



What is e-Vermont?

The e-Vermont Community Broadband Project is a two-year initiative to help rural Vermont towns take full advantage of the Internet to create jobs, drive school innovation, provide social services, and increase civic involvement. The new e-Vermont Partnership is already working together with selected communities statewide to provide digital tools and in-depth training.

e-Vermont is one of the few national broadband adoption initiatives focused on rural needs and it is being viewed as a national model. These towns are among the first to explore how the Internet can be harnessed as a tool for community development.

By reaching the bedrocks of Vermont communities—schools, businesses, municipal government, libraries, health and social services groups—the e-Vermont Project is helping to close the digital divide by helping our towns fully realize the potential of the Internet in addressing local challenges. e-Vermont is not stringing cable or fiber, but is working to make better use of broadband where it is available.

Although the e-Vermont Community Broadband Project can only bring in-depth services to 24 communities, it will be offering tools and resources to all of Vermont through workshops, conferences, webinars, online tools, and the continuing programs of its partner organizations.

What Is e-Vermont Doing?

e-Vermont is providing training and education, equipment and facilitation, and some funding to the selected communities. The Vermont Community Broadband Project is guided by the e-Vermont Partnership, but its focus is on the grassroots needs of each selected community. Local committees are leading the way and the 2010 communities are already seeing benefits.

- In Middlesex, almost 60% of the households are using a new community e-newsletter called Front Porch Forum to buy and trade household items, learn about local special events and volunteer needs, share wildlife sightings, and support area businesses.
- Five towns (Bristol, Ludlow, Poultney, Newport and West Rutland) are exploring the feasibility of creating public access Wi-Fi zones in their town centers in order to promote their communities and provide visitors with information about local events, services, entertainment and hospitality.
- Small business owners in West Rutland are getting one-on-one analysis and advice on how to update and grow their e-commerce from the Vermont Small Business Development Center.
- Sunderland - Arlington - Sandgate are adding technology as part of their celebration of their 250th Town Charter Anniversaries in 2011. High school community service students will create a website based on the historical holdings of Martha Canfield Library's Russell Vermontiana Collection.

- In Canaan churches, sports teams, and community groups are implementing an online calendar which will allow for greater event coordination, promotion, and cross-pollination.
- Bristol's 5th graders are learning to create podcasts and other interactive projects as the teachers integrate technology into their classroom. Digital Wish brought new computers for these students along with the training to unlock their potential.
- Libraries in all the e-Vermont towns are trying new ways to offer the public better access and training, as computers become essential to obtain social services, find jobs, and keep up with research.

e-Partners

e-Vermont will be led by the Vermont Council on Rural Development
Partners include:

- Digital Wish
- Front Porch Forum
- The Snelling Center for Government
- Vermont Department of Libraries
- Vermont Department of Public Service
- Vermont Small Business Development Center
- Vermont State Colleges

e-Vermont Communities

The 2010 e-Vermont communities are:

- | | | |
|-------------|---------------------|----------------|
| • Brighton | • Grand Isle County | • Poultney |
| • Bristol | • Ludlow | • Pownal |
| • Canaan | • Middlesex | • Sunderland |
| • Cambridge | • Newport | • West Rutland |

The 2011 e-Vermont communities are:

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|---------------|----------------------|--------------|
| • Bridgewater | • Fairfield | • Moretown |
| • Calais | • Hardwick | • Morristown |
| • Castleton | • Jay/Westfield | • Richford |
| • Dover | • Middletown Springs | • Vergennes |

Funding and Support

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| • Evslyn Family Foundation | • Vermont Rural Partnership |
| • Jan and David Blittersdorf Foundation | • VT Community Foundation |

For More Information

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