



ACRPC

update

September 2009

**ACRPC Energy Committee Program:
Wood Biomass Resource Supply
Thursday, September 24, 7:00-9:00 p.m.**

A comprehensive report on the availability of wood biomass in Vermont by David Brynn and Mark Lapin at Vermont Family Forests, Eva Wollenberg at UVM, and Bill Peterson at Green Mountain National Forest. For more information about the program, contact Elizabeth Golden at 388-3141 or egolden@sover.net.

**VLCT and ACRPC Present
Managing Stormwater Through Low Impact
Development Techniques - A Primer for Planning
and Zoning Officials
Thursday, September 17 at 7:00 pm
Hannaford Career Center**

This workshop is designed for all local officials involved in land use planning and regulation, and is offered via interactive television. Examine how landscapes change with development and how Low Impact Development (LID) reduces negative impacts to water quality and quantity through planning, site design and innovative engineering. Learn how to incorporate LID designs in a manner that considers stormwater as a resource rather than as a nuisance. Hear how the South Burlington Stormwater Utility works and discuss their LID Guidance Manual.

Register online at www.vlct.org/events/calendar/ or call 800-649-7915 for more information.

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 kick-off for Public Safety District C (Addison, Rutland and Bennington Counties) is currently scheduled for September 29 and will be held at the Holiday Inn in Rutland from 7-9 pm. The Addison County meeting is yet to be scheduled, but will probably occur in early October. 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.

Commission Calendar

September	4	12:00	Energy Committee
	9	7:30	Full Commission
	17	5:30	Tabletop Exercise with Disaster Scenario for Middlebury
	23	6:30	Executive Board
	24	7-9	Energy Program: Woody Biomass
	26		Bristol Harvest Festival
October	29	7:00	Dept of Health H1N1 Flu Education Meeting, Holiday Inn, Rutland
	30	4-6	ACRWC
	1	6:30	Button Up Training for Organizers
	1		Tabletop Exercise with Disaster Scenario Location and Time TBD
	2	12:00	Energy Committee
	8	5:30	Tabletop Exercise with Disaster Scenario
	14	7:30	Full Commission
	15	7:00	ACSWMD
	22	7-9	Energy Program: Water Reclamation
22		Tabletop Exercise with Disaster Scenario Location and Time TBD	
28	6:30	Executive Board	

Meetings are open to the public and unless otherwise noted held at ACRPC. For further info, contact 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.

Events

Green Mountain National Forest To Receive \$3.3 Million in Funding

Vermont's GMNF will receive nearly \$3.3 million in federal economic recovery funding to help create jobs while preserving the state's natural resources; specifically:

\$1.4 million to address a backlog of trail maintenance projects;

\$657,000 for work on existing recreational facilities; and

\$1.2 million to restore two dams that retain Lefferts Pond in the Town of Chittenden.

GMNF is partnering with Vermont Youth Conservation Corps, the Green Mountain Club and the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers on the projects.

About 40 young adults and professionals will be put to work over the next two years on the 627 miles of trails that are in need of maintenance, including replacing restroom facilities that were damaged in the August 2008 flooding, and rehabilitating the historic Stratton Mountain caretaker's cabin and fire tower.

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 starting on September 17. 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 host community for the first exercise will be the Town of Middlebury on September 17th. Similar exercises are planned October 1 for the towns of Shoreham, Leicester, Orwell, Whiting and Goshen; October 8 for the towns of Cornwall, Ripton, Weybridge, Goshen, Salisbury, and Middlebury; October 22 for the towns of Addison, Bridport, Ferrisburgh, Pantton, 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.

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. These workshops are being conducted with the support of Efficiency Vermont and the Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network and with funding from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

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. We invite you to sign up today to help organize a Home Energy Savings Workshop in your community.

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.

To schedule a Home Energy Saving Workshop in your community, please contact Diana Peduzzi, at 802-279-1708 or button-up@cvcac.org, or Paul Markowitz at 802-229-6307 or paul@markowitzvt.com. A training session for workshop organizers is scheduled for Thursday, October 1 at 6:30 pm at ACRPC.

Biomass Research Presentation September 9, 7:30 pm ACRPC

Our program prior to the Full Commission Meeting features a discussion on the market availability of sustainable wood and agricultural fiber in Addison County and the relative merits of pellets made with wood versus grasses or other agricultural stocks. It will be led by Adam Sherman, Project Manager of the Biomass Energy Research, who is conducting a study on the viability of locating a pellet manufacturing facility in the Addison region. As always, the public is welcome to attend our monthly program.

Quick Flood Facts

- * Floods and flash floods happen in all 50 states.
 - * Most homeowners insurance does not cover flood damage.
 - * If you live in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) or high-risk area and have a Federally backed mortgage, your mortgage lender requires you to have flood insurance.
 - * Just an inch of water can cause costly damage to your property.
 - * Flash floods often bring walls of water 10 to 20 feet high.
 - * A car can easily be carried away by just two feet of floodwater.
 - * Hurricanes, winter storms and snowmelt are common (but often overlooked) causes of flooding.
 - * Federal disaster assistance is usually a loan that must be paid back with interest. For a \$50,000 loan at 4% interest, your monthly payment would be around \$240 a month (\$2,880 a year) for 30 years. Compare that to a \$100,000 flood insurance premium, which is about \$400 a year (\$33 a month).
 - * If you live in a low-to-moderate risk area and are eligible for the Preferred Risk Policy, your flood insurance premium may be as low as \$119 a year, including coverage for your property's contents.
 - * You are eligible to purchase flood insurance as long as your community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program.
 - * It takes 30 days after purchase for a policy to take effect, so it's important to buy insurance before the floodwaters start to rise.
 - * Your home has a 26% chance of being damaged by a flood during the course of a 30-year mortgage, compared to a 9% chance of fire.
- For more info, visit www.floodsmart.gov

Climate Change Bill Passes House

The U.S. House of Representatives has passed the American Clean Energy and Security Act (ACES). The bill includes a cap-and-trade global warming reduction plan designed to reduce economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions 17 percent by 2020. Other provisions include new renewable requirements for utilities, studies and incentives regarding new carbon capture and sequestration technologies, energy efficiency incentives for homes and buildings, and grants for green jobs. Climate change is one of the greatest threats to healthy ecosystems and the people that rely on them for survival. The passage of the bill by the House is a major landmark that signals to the world that the United States is serious about addressing the challenge of climate change.

Bristol Main Street/Airport Drive Intersection Study

ACRPC is currently sponsoring a study which is looking at traffic issues in the area of the Airport Drive/Main Street intersection in Bristol. It is not only taking a look at existing issues involving school and mainline traffic, but it will also consider future traffic generated by the proposed recreation facility. The study is currently underway, and a public meeting will be held on September 21 at Holley Hall in Bristol. At this meeting, the consultant, Resource Systems Group, will lay out the existing problems, describe possible alternatives for improvement, and take public feedback on the issue. The study is scheduled for completion on or around September 30th. This meeting is open to the public and your participation is encouraged. Anyone interested in participating in this project can contact Richard Kehne at 388-3141 or rkehne@sover.net.

Our Forests Are Threatened by Invasive Species

Destructive non-native forest insects and diseases such as the Emerald Ash Borer, the Asian Longhorned Beetle and Sudden Oak Death fungus have found their way into the United States and are now "hitchhiking" from state to state in firewood and nursery stock. Insects and diseases can be in, on, or under the bark of firewood, or even deep within the wood itself. You often cannot see if they are there.

On their own, these pests move very slowly, only a couple of miles or less per year. Hauling insect-infested firewood from home dramatically speeds up the spread of invasive insects that harm our forests. Unfortunately, people are innocently providing a ready means of dispersal, often several hundred miles per day, by bringing infested firewood from home to their camping, sporting or second home destination.

One insect species, the Emerald Ash Borer, has already killed more than 30 million ash trees in the Midwest. That's the amount of wood needed to build 150,000 homes! This one insect pest has the potential to virtually eliminate all ash species in North America.

Protect Vermont's forests by not moving firewood or any invasive species into our state.

For more information contact Jay Lackey, Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation 802-476-0178 or jay.lackey@state.vt.us.

Grants

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 will provide stimulus money to many different sectors, including state and local governments. Specifically, Vermont will receive over \$700M in recovery and stimulus funds for several areas, including energy efficiency and renewable energy. These funds will be used to position our state to reduce the costs and consumption of energy through two separate US Department of Energy programs: the State Energy Program (SEP) and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG). The US Department of Energy has released a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for the EECBG Program.

Vermont has received 50% of its total State Energy Program (SEP) funding authorized under ARRA. The remaining 50% of funds will be released once the State has met reporting, oversight, and accountability milestones required by the Recovery Act. The EECBG instructions require at least 60% of the funds allocated to the State Energy Office to be allocated to the counties, towns and cities that did not receive a formula allocation, or \$5.7 million. These funds will be administered through the Clean Energy Development Fund through a competitive process.

The state will increase the development and deployment of cost-effective and environmentally sustainable electric power resources by offering grants and loans to residents, businesses, non-profits, government, and farms to help them install such renewable energy systems as solar, wind and geothermal. The state also will establish a revolving loan and/or small grant program for public-serving non-profit or government institutions—including K-12 school districts, colleges, and universities—to implement energy efficiency measures or renewable energy projects. In addition, Vermont will use SEP Recovery Act funds to install thermal solar renewable energy systems for heating and/or hot water to low-income residences. This effort will allow the state to continue to expand the weatherization program and realize greater energy savings.

A survey to help the CEDF Board of Directors design the program criteria is available until September 14 at: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=jt47721FMCnPm0KnU4uZdQ_3d_3d.

For more information, contact Stephen J. Wark, Vermont Department of Public Service at 802-828-4052 or <http://publicservice.vermont.gov/>

\$1.7 Million Allocated for Downtown/Village Tax Credits

The Downtown Development Board has approved \$1.7 million in tax credits to help with the renovation or repair of older and historic buildings in designated downtown and village centers in the following communities:

Brandon - \$139,500 for Seminary School to put the High School, which has been vacant for nearly 30 years, back into service as residences and studio/offices.

Putney - \$93,750 toward the restoration of the Village Store, which was damaged by fire in 2008.

Craftsbury - \$137,500 to upgrade the Village School.

Brattleboro - \$96,700 to bring the Barber Building, which houses Sam's Outdoor Outfitters and 53 units of affordable housing, up to code.

Hardwick - \$192,000 to revitalize the Hardwick Inn, Bemis Block and other buildings, to bring in new apartments and commercial space. The Marshall Block also received a tax credit of \$82,949.

Readsboro - \$108,750 to rehabilitate the condemned Bullock Building to house community, retail and office space, as well as housing units on the second floor.

Vergennes - \$32,588 for installation of a sprinkler system in the Vergennes Opera House.

St. Albans - \$195,000 to rehabilitate the former Fishman's Store into retail spaces and furnished apartments.

Springfield - \$209,200 to reopen the theatre and create nine units of affordable housing in the Ellis Block; and \$60,000 toward a sprinkler system in the Cobb and Derby Mill.

Windsor - \$45,000 to rehabilitate the Evarts House into a nine bedroom inn.