

Addison County  
Regional Planning Commission



# ACRPC's Monthly Newsletter

May 2024



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## ACRPC UPDATE

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## Flood Hazards and River Corridor Protection

May 8, 1-4pm at ACRPC office conference room (14 Seminary Street, Middlebury)

Following the regular quarterly meeting of the Addison County Regional Emergency Management Committee (12-1pm), ACRPC will host a workshop on flood hazards and River Corridor Protection at the conference room and via Zoom.

Flood Resilience Educator Sarah Noyes and Watershed Restoration Manager Shayne Jacquith from The Nature Conservancy will lead the workshop with a focus on river behavior, as well as risk reduction and co-benefits including wildlife habitat connectivity. Attendees will learn about the benefits of and process of working towards updated Town plan flood resilience chapters, increased zoning protections and benefits, at-risk property buyouts, and restoration of stream buffers and wetlands.

Members of the public and town officials including Planning Commissioners, Development Review Board members, Town Administrators and Managers, and Conservation Commissioners are invited, and members of the REMC are welcome to stay and attend. If you have questions or topics you would specifically like to see addressed, please reach out to Andrew L'Roe, [alroe@acrpc.org](mailto:alroe@acrpc.org)



### Basin 3 CWSP Call for Proposals for Clean Water Projects

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. Applicants must consult with DEC staff on potential project impacts on natural resources, like wetlands or river corridors and to give DEC 30 days to review project impacts.

Applications for this round of funding are due: **June 12, 2024**

If you have any questions you can contact [Mike Winslow](#) or [Deron Rixon](#) by email.

[Read the Full RFP Here](#)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## Addison County Towns Receive Grant Funding From VTrans

Three towns in Addison County have received funding through VTrans Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and two have received funding through Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Program (MHSMP).

Congratulations to:

**Bridport (MHSMP) - \$776,880** towards replacing a culvert on Middle Rd

**Shoreham (TAP) - \$531,532** towards the construction of a new box culvert on Doolittle Road.

**Ferrisburgh (TAP) - \$500,000** towards the construction of multiple sidewalks along Route 7.

**Bristol (TAP) - \$240,000** towards the construction of a new ADA- accessible sidewalk along Airport Road.

**Middlebury (MHSMP) - \$232,000** towards stormwater treatment on Adams Acres.

## Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) Community Capacity Building Mini-Grants Closing!

The Mini-Grant application window is closing on **May 31!** If your municipality hasn't applied yet, we encourage you to do so right away.

**This grant is non-competitive; any covered municipality (a city, town, incorporated village, fire district, or any other governmental incorporated unit except for school districts) who is applying for the first time will be awarded a Mini-Grant.** The application is available on the BGS Mini-Grants page, where you can find community spotlights for inspiration on how to use your funds.

For municipalities that have received grant approval, it is important to return your signed agreement by June 30, 2024. **Mini-Grants will be denied if agreements are not received by this date.**

[Learn More](#)



**PLEASE JOIN THE CONVERSATION  
ABOUT VERMONT'S ELECTRIC GRID**  
Public Meetings on the 2024 Vermont Long-Range Transmission Plan

## Help shape VELCO's 2024 Vermont Long-Range Transmission Plan

VELCO designs, builds, owns and operates the statewide transmission system and is responsible for Vermont's transmission grid reliability. The Plan identifies the new transmission line investments that may be needed to maintain system reliability.

This three-year update of VELCO's 20-year plan is part of a collaborative planning process established by Vermont's Public Utility Commission. VELCO's outreach is intended to gather public input on how best to address system reliability challenges using transmission lines and other solutions that best meet Vermont's broader energy needs.

[View or Download Draft Plan](#)

Public Meeting details are as follows:

**May 1, 5:00pm - 7:00pm**  
Delta Hotel, 1117 Williston Rd, South Burlington, VT

**May 2, 12:00pm - 2:00pm**  
Virtual Meeting - Registration Required

**May 14, 12:00pm - 2:00pm**  
Delta Hotel, 1117 Williston Rd, South Burlington, VT

**May 15, 5:00pm - 7:00pm**  
St. Albans Town Office, 398 Georgia Shore Rd, St. Albans, VT

[Register for a Meeting or Leave Comments/Questions Here](#)

## GRANT & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

# Community

## Community Heart & Soul Grant Program

The Community Heart & Soul Seed Grant Program is uniquely designed for small cities and towns (population 2,500-30,000). Successful applicants will receive \$10,000 grants to match funding from a participating municipality or a partnering organization. Awards are made on a **rolling basis**.

[Learn More](#)

## Village Trust Initiative Has Launched!

Our villages are an essential part of Vermont's communities, identity, and future. The Village Trust Initiative (VTI) is designed to promote the community-driven revitalization of the physical and social infrastructure that have been the foundation of success for Vermont's small villages.

VTI is offered by the Preservation Trust of Vermont in partnership with the Vermont Council on Rural Development and the Vermont Community Foundation. The Initiative will offer expertise and funding to help 20 small Vermont towns create or bolster a local community trust organization and take on a transformational project in the village.

The Initiative's first year will support approximately seven communities. Selected communities will receive support with community engagement, pre-development technical assistance and consulting/contracted services, and substantial implementation funding.

The selection process begins with the completion of a simple intake form **due Friday May 24, 2024 by 4pm**. A select number from the pool of interested communities, will be invited to submit a full application.

[Learn More](#)

# Energy

## 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](#)

## Weatherization Repayment Assistance Program (WRAP)

The Weatherization Repayment Assistance Program (WRAP) may be able to help you. WRAP is intended to assist both homeowners and renters in Vermont in pursuing home weatherization projects by allowing them to pay for the costs over time through a low-interest monthly charge on their utility bill.

WRAP assists with projects like insulation and air sealing as well as heat pumps, electric water heaters and advanced wood heating systems.

[Learn More](#)

# Emergency Management

## Hazard Mitigation Funding Following 2023 Summer Flooding

As a result of the catastrophic flooding of July 2023, there will be nearly \$90 million in federal Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding available for Vermont communities. Importantly, the Administration and the State Legislature are working to allocate funding in the hopes that the State can cover the 25% non-federal cost share for hazard mitigation projects. Although VEM anticipates seeking additional time extensions from FEMA, **the current deadline for submitting pre-applications is June 21**

Eligible project types include:

- Buyouts
- Structural Elevations & Mitigation Reconstruction
- Natural resource projects such as floodplain restorations or dam removals
- Infrastructure projects such as upsizing bridges or culverts
- Floodproofing of municipal or commercial buildings
- Road relocation, elevation, or soil stabilization

[Learn More](#)

## Rural Fire Protection Grant Program

The installation of new dry hydrants and other types of rural water supplies is still the program priority, but eligible projects may include repair/upgrade, replacement, or relocation of existing rural water supplies (whether previously grant funded or not), and drafting site development. [Download the application packet here.](#)

[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

**2024 VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program**

## Natural Resources

**WUV Clean Water Workforce Capacity Development (CWWCD) Block Grant**

The VT Agency of Transportation is soliciting applications for projects through the **VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program**. The intent of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Program is to improve access and safety for bicyclists and/or pedestrians and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the planning, design and construction of infrastructure projects.

The Bike/Ped Program provides funding for the following facilities:

- Bike Lanes
- Shoulders
- Sidewalks
- Ped crossings improvements
- Pedestrian signals
- ADA improvements
- Shared-use paths

**Bike/Ped Program Webinar :**  
**May 15, 10:00am - 11:30am**

[Join the Meeting](#)  
[More Meeting Info](#)

**Applications Due: June 14th**

[Learn More](#)

## **Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program**

The SS4A program funds regional, local, and Tribal initiatives through grants to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries. Over \$3 billion is still available for future funding rounds. The SS4A program provides funding for two types of grants: **Planning and Demonstration Grants** and **Implementation Grants**.

**Planning and Demonstration Grants** provide Federal funds to develop, complete, or supplement an Action Plan. The goal of an Action Plan is to develop a holistic, well-defined strategy to prevent roadway fatalities and serious injuries in a locality, Tribal area, or region. Planning and Demonstration Grants also fund supplemental planning activities in support of an Action Plan and demonstration activities in support of an Action Plan.

**Implementation Grants** provide Federal funds to implement projects and strategies identified in an Action Plan to address a roadway safety problem. Eligible projects and strategies can be infrastructural,

Watersheds United Vermont (WUV) is pleased to announce the release of the WUV Clean Water Workforce Capacity Development (CWWCD) Block Grant funded through the Department of Environmental Conservation's Clean Water Initiative Program (CWIP).

The purpose of the CWWCD Block Grant is to support and invest in the capacity of clean water partners in Vermont, both current and potential, in an equitable and inclusive way to address unmet capacity needs and ensure a strong partnership network that continues to efficiently deliver high quality and high priority clean water projects.

**Applications Due: May 9, 2024**

[Learn More](#)

## **VT Urban & Community Forestry - Community Tree Planting Grant Program**

The Community Tree Planting Grant (CTPG) program goal is to support the planting of 2,000 trees statewide. The CTPG will hold two rounds of competitive grant applications to help fund tree planting projects in high priority areas across Vermont. These community projects will help increase urban tree canopy and improve water quality and public health by controlling stormwater.

Individual awards between **\$5,000-\$75,000** will support tree planting to advance placemaking, climate resilience, and health equity in urban areas across the state.

Applications for the first round of funding due: **May 17, 2024**.

[Learn More](#)

## **Forestry Accelerator Now Accepting Applications**

The Forestry Accelerator is a four month accelerator for North American start ups that are commercializing new and

behavioral, and/or operational activities. Implementation Grants may also include supplemental planning and demonstration activities to inform an existing Action Plan, and project-level planning, design, and development activities. Applicants must have an eligible comprehensive safety action plan (referred to as an “Action Plan”) to apply for an Implementation Grant.

The FY 2024 NOFO has multiple deadlines, depending on the grant type:

**May 16, 2024, 5 p.m. (EDT):** Sole deadline for Implementation Grants. Deadline #2 for Planning and Demonstration Grants.

**August 29, 2024, 5 p.m. (EDT):** Deadline #3 for Planning and Demonstration Grants. NOFO closes.

[Learn More](#)

improved products, services, and technology in the forest and wood industries. Companies receive expert advice and tools to build a market-validated business case, model, and operating plan through a rigorous commercialization curriculum, coaching, webinars and panels, and connections to industry experts, customers, and suppliers.

This program will run July - November 2024.

**Applications Due: June 14**

[Learn More](#)

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ask us a question?

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