

# Energy Efficiency Programs Underway

The Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC) will be receiving almost \$190,000 in stimulus from the Department of Energy through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program.

The Commission has designed a program for the use of these funds that includes an energy audit of a municipal building in each of the Region's 27 communities and some basic retro-fitting of each building. The Commission is also working with Stafford Technical Center to provide support for tuition costs for over 30 individuals who are getting trained on weatherization techniques for the construction industry.

In cooperation with Efficiency Vermont and the Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network, the RRPC will host the Community Energy Mobilization Program starting in January. This program trains community representatives in the basic techniques of energy efficiency so that they can then go out into their respective communities and conduct quick home walk-throughs providing low-flow shower heads, light bulbs, and other items to reduce energy use. Other energy saving techniques and programs will also be discussed during these visits. This program will provide an initial step for homeowners. More advanced weatherization work can be identified through an energy audit and participating in programs for which Neighborworks of Western Vermont has applied.

The Commission is also looking into involvement with the Green Mountain Energy Challenge; a program which challenges communities to compete with one another to see who can produce the most energy savings.

The program will emphasize support for local Energy Committees providing information, activities and resources. The focus is to make these committees more active by providing the tools to assist in local efforts to conserve energy. One such tool will be an updated Regional Plan that more effectively coordinates the Energy, Transportation, Land Use, and Housing elements of the Plan and a model for the energy element of town plans.

The Commission will also act as a clearinghouse for information on grants, programs, and other resources related to energy efficiency.

Other activities to be funded by Energy Block Grant funds include identifying park and ride lots throughout the Region, working with employers to organize ride-sharing programs, promoting the annual Way-to-Go program, which encourages drivers to find alternative ways of getting around for a week in the spring.

For more information on energy efficiency programs and the activities of the Commission call 775-0871.

**TRANSITION TO DIGITAL NEWSLETTER**



Beginning with this issue, the RRPC Newsletter is going digital! Send an email with "Digital Newsletter" in the subject line to Judy at [judy@rutlandrpc.org](mailto:judy@rutlandrpc.org) to make sure you don't miss an issue.



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**BROWNFIELDS**

**RRPC  
COMMISSIONERS**

- Benson - Tom Bartholomew
- Brandon - Ethan Swift (At-Large)
- Castleton - Robert Day
- Chittenden - Carolyn Schwalbe
- Clarendon -
- Danby - Annette Smith
- Fair Haven - Bonnie Rosati
- Hubbardton - Robert Gibbs  
(Chair, Community Issues)
- Ira - Tim Martin
- Killington - David Rosenblum
- Mendon - Larry Courcelle  
(Ex-Officio)
- Middletown Springs - Erick Erickson
- Mount Holly - Annette Lynch  
(Secretary-Treasurer)
- Mount Tabor
- Pawlet - Eric Mach  
(Chair, Regional Issues)
- Pittsford - Patricia Lewis
- Poultney - Jonas Rosenthal
- Proctor - Eric Anderson
- Rutland City - Kevin Coleman
- Rutland Town - Fred Nicholson  
(Chair)
- Shrewsbury - Mark Goodwin  
(Vice-Chair)
- Sudbury -
- Tinmouth - Robert Lloyd
- Wallingford - Ken Fredette
- Wells - Joel Davison
- West Haven - Susan Lybeck
- West Rutland - Linda Barker

- Area-Wide Citizen Interest Members:**
- Natural Resources - Peter Upton
  - Housing/Low Inc
  - Regional Libraries - Paula Baker

- Ex-Officio Members:**
- REDC - Jamie Stewart
  - WIB - Larry Sudlow
  - RRCC -

**RRPC STAFF**

- Executive Director - Mark Blucher
- Finance Administrator - Judy Holcomb
- GIS Manager - Steve Schild
- Senior GIS Technician - Mary Trombley
- Senior Planner - Susan Schreiberman
- Regional Planner - Ed Bove

**ASSESSMENT WORK RESUMES AT CENTER RUTLAND SITE**

Environmental assessment work has resumed at the Flory property in Center Rutland. Once a thriving commercial property, the site and buildings have fallen into disrepair and only the Center Rutland Post Office remains operational.

A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) for lead and asbestos in the existing buildings and a Phase I update of the last ESA conducted in 2007 will be contracted by the Rutland Region Brownfields Reuse Program, operated by the Rutland Regional Planning Commission.

The Johnson Company has been contracted to perform the ESA. The Rutland Economic Development Corporation (REDC) has facilitated the process between the landowner and the Brownfields Program.



Former motel building at Flory Property in Center Rutland

**CAP COMPLETED FOR HOURMART SITE**



Final conceptual design for pocket park on West Street

A Corrective Action Plan (CAP) has been completed for the former HourMart on West Street in Rutland City. This is the final phase of assessment work necessary before site redevelopment begins. The CAP details how contamination at the site will be remediated before future redevelopment commences.

The Rutland Redevelopment Agency will lead the redevelopment effort, which will turn the site into a pocket park with a gateway feature announcing the entrance to Downtown Rutland from Business Route 4.

**GIS**

**Skier and Snowboarder Rescue Maps**

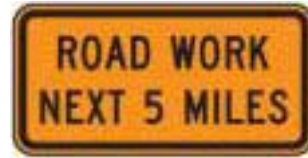
Recently, the RRPC had an opportunity to work with the Vermont State Police to create a map to help locate and rescue lost skiers and snowboarders from Killington and Pico. USGS topographic maps were used as the base maps, which were useful because they include contour, elevation, surface water, road and trail data. Trail information and an important grid system were added.

The grid was developed in ArcMap, the RRPC's main GIS software. It shows a 30 second latitude/longitude grid labeled at all endpoints. Next, the transparency level of the topo maps were set to forty percent, which enables viewers to see hidden data. The hidden data is the VT Mapping Programs 2006 orthophotography, a black and white aerial view. With the transparency set, ski trails and other features from the orthophotos are visible. From a cell phone call in to a 911 dispatcher, the technology at the dispatch center is able to acquire the caller's location as a GPS point or coordinate set.

## PROJECT PRIORITIZATION

Annually, VTrans tasks the Rutland Region Transportation Council with the prioritization of the Region’s transportation projects. In an effort to maintain and ensure public input and develop a systematic approach, VTrans uses a rating system that includes “asset management-based factors which are objective and quantifiable” including:

- Safety
- Traffic volume
- Availability of alternate routes
- Future maintenance and reconstruction costs
- Priorities assigned by the regional planning commission



In 2010, prioritization will focus on roadway and paving projects since town highway candidate projects were previously submitted. “Candidate” projects are those that have been approved by the Legislature, are not yet in the development and evaluation stage and are not anticipated to have significant expenditures during the budget year.

The Rutland Region Transportation Council also submits new projects with the project prioritization. Please contact Susan at 775-0871 ext. 204 for more information or to add a project to the list.

## CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT PLANNING

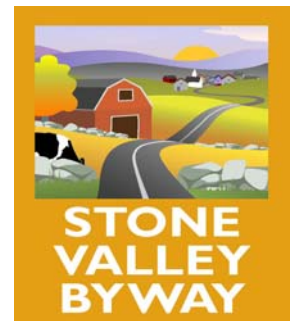
The Draft US 7 Corridor Management Plan (Rutland Town and Clarendon) has been released and final input is being gathered. The Implementation Plan includes specific actions, language for the towns’ development regulations (zoning and subdivision ordinances), identifies project leads and partners and prioritizes these. A working group has formed to start executing some of the recommendations. This plan won’t sit on a shelf.

VTrans has offered additional funds for corridor plans and it is likely that VT 22A will be next from our Region.

## STONE VALLEY SCENIC BYWAY

The Stone Valley Byway, which extends along VT 30 from Poultney south to Manchester, has been moving forward. After its designation in 2007, a Federal Highway grant was received in 2008 to develop the logo, brochure, signs in each of the 6 towns, and a website (under development at [www.stonevalleybyway.com](http://www.stonevalleybyway.com)).

In October 2009, a second grant was received from FHWA for \$91,500 to develop additional interpretive materials, consisting of stone informational panels, highlighting resources of each of the towns, and podcasts. The Stone Valley Byway Steering Committee meets monthly in Pawlet and all are welcome to come and get involved. Watch for the new signs coming soon along the Byway!



## RUTLAND CREEK PATH



Otter Creek Engineering has finalized the design plans for the segments of the path that extend from Giorgetti Park to the Dorr Drive bridge and all permits and the environmental documentation (categorical exclusion) have been obtained. A Transportation Enhancement grant application was submitted for construction of Segment 1- from Giorgetti Park to State Street. The level of contributions of cash and in-kind services will help determine how much work can be completed by the community.

### VISIT THESE GREAT PLANNING SITES:

[www.vpic.info](http://www.vpic.info)  
(aimed at volunteers)

[www.vermontplanners.org](http://www.vermontplanners.org)  
(aimed at professionals and active volunteers)

[www.planetizen.com](http://www.planetizen.com)

[www.planning.org](http://www.planning.org)  
(American Planning Association)

**NEWSLETTER****News & Upcoming Events****RRPC MEETING SCHEDULE****JANUARY**

19th—RRPC Committee & Commission meetings, 5:30 & 7:00  
(The Opera House)

28th —Transportation Council, 7:00 pm (RRMC Leahy Center)

**FEBRUARY**

16th—RRPC Committee & Commission meetings, 5:30 & 7:00  
(The Opera House)

25th—Transportation Council, 7:00

**MARCH**

16th—RRPC Committee & Commission meetings, 5:30 & 7:00  
(The Opera House)

25th—Transportation Council, 7:00

**APRIL**

20th—RRPC Committee & Commission meetings, 5:30 & 7:00  
(The Opera House)

**2010 Municipal Education Grants (MEG) Available**

The MEG program enables municipalities to seek up to \$800 for on-site training for their volunteer boards and commissions. Applications for the FY10 MEGs may be submitted anytime before May 15, 2010. The RRPC is available to help prepare applications and conduct the training in your community. Details and the application are available at: <http://www.dhca.state.vt.us/Planning/MEG.htm>.

JANUARY

**5th**— VT Community Energy Mobilization Kick-Off Meeting. (5:30 p.m. RRPC Conference Room. Opera House, 3rd Floor)

**14th**- Affordable Housing and Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing at the Local Level. Sponsored by Southern Windsor and Windham County RPCs. (Location T.B.D.)

FEBRUARY

**4th**- Guiding Development Through Planned Unit Development. Sponsored by VLCT and VT RPCs. (Vermont Interactive Television Locations)

**10th**- Better Buildings By Design Conference. Sponsored by Efficiency Vermont. (Sheraton Conference Center, Burlington)

MARCH

**10th**- Making the Most of Municipal Planning Data Resources. Sponsored by VLCT and VT RPCs (V.I.T. Locations)



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