



Weekly News Roundup November 27, 2020 Happy Thanksgiving

Visit our website

Upcoming Events

Vermont Local Roads COVID-19 Roundtable

December 2, 2020 | 1:00 pm

Webinar on the potential effects of COVID-19 on Vermont municipal operations.

[Register here.](#)

VT Regulatory Outreach Event

December 14, 2020 | 9:00 am - 12:30 pm

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and EPA is hosting a virtual event to discuss the Navigable Waters Protection Rule (NWPR) which defines "waters of the U.S." under the Clean Water Act (see links below). Other program policies and updates will also be provided. There are events planned in each of the New England states so if you (or others) can't make it on December 14th, there will be other opportunities to attend. Note, there will be some state-specific topics discussed at each event.

[Registration](#) & [Agenda](#)

<http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Portals/74/docs/regulatory/PublicNotices/2020/Regulatory-Outreach-USACE-PN.pdf>

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](#).

Community News

VCRD's Community Visit Program Now Offered Virtually

Are you looking for ways to connect your community and build unity during these challenging times? Are you hoping to build engagement and set priorities for community initiatives or projects?

Current restrictions on public gatherings create a barrier to public engagement and participation, but community work, whether focused around Covid response and recovery or other priorities,

continues. To support communities looking for new ways to connect and collaborate to get things done during this time, the Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) is now offering its Community Visit program using online tools. VCRD's **Virtual Community Visit** program, offered free of charge to communities, provides a platform for engagement and decision-making that is customized to each community's needs. It includes a deep process of community invitation to engage the full community in identifying action for forward momentum, and builds connections to resources and technical assistance to support the work moving forward.

To learn more, or see if this process could be a good fit for your community, visit <https://www.vtrural.org/programs/community-visits/virtual> or contact Jenna Koloski at (jenna@vtrural.org) or (802) 223 6091

Consumer Behavior Survey

On the Fly, a group offering strategic and technical assistance to Vermont hospitality businesses, is conducting a short consumer survey to gauge Vermonters' attitudes and behaviors around travel, dining and grocery shopping during the pandemic. On the Fly has offered to share the data and insights collected with local businesses to help them determine how best to operate in the coming months. Businesses are encouraged to share the survey with their customers.

COVID 19 Updates

New Weekly Webinar for Businesses

The Department of Health and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development are launching a weekly webinar series focused on health and commerce pandemic updates for the business community. Decision makers from ACCD, the Department of Health, and the Department of Public Safety will provide updates and be available to answer your questions. The first webinar will be held Wednesday November 25th from 3:00pm to 4:00pm. Find full details and how to submit questions at the [ACCD Business Recovery Resource Center](#).

New FAQs on Emergency Economic Recovery Grants

ACCD has posted a new series of FAQs for the Expanded Economic Recovery Grant Program including additional information about how the grants will be allocated based on NAICS codes. The FAQs are now posted to the [Expanded Economic Recovery Grant Program page](#).

Updated Certificate of Compliance

In order for visitors to comply with recent changes to the State's cross state travel policies, ACCD has updated the [certificate of compliance](#) all visitors to the state must sign when staying at a lodging property. The new [downloadable form](#) includes the most up to date attestations for visitors.

ACCD's Mandatory Workplace Health & Safety Requirements

All government operations must still comply with the workplace requirements announced in late April. Refer to [PACIF's COVID-19 Work Plan Template](#) and [additional employer resources](#) for reminders.

Sample Mutual Aid Agreement Template from VLCT

Such an agreement can be used to create contingency plans to prepare for the possibility of multiple absences (due to COVID-19 illness or quarantine). [Template](#)

Draft COVID Response Telecommunications Recovery Plan

The draft plan, published by the Department of Public Service, calls for building targeted line extensions, supporting small-scale wireless projects and offering more subsidies for low-income residents who have access to broadband but cannot afford it. **Vermonters are encouraged to submit public comments on the 306-page plan by Dec. 10.** Hearings are planned for Dec. 3 and Dec. 8, ahead of the final plan's release on Dec. 20. [READ MORE>>](#)

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. Previously published editions of [CVRPC's Municipal Updates](#) related to COVID-19 are available on our website. Stay Safe!

Public Art Funding Opportunity

The Vermont Arts Council is now offering a funding opportunity for communities that wish to integrate works of public art into upcoming infrastructure projects.

The [Animating Infrastructure Grant](#) program seeks proposals for projects that provide opportunities for artists to engage with community in the design and/or fabrication of permanent or temporary public art for an interior or exterior site that is accessible to the public. Grants of up to \$15,000 are available.



The Council's definition of infrastructure is broad and includes community facilities and services such as buildings, trails, water or sewer systems, roads, power systems, parks, and more. Functional components of infrastructure—such as sidewalks, railings, benches, walls, signs, stairs, and tree grates in the built and/or natural environment—have the potential for artistic enhancement that creates unique places where people want to live, work, visit, and play.

A small number of selected applicants who submit a letter of interest will be invited to develop a full proposal in January 2021. **The letter of interest is due December 18, 2020.**

Designed to foster partnerships between communities and artists, the program intends to enhance a sense of community pride and identity, foster social connections, and improve the livability and vibrancy of Vermont communities, downtowns, villages, and neighborhoods. Through the development and installation of site-specific works of public art, Vermont communities can reflect their vision, values, and creative spirit.

To learn more about this grant, what to include in the letter of interest, selection criteria and more, join a **free Grantseeker Workshop on December 3rd from 1-2 pm. [Register on Zoom](#)**

Lake Champlain Basin Program Seeks Education and Outreach Proposals

The Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) seeks project proposals for 2022 that will inform the public or provide citizen involvement activities designed to learn more about improving quality and ecosystems in the Lake Champlain watershed. The LCBP in partnership with NEIWPCC is pleased to announce a Request for Proposals to address the tasks outlined in LCBP's guiding document [Opportunities for Action](#). The request for each project may range from \$10,000 – \$50,000. Since 1992, LCBP has awarded more than \$13.5 million to more than 1,400 projects in New York, Québec, and Vermont.

“Lake Champlain's watershed faces many environmental issues, but we need to provide more opportunities for residents and visitors to lead stewardship activities which improve water quality, recreational access, and habitat.” said Colleen Hickey, LCBP Education and Outreach Coordinator. “These education and outreach awards will provide funding to municipalities, watershed organizations, and schools to complete larger boots on the ground projects. Hundreds of local residents and visitors may have opportunity to impact the future of Lake Champlain through these awards.”

Projects located in the New York, Québec, and Vermont portions of the Lake Champlain basin will be eligible for consideration in this grant opportunity. Grant guidelines and applications for each category can be found on the Lake Champlain Basin Program's website at lcbp.org/grants. Volunteer peer reviewers will evaluate the proposals and develop the funding recommendations for the Lake Champlain Steering Committee to consider. Electronic versions of proposals must be received by grants@lcbp.org no later than **February 1, 2021**. Applicants will be notified in May 2021 and successful projects may begin after October 1, 2021. Late or incomplete will not be considered. Applicants should note that LCBP also recently issued a similar grant competition for projects to be initiated in late winter 2021. That grant opportunity closes December 21.

The LCBP anticipates that these projects will be supported with funds awarded to NEIWPCC by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission in support of the Lake Champlain Basin Program. This Request for Education and Outreach Proposals is available at the [Lake Champlain Basin Program website](#).

For further information about this proposal process, contact Colleen Hickey at the Lake Champlain Basin Program, 54 West Shore Road, Grand Isle, Vermont 05458 or call (802) 372-3213 or (800) 468-5227.

Request for Applications for the Design/Implementation Block Grant Program

The 4th Request for Applications for the Design/Implementation Block Grant (DIBG) has been released. All application materials can be found on our webpage (<https://swcrpc.org/design->

[implementation-block-grant/](#)), as well as guidance on eligible applicants and projects.

The deadline for submission from the original posting has been extended to allow more time for applicants to provide for agency feedback. Please give at least a week, preferably 2 weeks, for DEC technical staff to reply to your request for review and approval.

Submission Date: 1/15/2021 | Anticipated Notice of Award: 2/19/2021

Should you have questions you can contact Pam DeAndrea at CVRPC - deandrea@cvregion.com

Upcoming Meetings

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

NOVEMBER

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

STAY CONNECTED

