

Weekly News Roundup December 10, 2021

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Upcoming Events

Winooski Clean Water Service Provider (CWSP) and Basin Water Quality Council (BWQC) Info Session #2

December 15, 2021 | 6:00 pm

CVRPC will be holding its second info session regarding the Winooski CWSP and BWQC for municipalities, groups, and individuals interested in water quality issues in the Winooski watershed. We hope you will participate. The Winooski CWSP and BWQC will be playing an important role in the prioritization of clean water projects and helping those projects access funding. The goal of these sessions is to provide information and an idea-sharing opportunity relating to:

- startup of CVRPC's activities as the Clean Water Service Provider (CWSP) for the Winooski basin; and
- formation of the Winooski Basin Water Quality Council (BWQC) and solicitation of members

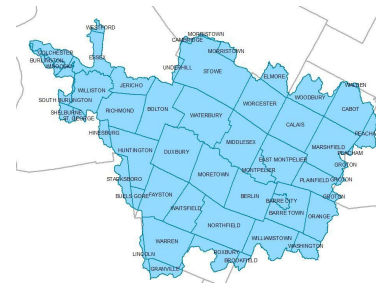
Meeting access information

In person: CVRPC Office, 29 Main St, Suite 4, Montpelier (Facial coverings required for in-person participation)

• Remote participation via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84782161324?pwd=Yjg3R2JjZjdGQ1V4NnN3WlhDVUVBZz09>

• Dial in via phone: +1 929 436 2866; Meeting ID: 847 8216 1324; Passcode: 400470

Please contact to vinson@cvregion.com with any questions.



Community News



Middlesex Receives Planning Awards

Congratulations to the Town of Middlesex - recipient of two awards in 2021 from the Vermont Planner's Association. These awards were presented at last week's Annual Meeting of the VPA in Waterbury. The Middlesex Planning Commission is awarded **Citizen Planners of the Year**, and the 2021 Plan of the Year is **Walkable Middlesex Village Study**. Details regarding the awards can be found [here](#).

CVRPC staff are excited to be collaborating with the Town of Middlesex as it moves forward with their Walkable Middlesex Plan, as well as their Capital Improvement Plan and Zoning Updates.

Downtown and Village Center Tax Credits

Vermont's Downtown and Village Center tax credit program, one of the primary benefits of Downtown and Village Center designation, supports revitalization in community centers across

the state. Next January, a special round of \$700,000 in state income tax credits will be competitively available to projects that enhance the historic character and improve building safety of older and historic commercial and community buildings in these designated communities. The credits support general rehabilitation work, code compliance work, and façade improvements, and may be combined with the federal program.

Applications for the next round of tax credits are due on Monday, **January 4, 2022**. The Vermont Downtown Board will make its allocation decisions by the end of January. Click the link below for the program guidelines and application. In Central Vermont, the following communities are eligible based on having designation centers: Barre City, Berlin, Cabot, Calais, East Montpelier, Marshfield, Middlesex, Montpelier, Moretown, Northfield, Orange, Plainfield, Waitsfield, Waterbury, Warren, and Williamstown. If you applied unsuccessfully to the program in July, we encourage you to re-apply for the additional funding now available. You may re-submit your previous application or submit an updated application.

If you have questions about the program or application, please contact Caitlin Corkins of the Division for Community Planning & Revitalization at caitlin.corkins@vermont.gov. A pre-recorded webinar ([available here](#)) covers program basics, the scoring criteria, and how to compile a strong application for those looking for a competitive edge. Email your application to caitlin.corkins@vermont.gov or send to: Caitlin Corkins, Vermont Division for Community Planning & Revitalization, One National Life Drive, Davis Building, 6th Floor, Montpelier, VT 05620

State Releases Drafts of the 2022 CEP and Climate Action Plan

2022 COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY PLAN (CEP)

The Vermont Department of Public Service (PSD) recently released the draft of the [2022 Comprehensive Energy Plan](#) (CEP) for public comment.

The draft 2022 CEP builds upon the goals previously set by the 2011 and 2016 CEPs:

- Meet 25 percent of energy needs from renewable sources by 2025
- Meet 45 percent of energy needs from renewable sources by 2035
- Meet 90 percent of energy needs from renewable sources by 2050

In addition, the 2022 CEP is structured to meet greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction requirements including:

- 26 percent reduction from 2005 levels by 2025
- 40 percent reduction from 1990 levels by 2030
- 80 percent reduction from 1990 levels by 2050

The PSD will accept public comments on the draft CEP until December 20, 2021

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

The Vermont Climate Council adopted the initial Vermont Climate Action Plan on December 1, 2021. The plan will help Vermont meet the emissions reductions requirements outlined in the Global Warming Solutions Act and prepare for the impacts of climate change.

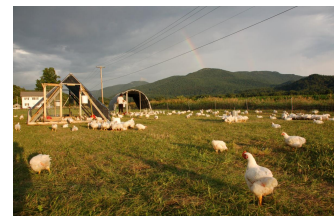
The Global Warming Solutions Act, adopted by the General Assembly in September 2020, created the Vermont Climate Council, and required the Council to adopt a Climate Action Plan by December 1, 2021. This initial Climate Action Plan includes 26 pathways for action, including a dramatic increase in efforts to weatherize Vermont homes and spur the adoption of electric vehicles, recommendations for investments to help Vermont homeowners and businesses relocate from harms' way in the face of a changing climate, and steps to ensure the resilience and viability of Vermont's farms, forests and natural lands, among others. These pathways outline work needed to accomplish the greenhouse gas emission reduction requirements established in the Global Warming Solutions Act. In addition, the plan lays out 64 strategies and more than 230 specific steps that spell out the framework needed to realize the transformative change required by the Global Warming Solutions Act.

Read a short summary or the full version of the plan and learn more [here](#).

Open Positions at VYCC

The Farm @ VYCC is hiring for several AmeriCorps positions! Please share this information with networks or individuals that you think these positions resonate with and would be able to share.

The Vermont Youth Conservation Corps' Food and Farm Program is a dynamic youth development, diversified agriculture and food



security initiative. They grow organically certified vegetables and pasture-raised chickens that are distributed to more than 400 families through our nationally recognized Health Care Share program.

Project Leads (7 positions) - Project Leads serve on the farm from freezing March mornings, through sweaty July days, until crisp October evenings. They serve out in the fields, in greenhouses, work with livestock, and jump in to problem solve the daily challenges of the farm. Project Leads bring their adaptability, commitment, and passion for food & farming to the farm program.

Crew Leaders (7 positions; 5 youth crew leaders and 2 production crew leaders)- Farm Crew Leaders' responsibilities shift across the season. Spring is for learning and doing: tending crops in greenhouses and planting the fields; working with volunteers. In summer, they lead either a youth or young adult crew. In fall, they harvest mountains of vegetables in support of Health Care Share program. There are two types of Crew Leader positions- leading a crew of youth or young adults. Regardless of age, crews work in all areas of the farm; they plant and harvest, care for livestock, and explore how to cook with what they've grown.

To learn more and apply: <https://www.vycc.org/apply/lead/>

RFPs, Grant Information, Applications, and Deadlines

Downtown Transportation Fund Grant Applications Now Available

The Department of Housing and Community Development is pleased to announce the availability of approximately \$2,900,000 in Downtown Transportation Fund Grants (DTF) to support revitalization efforts in Designated Downtowns and eligible Designated Village Centers. A few significant changes to the program this year will allow more projects to be funded with a substantial increase in funding availability, expanded eligibility to qualified Designated Village Centers, reduced municipal match to 20% and an increase in maximum award amount to \$200,000. There is an additional \$170,000 available for DTF projects that incorporate eligible storm water components.

New Eligibility for Designated Village Centers

For 2022 the Downtown Transportation Fund has expanded eligibility to Designated Village Centers that have participated in the [Better Connections Program](#) administered by the Vermont Agency of Transportation and the Department of Housing and Community Development and Designated Village Centers within Chittenden County that have completed a comprehensive downtown/village center/community area planning process with public input, comparable to the Better Connections Program. See the program application for a full list of eligible municipalities.

Timeline

Application Deadline: March 7, 2022 @ 5:00 p.m.

Award Decisions: April 25, 2022 (or scheduled Board meeting)

Project Started: April 25, 2024

Project Completed: April 25, 2025

See the 2022 [Downtown Transportation Fund](#) and [Clean Water Initiative Funding](#) for DTF Projects for eligibility, program guidance and application.

The maximum grant amount is \$200,000 with a 20% match is required. Projects must demonstrate the ability to start the project within 24 months and complete within 36 months.

Additional Clean Water Initiative Funding Available:

The Downtown Transportation Fund (DTF) has an additional \$140,000 in funding from the Agency of Natural Resources, Clean Water Initiative (CWI). DTF projects may apply for \$20,000 to \$140,000 of "add on" clean water funding for eligible storm water implementation projects. A 20% match is required for these funds. Examples of eligible projects can be found on the Department of Environmental Conservation [Green Stormwater Infrastructure](#) (GSI) web page. The [Vermont Green Streets Guide](#) is a resource to help you plan, design and maintain your clean water project. The Clean Water Initiative will provide additional funds for DTF projects to implement stormwater management practices that help control flooding, reduce erosion, and improve water quality. The project must primarily mitigate nutrient or sediment pollution.

Please contact [Gary Holloway](#), the Downtown Program Manager at 802-522-2444 if you have questions or need assistance with the DTF application. It is strongly encouraged to set up a

preapplication meeting to discuss project ideas. Learn more about how Downtown Transportation Fund investments can transform your downtown at their [blog post](#).

Upcoming Meetings

Please note that in addition to a physical location; CVRPC will provide a video or call in option for most meetings (see agendas on our [website](#) for details)

DECEMBER

Dec 13 4 pm Executive Committee (rescheduled from Dec 6)

Dec 14 6:30 pm Board of Commissioners

Dec 15 6:00 pm Clean Water Service Provider and Basin Water Quality Council Info Session 1 (see above)

Dec 23 4 pm Project Review Committee

Dec 24 Office closed - Holiday

Dec 31 Office closed - Holiday

JANUARY

Jan 3 4 pm Executive Committee

Jan 11 6:30 pm Board of Commissioners

Jan 17 Office closed - Holiday

Jan 25 6:30 pm Transportation Advisory Committee

Jan 31 4 pm Executive Committee

STAY CONNECTED

