



ACRPC

update October 2010

Fall is in full swing. The landscape is bursting with color and offering a bounty of October favorites- apples, pumpkins, greens and a multitude of squash. Thanks to many hard working folks in Addison County and throughout the State, there are also many great celebrations, workshops, conferences and discussions to attend. This newsletter is largely dedicated to events happening in our area this fall. Enjoy and don't forget to dig out your hat and mittens.

New Road Sign Retro-Reflectivity Guidelines and Requirements for Towns

Road signs on our local and state roads serve us in many ways. They provide us with directional information but most of all they provide us with information that allows us to make safe and condition-appropriate decisions as we drive our roadways. It is estimated that most towns in the state have more than two thousand road signs in use and some towns have many more. Historically, night time fatal crashes occur approximately 3 times more likely to occur during night time hours.

In order to establish continuity across the national road system, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) established and maintains The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (or MUTCD) as a standard that regulates all signage and pavement markings used on the roadways system. Until recently, there have been few rules seriously addressing sign visibility, and most of all, condition. Improved sign visibility has been proven to significantly reduce nighttime accidents and fatalities. With this in mind, the MUTCD rules governing road sign visibility and maintenance have been changed significantly and universal compliance dates have been established. The new standards set minimum retro reflective qualities that must be maintained. These apply not only to the signs when they are installed, but throughout their functional life. Towns will be required to either annually inspect all signs for compliance, or establish a replacement schedule based on the warranty life of the retro reflective sheeting used. Compliance to the new rules has been broken into 3 categories to give the towns time to plan for these changes. The major deadlines are as follows:

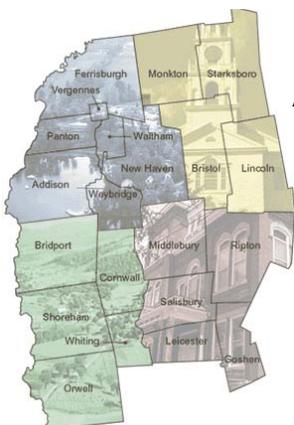
January 2012: All agencies (and towns) will have in place a sign maintenance program or management

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

October 2010	4	7:00pm	ACORN Energy Co-op
	13	7:30pm	Full Commission Meeting
	15	8:15-10:00am	ACTR Board Meeting
	18	7:00pm	ACORN Energy Co-op
	21	7:00pm	Addison County Solid Waste Management District Meeting
	25	5:30-7:00pm	ACORN Board Meeting
	25	7:00pm	Energy Committee Meeting
	27	5:00pm	Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting
	27	6:30pm	Executive Board Meeting

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

plan, including a sign inventory that can address the new minimum sign retro reflectivity requirements outlined in the MUTCD. Also, all street name signs must meet the new size and 6' letter requirements.

January 2015: By this date, all agencies and towns must comply with the new retro reflectivity requirements for most of the traffic signs that they have installed, including all red regulatory signs, all yellow advisory signs, and all green/white guide signs.

January 2018: By this date all overhead guide signs and all street name signs must comply with the new retro reflectivity requirements.

For more information regarding these requirements, contact Richard Kehne at Addison Regional Planning Commission (rkehne@sover.net 388-3141) or Vermont Local Roads at (800-462-6555)

EVENTS

GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION WORK PARTY

Sunday, Oct. 10, 1 to 3 pm, Middlebury Town Green.

Come to the town green to lend a hand on reducing carbon. Get ideas, then get to work. Join opening Drum Circle. Hear climate change reflections and ideas. Start your Low Carbon Diet. Take a solar tour of downtown Middlebury. Button up your home. Clear bike paths, make your bike commuter worthy. Glean gardens. More. In event of rain, go to St. Stephen's basement. Hosted by Middlebury College Sunday Night Group with Middlebury Energy Committee. Info: 388-9478.

SOLAR Open House & Tour

Sunday, Oct. 10, 2 to 4 pm, Middlebury Town Green.

Take a walking tour of solar systems in downtown Middlebury. First, see solar hot water is working at Middlebury Natural Foods Co-op, then see how solar PV is working at Otter Creek Bakery. Learn how others planned & financed solar. Followed by Button Up workshop across the street at Ilsley. Hosted by Acorn Energy Co-op. Info: 385-1911

BUTTON UP Home Energy Savings Workshop

Sunday, Oct. 10, 4 to 6 pm. Ilsley Library, Middlebury

Learn most effective strategies for saving energy & preventing heat loss, what you can do yourself and when you need a pro, where to find technical and financial resources. \$150 energy audit coupon for attendees--last chance. Sign up for follow up home energy visits and audits. Free. Hosted by Middlebury Energy Committee. Info: 388-9478

BUSINESS ENERGY AMBASSADOR Volunteer Training

Wednesday, Oct. 20, 6 to 9 pm, new MVAA Community Room (before Porter/Rainbow)

Learn how to conduct energy visits to help small businesses rate their efficiency and take advantage of deep rebates from Efficiency Vermont on lighting and equipment upgrades before they expire Dec. 31, plus a \$100 coupon from Addison County Green Fund. Volunteers will be asked to offer 10 hours (3-4 visits) for the following 4 weeks before Thanksgiving. No previous experience required. Refreshments. Hosted by Addison County Chamber of Commerce, Acorn Energy Co-op, Middlebury Energy Committee. Info: Sue Hoxie 388-7951 or Laura Asermily 388-9478.

LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES FORUM

Friday, October 15th, Middlebury Inn

COST: \$10 for members; \$20 for non-members, a continental breakfast will be served. Eric Davis, Professor Emeritus of Political Science, Middlebury College, will moderate this event.

Hosted by the Addison County Chamber of Commerce and co-sponsored by People of Addison County Together (PACT).

Please RSVP to Sue via email or call 388-7951 x2.

CANDIDATES NIGHT - BRIDPORT

Oct. 21, 2010 7:00-8:30pm Bridport Grange

Sponsored by Bridport Grange, Legislative Committee

Each candidate will have 3 minutes for opening statements. Voters attending will ask questions and each candidate will have 3 minutes to respond. Each candidate will have 3 minutes for closing statements.

News/Events

3rd ANNUAL VERMONT EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CONFERENCE

October 25th and 26th, 2010 at the Stowe Mountain Resort in Stowe, Vermont

Spots are filling up, so register as soon as possible.

For more information contact:

Tim Bouton, ACRPC 388.3141 or go to the following link: http://vem.vermont.gov/home/prep_conference

Vermont League of Cities and Towns presents: PLANNING AND ZONING FORUM

Thursday October 28th 2010

Capitol Plaza Hotel and Conference Center
Montpelier, Vermont

A dynamic mix of legal information, practical solutions, and policy discussions. Designed for Zoning Administrators, planning commissioners, DRB/ZBA members, municipal planners, selectboard members, and regional planning commission staff.

To register online, go to: www.vlct.org/eventscalendar/ or call VLTC at 1 (800) 649-7915

Vermont League of Cities and Towns presents: ETHICS AND MUNICIPAL LAND USE OFFICIALS WORKSHOP

via Vermont Interactive Television

Hannaford Career Center, Middlebury Vermont

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

This workshop is designed for all local officials involved in land use planning, regulation, and development review. All are welcome, though it is particularly relevant for planning commissioners, planners, zoning administrators, development review board members, selectboard members, town managers and administrators, and conservation commissioners.

Registration information: \$45.00 VLCT PACIF members, \$55.00 VLCT members, \$75.00 Non-members.

According to our records, your Municipality is not a PACIF member.

To register online, go to: www.vlct.org/eventscalendar/ or call VLTC at 1 (800) 649-7915

THE BIENNIAL VERMONT STATEWIDE HOUSING CONFERENCE,

Thursday, November 18th at the Hilton in Burlington

Included in the offerings are two workshops exploring the new LEED for Neighborhood Development rating system and how the standards established for that certification program might be applied in Vermont to encourage sustainable housing development. An application for AICP CE credits has been submitted for these workshops.

For conference information and registration, go to www.vhfa.org/conference. A snapshot of the workshops with a star marking those pending CE credits is available here: <http://www.vhfa.org/conference/documents/brochure.pdf>

For more information contact: Faith Ingulsrud

Vermont Department of Economic, Housing & Community Development (DEHCD)

802-828-5228 or

faith.ingulsrud@state.vt.us

GRANTS

Lake Champlain Grant Deadlines Extended

Grand Isle, VT - The Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) is extending its fall grant deadlines from early October to Thursday, October 21, 2010.

Grant programs covered in this announcement include:

Pollution Prevention Grants (up to \$25,000 per grant for technical projects),

Aquatic Invasive Species Spread Prevention Grants (up to \$25,000 per grant for technical projects),

Organizational Support Grants (up to \$3,000 per grant for organization building),

Education and Outreach Grants (up to \$7,500 per grant for educational projects), and

Southern Lake Champlain Agricultural Grants (up to 400,000 total available).

Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the LCBP office for assistance before submitting applications.

Grant applications must be received at the Lake Champlain Basin Program office by Thursday, October 21, 2010 at 4:30 PM. For further details about the available grant funds or to receive an application, contact the Lake Champlain Basin Program, 54 West Shore Road, Grand Isle, VT 05478 at (800) 468-5227 or (802) 372-3213, or visit the website www.lcbp.org. Previous grant recipients and funded programs may also be viewed on the LCBP website.

Events/Grants