



December 2014



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**Regional Plan  
for Sustainable  
Development**

TRORC is working with the East Central Vermont Consortium to develop a vision and plan for a sustainable future.

**We want to hear  
from you!**

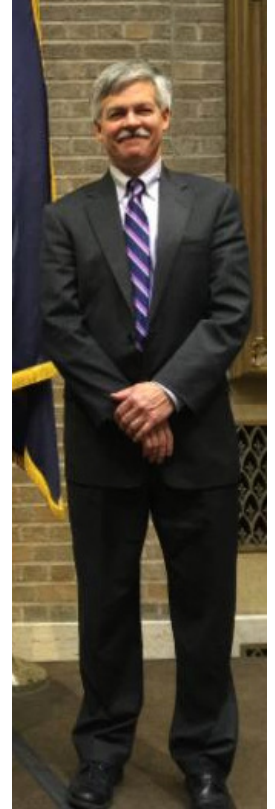
Share your vision of the future by visiting the ECV website:

[www.ecvermont.org](http://www.ecvermont.org)

## **Peter Gregory Celebrates 25 Years at TRORC**

TRORC Executive Director Peter Gregory has reached a milestone in service as a planner in Vermont, serving 25 years at TRORC. Peter joined the organization in March of 1989, relocating from Florida, and took over as Executive Director from long-serving Don Bourdon in 1997. Peter has also served as former president of the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies (VAPDA), currently serves as Government Relations Committee chairman, previously served as treasurer of the Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District, on the board of the Vermont Transportation Operations Council, and currently serves as Chairman at the Vermont State Infrastructure Bank. Peter helped develop the Vermont Byways Program, provided staff support for the Vermont Scenery Preservation Council, and is active on the Connecticut River Byway Council Steering Committee. He was presented with the Regional Leadership award by the New England Association of Regional Councils in 2003 and The Vermont Planners Association Mark Blucher Professional Planner of the Year award in 2012. Peter was also elected to the National Association of Development Organization's (NADO) board of directors in 2007, and served as NADO President from 2013-2014. Under Peter's leadership, TRORC has been recognized by the Preservation Trust of Vermont with the 2014 Preservation Award for its work protecting our region's downtowns.

TRORC is greatly appreciative of Peter's commitment to this Region, and looks forward to his continued service and dedication to the towns of TRORC!



## **Update on "East Central Vermont: What We Want"**

Three years in and our HUD Sustainable Communities regional planning is coming to fruition. The final action plan, East Central Vermont: What We Want, was developed as a result of this process, and it will be available in January at [www.trorc.org](http://www.trorc.org). The next steps in the process include determining how we will move the action plan forward over the next several months. We focused specifically on housing, regional transportation, climate and economic resilience, habitat, water supply, building energy, and healthy communities.



If you would like to be part of the conversation on how we move our plan forward, join us Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at the Hotel Coolidge at 9:30 AM. For more information about the project, contact Lorelee Morrow at 802-457-3188 or [lmorrow@trorc.org](mailto:lmorrow@trorc.org).

## Staff

Bob Ennis  
Grant Administrator

Pete Fellows, CFM  
GIS Manager

Kevin Geiger, AICP,  
CFM Senior Planner

Dee Gish  
Finance Manager

Peter G. Gregory, AICP  
Executive Director

Samantha Holcomb  
CFM Planner

Pollaidh Major,  
VISTA Member

Loralee Morrow, LEED  
AP Regional Planner

Ellie Ray,  
Regional Planner

Chris Sargent, AICP  
Senior Planner

Rita Seto, AICP  
Senior Planner

## Executive Committee

William B. Emmons, III  
Chairperson -  
Pomfret

David Brandau  
Vice Chairperson -  
Royalton

Paul Haskell  
Secretary - Sharon

Gerald Fredrickson  
Treasurer - Barnard

Frank Roderick -  
Corinth

Nancy Jones -  
Bradford

## Caring for Our Own

All around our region, heroic caregivers accept the responsibility of providing essential support to people living with disabilities. A disabled person is defined by the state as a person “requiring the help of another person to perform two or more activities of daily living,” and this definition applies to 14.2% of Orange County residents and 16.9% of Windsor County residents. Tragically, 18.1% of Orange County’s disabled residents and 23% of Windsor County’s disabled residents live in poverty. These poverty rates are significantly higher than the poverty rate for the general population, and they indicate that those who, by definition, most need the support of the community are not always receiving it.



Source: [www.zacksplacevt.org](http://www.zacksplacevt.org)

As community members and planners, we have a responsibility to find ways to ensure that the needs of this population are incorporated into the planning process, and to support the efforts of caregivers. One innovative solution is Zack’s Place in Woodstock. Zack’s Place is an enrichment center for people with disabilities that engages the community in caring for its disabled residents through school partnerships, volunteer opportunities, and community events. Dail Frates, Executive Director of Zack’s Place, says that what makes the community center such a strong model is that it’s truly “the community caring for their own.” Our communities will all be stronger if we support the needs of our vulnerable residents. We must all answer the question: how can we build our community so we can provide adequate care for our own?

## TRORC Towns Awarded Municipal Planning Grants

Congratulations to the towns of Barnard, Bethel, Brookfield, Chelsea, Pittsfield, and Strafford for their FY15 Municipal Planning Grant awards! The towns have cumulatively been awarded \$60,431 to accomplish the following projects:

- Barnard: major revision of the Barnard Town Plan that will incorporate new data, and address new chapters now required by statute.
- Bethel: complete revision of the Bethel Zoning Bylaw (which includes Flood Hazard Regulations).
- Brookfield: revision and update to the Brookfield Town Plan with a specific focus on the Flood Resiliency and Economic Development Elements.
- Chelsea: complete revision of the Chelsea Zoning and Flood Hazard Regulations.
- Pittsfield: revision and update to the Pittsfield Town Plan with a specific focus on the Flood Resiliency Element.
- Strafford: development and drafting of a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.



Post-Irene River Work, Bethel

The staff at TRORC looks forward to assisting these towns with their MPG projects. If you would like to learn more about MPG opportunities and how TRORC can provide assistance with applications and implementation, please contact Chris Sargent at [csargent@trorc.org](mailto:csargent@trorc.org) or by calling 457-3188.





East Central Vermont has Preferred Sustainability Status (PSS) through the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, which benefits all the communities in the 40-town region - not just the East Central Vermont: What We Want project. HUD awards 2 bonus points to applicants that are working within us to further the Livability Principles. Other federal entities; such as, EPA and DOT also recognize the PSS points when reviewing grant applications.

Please contact Lorelee Morrow at [lmorrow@trorc.org](mailto:lmorrow@trorc.org) for more information.

## FY17 Regional Transportation Project Prioritization

Every year, TRORC's staff works with the Transportation Advisory Committee and town officials to prioritize transportation projects in the region. Each project is ranked by VTrans according to engineering criteria and other technical factors, as well as by TRORC (in assessing economic, historic, and other considerations).

VTrans' analysis comprises 80% of the final decision, while TRORC's fills in the remaining 20%. TRORC will have a draft project prioritization list ready for public comment by mid-January. Many of the region's projects prioritized last year are in design and engineering or front-of-the-book phase (i.e., ready to go, but waiting for appropriate funding). Please visit <http://www.trorc.org/transportation-project-prioritization-fy16/> to see the full list from last year or contact Rita Seto ([rseto@trorc.org](mailto:rseto@trorc.org) or 457-3188) with inquiries.

## TRORC Culvert Resiliency Project

Twelve towns that were heavily impacted by T.S. Irene and have out-dated culvert inventories (Barnard, Braintree, Bethel, Granville, Hartford, Hartland, Pittsfield, Rochester, Sharon, Stockbridge, Tunbridge, and Woodstock) are participating with TRORC in updating their culvert inventories with GPS points, prioritizing poor condition culverts, and identifying 5 - 10 high priority erosion project sites. The GPS data will be uploaded to the statewide online culvert database at [www.VTCulverts.org](http://www.VTCulverts.org). This strategic planning effort will assist towns with readiness for future implementation grants; will serve as a good budgeting tool for highway/town needs; will help mitigate erosion/water quality issues; will ensure that priority projects are already vetted by ANR River Engineers; and will be integrated into town Hazard Mitigation Plans for future HMGP funding. As of 2014, GPS data for Braintree, Bethel, Hartford, Stockbridge, Tunbridge, and Woodstock has been collected (4,718 GPS points in all). The remaining towns will start work in Spring 2015. Please contact Rita Seto ([rseto@trorc.org](mailto:rseto@trorc.org) or 457-3188) with inquiries.

## Building a Resilient Local Economy

TRORC is part of the Upper Valley Adaptation Workgroup (UVAW), whose work focuses on climate adaptation. UVAW will hold a workshop on business resiliency on February 3, 2015. In addition, UVAW is seeking to partner with selected businesses in the Upper Valley to provide education and student consulting to support business continuity planning and economic resilience. There will be no cost to your business, as the program is supported by grants, sponsorships, and volunteers. If you would like to join this partnership or for additional information about this opportunity, please contact: Alex Jaccaci, Co-Chair, UVAW at [alex.jaccaci@hypertherm.com](mailto:alex.jaccaci@hypertherm.com) or (603) 643-3441, ext. 1674.



*Brookfield Floating Bridge*



*Bethel Road Foreman Robert Hyde measuring a 11" x 15" squash culvert.*



*Tropical Storm Irene damage to the White Cottage, Woodstock*

## VTrans On-Road Bicycle Plan

The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) is reaching out to learn where individuals currently enjoy bicycle riding as well as those places where people would like to be able to ride safely on state roadways. This will help inform plans to determine where work is most needed to ensure roads are bike-friendly to the public. To learn more and participate in this project, you may either:

1. Mark your calendar to attend or stream the project's public meeting on December 9, 2014 from 6-8 pm and April 30, 2015 from 6-8 pm.
2. Add your information to the On-Road Bicycle Plan WikiMap online at <http://vtransplanning.vermont.gov/bikeplan>

To learn more on this new VTrans effort, please visit the website noted above.



## Efficiency Vermont Soliciting Information for Three Year Plan

Efficiency Vermont is creating a three year plan for Vermont's Energy Efficiency Utility, and is looking for feedback, comments, and suggestions from the public. If you are interested in learning more about this plan, please visit the plan website (<http://tinyurl.com/nsgkpk2>) to review the presentation given at statewide forums over October and November. Additionally, you may complete an online survey on priorities and programs to share your thoughts on the Plan or contact Efficiency Vermont Director Jim Merriam at [jmerriam@veic.org](mailto:jmerriam@veic.org) or by calling (802) 540-7604.



## ANR River Corridor Base Map Released

Earlier this year, Vermont ANR launched its Flood Ready Vermont website (<http://floodready.vermont.gov>) to provide residents, towns, and planners with easy access to community, regional, and state-based data and resources on flooding, including individual community flood readiness reports and plans, ERAF information, and a host of logistical and financial resources. In November, ANR released a river corridor base map to delineate a zone for the avoidance and management of erosion hazards of river corridors, statewide. For further information on, and access to, this map, please visit <http://floodready.vermont.gov/node/730>.



*Source: [floodready.vermont.gov](http://floodready.vermont.gov)*

## Nominations Being Accepted for the 2015 Vermont Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence

Since 1993, the Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence have been awarded to recognize Vermonters' efforts to conserve and protect the state's natural resources, prevent pollution, and promote environmental sustainability. Over 200 awards have been made to date to individuals, organizations, institutions, public agencies, and businesses to advance environmental causes and create a greener, more sustainable Vermont. Nominations for awards are due by February 2, 2015. For more information and to make a nomination, please visit the Environmental Assistance Office website: <http://www.eaovt.org/gap/index.htm>.



*Source: [www.eaovt.org](http://www.eaovt.org)*

## Announcements

### Agricultural Land Use Planning Modules Available

The Farm to Plate Agricultural Land Use Planning Task Force has recently released a revised agricultural land use planning guide for local and regional planners. There are a total of five modules available, covering the following areas: agriculture and food system planning, agricultural land conservation, farmland and property taxes, local regulatory context, and state regulations. To learn more about these modules and the overall Farm to Plate initiative, please visit the group website at <http://www.vtfoodatlas.com>.



Source: [www.vtfoodatlas.com](http://www.vtfoodatlas.com)

### Creating Prosperity & Opportunity Confronting Climate Change Summit

Vermont Council on Rural Development will be hosting a summit to launch the Vermont Climate Economy Council on February 18, 2015 at Vermont Technical College. The premise of the summit is that innovative economic development can be leveraged as a strategy to simultaneously confront climate change while also creating jobs, building a national reputation, encouraging entrepreneurialism, and promoting the in-migration of young adults to Vermont. To learn more about the summit, please visit the VCRD website at <http://www.vtrural.org/programs/climate-economy>.



Source: [www.vtrural.org](http://www.vtrural.org)

## Upcoming Events

### December 10 - TRORC Board Meeting

5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Thompson Senior Center, Woodstock

For more information, contact Dee Gish at [dgish@trorc.org](mailto:dgish@trorc.org).

### December 11 - Orange & Windsor Counties Road Foreman Regional Meeting

9:30 AM - 11:40 AM

Ludlow Public Safety Building, Ludlow

For additional information on this event, please view the following agenda by visiting <http://tinyurl.com/nbsga4a>.

### December 18 - LEPC #12 Meeting

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Location TBD

For more information, contact Rita Seto at [rseto@trorc.org](mailto:rseto@trorc.org) or 457-3188.

### December 18 - AIVT Environmental & Regulatory Seminar

8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Capitol Plaza Hotel, Montpelier

Associated Industries of Vermont will host a special seminar focusing on key environmental and regulatory issues, with presentations and Q&A with private and public sector experts. For information on planned topics, an updated agenda, and access to both a printable and an on-line registration form, please visit the AIVT website at <http://www.aivt.org>.

## Upcoming Events

### **January 8 - Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting**

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Location TBD

For more information, contact Rita Seto at [rseto@trorc.org](mailto:rseto@trorc.org) or 457-3188.

### **January 11 - “East Central Vermont: What We Want” Meeting**

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Hotel Coolidge, White River Junction

For more information, contact Lorelee Morrow at [lmorrow@trorc.org](mailto:lmorrow@trorc.org) or call 457-3188.

## Grants/Funding Opportunities

### **Economic Injury Disaster Loans**

The U.S. Small Business Administration is offering federal economic injury disaster loans to small businesses (including agricultural cooperatives, aquaculture businesses, and most private non-profits) in Windsor and Orange Counties, following extreme weather between December 1, 2013 and April 30, 2014. This follows on the heels of a Secretary of Agriculture-issued disaster declaration to help farmers recover from damages and crop losses. Loans can be made for as much as \$2 million, and applications must be returned to the SBA no later than June 1, 2015. To learn more, visit <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>.



### **GMP Non-Profit Solar Power Grants**

Green Mountain Power is offering eight grants of up to \$20,000 to non-profit organizations serviced by GMP to install solar power arrays. These grants will help non-profits lower energy cost outlays as well as the overall impacts of energy use. Grant funding must be matched by the non-profit applicant. To learn more about this opportunity, please contact David Dunn via e-mail at [david.dunn@greenmountainpower.com](mailto:david.dunn@greenmountainpower.com) or by calling (802) 353-1456.



Source: [www.greenmountainpower.com](http://www.greenmountainpower.com)

### **USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Funding**

Community Facilities grants and loans are being awarded to non-profits and other bodies that serve communities with populations of up to 20,000 residents for the purposes of renovation, repair, purchase, or construction of buildings that house community services through USDA Rural Development. Vermont Rural Development is accepting applications for FY 2015 Community Facilities Grant funding on a rolling basis for grants of up to \$50,000 (with a match required, which may be in the form of a USDA Rural Development Loan). For further information on these funding opportunities, visit the USDA Rural Development website. Additionally, you can reach out to one of the following state contacts:



Source: [rurdev.usda.gov](http://rurdev.usda.gov)

- Andrea Ansevin-Allen (Rutland and Windsor Counties contact): (802) 257-7878, ext. 113 or [andrea.ansevinallen@vt.usda.gov](mailto:andrea.ansevinallen@vt.usda.gov)
- James Plouffe (Orange and Addison Counties contact): (802) 828-6004 or [james.plouffe@vt.usda.gov](mailto:james.plouffe@vt.usda.gov)



## Vermont Aquatic Nuisance Species Grants

The Department of Environmental Conservation's Watershed Management Division is offering financial assistance to municipalities and state agencies to support aquatic nuisance species management projects. Funding can be used to address all types of aquatic nuisance control, be it for native or non-native species management. Grants require a 25% in-kind match (labor, services, or cash), and applications are due February 11, 2015. To learn more about project selection and application information, please visit the program website at <http://tinyurl.com/ky76k79>.



## PACE Energy Financing

Through the Property Assessed Clean Energy program, Vermonters have access to low-interest rate financing opportunities to make home energy efficiency improvements. Energy audits, weatherization, cold climate heat pump installation, solar/heat pump water heaters, high efficiency heating systems, and renewable energy generation systems are all eligible under this program at rates as low as 0% (program dependent rates). If you are a resident of a PACE town (Bradford, Hartford, Hartland, Norwich, Randolph, Sharon, Strafford, Thetford, Vershire, or Woodstock) and are interested in this financing opportunity or learning about upcoming PACE forums, contact your town energy committee, SERG at (802) 785-4126, or Efficiency Vermont at [www.efficiencyvermont.com/PACE](http://www.efficiencyvermont.com/PACE), [PACE@efficiencyvermont.com](mailto:PACE@efficiencyvermont.com) or (888) 921-5990.



## VT Farm Fund Business Builder & Emergency Loans

The Vermont Farm Fund, part of the Center for and Agricultural Economy, offers lending opportunities to local farmers and food producers throughout the state. Business Builder lending opportunities are awarded for \$5,000-\$30,000 to fund projects that build business and result in an increase in the diversity of foods produced in the state. Emergency Loans range from \$5,000-10,000, and are intended to support farmers that have suffered a devastating loss that puts their career or farm in jeopardy. For further information on these programs, visit the VFF website at <https://www.vermontfarmfund.org/loan-programs>.



Source: [www.vermontfarmfund.org](http://www.vermontfarmfund.org)

## Advanced Biofuel Payment Program

Each fiscal year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will make payments to biofuel producers to support the continued and expanded production of advanced biofuels that are not corn-derived (e.g., fuels that are produced from renewable biomass crops and other materials). If you are a biofuel producer or know of any within the region that may benefit from this subsidy scheme, please visit the USDA Rural Development page at [http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP\\_biofuels.html](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_biofuels.html) to learn more.





Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

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128 King Farm Rd. • Woodstock, VT 05091