












Northwest Regional Planning Commission

155 Lake Street, St. Albans, VT 05478

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The NRPC Thanks Our 2010 Volunteers:



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Vermont Energy & Climate Action Network Grant Program for Local Energy Initiatives

The Vermont Energy & Climate Action Network (VECAN) grant program will support Vermont groups working on energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in their communities that support local sustainability. The goals of the initiative are: To build Vermont's leadership fostering and supporting energy and climate change strategies at the community level; to decrease community carbon footprints; and to increase carbon-free energy independence by supporting the implementation of community based energy projects.

Grants will range from \$1,000 to \$3,000, with an application deadline of January 31, 2011. Grant applications will be reviewed by a committee made up of the key VECAN support organizations and members of the VECAN Advisory Committee. The funding is made possible by a Department of Energy grant secured by Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders.

To find many more details about the grant program and download the grant application go to www.vecan.net or call the New England Grassroots Environment Fund's (NEGEF) office at (802) 223-4622. Please feel free to call or e-mail NEGEF, who is the VECAN partner administering the grant program, with questions or to discuss project ideas.

VECAN is a collaborative effort of six nonprofit organizations: Community Climate Action, New England Grassroots Environment Fund, Vermont Sierra Club, Sustainable Energy Resource Group, Vermont Energy Investment Corporation and the Vermont Natural Resources Council.



VYCC Crew Funding Available

The Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) has extended its application deadline for transportation-related projects for the 2011 field season. Through a partnership with the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans), the VYCC has funding for crews to work on transportation projects. Potential projects include work on bike and pedestrian paths, streetscape improvements, road drainage improvements, road stabilization, and other projects meeting the Transportation Enhancement program criteria listed on the VYCC website (www.vycc.org).



The VYCC is a non-profit, statewide youth service organization. Under experienced adult leadership, small teams of youth, ages sixteen through twenty-four, undertake priority conservation projects such as watershed restoration, trail maintenance, and historic preservation. The VYCC provides work crews on a weekly or monthly basis to towns, agencies, or organizations in need of short-term crew services. Crews must work on public lands (including private lands with public easements), waters, or buildings.

Communities interested in making improvements to roads, paths, trails, and other community transportation resources are encouraged to apply. Project applications for the 2011 season should be submitted to the VYCC by January 14th. Applications are available at www.vycc.org/projects/hirecrew/projectapplication.html.

For questions contact Keegan Tierney, VYCC Operations Manager at (802) 434-3969 x141 or Keegan.Tierney@vycc.org. NRPC has helped communities define projects to make the most of VYCC assistance. Please contact Bethany or Deb for more information.

September 11 Memorial

Members of the Grand Isle VFW and South Hero Fire Department presented the first flag flown at the newly constructed September 11 memorial located on the U.S. Route 2 Sandbar in Lake Champlain. The memorial was first established nine years ago by several Grand Isle County residents in remembrance of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. This fall, the flag was relocated from its original spot in order to provide a safer and more accessible location. This flag, first flown on September 11, 2010 was presented to staff of the Vermont Agency of Transportation District Office for appreciation of their work and commitment to support the construction of the memorial. Anyone interested in having a memorial flag flown at this location should contact Mike Guernsey of the Grand Isle VFW (mbrowncow@aol.com or 372-3018).



Assistance Available to Plan Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure in Franklin County

The NRPC is currently offering assistance to Franklin County municipalities interested in planning bicycle or pedestrian projects within downtowns, village centers, or growth centers. This assistance is made possible through a grant from the US Department of Energy, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block grant program.



Creating walk-able or bike-able downtowns and village centers can bring more vitality to a community. Safe, accessible walking and biking facilities can improve the physical fitness of community members and eliminate traffic congestion. Walking and biking to work, school or to access services can cut spending on gas for families in the area.

Potential projects include creating or updating sidewalk plans, studying the feasibility of sidewalks or shared-use paths, or other related work needed to develop or implement a bicycle or pedestrian infrastructure project. Projects will be selected based on feasibility and timeliness in regard to availability of funding and other resources. The NRPC is not able to offer funding for construction at this time, but advanced planning can make communities more competitive for grants or assist communities interested in implementing projects locally. For more information please contact Cristina or Bethany at 524-5958.

NRPC Staff

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Northwest Regional Board of Commissioners

Alburgh Town:	Terry Tatro Barbara Baker
Alburgh Village:	Andrea Beaderstadt One Vacant Seat
Bakersfield:	Nancy Hunt Dennis DeBevec
Berkshire:	Claude Charron Richard Ross
Enosburg Falls:	Richard Roberge Michael Manahan
Enosburgh:	Ronald Duso Lloyd Touchette
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Fairfield:	Marilyn Savoy Jason Booth
Fletcher:	Bruce Douglas One Vacant Seat
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Georgia:	Jerry Baitz Kirk Waite
Grand Isle:	Edwin Gelinus David Borthwick-Leslie
Highgate:	Pete Paquette One Vacant Seat
Isle La Motte:	Sylvia Jensen Robin Gutierrez
Montgomery:	Barry Kade Darlene Marrier
North Hero:	John Lambert One Vacant Seat
Richford:	Melissa Wells Harold Foote
St Albans City:	Joseph Luneau Lazarus Scangas
St Albans Town:	John Gray Paul Larner
Sheldon:	Patrick Howrigan Greg Stebbins
South Hero:	Michael Guernsey Bob Buermann
Swanton Town:	Harold Garrett Robert Manning
Swanton Village:	Christopher Leach Neal Speer

NRPC JANUARY CALENDAR

Jan. 12th, 5:30pm, Policy/Project Review Committee Mtg., NRPC Conference Room

Jan. 13th, 7:00pm, Transportation Advisory Committee Mtg., NRPC Conference Room

Jan. 20th, 3:00pm, Brownfields Steering Committee Mtg., NRPC Conference Room

Jan. 26th, 7:00pm, NRPC Board Mtg., WIB Training Facility, Precision Lane, Swanton

Rail Trail Meeting

The Northwest Vermont Rail Trail Council will hold its Annual Meeting and election of members-at-large at 6 p.m. on Monday, January 10th, 2011, at Sheldon Elementary School, Sheldon Springs, VT. If you would like to be a candidate, call Cynthia (802) 933-8851 prior to January 9th.

The Council is a non-profit organization that works for the Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail. The Council advises the State on trail issues, assists trail users, and helps make trail improvements. Recent activities include a photo contest and kayak, bicycling and hiking outings. The Council also raises funds for amenities to benefit Trail users. Council members are encouraged to attend Council business meetings which are held six times a year.



NRPC Mailing List Updates!

Please help us keep our mailing list up to date. Let us know if: your address needs to be updated, your name is misspelled, or if you would prefer to receive the newsletter by email.

Send us your updates by: **Fax:** 802-527-2948, **Email:** aadams@nrpcvt.com

Mail: Northwest Regional Planning Commission, Attn: Amy Adams
155 Lake Street, St. Albans, VT 05478

As always, you can check out our website: www.nrpcvt.com.

Thanks for your assistance in helping us keep our information up to date!



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