

April 2021

ACRPC

update

This Month's Calendar

Digital calendar located at
<http://acrpc.org/calendar/>

Date	Time	Event
Wed. 14	7:00pm	Full Commission Meeting (Zoom)
Thurs 15	6:00pm	ACSWMD meeting
Wed. 21	6:30pm	TAC meeting
Wed. 28	5:00pm	Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
Wed. 28	6:30pm	ACRPC Executive Board meeting

Meetings held at 14 Seminary St, Middlebury, are currently postponed due to COVID-19.

Virtual meetings are open to the public and call-in information is provided by invitation and request.

American Recovery Plan Aid to Municipalities

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act passed by Congress and signed by the President on March 11 directs over \$3.5 million to regional municipalities. Towns will also receive a portion of approximately \$7M of "county" money, allocated to each town on a per capita basis, totaling about \$10.5M of payments directly to municipalities in the Addison Region.

Provisions for use of the ARP funds are similar to those found in last year's Coronavirus Relief Fund, with a few important differences, including an extended time frame for investment and some additional uses such as revenue replacement.

Communities can also utilize ARP funds for purposes not previously allowable such as responding to impacts from the COVID-19 and its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality. One provision of the ARP specifies waste-water, water, and broadband investments as priority allowable investments for local governments. In short, the ARP provides local government many ways in which to invest the allocated funds. ACRPC and ACEDC are ready to help communities have a conversation about how best to invest them.

In addition to these direct funds to municipalities, the state will also distribute ARP funding of more than \$1 billion. This week the Governor presented a detailed initial proposal for distributing that money. As rules governing the use of ARP funds are clarified ACRPC will distribute information to municipalities regarding program guidelines and eligibility criteria so that each community may achieve maximum benefit from the program. If you have ideas or questions, please contact Adam Lougee at alougee@acrpc.org



This newsletter is financed through the State of Vermont Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the State of Vermont. All programs of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission are ADA accessible.

Announcements

Local Emergency Management Plans

<https://vem.vermont.gov/plans/lemp>

Municipalities should review and update their emergency plans annually and readopt them **between Town Meeting and May 1** every year. Having a current LEMP is one of the requirements to receive post-disaster Emergency Relief Assistance Funding (ERAF) from the state. ACRPC will be sending reminders and pre-drafted forms to town clerks and EMDs. For more, contact ACRPC Emergency Planner Andrew L'Roe at alroe@acrpc.org, 802-388-3141

Emergency Manager & Road Foremen Roundtable- Friday, April 16, 1:30pm– 3pm

Emily Harris from VEM will be joining us to talk about the Local Liaison activation process and how information and requests get to the SEOC and turned into state responses during a disaster response. Please feel free to invite other town officials that you think might benefit.

Please let Andrew L'Roe at alroe@acrpc.org know if you plan to attend.



Save the Date: Town Fair 2021!
September 29th and 30th!

<https://www.vlct.org/event/town-fair>

8:00 am Wednesday, September 29 to
4:30 pm Thursday, September 30
Contact the Event Coordinator at (802) 229-9111,
info@vlct.org

Bristol Community Solar Subscriptions

www.acornenergycoop.com/community-solar

The Acorn Renewable Energy Co-op is excited to announce the Vermont Department of Financial Regulation's approval of the public offering documentation for the Bristol Community Solar project. A limited number of subscriptions are now available for the community solar array planned for the closed landfill on Pine Street in Bristol.

An overview of Bristol Community Solar is on the Community Solar page of Acorn's website.

Beginning Monday, March 22, there is a 45-day period when subscription priority is given to: Bristol residents, businesses and organizations; Acorn Energy Co-op members and members of the Interfaith Climate Action Network and Vermont Interfaith Power and Light.

If you'd like to learn more about becoming an Acorn Energy Co-op member to be part of this initial offering, or would like to learn more about this opportunity, email Mary Mester, Acorn's Coordinator at info@acornenergycoop.com. Please include your full name, address, and phone number.

Energy2028 Earth Week Series

<https://www.middlebury.edu/office/energy2028/earth-week-2021>

Exploring the **past, present, and future** of Middlebury College's responses to the climate crisis.

- **Monday, April 19– 5:30-6:30pm.** PAST: Origins and Significance of our Commitments
- **Wednesday, April 21- 5:30-6:30pm.** PRESENT: Where Are We Now? Priorities, Progress, Challenges
- **Friday, April 23– 10:00am-2:00pm.** FUTURE: Where Should We Go?

For questions or suggestions, contact energy2028@middlebury.edu

Grants & Funding

Grant Deadline Reminders

(more information in previous newsletters,
<http://acrpc.org/resources/newsletters/>)

Vermont Arts Council Creation Grants

www.vermontartscouncil.org/grants/artists/creation

\$4,000 awards, Application deadline: April 14

AARP 2021 Community Challenge

<https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/community-challenge/>

Applications due by 8:00 pm April 14

AVCC Conservation Tiny Grants

<https://vtconservation.com/tiny-grants/>

Grant applications due May 1, 2021

Walter Cerf Community Fund

<https://vermontcf.org/our-impact/programs-and-funds/walter-cerf-community-fund/>

Applications due by 5PM Wednesday, June 23

The Walter Cerf Community Fund makes grants to address charitable needs in the state of Vermont. Priority interests are the arts, education, historic preservation, and social services.

Recognizing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the operations of local nonprofits, the fund is temporarily expanding its criteria to also include general operating requests.

Grant awards range from \$500 up to \$5,000.

Approximately 70% of funds available will be awarded to programs and projects in the Addison County/Brandon area.

All applications must be submitted electronically in the Online Grants Manager :

<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=vermontcf>

Vermont Sole Proprietor Stabilization Program

<https://www.vermont-cdbg-cv.com/>

Application Closes – May 26 at 5:00 PM EST

Vermont's CDBG-CV Round 2 Sole Proprietor Stabilization Grant Program is designed to assist sole proprietors with no employees that have been impacted by COVID-19 and have remaining unmet need that can be documented. Businesses will be required to provide a duplication of benefit affidavit to document unmet need.

Grant Amounts will range between \$1,500 and \$10,000 based on eligibility and the ability to document unmet need.

Grant funds will be given out on a rolling, first come first served basis

Ben & Jerry's Grassroots Organizing for Social Change Program

Pre-App Deadline: Opens May 1st, 2021 –
Deadline 4 pm ET Jun. 1st, 2021

The Grassroots Organizing for Social Change Program offers general support to non-profit organizations throughout the United States and is their most competitive grant program. They make one-year grants for up to \$30,000, to organizations with budgets under \$500,000. Only organizations with 501(c)3 status, or who have a fiscal agent with this status are eligible to apply.

While the broad goals are to further social and environmental justice and support sustainable and just food systems, but they focus on the types of activities and strategies an organization uses for creating social change rather than on the specific issues the organization is addressing.

Applications are to be submitted through their online grant management system.

Tools & Training

2021 Town Officers Education Conference

- Monday, April 12
- Tuesday, April 13
- Wednesday, April 15

Three sessions each day via Zoom beginning at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 1:30 p.m. (A total of 9 educational sessions over 3 days) Attend one or attend them all!

NO registration fee

To see the agenda and register visit:

<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/toec>

Online Training Tool for Municipal officials

<https://tinyurl.com/t4d7wmye>

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) proudly announces the launch of an online training for Municipal officials.

Sixteen informative videos, most around 10 minutes long, are intended to help new, and not-so-new, municipal officials learn about ANR's work and the tools available to help communities. While trainings are specifically tailored to municipal officials, any community member who would like to learn more about ANR's work is invited to participate.

Efficiency Vermont Webinars

How do Vermonters think about weatherization?

Date: April 13th from 12:00pm – 1:00pm

Join Efficiency Vermont, VGS, and the Center for Research & Public Policy to explore recent results on how Vermonters think about weatherizing their homes.

<https://www.efficiencyvermont.com/events/2021/04/13/center-for-research-public-policy-presents-how-do-vermonters-think-about-weatherization>

Leak Tight Heat Pump Installations & Repair

Date: April 14th from 11:00pm – 12:30pm

Learn from Gary Ducharme of Ducharme HVAC-R Consulting how to shorten installation time and reduce callbacks by eliminating refrigerant leaks that contribute to climate change.

<https://www.efficiencyvermont.com/events/2021/04/14/leak-tight-installations-faster-greener-heat-pump-installation-and-repair>

Public Records Act- Responding to Requests and Management Requirements

<https://www.vlct.org/event/public-records-overview>

2 Sessions- Thursday, April 29, 10am to 12pm

The first session will summarize the definitions, exemptions, deadlines, costs, and nuances of the law to best meet your responsibilities and avoid costly penalties.

The second session will provide a broad overview of how to conduct an inventory of public records, how to read a records schedule, and where to find the state's list of record-keeping requirements.



Trainings by
**Vermont League
of Cities & Towns**

Managing Conflicts of Interest

<https://www.vlct.org/event/managing-conflicts-interest>

Thursday, April 22, 2021 11:00 am

Conflicts of interest – real or perceived – are inevitable, especially in small towns. To help elected and appointed municipal officials manage these conflicts, MAC developed a conflict of interest and ethical conduct model policy. In this session, we will summarize that model policy and touch upon the legalities and best practices for managing conflicts of interest when they arise.

Tools & Trainings

Tools to Communicate Riverine Erosion Hazards and Improve Flood Resiliency in Headwater Communities of the Lake Champlain Basin

<https://tinyurl.com/982j9t2>

Wednesday, April 28, - 12:00pm to 1:00pm

Water resource managers are in need of science-based tools to identify and prioritize river reaches for conservation and restoration to mitigate erosion and flooding hazards. Kristen Underwood, Research Assistant Professor, and Lindsay Worley, PhD Candidate, both with Civil & Environmental Engineering at the University of Vermont, will provide an update on their research to develop a smart classifier of reach-based sediment erosion, transport and deposition that relies on existing stream geomorphic assessment data stored in the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources online database. They will preview visualization tools to communicate erosion hazards to communities, and will highlight how this research is supporting Vermont's broader Functioning Floodplains Initiative.

Registration Required: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3h2EaSFDtm5JGXP09V0OA

ANR Training: Caring for Natural Resources: Taking Action in Your Community

<https://anr.vermont.gov/content/trainings>

This course will expose participants to the full suite of issues at play for natural resources planning, from forests and wildlife to floodplains and climate change.

Note: This is a 3-session training course. You must sign up for all three sessions if you wish to take this class and receive the certificate.

Session 1: Monday, May 3, 7:00-9:00pm.

Session 2: Monday, May 10, 7:00pm-9:00pm

Session 3: Monday, May 17, 7:00pm-9:00pm

ANR Community Wildlife Program Webinars

<https://anr.vermont.gov/content/trainings>

These webinars are intended for Vermonters serving on town boards and municipal staff:

River Corridors: Floodplains & Riparian Habitat
April 8, 10:00am-11:00am or

May 3, 11:00am-12:00pm

The network of streams and rivers across Vermont is critically important for climate resilience. These are dynamic systems, constantly changing and home to incredible biological diversity and many other functions and values.

Starting Your Town Conservation Fund

April 13, 10:00-11:00 am

Earn about what it takes to start a Conservation Fund, where the money come from, and what to do with yours.

Natural Resources Inventories

April 21, 1:00-2:00pm

Whether you are interested in wildlife, wetlands, or forest blocks, a natural resources inventory can help you identify what matters most and where it occurs on the landscape.

Starting a Conservation Commission

April 29, 10:00-11:00am

Each commission looks a little different and can be incredibly helpful asset to your town!

Rail Car Incident Response (AWR 147)

Tue & Wed, Apr 20-21, 12:30- 4:30pm each day

This awareness-level course is designed to increase the knowledge of first responders in recognizing and characterizing the different types of rail cars, potential leaks, and courses of action to be taken based on initial site assessment.

Course registration deadline: April 19, 12:30pm

<https://ruraltraining.org/course/AWR-147/?scheduled=true&id=2263>

(FEMA ID required)

Community Involvement

Public Places Awards

<https://vtcommunityforestry.org/programs/awards/public-places-awards>

Nominations are due May 7, 2021

The Public Places Awards recognizes special public spaces, the corridors that connect them, or networks of public spaces which have been defined or enriched by planning or design, as well as regulations that promote positive public uses and benefits.

For more contact Jim Donovan, jdonovan@gmavt.net or Gwen Kozlowski, gwen.kozlowski@uvm.edu

VNRC Arthur Gibb Award for Leadership

<https://vnrc.org/awards>

This award is presented annually to a Vermont resident who has made a lasting contribution to their community, region or state in the ways they integrate smart growth and conservation.

The Arthur Gibb Award was established in 2006 in honor of the late Arthur "Art" Gibb.

Applications for the 2021 award are due by April 23, 2021. Materials may be submitted electronically or by mail.

For more information, please contact Alex Connizzo at aconnizzo@vnrc.org

Green Up Day 2021

51 Years Strong!

Mark your calendars for May 1st!

<https://greenupvermont.org/>

Green Up Day will be held on Saturday, May 1st, 2021. Join us for this much-loved, spring clean-up tradition that activates thousands of Vermonters to get involved in their communities in picking up roadside litter. Last year, together, we picked up 421 tons of trash and over 9,000 tires! Keeping our environment clean is good for our health, good for businesses, and good for our property values. Together we build pride in our cities and towns and teach our youth about powerful civic engagement that affects climate change. Year-round we work to build awareness, generate stewardship and share the positive environmental actions of our partners.

Found out how to donate or get involved at the website above today!



More than 37% of Addison County has been Vaccinated!

<http://acrpc.org/programs-services/emergency-management/coronavirus-covid-19/>

See webpage above for Addison County-specific information about COVID-19 or contact Andrew L'Roe at alroe@acrpc.org

Stay up-to-date on the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines in Vermont.

Who's eligible and how to sign up:

HealthVermont.gov/OurShotVT

REMAINING VACCINE ELIGIBILITY TIMELINE

Ages 60+

March 25

Ages 50+

March 29

Ages 40+

April 5

Ages 30+

April 12

Ages 16+

April 19