the Middlebury College and Addison County communities together! The event is sponsored by the Addison County Relocalization Network.

350 local actions: Come to the green from 10 am - 12 noon, learn about VISION 2020 -a grassroots vision for growing a sustainable future in our county- and help bring it to life by committing to complete a local action in the next year.

350 dishes: 12 noon - 2 pm: Bring a dish to share and make it the biggest potluck in Addison County history.

350 non-perishable food donations: Bring a can of food and make it the biggest one-day collection for the Addison County Food Shelf.

350 Sun Salutations and 350 minutes of drumming! 2-4 pm: Bands, music, speeches and more! It's time for an evolution! Spread the word!

350.org is an international grassroots campaign that aims to mobilize a global climate movement united by a common call to action. By spreading an understanding of the science and a shared vision for a fair policy, we will ensure that the world creates bold and equitable solutions to the climate crisis. 350.org is an independent and not-for-profit project. 350 is the number that leading scientists say is the safe upper limit for carbon dioxide in our atmosphere.

For more information, see [www.acornvt.org/News.cfm](http://www.acornvt.org/News.cfm)

## **Home Energy Saving Workshops Available for Vermont Communities**

Central Vermont Community Action Council is seeking community groups and municipalities to partner in organizing local home energy saving workshops. The workshops are designed to teach residents about the fundamentals of how homes lose energy, simple do-it-yourself measures for incremental energy savings, significant saving opportunities associated with extensive energy retrofits, and available technical and financial resources.

Button-Up Vermont will arrange for a trained energy auditor to come to your community at no-cost to deliver a prepared slide presentation and will provide you with educational and publicity materials. Participating community groups and municipalities have primary responsibility for organizing and coordinating the workshops within their communities, publicizing the program locally, and distributing educational materials at the workshop.

Efficiency Vermont is offering \$150 coupons toward Home Performance with ENERGY STAR retrofits to those who attend a Button Up Vermont workshop.

Green Mountain Power and Vermont Gas customers are eligible for an incentive equal to one-third of the installed cost (up to \$2,500) to help pay for a comprehensive home energy efficiency project completed by an Efficiency Vermont approved Home Performance with ENERGY STAR contractor. Green Mountain Power customers may also be eligible for a rebate of the energy audit fee upon completion of the recommended work.

Moderate and lower income Vermonters that use oil, propane, or kerosene to heat their homes may qualify for an incentive equal to one-third of the installed cost (up to \$2,500) to help pay for a comprehensive energy efficiency project completed by a Home Performance with ENERGY STAR contractor.

For more information contact Diana Peduzzi, at 802-279-1708 or [button-up@cvcac.org](mailto:button-up@cvcac.org)

Customers not eligible for the above incentives can access either an incentive equal to 10% of the installed cost (up to \$500) or an interest rate reduction incentive offered through participating Vermont lenders to help pay for comprehensive energy efficiency improvements completed by a Home Performance with ENERGY STAR contractor. For homeowners not choosing the cash incentive option, Efficiency Vermont partners with several Vermont lenders to offer a 3.5% interest rate reduction on loans of \$15,000 or less for terms of 5 years or less. Residential homes with four units or less are eligible. Owners can finance 100% of installation costs for qualifying home improvements. See [www.encyvermont.com/pages/](http://www.encyvermont.com/pages/)

## **Film Screening of “Food Inc.” October 9-22 Marquis Theatre, Middlebury**

The Marquis Theatre, the Addison County Relocalization Network (ACORN) and The Farmers Diner are pleased to present this important documentary film about the state of our current food system to audiences in Addison County. “Food Inc.” will be shown in the new screening room (45 seats) at the Marquis Theatre from October 9 – 22 with showtimes Friday and Saturday evenings at 6:30 and 9:00 pm, Saturday and Sunday matinees at 3:00 pm and Sunday through Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm.

Food Inc. lifts the veil on our nation’s food industry, exposing the highly mechanized underbelly that has been hidden from the American consumer with the consent of our government’s regulatory agencies, USDA and FDA. Our nation’s food supply is now controlled by a handful of corporations that often put profit ahead of consumer health, the livelihood of the American farmer, the safety of workers and our own environment.

We have bigger-breasted chickens, the perfect pork chop, herbicide-resistant soybean seeds, even tomatoes that won’t go bad, but we also have new strains of E. coli—the harmful bacteria that causes illness for an estimated 73,000 Americans annually. We are riddled with widespread obesity, particularly among children, and an epidemic level of diabetes among adults.

Featuring interviews with such experts as Eric Schlosser (Fast Food Nation), Michael Pollan (The Omnivore’s Dilemma, In Defense of Food: An Eater’s Manifesto) along with forward thinking social entrepreneurs like Stonyfield’s Gary Hirshberg and Polyface Farms’ Joel Salatin, Food, Inc. reveals surprising—and often shocking truths—about what we eat, how it’s produced, who we have become as a nation and where we are going from here.”

This film is provocative. It makes a very powerful case for why more and more citizens are demanding locally grown foods. We want to know who we are buying our food from and we want to support our local growers, our neighbors and our local food economy.

For more information on the film, see [www.foodincmovie.com](http://www.foodincmovie.com)

## **Crown Point Bridge Thursday, October 8, 6:30 pm Addison Central School**

A Public Information Meeting for the Lake Champlain Bridge Project has been scheduled. Come hear updates on the construction work for this vital connection between VT and NY. For details see: [www.nysdot.gov/lakechamplain-bridge](http://www.nysdot.gov/lakechamplain-bridge)

## **Vermont Renewable Energy Conference & Expo Wednesday, October 28th Sheraton Burlington Hotel and Conference Center.**

### Event Highlights

- \* Workshop Sessions-Solar, Biofuel, Wind, Geothermal, Biomass and Hydro
- \* Exhibits-Visit with the state’s leading renewable energy companies!
- \* Public Expo opens Wednesday, October 28 at 12:00 pm
- \* Networking Reception-Wednesday at 5:00 pm.

Visit [www.REVermont.org](http://www.REVermont.org) for program information.

## **Six Addison County Towns Join Lake Champlain Byway**

Congratulations to the Towns of Ferrisburgh, Middlebury, Cornwall, Whiting, Shoreham and Orwell for approval of their requests to join the Lake Champlain Byway. At hearings at the end of September, a subcommittee of the Transportation Board and the Scenery Preservation Council voted to approve their applications. Each Town designated a portion of Roadway within the Town to serve as the official Lake Champlain Byway.

Ferrisburgh designated Route 7, connecting with the Byway in Charlotte to the north. Middlebury, already a member of the byway, designated additional sections of roadway to improve connections to neighboring towns and other byways including Route 7 through Middlebury, Route 125 through Middlebury until the point in East Middlebury where the Route 125 Scenic Highway designation begins, and Route 30 south to Cornwall; Cornwall and Whiting both designated Route 30 through each town; Orwell designated Route 73 and the Mount Independence Road, connecting Route 30 to the Lake at the cable ferry and the Mt Independence State Historic Site; and Shoreham designated Route 74 creating a loop back to Cornwall.

Designation connects the attributes in each town to those in all other towns on the byway, making each a part of a greater whole. As an example, the Mount Independence Historic Site is connected thematically to the Maritime Museum in Ferrisburgh. Byway Designation also makes each of the towns eligible for federal transportation grants to develop infrastructure associated with the Lake Champlain Byway. The Byway’s mission is to promote economic development through tourism. ACRPC has funds from a grant last year to re-write the Lake Champlain Byway’s Corridor Management Plan to include information concerning the attributes each town possesses. Elizabeth Golden will re-write these towns into the overall Byways plan. The Byway also has a small amount of money for signage. For more information, call Adam Lougee or Elizabeth Golden at 388-3141, or email at [egolden@sover.net](mailto:egolden@sover.net)

# Grants

## Energy Grants and Loan Programs

The Public Service Department lists funding opportunities through the CEDF, including the **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants** (EECBG). The CEDF grant program assists pre-project assessments, large- and small-scale systems, community-scale systems, and special demonstration projects over 15 kW in size (or 1 million Btu/hour for thermal projects or 15 tons of capacity for geothermal projects). The maximum award is \$500,000, and all projects require at least a 50% match. There are two grant rounds per year; the next RFP will be issued in January 2010.

The **Municipal Technical Assistance Grant Program** provides up to \$5,000 per grant for renewable energy assessment studies. Up to \$50,000 is available for this program in FY10. Funding is available for up to 90% of a project's cost (10% cash match is required from the grantee). Applications are due the first Thursday of every month.

The **Loan Program** assists large-scale systems over 15 kW in size (or 1 million Btu/hour for thermal projects or 15 tons of capacity for geothermal projects). Maximum loan award is \$500,000; interest rate is currently 2%. Applications are due quarterly (next round is due Oct. 1). See [www.publicservice.vermont.gov/energy/ee\\_cleanenergyfund.html](http://www.publicservice.vermont.gov/energy/ee_cleanenergyfund.html) for information on this and the two previous programs.

The **Small-Scale Renewable Energy Incentive Program** provides incentives for solar photovoltaic, solar hot water, wind, and micro-hydro systems under 15 kWw in size. Non-competitive. Information and applications at [www.rc-vt.org](http://www.rc-vt.org).

The **Public-Serving Institutions Program** will act as a revolving loan and/or small grant program for public-serving nonprofit or government institutions to implement non-electric energy efficiency measures or renewable energy projects. For more information see [www.publicservice.vermont.gov](http://www.publicservice.vermont.gov).

**Local Government Competitive Grant** - CEDF will allocate the required 60% of EECBG ARRA federal stimulus allocated funds to "units of local government" (i.e., "a city, town, town school district, incorporated school or fire district or incorporated village and all other governmental incorporated units") that are not eligible to receive direct grants from the Department of Energy. Funds will be used to implement energy efficiency and renewable energy installations. More information at [www.publicservice.vermont.gov](http://www.publicservice.vermont.gov). Meantime, towns should prepare by assessing their weatherization, efficiency and renewable needs, and should obtain energy audits and cost estimates for work. Information at [www.encyvermont.org](http://www.encyvermont.org).

More information on the EECBG program, including preparatory steps to meet funding requirements, at [www.eecbg.energy.gov](http://www.eecbg.energy.gov).

## Regional Planning Commissions

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. Funds are expected in late October. 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. We also plan to distribute energy saving products to the public through our expanding energy-related educational programs. For more information see [www.acrpc.org/pages/activities/energy](http://www.acrpc.org/pages/activities/energy)

## Clean Energy Assessment District

Last session, the legislature passed a Clean Energy Assessment District (CEAD) statute that enables municipalities to establish CEADs – known elsewhere in the U.S. as Property Assessed Clean Energy. Efficiency Vermont, the energy efficiency utility for all cities and towns except Burlington, has developed a list of projects that a municipality might deem eligible within its own CEAD plus details to establish and fund such a district. Eligible energy efficiency improvement projects are limited to measures permanently attached to the property for which CEAD financing is being secured, measures that reduce the net energy requirements of the affected building, and energy-related repair, health, and safety measures required to be included in a comprehensive energy efficiency improvement project.

Renewable energy projects may be eligible for CEAD financing either alone or in combination with eligible efficiency measures. The most likely types are solar water heating systems, biomass energy heating systems, small wind systems, micro-hydro systems, solar water or space heating systems, solar electric (photovoltaic) systems, and small wind or micro-hydro systems. For most of these projects, only solar water heating is likely to be supportable with financing alone. Other small-scale renewable energy projects will likely need their costs reduced by owner investment, grants, tax credits, or other funding sources to the level where savings can cover the annual financed payments. Efficiency measures, when combined with renewable energy measures, may also help a combined package meet minimum benefit.

## Residential Incentives

Efficiency Vermont offers incentives for converting to Energy Star products. For more information contact [www.encyvermont.com](http://www.encyvermont.com) or call 888-921-5990. In addition, there are federal tax incentives on home improvements (30% on materials up to \$1,500 total tax credit through 12/31/10). See <http://energytaxincentives.org/>