

# ACRPC

update

December 2017

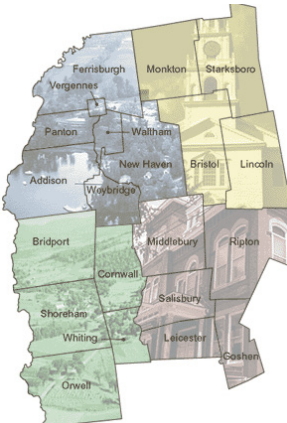
## ANR to Host 4-Day FEMA Training and CFM Exam in January

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) along with FEMA Region 1 and the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) are excited to share this training opportunity with you. Registration is now open for FEMA's 4-day introductory class to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), called Managing Floodplain Development Through the NFIP being held here in Vermont.

This course is designed to provide a training oppor-

Commission Calendar		
November 2017	13	7:00pm Full Commission Meeting
	21	7:00pm ACSWMD Meeting
	27	6:30pm Executive Board Meeting
		NOTE: No December TAC Meeting

Meetings are held at ACRPC, 14 Seminary Street, Middlebury, and are open to the public.



Addison County Regional Planning Commission  
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tunity for local officials responsible for administering their local floodplain management ordinance. The course will focus on the NFIP and concepts of floodplain management, maps and studies, bylaw administration, and the relationship between floodplain management and flood insurance. Participants that are Certified Floodplain Managers (CFM) are also eligible to receive 12 CECs for attending this 4-day course. More details about the class can be found here: [http://floodready.vermont.gov/sites/floodready/files/documents/VT273class\\_2018-flyer.pdf](http://floodready.vermont.gov/sites/floodready/files/documents/VT273class_2018-flyer.pdf).

The course will be held at the State of Vermont Essex Junction Regional Office in the Fish & Wildlife building, January 8-11 from 8am to 5pm. There will be no cost for the course, although there will be an optional cost for lunch (\$6/day) or break refreshments (\$5 for only beverages for all 4 days, or \$10 for drinks & snacks for all 4 days) if you choose. We're excited that we will be able to bring this class to Vermont and hope you'll be able to join us.

Also, ASFPM's CFM exam will be held on Friday, January 12th, although you will need to register separately for the CFM exam. The exam is open to anyone who would like to sit for the exam as long as there is room. Please see the registration information for the CFM exam at [www.floods.org](http://www.floods.org).

Class registration is open until December 15th. After registration closes, you will be sent either a confirmation email, or notification that you have been placed on the wait list. The class is limited to 35 participants, and preference will be given to VT local floodplain managers if there are more people registered than seats are available.

*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, Resources & Events

Please register online for this class by December 15th at: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VT\\_FPM-2018training](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VT_FPM-2018training).

Feel free to contact with Rebecca Pfeiffer with any questions: [rebecca.pfeiffer@vermont.gov](mailto:rebecca.pfeiffer@vermont.gov).

## **Draft South Lake Basin Plan Open for Public Comment**

The Draft South Lake Basin Plan was made available to the public on Friday, November 17th and is currently open for public comment. You can review and download the Plan here: <http://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/map/basin-planning/basin4>.

Comments can be directed to Ethan Swift at [Ethan.Swift@vermont.gov](mailto:Ethan.Swift@vermont.gov) or by mail at 1 National Life Drive, Main 2, Montpelier VT 05620-3522. Comments will be accepted through end of business day (4:30 pm) on December 18th, 2017. Comments received by this date will be addressed in a responsiveness summary.

### **~ Webinar Series ~**

## **Implementing Act 171: Land Use Planning To Address Forest Fragmentation**

Beginning in 2018, Vermont's Act 171 requires that municipalities and regions that are updating their municipal and regional plans identify areas that are important as "forest blocks" and "habitat connectors" and plan for development in those areas to minimize forest fragmentation. As town and regional plans come up for revision, many communities are now attempting to create the required maps and write appropriate language. This webinar will provide background, tools, and samples for this implementation process.

What will be covered:

- What Act 171 requires of towns and regional planning commissions
- Sample town and regional plan language
- Guidance on finding, interpreting, and creating the required maps using the VT Agency of Natural

Resources' BioFinder website

- Case studies of policies that maintain and protect forests and connectivity

There will also be time to respond to questions. The panel of presenters includes: Jens Hilke or Monica Przyperhart, VT Fish & Wildlife; Jamey Fidel, VT Natural Resources Council; Clare Rock, Central VT RPC.

The webinar will be offered on the following dates and times:

- December 18, 2017, noon- 1:30pm
- January 29, 2018, 6-7:30 pm
- February 12, 2017, 2-3:30pm
- March 1, 2018, noon – 1:30 pm

To register please visit: <http://vcgi.vermont.gov/events/list>.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. Each webinar will follow the same format with the same content.

## **Vermont Council on Rural Development Invites Community Applications for 2018 Climate Economy Model Communities Program**

The Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) invites communities interested in charting a path to a more prosperous and self-sufficient future to participate in the 2018 Climate Economy Model Communities Program. A collaboration of VCRD, Efficiency Vermont, Vermont's utilities and other partners, the Program works with two communities annually to help build and implement locally developed plans that increase economic opportunity, affordability, and resilience in the face of climate change. The Program kicked off in 2017 with Pownal and Middlebury being the first two communities to join the effort.

"There is a global race to develop the strategies that strengthen the economy while also addressing climate change.

# News, Resources & Events

Through this program we are excited to work with Vermont communities that see the potential for leadership in a dynamic economic transition that is already underway. Businesses and communities that develop new models for the emerging climate economy will thrive in the years ahead,” noted Paul Costello, Executive Director of VCRD. “The Model Communities Program also provides an important opportunity to address the needs of low and middle-income Vermonters. Reducing the energy burden faced by those who can least afford it is a core goal of this work.”

“Investing in efficiency and energy transformation provides communities with opportunities to save money, increase health and comfort, and become more resilient. The Model Communities Program approach allows communities to customize solutions that address their specific needs and strengthen their economic position in the face of climate change,” said Karen Glitman, Director of Efficiency Vermont. “Efficiency Vermont is excited to be a partner in this important effort and to be a part of the solutions for the participating communities.”

“As a result of our participation in the Model Communities Program, there are now Task Forces focused on economic development and the revitalization of existing buildings, building a local agricultural network, growing recreation and trails, and beautifying Pownal,” noted Shannon Barsotti, a member of the Pownal Planning Commission who served as the local Chair of the process. “The community meetings this summer allowed us to come together to grapple with some big questions about the future of our town. The program also gave the many regional and state partners who participated a much deeper understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing Pownal.”

Project Director Jon Copans of VCRD released a Request-For-Proposals soliciting applications from communities that are interested in participating in the Model Communities Program for 2018. [Communities will have until December 18 to apply.](#) A copy of the RFP and more details about the program can be found here: [www.vtrural.org/model-communities](http://www.vtrural.org/model-communities).

## **Save the Date!** **2018 Vermont Walk/Bike Summit**

In partnership with Vermont Agency of Transportation, and a number of other participating organizations and sponsors, the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee and Southern Windsor Regional Planning Commissions will host the 2018 statewide Vermont Walk/Bike Summit on May 4th in White River Junction.

The Vermont Walk/Bike Summit is an excellent opportunity to connect with community members, employers, planners and researchers from throughout the state for in-depth sharing on current efforts, new ideas, and networking to advance more livable communities.

This year’s Summit will include interactive mobile workshops, peer exchanges, a highly-acclaimed keynote, and a variety of dynamic presentations and topics including advocacy and education, public safety, economic development, and the built environment. For further information about the event visit here: <https://vtwalkbikesummit.com/>.

## **New CDC Resource for Creating Activity-Friendly Communities**

THE CDC has released new materials to help implement the Community Preventive Services Task Force’s (CPSTF) Built Environment Recommendation. The CPSTF recommends “built environment strategies that combine one or more interventions to improve pedestrian or bicycle transportation systems with one or more land use and environmental design interventions to increase physical activity.” It is a great resource that shows “real world examples” of how this recommendation is being implemented in communities around the nation.

For information on the Recommendation and to download related documents and materials, please visit: <https://www.thecommunityguide.org/findings/physical-activity-built-environment-approaches>.

# Approaching Grant Deadlines

## **Better Connections Grant Program Reminder**

As part of an ongoing partnership to revitalize community centers and increase transportation options, the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) and the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) are currently accepting applications to the Better Connections (BC) Grant Program.

Annually, the program grants approximately \$200,000 in planning funds to help cities and towns (outside of Chittenden County) build more livable, walkable and strong communities. Grant Applications are due January 31, 2018 with all applicants required to participate in a pre-application meeting with BC Program Managers prior to December 31, 2017.

Last year's round of the Better Connections Grant Program funded three projects that are in progress: the Town of Brighton is developing a plan to improve the streetscape and create more opportunities for residents and tourists to walk, shop and enjoy the scenic beauty of Island Pond; the City and Town of St. Albans are developing a plan to improve safety and accessibility along Route 7, strengthening the connection between the downtown and its northern commercial and employment centers, and improving transportation options for the region's most vulnerable; and the Town of Windsor is creating an action plan to guide downtown commercial and industrial redevelopment, improving housing affordability in surrounding neighborhoods, and exploring ideas to reconnect to the Connecticut River - making Windsor a great place to live, work and do business

For more information, contact Richard Amore at 802-828-5229 or Jackie Cassino, at 802-272-2368 and visit the grant website here: [vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/projects-programs/better-connections](http://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/projects-programs/better-connections).