Share Your Thoughts on the Future of Vermont!

What do Vermonters need to do in the next 3 years to be successful for the next generation?

The challenges facing Vermont call on us to unite to build a better future. The Vermont Council on Rural Development is excited to share the first draft of The Vermont Proposition: an effort to set non-partisan priorities for statewide action.

The Vermont Proposition draft, based on input from thousands of Vermonters, shares a set of ideas to drive common action and advance a successful future for our communities, environment and economy.

Now, they need YOUR INPUT to help strengthen The Vermont Proposition:

- What’s missing?
- What could be improved?
- What do we need to do to be successful for the next generation?

To learn more about the initiative, see the current draft, and share your thoughts, visit www.futureofvermont.org

For more information, contact Vermont Council on Rural Development info@vtrural.org | 802-223-6091
A new study by the Climate Economy Action Center of Addison County of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Addison County has identified the major sources of the county’s GHG emissions, which contribute to global climate change. The study finds that three sectors -- Buildings, Transportation, and Agriculture -- account for the vast majority of emissions. The GHG inventory can be found at [bit.ly/2I2nuol](http://bit.ly/2I2nuol).

**Virtual Town Hall: Vermont State Rail Plan and Vermont State Freight Plan Updates**

Thursday, December 17, 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

[https://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/freight](https://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/freight)

The Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT) invites the public to participate in a virtual Town Hall Meeting via Microsoft Teams. The Town Hall will include a presentation about draft recommendations, followed by a question-and-answer session. The draft recommendations incorporate feedback from the project’s Advisory Committees and public input.

This is the second of two virtual Town Hall Meetings being held this year to help update the Vermont State Rail Plan and the Vermont State Freight Plan. The first meeting focused on identifying needs and issues (video available). This Town Hall will help narrow in on recommendations for the Rail Plan.

**New VT DEC Stormwater General Permit 3-9050 In Effect 12/1/2020**

Stormwater General Permit 3-9050 ("Three-Acre General Permit") goes into effect on 12/1/20.

Please be advised that the last day for applying under General Permit 3-9010 or General Permit 3-9015 is 11/30/20. Applications for coverage under these general permits must be received by DEC prior to 12/1/20 in order to be valid. Any valid (unexpired) authorizations previously issued under these general permits remain in full force and effect until the expiration of the authorization.

All applications for an operational stormwater permit for new development, redevelopment, permit renewal, or for "three-acre sites" received on or after 12/1/20 must be under General Permit 3-9050. We are in the process of updating our website and application forms. Although we hope to have the 3-9050 Notice of Intent forms available by 12/1/20 we expect there may be some glitches and delays as the new system is launched. Your patience is appreciated as we make this transition.

If you have any questions concerning General Permit 3-9050 and its applicability to any of your projects please contact the Stormwater Program staff for the region in which your project is located. [https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/stormwater/contacts](https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/stormwater/contacts)

Information on General Permit 3-9050 is available at [https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/stormwater/9050](https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/stormwater/9050)
Grants

Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant
Application deadline December 14th, 2020
Only nonprofit organizations and municipalities with less than 7500 people are eligible. Preservation Trust of VT provides funds to preserve and restore buildings and community gathering spaces of economic and social significance in rural communities. Examples of work include roof repair or replacement, structural repairs, window and door restoration, and fire safety improvements. Grants will be made in increments of $50,000-$100,000. Applications will be evaluated by Preservation Trust of Vermont staff. They are particularly interested in projects that aim to increase the economic vitality of a community through non-profit ownership of general stores or other businesses, adds housing to downtowns, or brings new economic and community activity to village centers.

Land and Water Conservation Fund
https://fpr.vermont.gov/land-and-water-conservation-fund
Applications due by Noon on Monday, Dec 14
The Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation (FPR) has recently launched an LWCF round for communities in Vermont. On the webpage you will find everything a town or other municipal entity needs to apply for a 50-50 federal LWCF grant to acquire or develop a municipally-owned property for public outdoor recreation. All applications must meet an identified need within the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and address local and regional needs. Municipalities must agree to dedicate the park or area where the project is located for public outdoor recreational use in perpetuity. FPR always encourage entities to consider projects that are larger in scale since the match requirement is high, and the permanent encumbrance and maintenance responsibilities are, well, permanent!

Vermont Arts Council
Animating Infrastructure Grant
https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/grants/organizations/animating-infrastructure
Letter of interest due December 18, 2020
The Vermont Arts Council is now offering a funding opportunity for communities that wish to integrate works of public art into upcoming infrastructure projects. A small number of selected applicants who submit a letter of interest will be invited to develop a full proposal in January 2021. The program seeks proposals for projects that provide opportunities for artists to engage with community in the design and/or fabrication of permanent or temporary public art for an inter-

TD Green Space Grants
https://www.arborday.org/programs/tdgreenspacegrants/
Application due December 18, 2020
Green Space Grants support green infrastructure development, tree planting, forestry stewardship, and community green space expansion as a way to advance environmental and economic benefits toward a low-carbon economy. Through the program, municipalities in the United States are eligible to receive $20,000 grants in support of local forestry projects in areas of great need within a community.
Grants

Clean Water Design/Implementation Block Grant
https://swcrpc.org/design-implementation-block-grant/
Submission deadline January 15, 2021
This program supports statewide partners in implementing the design and construction of clean water improvement projects as identified on the DEC Watershed Projects Database.
Eligible Applicants include:
• Municipalities
• Conservation Districts
• Watershed Groups
• Nonprofit Associations
• Public Education Institutions
• Public Health Institutions
Eligible projects are evaluated for their cost effective reduction in sedimentation and nutrient loading to surface waters. This grant program does not require local match for projects located in non-MS4 communities.
All application materials, as well as guidance on eligible applicants and projects, can be found on the webpage
Anticipated Notice of Award: 2/19/2021

AmeriCorps Seniors
Senior Companion Program (SCP) Notice of Funding Opportunity
https://www.nationalservice.gov/FY2021/FGP&SCP-Competition
Applications due February 3, 2021 by 5pm
For decades, AmeriCorps Seniors SCP programs have engaged older Americans in volunteer service that provide companionship to other older adults and adults with disabilities. With this NOFO, AmeriCorps Seniors intends to fund successful applicants that increase the impact of volunteers age 55 and older who provide volunteer service in response to local community needs.

Grant Deadline Reminders from Prior Newsletters
SFY2022 Vermont Better Roads Grant Program
https://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/better-roads
Applications for funding accepted until Dec 18
Downtown and Village Center tax credits
https://accd.vermont.gov/historic-preservation/funding/tax-credits
Applications due Monday, January 4, 2021
FEMA Mitigation Funding Programs
https://vem.vermont.gov/funding/mitigation
State application deadlines of January 6, 2021

2021 Vermont Watershed Grants
https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/cwi/grants/co-opportunities
Application deadline February 5, 2021
Awards made up to $10,000, depending on project category type. Category types and the max grant amount for each project category type are:
• Education and outreach – up to $5,000
• Planning, assessment, inventory, monitoring – up to $3,500
• On-the-ground implementation – up to $10,000
Watershed Grants Program dollars are intended for complete projects or for discreet, identifiable portions of larger projects.
Trainings and Tools

ANR Community Wildlife Program
Virtual Workshops

https://anr.vermont.gov/content/trainings

Understanding Your Land at Different Scales
  • 12/02/20, 6:00pm-7:00pm

Updating your town plan for Act 171
  • 12/07/20, 1:00pm-2:00pm

Woods, Waters & Wildlife putting the pieces together
  • 12/9/20, 6:00pm-7:00pm

Enhancing your Backyard, Back Forty & Beyond
  • 12/16/20, 6:00pm-7:00pm

Wildlife Road Crossings
  • 12/14/20, 3:00pm-4:00pm

Please Register at the link to attend. All sessions of the webinars are live online events that last approximately one hour and offer participants a chance to learn and ask questions of experts. Webinars will be recorded and made available.

VT Local Roads Virtual Safety Round Table
Common Hazards in Highway Operations
Wed, Dec 9, 2020, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Introduction to Community Lifelines
Thu, Dec 10, 2020, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Register by Tue, Dec 8, 2020, 10:00 AM EST

Introduction to Community Lifelines, introduces the Community Lifelines construct, an outcome-driven response structure used to achieve incident stabilization. This course provides an overview of the seven (7) Community Lifelines, including how they promote the importance of situational awareness, prioritization of response efforts, and decision-making processes during a disaster response to work toward incident stabilization.

You can register for these courses via the VT Learning Management System: http://vem.vermont.gov/training/trainingprogram/lms

New Manual and Trainings
https://accd.vermont.gov/content/zoning-for-great-neighborhoods

This how-to manual promotes practical, small steps that Vermont’s cities, towns and villages can take to address widespread regulatory barriers that limit the choice of conveniently located homes available at prices Vermont’s people can afford. The manual culminates a year of work with six Vermont communities through the Project for Code Reform, a strategic initiative to support cities and towns as they reform outdated zoning codes in favor of more walkable urbanism. Communities large and small can use the guide to expand access and inclusion in housing, increase vitality and transform into even better places for their residents, businesses, and visitors.

In the coming weeks, printed copies of the guide will be mailed to all cities and towns with zoning regulations. To reserve additional copies, please contact Chris Cochran, Director Community Planning and Revitalization State of Vermont, Department of Housing & Community Development, 802-595-5410

To increase local awareness about the guide and how to use it, the Congress for the New Urbanism will be providing a two day “train the trainers-style” session for cities, towns and Regional Planning Commissions. The training will focus on incremental zoning reforms that welcome new housing and small-scale development.

Save the date for the trainings on the afternoons of
  • Tuesday, January 26th and
  • Thursday, January 28th.
As with most things, Very Merry Middlebury takes a different form from previous years. Please respect social distancing guidelines as you and your family enjoy this year’s activities. Very Merry Middlebury is coordinated by the Better Middlebury Partnership.

It’s a Holiday Edition of the Great Middlebury Pig Out! Let’s make the holiday season bright for our local restaurants! And, you might win some Middlebury Money at the same time! The drawing will be held on December 17th. Brought to you by Neighbors, Together and the Better Middlebury Partnership.