

Weekly News Roundup November 6, 2020

Visit our website

Upcoming Events

Vermont Residential Building Standards (RBES) Webinar

November 10, 2020 | 8:00 - 9:30 am

This training, conducted by an Energy Code expert with Efficiency Vermont, will cover key updates from the previous RBES, the municipal role in energy code, and will touch on the importance of building envelope, mechanical, and ventilation system requirements. There will be time for questions with the presenter. The presentation is open to everyone and will be of particular value to municipal land use and building staff as well as architects, engineers, contractors, and other building industry professionals. [Meeting information and registration.](#)

The Vermont Community Leadership Network Fall 2020 Workshops

November 10, 2020 | 10:00 - 11:30 am - Skills: Growing participation through effective outreach
The Vermont Community Leadership Network (VCLN) was launched to connect and support local leaders as they built local projects, organizations, and systems that serve their communities and Vermont's urgent and long-term needs. [Registration is required.](#)

For more information on the Vermont Community Leadership Network click [here](#).

Planning for Resilient Communities in the Midst of Pandemic, Social Justice and Climate Change Challenges - Webinar

November 18, 2020 | 1:30 - 2:30 PM

This webinar will integrate experiences from different contexts: the USA, Europe, and Latin America to exchange among planning practitioners lessons learned, strategies, and policies employed to cope with these compounding challenges and discuss together how planners can deal with these three contemporary challenges. Sponsored by APA-International Division. [Register Here.](#)

ANR Community Wildlife Program: 2020 Virtual Workshops

Understanding Your Land at Different Scales

· 12/02/20, 6:00pm-7:00pm

Woods, Waters & Wildlife: Putting the pieces together

· 12/9/20, 6:00pm-7:00pm

Enhancing your Backyard, Back Forty & Beyond

· 12/16/20, 6:00pm-7:00pm

Wildlife Road Crossings

· 11/10/20, 10:00am-11:00am

· 12/14/20, 3:00pm-4:00pm

Updating your town plan for Act 171

· 11/18/20, 10:00am-11:00am

· 12/07/20, 1:00pm-2:00pm

Please register here: to attend: <https://anr.vermont.gov/content/trainings>. All the sessions of the webinars are live online events that last approximately one hour and offer participants a chance

Community News

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Antiracism Resources

NNECAPA's 2020 conference theme, *Vision Check: Lessons in Hindsight, Planning with Foresight*, included insightful conversation about what diversity, equity, inclusion, and antiracism really mean, and how to begin recognizing and championing this work as planners. The Committee and speakers compiled a [list of resources](#) to learn from and use moving forward.

BIPOC Business Survey

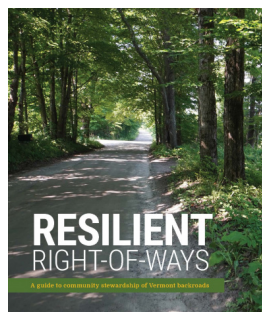
The [Vermont Partnership for Fairness and Diversity](#) has launched a survey to gauge interest in the creation of an entity to serve the needs of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) business owners in Vermont. The entity would provide technical assistance to BIPOC business owners and assist in securing state and federal grants to support businesses in times of crisis. [The survey is open until November 15th.](#)

Telecommuting Survey Results Released

The Center for Research on Vermont recently surveyed 662 Vermonters on their attitudes toward telecommuting and working from home. The survey attempted to capture Vermonters' impressions of telecommuting in the midst of the pandemic – the crisis presenting an enormous controlled experiment in Vermonters' experiences and perception of working from home. At the time of the survey, Google mobility reported a 42 percent drop in workplace travel and a 58 percent decline in retail shopping. Survey respondents overwhelmingly support telework, and strongly support being able to continue to work from home in the future.

Clearly, this population may have been more inclined to telework and their experience at this moment has only further emphasized their interest in doing so. More than half (55%) said they expect to work more from home after things return to something more like normal. And large pluralities said their workplace (70%) and internet service (86%) was good to excellent – enabling them to do so.

The biggest challenge identified by most respondents was the lack of workplace policies and support to allow them to telecommute more in the future. More than two-thirds said there was more their employers could do to enable them to work from home more often. The clearest recommendation that emerges is that there should be support and resources for small and large employers developing telework policies and programs. The full report can be read at: https://www.uvm.edu/sites/default/files/Center-for-Research-on-Vermont/Final_report_June_6.pdf - Bennington County Regional Commission "News and Notes" (September 2020 edition)



Resilient Rights of Way Guide

[Resilient Right-of-Ways: A guide to community stewardship of Vermont backroads](#) is the culmination of a collaborative approach to better understand and care for forests, individual trees, and other vegetation along Vermont backroads. Informed by 200 miles of rural roadside assessments and input from over 60 local volunteers and municipally focused professionals, this guide was developed by Urban and Community Forestry and provides information to support community priorities and plans of action for backroad vegetation.

COVID 19 Updates

Farmers to Families Food Distribution throughout November and December

Food distribution will take place daily through the state during November and December. To reduce wait times and improve your experience picking up food, everyone is required to pre-register to receive food at a Farmers to Families event. Registration will open on November 9th. Complete the simple, four-question survey here: <https://humanresources.vermont.gov/food-help> to register for your food box before going to the next food distribution site. Please register by 12:00pm the day before your preferred event.

Expanded Economic Recovery Grant Application Open through Nov 9th

The application window for businesses applying through ACCD will remain open until Monday, November 9th. Visit the [ACCD COVID-19 Recovery Resource Center](#) for full details, eligibility requirements, how to apply, [FAQs for businesses](#), webinar [recordings](#), and translated fact sheets. The application window for those businesses applying through the Department of Taxes has now closed.

New ACCD COVID Guidance for Ski Resorts

ACCD has released Vermont [Ski Resort COVID-19 Winter Operations Guidance](#). This guidance aims to provide skiers and riders a safe skiing and riding experience, ensure the health and safety of the thousands of Vermonters who work in the industry, and protect the health and safety of the communities that host these resorts.

New Agency of Education COVID Guidance for Winter Sports

The Agency of Education has released state guidance for winter sports programs during the 20/21 school year. The guidance lays out which winter sports are allowed, how practices and games will work, and details regarding spectators at these events. The full guidance is [available on the Agency of Education website](#).

News from CVRPC

If your community has a need we can assist you with, please contact us at CVRPC@cvregion.com. Previously published editions of [CVRPC's Municipal Updates](#) related to COVID-19 are available on our website. Stay Safe!

RFP's, Grant Information, Applications & Deadlines



Committed to the future of rural communities.

Community Connect Grants

The Community Connect grant program provides financial assistance to eligible applicants that will provide broadband service in rural, economically-challenged communities where service does not exist.

What is an eligible area?

Rural areas that lack any existing broadband speed of at least 10 Mbps downstream and 1 Mbps upstream are eligible.

Eligible applicants include:

- Incorporated organizations
- Federally-recognized Tribes
- State and local units of government
- Any other legal entity, including cooperatives, private corporations, or limited liability companies organized on a for-profit or not-for-profit basis

The Application Guide provides guidance on rural areas currently eligible for Community Connect Grants. Applications are due by December 23, 2020, 11:59 p.m. EST.

MORE INFO - <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-connect-grants>

More information and the Application Guide can be found here.

Upcoming Meetings

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

NOVEMBER

Nov 10 6:30 pm Board of Commissioners Meeting, Via Technology (See Agenda)

Nov 11 Veteran Day Holiday - CVRPC Office closed

Nov 12 4 pm Clean Water Advisory Committee Meeting, Via Technology (See Agenda)

Nov 16 6:30 pm LEPC#5 Meeting, Via Technology (See Agenda)

Nov 19 4 pm Project Review Committee, Via Technology (See Agenda)

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

Nov 26 & 27 Thanksgiving Holiday - CVRPC Office closed

