

Addison County  
Regional Planning Commission



# ACRPC's Monthly Newsletter

December 2023



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## **NOTICE:**

There will NOT be an ACRPC Executive Board meeting for the month of December.

## **ACRPC UPDATE**

### **Panton Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Draft for Stakeholder Review**

The Town of Panton has finalized a draft LHMP update that includes an update of Previous Hazard Mitigation Actions, a hazards inventory and risk assessment, and overall mitigation goals, and potential mitigation projects associated with the hazards identified. The plan will be submitted to the Vermont State Hazard Mitigation Officer for review and approval on January 15, 2024. Panton's Draft Local

Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) for review can be found below.

Draft LHMP

A FEMA-approved LHMP is required for local governments that wish to receive federal funds from the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program. The LHMP is also one of the mitigation actions needed to qualify for additional post-disaster funding through the Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund (ERAF).

If you have comments or suggestions for the Panton LHMP, please send them by **January 12** to ACRPC Emergency Management Planner, Andrew L'Roe at [alroe@acrpc.org](mailto:alroe@acrpc.org)

If you have questions about your own municipality's LHMP status or steps needed to create or update one, please reach out!

## The Leahy Institute Launches Partnership Grants

The Leahy Institute for Rural Partnerships will match UVM faculty and students with Vermont organizations working on impactful solutions to challenges in rural places. The Leahy Institute Seed Grant Program will fund community-based research projects, student internships and service-learning experiences, and a wide-range of university services for Vermont organizations working to address rural challenges.

Grants are available for projects that incorporate research and/or student engagement on generating solutions across the following areas:

- Regenerative agriculture
- Community schools
- Transit and housing
- Remote and co-working practices
- Resilient energy systems
- Healthy ecosystems
- Rural health care access
- Policy and governance

Letters of Interest are due **December 18 at 5 AM**. Proposals are due **January 31, 2024 at 5 PM** .

[Learn More](#)

[Apply](#)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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V E R G E N N E S

## Planning & Environment Linkages (PEL) Study

### Vergennes PEL Study Land Use Visioning Workshops

What does the future of your community look like? The Vermont Agency of Transportation, in partnership with the Addison County Regional Planning Commission, invite you to attend a community workshop on the future uses of the land where you live and work.

A detailed study of transportation solutions, to reduce the impacts of truck traffic through downtown Vergennes, is evaluating five routes through Northern Addison County.

Your voice and your ideas are essential to this study.

#### **Pink and Blue Routes**

December 11, 2023  
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM  
Vergennes Opera House  
120 Main Street,  
Vergennes, VT

#### **Purple Route**

December 12, 2023  
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM  
Tourterelle Restaurant  
3629 Ethan Allen  
Highway (Route 7),  
New Haven, VT

#### **Green Route**

December 13, 2023  
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM  
Panton Town Hall  
3176 Jersey Street,  
Panton, VT



**OTTER CREEK BASIN**  
clean water service provider

### **There's Still Time to Apply for Clean Water Funding!**

As the Clean Water Service Provider (CWSP) for the Otter Creek Basin, ACRPC is Issuing a request for proposals for projects that improve water quality in Basin 3. Any proposed projects must be consistent with the Clean Water Initiative Program (CWIP) Funding Policy. Applications close **December 15th**.

If you have any questions you can contact Mike Winslow by email at [mwinslow@acrpc.org](mailto:mwinslow@acrpc.org).

## GRANT & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### Community

#### VOREC Community Grant Program

The Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC) and the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR) are pleased to announce that the applications for the 2023-2024 VOREC Community Grant Program are open!

**Due: Dec 15, 2023**

[Learn More](#)

#### 1772 Foundation Historic Preservation Matching Grants

The 1772 Foundation announces [2024 Vermont Historic Preservation Matching Grants](#) for Private Non-Profit Organizations in cooperation with the Preservation Trust of Vermont. Grants in the form of 1:1 matching grants of up to \$10,000 will be made available for historic preservation projects in Vermont.

Letters of Inquiry will be accepted until **January 11, 2024**. Invited applications will be due **February 29, 2024**.

[Learn More](#)

### Energy

#### US Department of Energy Communities LEAP Program

The DOE Communities LEAP (Local Energy Action Program) aims to facilitate sustained community-wide economic and environmental benefits primarily through DOE's clean energy deployment work. This opportunity is specifically open to low-income, energy-burdened communities that are also experiencing either direct environmental justice impacts, or direct economic impacts from a shift away from historical reliance on fossil fuels.

**Due: Dec 14, 2023**

[Learn More](#)

#### Climate Economy Resilient Communities Program

VCRD's Resilient Communities Program supports three to five communities each year working on local climate action solutions that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, lower energy use, increase climate resilience, and/or strengthen the local climate economy. Services are adaptable based on the community's needs and can include support with community engagement processes, strategic planning, technical assistance, and/or project implementation. Community leaders and volunteers submit a simple online application that will be reviewed on a rolling basis until **January 12th, 2024**.

[Learn More](#)

# Emergency Management

## Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities (BRIC)

The Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program is an annual FEMA funding program for hazard mitigation. BRIC will support states, local communities, and territories, as they undertake hazard mitigation projects to reduce the risk from natural hazards.

**Due: Jan 12, 2024**

[Learn More](#)

## Flood Resilient Communities Fund (FRCF)

This is a voluntary program that will prioritize projects in communities and/or for homeowners with greatest economic need and projects that mitigate repetitive loss among low-income and marginalized portions of the population. **Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis.** Priority will be given to buyout projects following the July 2023 flooding in Vermont.

[Learn More](#)

## Transportation

### Vermont Better Roads Program

The Vermont Agency of Transportation is pleased to announce the 27th year of funding to support projects on municipal roads that improve water quality and result in maintenance cost savings. The grant funds are provided by the VT Agency of Transportation with partnership through the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. The Vermont Better Roads Program promotes the use of erosion control and maintenance techniques that save money while protecting and enhancing water quality around the State.

**Due: Dec 20, 2023**

[Learn More](#)

## Natural Resources

### VT Urban & Community Forestry Grant Programs

#### Communities Caring for Canopies

Projects must relate to urban and community forestry in public ways and places or at public educational institutions.

- \$70,000 available
- \$5,000 min, \$20,000 max award
- Projects must be completed by 10/31/2025

#### 2024 Growing Urban Forests in the Face of Emerald Ash Borer

Projects must include one or more of the following. Removal of Ash trees located in public ways or places, tree planting in public ways or places in proximity to ash tree removals, and/or tree planting on private property, provided the municipality or applicant coordinates planting and approved permissions and agreements are in place.

- \$125,000 available

## Electrify Your Fleet Program

The VTrans has launched their Electrify Your Fleet program, offering organizations the opportunity to apply for up to twenty \$2,500 incentives. The Electrify Your Fleet program aims to transition from fossil-fueled transportation, addressing carbon emissions and promoting cleaner options. Priority is given to historically underserved communities. Eligible vehicles include electric, hybrid, bicycles, motorcycles, and snowmobiles. Participants must hold the vehicles for 24 months and demonstrate emission reduction. Learn more here and apply here!

**Due: Jun 2024**

[Learn More](#)

- \$5,000 min, \$50,000 max award
- Projects must be completed by 10/31/2025
- Eligibility: Projects must take place within 1 mile radius of designated areas through **VT ACCD designation programs**

## 2024 Urban & Community Forestry Grants

Projects should create and foster more resilient urban forests by increasing and maintaining a healthy urban tree canopy and access to nature. Projects must take place in or must directly serve at least one disadvantaged community.

- \$300,000 available
- \$5,000 min, \$50,000 max award
- **NO COST-SHARE REQUIREMENT!**
- Projects must be completed by 1/5/2026

**Due: Jan 5, 2024**

[Learn More](#)

Want to get in touch or ask us a question?

[Send Us A Message](#)

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*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 ADA accessible.*

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