



## Weekly News Roundup November 20, 2020

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### Upcoming Events

#### **Montpelier Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee Kick-Off Meeting**

The City of Montpelier is beginning the process of updating its Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. LHMPs enable towns to qualify for grant funds, and they make our communities safer. The first meeting of the Montpelier Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee is scheduled for Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am via Zoom. The focus of the meeting will be to provide an introduction to the plan update process.

The meeting is open to all interested community members. The meeting can be accessed by computer using [this link](#) or by phone: (1-929-205-6099) using the following Access Code (883646). Local Hazard Mitigation Plans identify mitigation strategies and actions to reduce damage from foreseeable natural and human-caused hazards. For more information, please contact Grace Vinson at [vinson@cvregion.com](mailto:vinson@cvregion.com)

#### **13th Annual Vermont Community Energy and Climate Action Conference**

This can't miss event will be hosted virtually this year, starting December 5th and continuing throughout the week! This event centers and celebrates the critical role that Vermonters in every community play in moving our state to a more clean, efficient, affordable, and equitable energy future. This multi-day event will begin by framing up the current state of energy and climate action with a deep post-election analysis and an overview of big, timely, potentially transformative opportunities, including the recently enacted Vermont Global Warming Solutions Act. Find out more and register [HERE](#).

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### Community News

#### **Greater Barre Region Receives Working Communities Challenge Implementation Grant**

The Greater Barre Region Working Communities team has received a three year, \$300,000 grant from the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston to develop a nimble workforce development system that will lower the rate of single female head of households in poverty. CVRPC provided facilitation support for the six month planning phase, convening a collaborative, cross-sector partnership to build consensus around a shared goal and develop the implementation application. Learn more about the initiative here: <https://www.bostonfed.org/workingplaces/communities-challenge/vermont/greater-barre.aspx>

#### **2020 Vermont Climate Assessment explores impacts of warmer, wetter future – and seeks public participation**

The University of Vermont (UVM) is leading the 2020 Vermont Climate Assessment, which will update the 2014 study to pair science with stories, and help government and citizens understand

the future impacts. Have questions about climate change impacts on your local region or business? While the researchers are working to address decision makers' questions, they also want to hear from everyday Vermonters. UVM's team has prepared an [online form](#) to gather questions about Vermont's changing climate to direct the research or participate in the project. More information about the study can be found [here](#). Contact Dr. Edling (802-363-1007/[laura.edling@uvm.edu](mailto:laura.edling@uvm.edu)) or Dr. Galford ([gillian.galford@uvm.edu](mailto:gillian.galford@uvm.edu)) with questions.

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## COVID 19 Updates

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### FAQs Posted on Social Gatherings, Sports, and Restaurant Guidance

Further clarification on Governor Phil Scott's recent [Executive Order](#) regarding social gatherings, sports, and restaurant operations has been posted in the form of a new series of [Frequently Asked Questions](#). The full guidance can be found at the [ACCD Guidance Memo](#).

### E.M.B.R.A.C.E. Grants Still Available

The Vermont Community Action Partnership and the Micro Business Development Program have come together to establish the Economic Micro Business Recovery Assistance for the COVID-19 Epidemic (E.M.B.R.A.C.E.) direct grant program to support the smallest Vermont micro businesses owned by an individual with a "household" income at or under 80% of state median "household" income. Grant monies remain available for this program; [visit the program website](#) for full details.

### 2021 Town Meeting Guidance from VLCT

In response to member questions about how COVID-19 will affect the upcoming annual town meeting, VLCT's Municipal Assistance Center has updated its [town meeting webpage](#) with deadlines, model documents, and guidance. Resources include a new [Town Meeting COVID-19 FAQs](#) and information about the use of Australian ballot voting, voter-backed petitions, and candidate requirements.

### Barre Auditorium and Waterbury Ambulance Service Pop-Up Testing

Due to increased COVID-19 activity in Central Vermont, expanded testing has been planned for the region for the next several weeks. If you are symptomatic, please contact your primary care provider. Central Vermont Medical Center has also expanded testing - to schedule an appointment, call the CVMC COVID Hotline at 802-371-5310.

- Barre Auditorium will hold testing clinics from 9:00am to 3:00pm on the days listed below.
- The Waterbury Ambulance Service will offer free, drive-through testing for the foreseeable future on the days listed below. For more information, contact Executive Director Mark Podgwaite at 244.5003.
- Pre-registration is required, pre-register here: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/testing/where-get-tested>

Barre Auditorium Pop-Up Testing - 16 Auditorium Hill, Barre VT 05641

Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday, November 26<sup>th</sup>  
Friday, November 27<sup>th</sup>

**Waterbury Pop-Up Testing, 1727 Guptil Road, Waterbury Center, 05677**

Monday 9-2  
Tuesday 9-2  
Wednesday 5-8  
Thursday 9-2  
Friday 9-2  
Saturday 9-2  
Sunday 9-2

### News from CVRPC

The status of many municipal offices has changed in recent days - please see our [Municipal Status](#) chart for the latest information (in red). If your community has a need we can assist you with, please contact us at [CVRPC@cvregion.com](mailto:CVRPC@cvregion.com). Previously published editions of [CVRPC's Municipal Updates](#) related to COVID-19 are available on our website. Stay Safe!

### **Child Care Workforce Stabilization Payment Program - Apply by 11/29**

In recognition of the essential role of child care and afterschool programs in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the extreme difficulties that programs are facing in trying to recruit, retain, and support staff during this challenging time, the Legislature, Administration, and advocacy organizations worked together to create a workforce stabilization program. The Child Care Workforce Stabilization Program will send payments to child care programs to make one-time payments to current full and part-time staff who provided direct, in-person care to children at any point from September 1 to December 30, 2020. (Staff are defined here.)

Legislature allocated federal CARES Act funds for this purpose in early November. Because these funds must be spent by December 30, all applications must be submitted by November 29th. Payments will be distributed to programs in mid-December and must be paid to staff by December 30, 2020. Payments are intended to stabilize and support the licensed child care (including school-age) and designated Remote Learning Child Care Hub workforce. The total payment awarded to each program will be calculated after all applications have been processed, by determining the number of staff who are eligible compared to the available funds for this program.

To apply, you MUST:

1. Be located in Vermont.
2. Agree to provide the payments to your staff by December 30, 2020.
3. Either be a currently open licensed child care program (e.g., center-based, Family Child Care Home, after school, public prekindergarten), or have opened as a designated Vermont Remote Learning Child Care Hub Site.

**More Info on Website.**

### **USDA Drought Declaration in Vermont**

A USDA Disaster Declaration for a drought beginning on 6/1/20 has been announced. This applies to all counties in Vermont (as there are 10 primary counties, and the others are all continuous counties which are also eligible). Farmers in eligible counties have 8 months from the date of the disaster declaration (11/12/20) to apply for emergency loans.

Interested and qualified farmers would reach out directly to their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office – list of county offices found here: <https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=vt&agency=fsa> The list of county offices is also attached to this email for your convenience.

Additional guidance for these programs is available on the USDA website:

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Vermont/programs/index>

### **Land Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant Announcement**

The Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation (FPR) recently launched an LWCF round for communities in Vermont: <https://fpr.vermont.gov/land-and-water-conservation-fund>

On that webpage you will find everything a town or other municipal entity needs to apply for a 50-50 federal LWCF grant to acquire or develop a municipally-owned property for public outdoor recreation. FPR always encourage entities to consider projects that are larger in scale since the match requirement is high, and the permanent encumbrance and maintenance responsibilities are, well, permanent.

FPR is hosting two upcoming webinars (which they will record):

**Tuesday, November 24th from 10 am-11 am** (Click for Teams meeting link) or call 802-828-7667, PIN #551 719 386

**Friday, December 4th from 10 am-11 am** (Click for Teams meeting link) or call 802-828-7667, PIN #966 290 373

### **Rural Business Development Grants - FY21**

The FY2021 Rural Business Development Grant program has opened. A Letter of Intent to Apply must be received by close of business (4:30 pm) **December 11, 2020**. They strongly encourage Letters of Intent and all application documents to be sent via e-mail. Electronic signatures on all documentation is acceptable.

Typically Enterprise grants tend to focus on specific business assistance, and Opportunity grants are local/regional planning for economic development, as well as business assistance.

Additional details on [NOSA-VT FY21](#) and [NOSA Northeast Kingdom FY21](#). All Rural Business Development Grant information can be found on their website

## Upcoming Meetings

*Please note that CVRPC will provide a video or call in option for all meetings*

### **NOVEMBER**

Nov 24 6:30 pm Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting, Via Technology (See Agenda)

*Nov 26 & 27 Thanksgiving Holiday - CVRPC Office closed*

Nov 30 4 pm Executive Committee, Via Technology (See Agenda)

### **DECEMBER**

Dec 10 4 pm Clean Water Advisory Committee, Via Technology (See Agenda)

Dec 15 6:30 pm Board of Commissioners, Via Technology (See Agenda)

Dec 17 4 pm Project Review Committee, Via Technology (See Agenda)

Dec 22 6:30 pm Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting, Via Technology (See Agenda)

*Dec 25 Christmas Holiday - CVRPC Office closed*

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STAY CONNECTED

