



802 674 9201 / PO Box 320 / Ascutney Professional Building, Route 5, Ascutney, Vermont 05030

**SOUTHERN WINDSOR COUNTY
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

Winter 2009

Andover / Baltimore / Cavendish / Chester / Ludlow / Reading / Springfield / Weathersfield / West Windsor / Windsor

SWCRPC COMMISSIONERS:

Etienne Ting, Chair, Cavendish
Don Barrett, Vice Chair, Springfield
Peter Daniels, Secretary/
Treasurer, Weathersfield
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Shep Thomas, Alt., Baltimore
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Cecil Waldo, Alt., Chester
Norm Vanasse - Ludlow
Rose Goings, Alt., Ludlow
John Mitchell, Reading
Hal Pyke, West Windsor
Steve Cottrell, Windsor

SWCRPC STAFF:

Thomas J. Kennedy, Executive Director
John Broker-Campbell, Assistant Planner
Joelle Greenland, Planner
April Harkness, GIS Planner
Cynthia Porter, Financial Administrator
Jason Rasmussen, Senior Planner
Jaynie Smith, Intern

www.swcrpc.org

Vermont Community Climate Change Grants:

The Vermont Community Climate Change Grant Program is for Vermont municipalities and non-profit organizations to support projects that increase energy efficiency, achieve measurable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, and increase use of clean renewable resources.

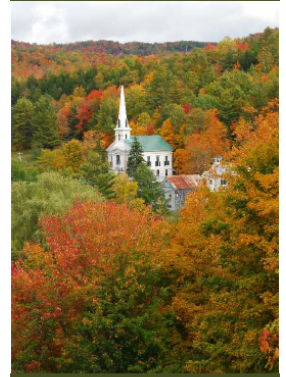
Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis to applicants meeting the eligibility criteria up to \$12,000 per project. A total of \$360,000 is available statewide in this grant cycle. Grant recipients are eligible for future grant awards on a competitive basis; however, each applicant organization is limited to one grant award per year. Grant applicants are expected to provide a match of 10% of project costs.

Application deadline: April 1, 2009

For more information and an application, visit:

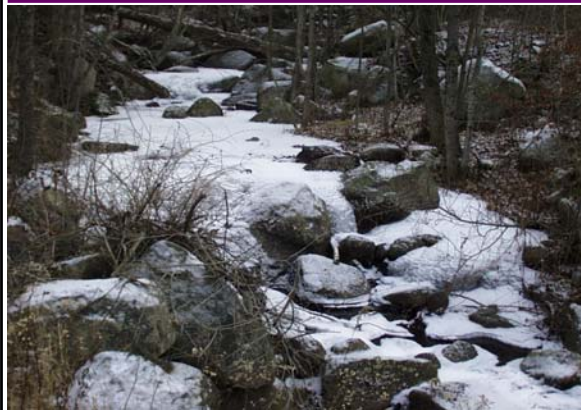
www.anr.state.vt.us/air/Planning/htm/ClimateChange.htm

Vermont Community
Climate Change Grants



Helping Communities
Reduce Air Emissions and
Achieve Energy Efficiency

FY2009 Municipal Planning Grant Funding Announced



The Following Municipalities Received MPG Funding for FY2009:

- * *Springfield—Town Plan Update*
- * *West Windsor—Town Plan Update*
- * *Windsor—Zoning and/or Subdivision Bylaw Update*

The Municipal Education Grant program (MEG) provides municipalities with funds for training volunteer boards and commissions to help them perform their duties as defined under 24 V.S.A. Chapter 117. The fund is designed to bring trainers directly to the community so that all land use boards and commissions have the opportunity for basic and on-going education.

Municipalities may apply for a grant of up to \$800 any time before May 15, 2009. The state will reimburse the municipality for the grant amount after the training has taken place and expenses have been paid. For more information go to: <http://www.dhca.state.vt.us/Planning/MEG.htm>

Safe Routes to School Applications Due by March 13th

The Vermont Agency of Transportation's (VTrans) Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program is soliciting applications for planning and program development funding.

The SRTS program is funded by 100% federal transportation funds and is intended to result in greater numbers of students who walk and bike to school. Funding is used for planning and program efforts such as pedestrian and bicycle safety education, contests and incentives to encourage walking and bicycling, engaging law enforcement, and evaluation of student/parent attitudes and behavior, and assessing the existing condition of streets and sidewalks around schools. Windsor successfully applied for these funds in 2006. The 2009 application and guidance is available on the VTrans website: <http://www.aot.state.vt.us/progdev/Sections/LTF/SRTS/VTSRTS.htm>. A pre-application workshop will be available at all Vermont Interactive Television locations on January 27 at 6pm and February 3rd at 10:15am. **Applications must be received by March 13th.** The next grant round for infrastructure is anticipated for this summer. Please contact Joelle Greenland at jgreenland@swcrpc.org or 674-9201 if you would like assistance with applications. You may also contact the VTrans SRTS Coordinator, Aimee Pope at aimee.pope@state.vt.us or 828-5799 for more information.



Brownfields Program & All Appropiates Inquiry

"All appropriate inquiries" (AAI) is the process of evaluating a property's environmental conditions and assessing potential liability for any contamination. This environmental due diligence is a critical component of any property transaction where potential environmental risks are a concern. These properties are often known as brownfields and have great potential for redevelopment. AAI's must be conducted by, or under the supervision or responsible charge of, a qualified environmental professional (QEP).

The SWCRPC currently has two petroleum grants and one hazardous waste grant to perform environmental site assessments of brownfields properties. Petroleum contamination can be found on property with underground storage tanks, such as gas stations and auto repair shops, or commercial buildings that stored heating oil. To date, we have done numerous Phase I and Phase II site assessments on both petroleum and hazardous waste sites and are seeking new sites in our region. By using our funds to help fulfill AAI requirements, we can assist in the first steps of redeveloping and reusing sites for new commercial or industrial operations, retail businesses, housing, or open space. For information on assessments at petroleum or hazardous sites, please contact Joelle Greenland or April Harkness at 902-674-9201 or email: jgreenland@swcrpc.org or aharknes@swcrpc.org.

Household Hazardous Waste Collections will be held on: Saturday, May 9 in Rockingham and Springfield.

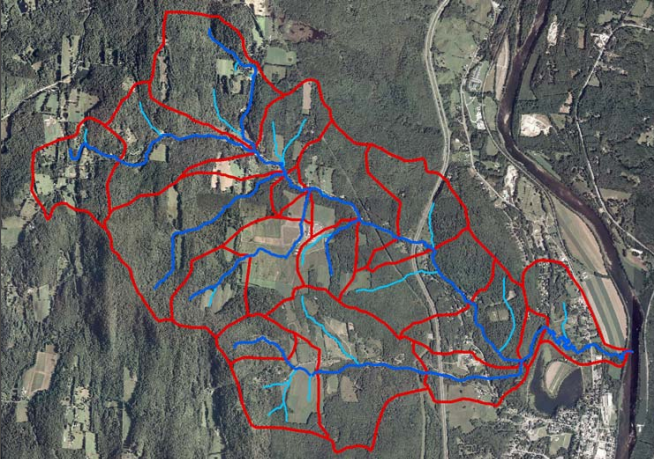
The events are free for residents; qualified businesses are welcome but must pay for disposal.

The Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management District includes one recycling center (Plymouth) and five municipal transfer stations (Cavendish, Ludlow, Rockingham, Springfield, and Weathersfield) which accept textiles for re-use. The District partners with Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) which picks up textiles at five of the locations and brings them to a warehouse where they are baled and sold to a textile broker. The proceeds are used locally by SEVCA to fund its community services projects, such as fuel assistance to low-income Vermonters. SEVCA accepts all types of clothing (even ripped, stained, or no-longer-fashionable), and shoes, belts, purses, coats, mittens, gloves, blankets, towels, sheets and stuffed animals. Textile re-use gives District residents an opportunity to cut down on their disposal costs and to keep resources out of the landfill and incinerator.

Please contact Mary O'Brien, Recycling Coordinator, Southern Windsor/Windham County Solid Waste Management District with any questions: 802-674-9235

Come - Join the Local Emergency Planning Committee

Your local emergency planning committee (LEPC) is a state sponsored organization under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act that meets monthly to discuss emergency related topics that affect the southern Windsor County region along with the towns of Hartford, Hartland and Norwich. Towns and businesses will learn more about emergency preparedness information and resources. First responder agencies will have the opportunity to exchange ideas and concerns with other organizations across the region and also learn about upcoming Homeland Security/Vermont Emergency Management/FEMA training events. Every town is encouraged to participate. For more information please contact John Broker-Campbell at 802-674-9201 or jcampbell@swcrpc.org.



NOW AVAILABLE: Hubbard Brook (Windsor, VT) Phase 1 Stream Geomorphic Assessment Summary December 11, 2008

Prepared by: Evan P. Fitzgerald, Principal Watershed Scientist and Samuel P. Parker, Staff Scientist under contract to: SWCRPC with funding from Pre-disaster Mitigation.

For a copy of the Final Report or more information contact: April Harkness at 802-674-9201 or aharknes@swcrpc.org.

The SWCRPC newsletter can be found online at www.swcrpc.org

SWCRPC Impacted by State Budget Cuts

The State's budget is approximately \$40 million under-funded, with two cuts to the General Fund budget already made in 2008 and one or two more cuts likely to come. The Regional Planning Commissions' are not immune to the effects of the economic struggles that the State of Vermont is facing. The RPC has recently taken a 13% reduction in Agency of Commerce and Community Development funding. Collectively, Vermont Regional Planning Commissions have been reduced in budget by over \$300,000 from the General Fund. In addition, the 2009 Municipal Planning Grant program was reduced by 50%, thus leaving only half of the applications funded. While we hope to be able to continue to provide the same kinds of services and technical assistance to our member towns, the reality is that the funding cuts will create many challenges in the coming months.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

FEBRUARY 18, 2009

LOCAL GOVERNMENT DAY IN THE LEGISLATURE

FEBRUARY 25, 2009

REMOVING REGULATORY BARRIERS: AFFIRMATIVELY FURTHERING FAIR HOUSING AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

FEBRUARY 26, 2009

TOWN MEETING TUNE-UP

MARCH 5, 2009

SUSTAINING ENERGY AROUND ENERGY PLANNING

**For more information
on these and other
trainings and events,
please go to:
[http://www.vlct.org/
eventsalendar/](http://www.vlct.org/eventsalendar/) or
email info@vlct.org.**

Route 5, Ascutney
Professional Building
PO Box 320
Ascutney, VT 05030



Calendar of Events

February 2009

- 11 Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting @ 6:30 pm in the Mt. Ascutney Hospital Board Room
- 16 President's Day, RPC Offices Closed**
- 17 Brownfields Steering Committee @ 11:00 am in the RPC Conference Room, Route 5, Ascutney VT.
- 17 Regional Planning Commission Meeting @ 12:00 Noon in the RPC Conference Room, Route 5, Ascutney VT.
- TBD** Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting @ 7:00pm in the RPC Conference Room, Route 5, Ascutney VT.

March 2009

- 3 TOWN MEETING DAY**
 - 11 Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting @ 6:30 pm, location TBA
 - 17 Brownfields Steering Committee @ 11:00 am in the RPC Conference Room, Route 5, Ascutney VT.
 - 17 Regional Planning Commission Meeting @ 12:00 Noon in the RPC Conference Room, Route 5, Ascutney VT.
 - 18 Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting @ 7:00pm in the RPC Conference Room, Route 5, Ascutney VT.
 - 19 Solid Waste Management District Meeting @ 6:00pm in the Springfield Select board Conference Room, Springfield Town Hall, Springfield VT.
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