



WHEN GOVERNMENTS COOPERATE

State Government Municipal Day

A Day of Workshops for Vermont's Local Government Officials

Wednesday, September 9, 2015

8am-4:15pm National Life Building, Montpelier, VT

The Agency of Natural Resources (ANR), in cooperation with the Agency of Transportation (VTrans) and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD), invites you to participate in a day-long event that will include poster presentations and workshops, and the opportunity to engage with Agency staff members and municipal colleagues from across the state.

SPACE IS LIMITED AND ONLINE PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

The day begins with coffee, networking opportunities and poster presentations by a wide variety of State programs. The kick-off plenary session will feature a panel discussion focusing on Vermont's new Clean Water Law. This overview of the recently passed law will cover impacts on local communities around the State and the status of the law's implementation.

The \$25 registration fee includes both morning coffee and a buffet-style lunch by the New England Culinary Institute at the National Life cafeteria.

Agenda, workshop descriptions and general information:

<http://www.anr.state.vt.us/site/html/mtdc.htm>

Online registration:

<http://state-government-municipal-day-2015-registration.eventbrite.com>

Past poster presentations have included:

- » Adapting to a Shifting Climate
- » Evolution of Stream Crossings / Flume Demo
- » Local Planning for Recreation
- » Communities Caring for Tree Canopy
- » Environmental Assistance Office – We Can Help
- » Stormwater Master Planning
- » Hunting and Fishing Licenses
- » Agency of Natural Resources Grants
- » Forest Land Conservation
- » Solid Waste Programs and Assistance
- » Water Infrastructure Financing Programs
- » Vermont Boat Access Greeter Program
- » Sustainable Water Systems
- » Brownfields
- » Flood Resilience
- » VTrans Technical Assistance and Grants
- » Forest, Parks and Recreation Programs
- » The Benefits ANR Lands and Facilities Bring to Your Town
- » Geologic Investigations to Reduce Community Vulnerability



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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802-828-1294

AGENDA, DETAILS AND REGISTRATION AT:

<http://www.anr.state.vt.us/site/html/mtdc.htm>

State Government Municipal Day Agenda: September 9, 2015

Please see complete workshop descriptions on following pages

8:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Registration, Coffee & Poster Presentations in Cafeteria			
9:00 AM	Plenary Session: Panel Discussion on Vermont's New Clean Water Law			
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	WORKSHOP SESSION 1			
	1A Vermont's Ecology & Environment (Part 1 of 4): An Introduction to Town Planning for Natural Resources (Hands-on Workshop)	2 Municipal Projects Done Right	3 A Multi-Agency Introduction to Municipal Involvement in Act 250	4 Septic Smart and the Proposed New Wastewater Rules
			5 Electric Vehicles, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy for Towns	6 Invasives Make Bad Neighbors: Manage, Prepare and Prevent the Spread of Invasive Pests and Plants
11:30 AM – 12:45 PM	Buffet-Style Lunch in the National Life Cafeteria			
12:45 PM – 1:45 PM	WORKSHOP SESSION 2			
	1B Vermont's Ecology & Environment (Part 2 of 4): An Introduction to Town Planning for Natural Resources (Hands-on Workshop)	7 Complete Streets are Green Streets	8 Planning that Matters (Part 1 of 3): Shorter and Clearer Town Plans	9 Vermont Recycling Round-Up: Successes and Challenges in Our Communities
				10 Lake Encroachment and Shoreland Permitting: Standards and Process
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	WORKSHOP SESSION 3			
	1C Vermont's Ecology & Environment (Part 3 of 4): An Introduction to Town Planning for Natural Resources (Hands-on Workshop)	12 Technical Assistance and Grant Opportunities from VTrans' Highway Division	13 Planning that Matters (Part 2 of 3): Engaging the Community	14 Reduce Damage from Flooding! Where to Start?
				15 Where Land and Water Meet: Wetland Regulations
				16 ANR Lands PILOT: Upcoming Changes & Municipal Feedback
3:15 PM – 4:15 PM	WORKSHOP SESSION 4			
	1D Vermont's Ecology & Environment (Part 4 of 4): An Introduction to Town Planning for Natural Resources (Hands-on Workshop)	17 Road Ready: Are You Prepared for the Storm?	18 Planning that Matters (Part 3 of 3): Tools for Implementing	19 Local Authorization of Emergency Instream Work
				20 Natural Resource Inventories: Forest Blocks, Wildlife Corridors, Natural Communities, and Rare Species!
				21 Section 248: Opportunities for Municipal Engagement in Energy Project Planning and Permitting

Workshop Session 1 (10:00 AM – 11:30 AM)

1A

Vermont's Ecology & Environment (Part 1 of 4, Hands-on Workshop): An Introduction to Town Planning for Natural Resources

THIS IS A FOUR PART WORKSHOP. You must sign up for all four sections. If this is a problem, please contact jens.hilke@state.vt.us.

In this four-part workshop, participants will learn important context and scientific concepts involved in planning for natural resources. 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. Presentations on Context, Scale, and Whole Communities are interspersed with interactive hands-on activities that make this an intensive and exciting training.

2

Municipal Projects Done Right

In this panel discussion, you'll hear from municipal officials about successfully completed projects: town garage relocation and construction; natural resources planning and; downtown/village center planning and development. Town officials will discuss factors that contributed to successful outcomes, working effectively within the regulatory framework and lessons learned. State program officials will also provide their perspective and audience interaction is encouraged.

3

A Multi-Agency Introduction to Municipal Involvement in Act 250

In this session presenters will provide an overview of the Act 250 review process with a particular focus on how municipal governments can play a role. The presenters will also explain how state agencies are involved in the process and the role they play in promoting state policy goals for natural resources, primary agricultural soils, historic and cultural resource protection and smart growth. Recent changes to Act 250 Criterion 9(L) dealing with strip development will be highlighted.

4

Septic Smart and the Proposed New Wastewater Rules

Learn more about septic system types. Topics will include: State jurisdiction over septic system design standards for new construction; minor repairs to septic systems; and how we review failed systems. An overview of the proposed new wastewater rules will be discussed including partial delegations and how a municipality can request partial delegation when they own both the treatment plant and water supply infrastructure. The new On-site Loan Program will be discussed which is intended to help Vermont residents repair or replace failed wastewater systems and potable water supplies.

5

Energy Efficiency, Electric Vehicles and Renewable Energy for Municipalities

Towns can fight climate change, reduce energy use and save money all at the same time by organizing energy efficiency projects in municipal buildings and making their communities ready for electric vehicles. In this workshop we will cover available funding sources and resources for energy efficiency retrofits, new building energy code changes to ensure larger developments are EV ready, and best practices for funding, permitting and installing charging stations for EVs.

6

Invasives Make Bad Neighbors: Manage, Prepare and Prevent the Spread of Invasive Pests and Plants

Invasive plants and insects are an increasingly apparent problem along Vermont's roads, rivers, fields, town forests, and even our own backyards. The scope of the problem may seem overwhelming, but individuals and towns can take specific steps that have measurable impacts when confronting this challenge. Learn about resources that allow you to plan for the imminent arrival of the exotic emerald ash borer, a pest that causes nearly 100% mortality of ash trees. We'll also discuss resources that allow you to plan, map, and prioritize invasive plant control and prevention efforts and the effective use of the site www.vtinvvasives.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Workshop Session 2 (12:45 PM – 1:45 PM)

1B

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7

Complete Streets are Green Streets

Making our downtown transportation systems more sustainable involves many policies and practices that minimize environmental impact and create streets that are safe for everyone, regardless of age, ability, or mode of transportation. Complete Streets are a natural complement to sustainability efforts, ensuring benefits for mobility, community, and the environment. Realize the 'green' potential of your streets as we discuss the many elements of street design, construction, and operation that can work in favor of achieving both 'complete' and 'green' streets.

8

Planning that Matters (Part 1 of 3): Shorter and Clearer Town Plans

A whopping 92% of Vermont's 262 municipalities regularly prepare and adopt a municipal plan. Now that so many towns have a plan, how can we fine-tune them to better serve as a practical guide for local decision-making? Staff from the Agency of Commerce and Community Development and its partners are working to address this question and invite you to preview the state's new Planning Manual. Learn how to develop shorter and more targeted town plans with realistic and measurable implementation steps to achieve community goals. We will touch on the role municipal plans play in Act 250 and Public Service Board proceedings.

9

Vermont Recycling Round-Up: Successes and Challenges in Our Communities

A roundtable style workshop on how Universal Recycling is impacting your municipality. Participants should come prepared to share one positive story or success, as well as one particular challenge resulting from implementation of the July 1st Universal Recycling dates. What type of outreach method did you find surprisingly effective with your businesses? Is there an unclear question that your transfer station attendant repeatedly hears from residents? After all participants have shared, the floor will open up for follow-up discussion and questions about Universal Recycling.

10

Lake Encroachment and Shoreland Permitting: Standards and Process

The Shoreland Protection Act went into effect on July 1, 2014. Under this Act, all lakes and ponds greater than 10 acres in size now have an established Protected Shoreland Area which encompasses the area from the mean water level (shoreline) out 250 feet. Within this area, the creation of new cleared area and impervious surface is now regulated. Come learn about what these new regulations are, what activities are exempt, how municipalities are involved, and what is required for a municipality to seek delegation.

11

Recreation: Trail Planning and ADA Compliance

This workshop will present the framework of the 2011 Department of Justice ruling which expands access on public facilities for people with mobility disabilities. Learn what the rule requires, and how the Agency of Natural Resources' policy addresses the issue. This workshop will help town officials understand what they could do to allow more access especially on recreational trails.

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Workshop Session 3 (2:00 PM – 3:00 PM)

1C

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12

Technical Assistance and Grant Opportunities from VTrans' Highway Division

VTrans has a variety of grant opportunities – both state and federally funded – that are available to assist municipalities with addressing environmental issues in their communities. These funds can assist communities with both planning and construction activities. VTrans also provides many opportunities for technical assistance. The participants should take-away a general knowledge of funding opportunities from the Municipal Assistance Bureau as well as contact information.

13

Planning that Matters (Part 2 of 3): Engaging the Community

Plans work best when the community members participate in creating the vision and implementation strategies. But how do you entice busy, distracted people to engage? How can you better coordinate with other municipal boards and commissions or connect with the key people affected by the plan and obtain their buy-in? Hear how municipalities around Vermont succeeded in engaging citizens to shape a vision for the future and to make the decisions needed to improve the community. Bring your own public outreach conundrums to pose for discussion and problem-solving.

14

Reduce Damage from Flooding! Where to Start?

Community action happens at all scales; retrofitting buildings, promoting safe growth, and protecting river corridors. Pam Brangan, with Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, will introduce a watershed-based process to set priorities for flood resilience actions. Steve Lotspeich, Waterbury Planner, will describe the community work underway to elevate and protect nine older houses in the village. Ned Swanberg, ANR, will link to the data, river corridor maps and incentives that can support your community's work to become flood ready.

15

Where Land and Water Meet: Wetland Regulations

Wetlands are everywhere! Over 10% of Vermont is either wetland or adjacent land. The state regulates activities within wetlands and a fifty foot "buffer" zone around the wetland. When wetlands and buffers cannot be avoided, a state wetland permit may be needed. During this presentation we will cover the history of wetland degradation and the importance of regulation; wetland mapping, classification, and jurisdiction; wetland functions and values; avoidance and minimization; permitting; and tools and resources.

16

ANR Lands PILOT: Upcoming Changes & Municipal Feedback

ANR Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) is an important program that reimburses towns for state lands taken off of their grand list. Currently, payments are made at 1% of fair market value as determined by the Department of Taxes (with some exceptions) but recent legislation has proposed changes to the structure of ANR's PILOT program which will impact municipalities. We'd like to solicit feedback on how PILOT affects towns and town views on state land conservation. We will discuss the proposed changes to PILOT legislation, the benefits of state land to municipalities, and listen the towns' perspectives on PILOT.

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Workshop Session 4 (3:15 PM – 4:15 PM)

1D

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17

Road Ready: Are You Prepared for the Storm?

Presented by the VTrans Maintenance and Operation Bureau, this session addresses Federal Highway Works Administration's Emergency Relief Program and winter maintenance issues, helping you to understand the impacts and cost benefits of proper equipment maintenance and materials use.

18

Planning that Matters (Part 3 of 3): Tools for Implementing

Staff from the Agency of Commerce and Community Development and their partners will offer a series of snappy 5-10 minute 'lightning talks' on a variety of tools available for bringing municipal plans to fruition. Learn about Community Development, Historic Preservation and Municipal Planning Grants, Historic Tax Credits, Downtown and Village Center Designation and more. The presentations will focus on key points only and the speakers will linger afterwards to chat if you want to learn more.

19

Local Authorization of Emergency Instream Work

This workshop will cover the Agency's regulation of locally authorized instream work to address imminent threats to life or property. Municipalities have long had the authority to authorize instream work to address imminent threats. However, the 2012 Rivers Bill significantly modified this authority, requiring that locally authorized projects be reported to ANR, meet implementation standards as established by ANR, and receive a final approval from ANR in the form of a General or Individual permit. This workshop will explain the process that ANR has established, the municipal responsibilities and where municipal officials can expect to find further assistance with the Emergency Protective Measure process.

20

Natural Resource Inventories: Forest Blocks, Wildlife Corridors, Natural Communities, and Rare Species!

Participants will learn about the range of features that may be included in town-wide natural resource inventories and how to access information that is already available for some of these features, including forest blocks, natural communities, and rare species. They will understand the benefits and practical considerations in coordinating a town-wide natural resource inventory and review options for integrating the range of natural resources identified through inventory into the town's planning framework. Specific examples of town inventory results and town planning and zoning language will be provided and discussed.

21

Section 248: Opportunities for Municipal Engagement in Energy Project Planning and Permitting

In this session presenters will provide an overview of the Section 248 review process for energy generation and transmission projects with a particular focus on how municipal governments can play a role, as well as, provide information regarding a number of ongoing energy policy and planning initiatives including the update to the state's Comprehensive Energy Plan, a pilot project at three regional planning commissions to model deep-dive energy planning, and the status of the legislature's energy siting workgroup

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