



*Braintree, VT  
Source: First Light Studios*

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## DETERMINATION OF ENERGY COMPLIANCE FOR TOWN PLANS

Act 174 which was passed in 2016, established a new set of municipal and regional energy planning standards to better integrate energy, transportation, and land use planning in the state. TRORC received its Determination of Energy Compliance from the Department of Public Service in September 2017, which gives the RPC the ability to review and provide a Determination of Energy Compliance to municipal plans in the region. If your town is ready to submit its plan to TRORC for Enhanced Energy Compliance Determination, the plan submitted by town must:

- Be adopted by the Selectboard;
- Be approved under 24 V.S.A. § 4350;
- Include an energy element that has the same components as described in 24 V.S.A. § 4302(f)(1); and
- Meet all state standards for issuing a determination of energy compliance.

For a complete submission towns must send the following to TRORC:

- A digital copy of the municipal plan and all accompanying maps;
- Completed Energy Planning Standards for Municipal Plans checklist; and
- Completed and signed Energy Planning Resolution.

**For more information please visit: <http://www.trorc.org/programs/energy/enhanced-energy-determination/> or contact Chris Damiani at [cdamiani@trorc.org](mailto:cdamiani@trorc.org).**

## HIGH RESOLUTION ELEVATION DATA AVAILABLE FOR OUR REGION!

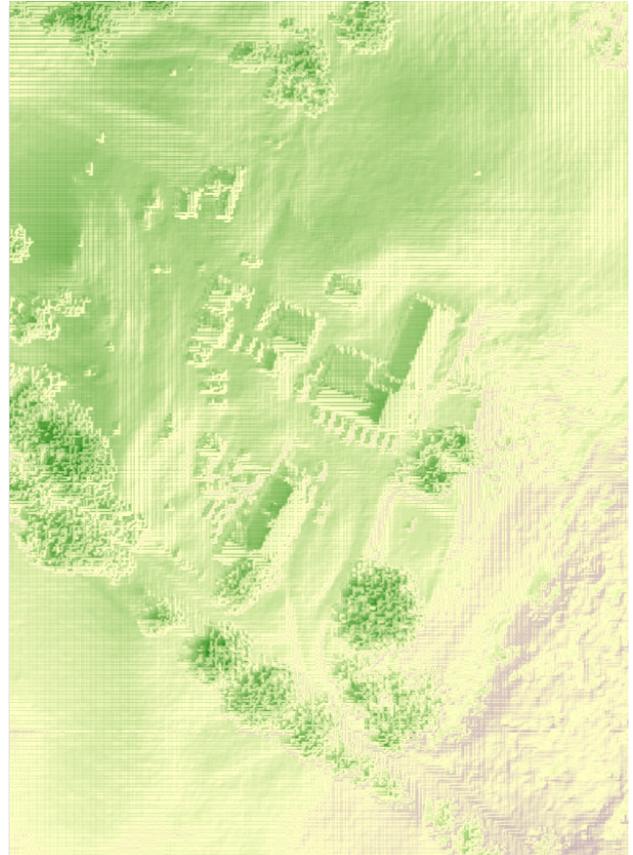
New Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) data just acquired for our region includes 1' foot contours as well as the potential for building footprints, impervious surface mapping and many other applications. LIDAR is a technology similar to RADAR that can be used to create high-resolution digital elevation models (DEMs). LIDAR equipment, which includes a laser scanner, GPS and inertial navigation, is generally mounted on a small aircraft. The laser scanner transmits brief laser pulses to the ground surface, from which they are reflected or scattered back to the laser scanner. Detecting the returning pulses, the equipment records the time that it took for them to go from the laser scanner to the ground and back. Because one laser pulse may reflect back from multiple surfaces, such as the top of a tree, a house, and the ground surface, there are multiple returns from each pulse that can be used to map such things as the top of the tree canopy, buildings, and the ground.

**Contact Pete Fellows at [pfellows@trorc.org](mailto:pfellows@trorc.org) for more information.**

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## LEOP REDESIGN

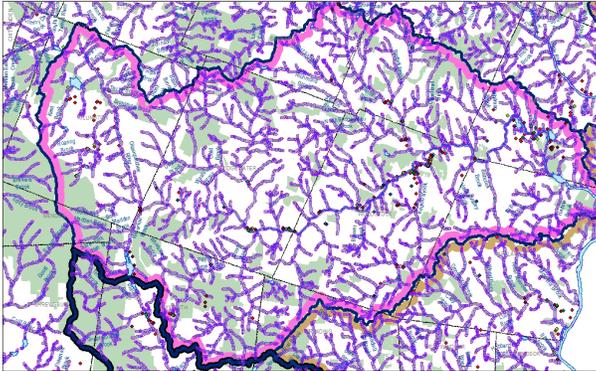
Over the past two months, Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) has worked with a team of local Emergency Management subject matter experts to assess the State's current Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP) format, which included TRORC's own Tory Littlefield. The work of this team resulted in a comprehensive rewrite of the current format to better prepare towns for an emergency. The new format is roughly twenty pages and includes elements such as; Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activation, emergency operations, contact information, public information and warning, resources, vulnerable populations, and incident planning. This new format will be available to all towns for the 2018 re-adoption, but will not be required until Spring 2019. VEM is currently taking comments on the new format until February 6th. TRORC emailed the draft format to all Selectboard chairs, Emergency Management Directors, Town Managers, and the Local Emergency Planning Committee #12 for comment. **If you want to review the new draft and send comments, or have any questions, please email Tory Littlefield at [vlittlefield@trorc.org](mailto:vlittlefield@trorc.org).**



*LIDAR imagery of the TRORC offices at King Farm in Woodstock.  
Source | TRORC*



*The new LEOP will assist towns with planning for disasters, including on how to open an EOC like the one above during a major event.  
Source | TRORC Staff*



Map of the Basin 10 area.  
Source | TRORC Staff



These two bridges, Sharon above and Hancock below, are part of the bridge candidate list for repairs in FY20.  
Source | TRORC Staff



## BASIN 10 DRAFT PLAN PUBLIC HEARING COMMENT PERIOD

The Agency of Natural Resources has released the Draft Tactical Basin Plan for the Ottawaquechee River, Black River, and Mill Brook watersheds (Basin 10) for public comment. This planning document outlines the current stream and river conditions of major waterways and tributaries, the health of these watersheds, and a description of ongoing and future priority steps to restore and protect the quality of its surface waters and aquatic habitat. TRORC has developed a comment letter that addresses the draft Basin 10 Plan, which can be accessed here <https://goo.gl/7KPuLw>.

Input from the public, municipalities, and watershed group are important to the Basin 10 Plan and the development of important projects that coincide with the priorities of the region. Particular action items in the plan will be eligible for future funding through the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation.

**For further information or to submit comments contact Marie Levesque Caduto, VT DEC, 100 Mineral St STE 303, Springfield, VT 05156 or [marie.caduto@vermont.gov](mailto:marie.caduto@vermont.gov). Comments will be accepted for the Basin 10 Plan until February 16, 2018.**

## FY2020 TRANSPORTATION PROJECT PRIORITIZATION

The 14th annual Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) project prioritization process has begun. This collaborative effort between VTrans and the regional planning commissions is required in order to meet Vermont legislative directives and internal agency initiatives.

Input given by the regional planning commissions influences the final decisions on projects for the 2020 fiscal year. Packets containing information about the process, and proposed road and bridge projects were sent out to Selectboards, road foremen, and the TRORC Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) members for public comment. The list of projects was approved by TAC before being sent out and is revised annually to account for changing conditions and regional importance.

**Public comments will be accepted until Monday March 5, 2018. There will be an in-person meeting for discussion on the list at the next TAC meeting on Thursday, March 8, 2018 at the Bethel Town Hall starting at 9:30 a.m. For more information, please contact Rita Seto at [rseto@trorc.org](mailto:rseto@trorc.org).**



Two Rivers-Ottauquechee  
REGIONAL COMMISSION  
128 King Farm Road ~ Woodstock, VT 05091

## February 2018 News & Notes

### IMPLEMENTING ACT 171 WEBINARS

Beginning in 2018, Vermont's Act 171 requires that municipalities and regions that are updating their municipal and regional plans identify areas as "forest blocks" and "habitat connectors" and plan for development in those areas to minimize forest fragmentation. As town and regional plans come up for revision, many communities are now creating the required maps and writing appropriate language. This webinar will provide background, tools, and samples for this implementation process.

The webinar will cover:

- What Act 171 requires of town and regional planning commissions;
- Sample town and regional plan language;
- Guidance on finding, interpreting, and creating the required maps using the VT Agency of Natural Resources' BioFinder website; and
- Case studies of policies that maintain and protect forests and connectivity.

**The webinar will be hosted on February 12, 2018 from 2-3:30 p.m. and March 1, 2018 from 12 – 1:30 p.m. Go to our calendar to register.**



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