



ACRPC Monthly Newsletter September 2025



[ACRPC Website](#)

[Minutes & Agendas](#)

The next ACRPC Full Commission meeting is
Wednesday, September 10th, at 7:00pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Act 181 Housing Targets & Future Land Use Planning - Learn More!](#)

If you missed ACRPC at Field Days and Farmers Markets, we are coming to a Library near you! Plus, the Energy Fair, Bristol Harvest Fest, Open Houses, and more!

What is this about? ACRPC will be discussing the Addison County Future Land Use Map, Housing Targets, and updates to its Regional Plan. The Future Land Use Mapping is part of Act 181, Vermont's new land use law passed by the



Visit our
Act 181
Website

Upcoming
Outreach
Schedule

Legislature in June 2024 modernizing portions of Act 250. Act 181 represents a shift in how Vermont approaches development, resilience, and natural resource protection. Act 47 of 2023 (aka HOME Act) introduced new requirements for regional and municipal plans, one being the inclusion of housing targets for 2030 and 2050 to ensure an adequate supply of safe and affordable housing.

Why is this important? Understanding these changes will help your community proactively plan for growth, align with state policy, and position itself for future funding and support.

ACRPC welcomes your comments and feedback.

Please join us at one of the following in-person events:

- Saturday, Sept 6th, 10am-3pm - Addison County Energy Fair
- Wednesday, Sept 10th, 7pm - ACRPC Monthly Commission Meeting
- Friday, Sept 12th, 9am-11am - Orwell Free Library
- Monday, Sept 15th, 1pm-3pm - Cornwall Free Public Library

See the [full schedule for the complete list of dates and locations](#)

For more information, visit our [ACT 181 website](#) or reach out to [Katie Raycroft-Meyer](#) or [Danelle Birong](#)

VT Technical Assistance Feedback Virtual Focus Group

October 1st, 6pm

Vermont's rural communities face growing challenges, including aging infrastructure, complex regulations, limited municipal capacity, and economic decline. While technical assistance (TA) providers exist, rural towns struggle to access the support they need.

In alignment with Act 181, this project is **evaluating Vermont's current municipal technical assistance system and developing recommendations to improve its effectiveness and accessibility.**

ACRPC will be hosting its second focus group, this time virtually, on **Wednesday, October 1, 2025 from 6pm - 7:30pm** with members from municipalities that are knowledgeable about and experienced with the technical assistance for community and economic development. This broad term is inclusive of assistance (funding, human, and knowledge resources) for such items as public infrastructure (wastewater, sidewalks, roads, etc.), housing development, climate resilience and disaster preparedness, historic preservation, disaster recovery, workforce and economic development, and more.

If you are interested in joining the upcoming Virtual Focus Group, date TBD, to share your ideas, please reach out to Danelle at dbirong@acrpc.org.

Your voice is essential to ensuring the recommendations reflect real



Addison County Regional Energy Fair

September 6th

The ACRPC, together with the Vergennes, Bristol, and Ferrisburgh Energy Committees, is excited to invite you all to the Addison County Regional Energy Fair this Saturday, September 6, 2025.

The Fair will take place from **10:00 AM–2:00 PM** at **Vergennes City Park (179 Main Street)**. Rain or shine, we'll be there!

Come on down to meet dozens of local vendors and community groups specializing in heat pumps, solar, EVs, home weatherization and energy efficiency, as well as teams leading municipal energy retrofits and town energy plan updates. Enjoy live music and take your chance with our raffle all while exploring practical energy solutions for your home, business, and community.

If you have questions or are interested in being a vendor—we still have a few spots left—then please e-mail Jolyon Larson at jl Larson@acrpc.org!

2026 Regional Project Priority (RPP) list

Addison County Economic Development Corporation (ACEDC)

The Addison County Economic Development Corporation (ACEDC) is currently compiling its 2026 Regional Project Priority (RPP) list. The RPP plays an important role in guiding federal, state, and regional funding awards for projects in Addison County.

The RPP reflects the top ten highest priority projects in Addison County and will be included in a consolidated statewide list submitted to the Agency of Commerce who will share it with other State and Federal funders to use in making funding decisions throughout 2026.

Submitted projects will be scored based on the following criteria:

- **Project Purpose and Benefits to the Region**
- **Project Timeline, Milestones, and Status**
- **Project Principal Experience**

- **Project Support and Regional Need**
- **Project Cost, Identified and Committed Funding/Financing, and a Funding Gap**
- **Job Creation and Retention**

To submit a project for consideration and scoring, please complete a Project Information Form and submit via email to Alex Armani-Munn at aarmani-munn@addisoncountyedc.org no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, October 31st.

Project Information
Form

2025 Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions Annual Meeting- September 10th

The Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions (AVCC) invites members of the conservation community to join them on Zoom at **12:00 pm on Wednesday, September 10th** for their 2025 Virtual Summit and Annual Meeting.

The meeting will include presentations from some of their recent Tiny Grant recipients and their project partners, as well as AVCC programmatic and financial reports, membership updates, and the election of up to three new members to our Board of Directors. Lastly, we will preview what's ahead for the AVCC and our members, and solicit your thoughts and feedback on how we can best support your commission moving forward.

Register today to receive future updates and a Zoom link to the meeting!

AVCC Website

Registration
Link



VCDA Fall Conference: Repurposing Civic Buildings into Community Assets

Wednesday, September 24th 9:00am-3:30pm
The Old School Community Center in Wilmington, VT

This year's VCDA Fall Conference will explore how underutilized community buildings can be transformed to meet evolving community needs. Whether it's impending school closures, vacant churches, or unused municipal space,

Vermont communities are thinking proactively about the potential uses of these buildings – from housing to childcare centers, local gathering hubs, and more.

Attendees will learn about creative financing pathways, partnership models, and hear success stories. Join local leaders, planners, and development partners to share ideas, strategies and inspiring examples of how the reuse of these assets can strengthen and revitalize our communities.

Don't miss this opportunity to connect with fellow community champions, gain valuable insights, and contribute to the collective work of building a brighter future for Vermont.

[Check out the website](#) for agenda and presenter information!

Fall Conference Website

GRANT & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



PRESERVATION TRUST OF VERMONT

Village Trust Initiative Now Accepting Applications

The [Village Trust Initiative \(VTI\)](#) VTI is currently supporting seven communities with technical assistance and funding to create a Community Trust and take on a transformational revitalization project.

The Village Trust Initiative will offer expertise and funding to help 20 small towns create or bolster a local community trust organization and take on a transformational revitalization project in the village. These projects could be the revitalization of a general store, the creation of a community center, improvement of accessibility of an old town hall, or the renovation of a large historic home into village-scale housing. There are many possibilities, so bring your creativity and vision to the table!

To participate in this program your community must:

- Be a town of fewer than 2,500 residents based on the 2020 Decennial Census.
- Have an existing community trust organization or the desire to build one.
- Be interested in a revitalization project utilizing a historic resource or site in an established village environment. Greenspace and trails are not eligible.
- Have site control. (For questions about site control please connect with Nicole Gratton at nicole@ptvermont.org.)
- Have endorsement by the Selectboard to participate in the program (a motion in Selectboard meeting minutes or a letter indicating support).

Village Trust Initiative
Webpage

Lake Champlain Basin Program Seeks Proposals for Conservation and Community Interpretive Theme Grants

The Patrick Leahy Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP), in coordination with New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC), seeks proposals for projects that interpret, highlight, and showcase human interaction with the natural world.

Awarded projects should highlight the *Conservation & Community Interpretive Theme* as described by the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership (CVNHP) Management Plan, as well as support the “Biosphere in Your Backyard” campaign developed by the Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Network (CABN).

Approximately \$40,000 in funding is available to support awarded projects, and grants of up to \$10,000 will be awarded. One proposal may be submitted per eligible organization.

This grant opportunity is supported by funds awarded to NEIWPCC by the U.S. National Park Service on behalf of the Lake Champlain Basin Program. Proposals should offer a scope that supports work in the U.S. portion of the Lake Champlain Basin and the Adirondack Park. All awards are subject to funding availability.

Proposals are due on **September 15, 2025**. Projects are targeted to begin work in February 2026 and must be completed by March 2027. The proposal guidelines, list of eligible entities, submission requirements, and an electronic submission application link are available on the CVNHP website at <https://champlainvalleynhp.org/resources/grants/>

For more information about the CVNHP Request for Proposals, please contact CVNHP Assistant Director Jim Brangan at jbrangan@lcbp.org.

Champlain Valley Natural Heritage Partnership
Webpage

Lake Champlain Basin Program Seeks Proposals for Clean Water Planning and Implementation Projects

LCBP, in partnership with NEIWPCC, seeks proposals for projects that improve water quality in the Lake Champlain Basin. The intent of this funding opportunity is to improve water quality through the planning, design, or prioritization for future

water quality improvement projects, or the implementation of projects that will directly result in the reduction of water pollution in Lake Champlain and its tributaries.

Proposals for grants will fall into one of three categories:

1. Clean water: small grants for implementation (up to \$50,000)
2. Clean water: large grants for implementation (\$50,001 – \$200,000)
3. Clean water: grants for planning (up to \$100,000)

Eligible organizations include colleges and universities; nonprofit organizations; for-profit companies, Vermont Natural Resource Conservation Districts; and non-federal, non-state government agencies, including municipalities.

An informational webinar covering clean water, healthy ecosystems and aquatic invasive species grants will be offered on **September 9, 2025 at 12:00PM**

Proposals are due at **5:00 PM EST on September 29, 2025.**

Awarded clean water projects are targeted to begin work in May 2026 and must be completed by June 2029.

LCBP Grant guidelines and applications

2025 AARP Vermont Winter Placemaking Grant Program

AARP Vermont invites Municipalities and 501 (c)(3)/501 (c)(4) nonprofits to apply for these grants to support quick-action projects that launch winter placemaking demonstrations aimed at creating or reinventing public spaces to enhance safety, accessibility, and overall attractiveness. AARP will award up to six communities or organizations funding of up to \$4,000 each.

Vermont's cold and dark winter months present several challenges for residents statewide, including social isolation. The Winter Placemaking grant program aims to help communities embrace winter by transforming public spaces to promote activities and social interaction. **AARP Vermont will host an informational webinar on **September 10 at 12:00 p.m.**** for potential applicants to ask questions, as well as learn about grant writing assistance available to applicants. Register for the webinar here: <https://events.aarp.org/placemaking25>

Application Deadline: October 3, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

AARP Winter Placemaking Website

Educational Opportunities

Vermont Local Roads
2025 Municipal Complete Streets Training

The Vermont Agency of Transportation in partnership with the Regional Planning Commissions are hosting seven complete streets trainings. This training will introduce complete streets principles with an emphasis on creating a common understanding of complete street elements and the importance of context and incremental improvements.

This training includes a walk audit that is foundational to the rest of the training, a presentation of relevant material to create a common understanding of Complete Streets principles followed by a group activity to apply concepts discussed and share ideas. A 30- minute lunch (provided by the host RPC) is incorporated into the scheduled time.

Register for one of the seven training courses:

- **September 30, 10 AM-2:30 PM** Wilmington Public Safety Building Meeting Room, 40 Beaver St, Wilmington; Hosted by Windham Regional Commission (WRC)
- **October 7, 10 AM-2:30 PM** Danville Town Clerk Office, 36 US-2 West, Danville; Hosted by Northeastern Vermont Development Association (NVDA)
- **October 14, 2025, 9:30 AM-2:00 PM:** Hotel Coolidge, 39 S Main St, White River Junction; Hosted by Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) and Mount Ascutney Regional Planning Commission (MARC)
- **October 23, 2025, 10 AM-2:30 PM:** West Rutland Town Hall Auditorium, 35 Marble St, West Rutland; Hosted by Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC)
- **October 28, 2025, 10 AM-2:30 PM:** Northfield Community Room: 75 S Main St, Northfield; Hosted by Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC)
- **October 30, 2025, 10 AM-2:30 PM:** Swanton Village Municipal Complex – Auditorium, 120 First Street, Swanton; Hosted by Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NRPC)
- **November 6, 2025, 10 AM-2:30 PM:** United Church of Underhill, 7 Park St, Underhill; Hosted by Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC)

For additional information contact the hosting
RPC

2025 STATE GOVERNMENT MUNICIPAL DAY

A day of Workshops for Vermont's Officials and Volunteers

October 17, 2025, from 7:45 am - 3:45 pm
National Life, Montpelier

The Agency of Natural Resources (ANR), in cooperation with Vermont Emergency Management (VEM), Land Use Review Board Board (LURB), Agency of Commerce & Community Development (ACCD), and the Agency of Agriculture Food & Markets (AAFM), is hosting a day-long event that will include workshops, a plenary session with the Executive Director of the Northern Border Regional Commission, Sarah Waring, and networking opportunities with colleagues from across Vermont. 30 different workshops will be offered!

The \$35 registration fee, payable by credit card, includes morning coffee/tea, pastries, and a buffet lunch.

Questions may be directed to:
Emma Ramirez-Richer, Executive Assistant
(802) 828-0316
emma.ramirez-richer@vermont.gov

[Municipal Day Website](#)

[Registration](#)

Want to get in touch or
ask us a question?

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All programs of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission are ADA accessible.

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