

ACRPC

update

September 2017

Major Disaster Declaration Declared for Vermont

On August 16th Governor Phil Scott's request for a major disaster declaration was granted for Addison County, along with six other Vermont counties, as a result of severe storms and flooding that occurred between June 29 - July 1, 2017.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Public Assistance disaster declaration (DR-4330) allows communities and public utilities in those counties sustaining at least \$3,200 in damage to receive 75 percent federal reimbursement for storm

response and recovery, including costs for debris removal and repairs to public roads, bridges, and other infrastructure with damage resulting from the storm.

Town leaders were able to begin the reimbursement process at four applicant briefings held throughout the state during the last week of August. The briefings outlined the requirements for receiving federal awards and maximizing eligibility of repairs. Vermont Emergency Management, Agency of Transportation district personnel, and FEMA helped guide town officials through the application process and will continue to be available to provide assistance.

Commission Calendar

September 2017

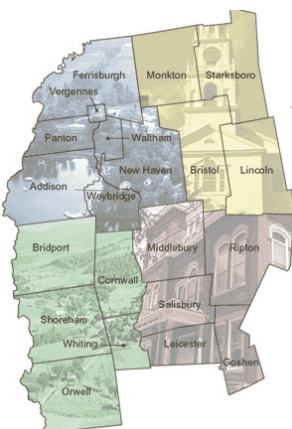
13	7:00pm	Full Commission Meeting
20	7:00pm	TAC Meeting
21	7:00pm	ACSWMD Meeting
27	6:30pm	Executive Board Meeting
		NO JULY TAC MEETING

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

A Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) by FEMA, which started on July 12, identified \$4.7 million in public infrastructure damage, far exceeding the \$1 million minimum Vermont must show to be considered for a disaster declaration. Addison, Bennington, Caledonia, Orange, Rutland, Washington, and Windsor Counties each exceeded the \$3.61 per capita threshold needed to qualify cities and towns in those counties for assistance. The damages identified in the PDA are only a partial accounting of the total damages suffered from the storm and the final tally will likely be higher.

The declaration also includes funds from the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for towns, state agencies, and approved nonprofit organizations statewide. This program provides funding for a variety of mitigation activities, including home buyouts, structural elevations, flood proofing and public infrastructure upgrades for roads, bridges and culverts in vulnerable locations.

For town leaders seeking more information on the pro-



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Grants, Events & Workshops

cess, please visit <http://vem.vermont.gov/funding/pa>.

Requests for Public Assistance (RPA) MUST be submitted by September 15th for your municipality to be eligible to receive funding. If your town reported damage resulting from this storm but has not yet submitted a RPA, please get in touch with Tim at ACRPC immediately. Tim can be reached at tbouton@acrpc.org or by phone at 388-3141.

FY18 Municipal Planning Grant Applications Due September 30

Did you know that Municipal Planning Grants (MPGs) can be used to increase the economic vitality of your community? The Town of Bennington used a series of MPG-funded projects to do just that, starting with an action-oriented town plan and implementing it through a series of projects that helped the town make progress towards its revitalization goals. The Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is pleased to offer towns and cities across Vermont an opportunity to achieve similar results by competing for \$450,000 in MPG funds this year.

Up to \$20,000 will be awarded to eligible municipalities chosen through a competitive selection process. See the FY18 MPG Program Description for details on eligibility, funding and the competitive criteria here: <http://accd.vermont.gov/sites/accdnew/files/documents/CD/CPR/MPG/CPR-MPG-ProgramDescription-FY18.pdf>.

A wide range of municipal planning activities are eligible for funding but projects that fit into one of the statewide priorities will have a higher likelihood of receiving grant funds. For FY18, the statewide priorities will focus on plans, bylaws and studies for villages, downtowns, and walkable neighborhoods with an emphasis on housing, and on correcting conflicts and inconsistencies in plans and bylaws.

All applications must be submitted through the DHCD online grants management system here: <https://egrants.vermont.gov/Login2.aspx?APPTHEME=VTACCD>.

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It is recommended that you develop the application off-line first using the Application Instructions (<http://accd.vermont.gov/sites/accdnew/files/documents/CD/CPR/MPG/CPR-MPG-Application-Instructions.pdf>) and resources available on the Applicant Guidance page: <http://accd.vermont.gov/community-development/funding-incentives/municipal-planning-grant/applicant-guidance>.

Along with DHCD, we at ACRPC look forward to helping to fund your community planning efforts. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or need assistance with your MPG application.

Grant applications are due Monday, October 2, 2017, with regional confirmation through ACRPC required by September 30. Grants will be awarded by mid-December.

Please get in touch with Claire Tebbs at ACRPC ASAP with any questions or if your municipality is interested in submitting an application. Claire can be reached at ctebbs@acrpc.org or by phone at 388-3141.

VCRD Announces Middlebury as Next Climate Economy Model Community

The Full Community is invited to the kick-off event and free community dinner on September 18th

Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD), joined by partners Efficiency Vermont and Green Mountain Power, announces that Middlebury will be the second community to participate in the Climate Economy Model Communities Program. The program, named by a local planning team the Greater Middlebury Community Climate Economy Initiative, will hold a kick-off event and community dinner on Monday, September 18. This event will launch a process for residents to identify and advance priorities that strengthen the community in the face of climate change, including measures to improve economic opportunity and affordability.

Grants, Events & Workshops



Join your friends and neighbors on September 18 to discuss your vision for Middlebury and enjoy a free dinner. This event launches a process to bring community members together to identify and advance priorities that improve economic opportunity and affordability in the face of climate change. State and Federal representatives and business and non-profit leaders will join as Visiting Team Members. Enjoy the dinner and pick the forums most important to you.

	Middlebury Town Offices 77 Main Street, Middlebury	St Stephens Episcopal Church, 3 Main St.	Ilsley Library, 75 Main St.
2:30-4:00pm	Home and Business Renewable Energy Generation Opportunities	Housing	
4:15-5:45pm	Home and Business Energy Efficiency & Transformation Opportunities	Neighborhood-Scale Initiatives	Local Food, Agriculture and Health
Dinner & Evening Forums @ Middlebury Union Middle School, 48 Deerfield Lane			
6:00pm	FREE Community Pizza Dinner - provided by Green Peppers Restaurant		
7:00-8:30pm	Middlebury's Vision for Climate Success	Infrastructure and Transportation Efficiency	Business Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Jobs

ALL MEMBERS of the Greater Middlebury community are invited and encouraged to join the discussion. Come to one or more session and join us at the free community dinner at the Middle School at 6:00!



The Greater Middlebury Climate Economy Initiative is a community-driven process with local leaders, the Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD), Green Mountain Power and Efficiency Vermont to cultivate economic development, innovation and affordability in the face of climate change. This event is produced by VCRD, a non-profit organization supporting the locally-defined progress of Vermont's rural communities. To learn more, visit www.vtrural.org or contact us at jon@vtrural.org or 802-225-6393.

Grants & Events

“We are excited to bring this program to Middlebury,” noted VCRD’s Program Director, Jon Copans. “This community already has a strong track record of action around climate issues and a thriving local economy. This program provides a great chance to come together to brainstorm and select new initiatives that strengthen the community and model state-of-the-art rural development in an age of climate change.”

“It is so great to see this momentum build, creating action that will empower and strengthen communities to address climate change,” said Mary Powell, Green Mountain President and CEO. “Working together there is so much we can accomplish, as we transform our energy system to one that is home, business, and community based, and show how Vermont can lead the way.”

“We are excited to continue the efforts of this important program in Middlebury,” said Karen Glitman, Director of Efficiency Vermont. “There are great opportunities to increase the sustainability and resiliency of this community through energy efficiency improvements. By engaging with residents, businesses, and our partners we can have an even greater positive impact.”

Based on an application from local citizens along with support from the Select Board, the Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD), with partners Green Mountain Power and Efficiency Vermont, selected Middlebury to be the second community to participate in the new Climate Economy Model Communities Program.

“This program represents a great opportunity for our town and surrounding communities to rally behind an economic vision for the future,” noted Select Board Chair Brian Carpenter. “I am looking forward to seeing what ideas our community comes up with through this process.”

“The combination of a great town with active and engaged citizens, VCRD as a proven facilitator, and

the great resources available from Efficiency Vermont, Green Mountain Power, and other possible partners represent great potential as we kick off this effort,” noted the local Chair of this effort, Former State Representative Steve Maier. “This will allow for a focus not only on new community initiatives, but also on ways to make efficiency and renewable generation projects more easily attainable for homes and businesses in the community.”

“Those communities that develop the innovative models for addressing climate change and increasing economic vitality will thrive as our state, nation, and world all unite to tackle this global challenge,” noted Robin Scheu, State Representative and

Executive Director of the Addison County Economic Development Corporation. “This program provides an inclusive process for Middlebury to come together to brainstorm, prioritize, and implement innovative solutions.”

The kick-off event will feature eight forums on different topics that were developed by a planning committee made up of local residents. There will also be a free community dinner (see the full schedule below). Joining community members at the Kick-Off and dinner will be an invited Visiting Team of Federal, State, business, and non-profit leaders from around Vermont who come to listen and learn about what is happening in Middlebury and to provide some reflection about what they have heard. In subsequent months, the community will gather again to choose from a list of possible action ideas brainstormed by local residents, and then will form task forces to implement the chosen initiatives.

ALL members of the greater Middlebury community are invited to participate.

For more information, visit www.vtrural.org or contact VCRD at 802-225-6393 or jon@vtrural.org or visit the event Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/events/143874326210013>.

Grants & Events

2017 VTrans Transportation Alternatives (TA) Grant Program Announcement Expected Soon

VTrans should soon be opening its 2017 Transportation Alternatives (TA) program.

The Transportation Alternatives program provides funds to either develop scoping (feasibility) studies or to develop projects that lead to construction. All projects must demonstrate a strong transportation link. There is a required sponsor match of 20% for construction projects and 50% for scoping studies. Applicants may apply for up to \$300,000 in federal funds for a total project cost of \$375,000. Scoping studies are typically in the \$15,000 to \$25,000 range of federal funding (\$30,000 to \$50,000 total).

In a change from previous years, 100% of TA funding will be dedicated to stormwater mitigation projects for Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019.

Information on the program and previous two grant cycles is available here: <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/local-projects/transport-alt>. You may also contact Scott Robertson at VTrans with any questions or for additional information at (802) 828-5799 or by email at scott.robertson@vermont.gov. Applications are typically due in late October.