



2018

ANNUAL REPORT



Vermont Council on Rural Development

MISSION STATEMENT

The Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) helps Vermont citizens build prosperous and resilient communities through democratic engagement, marshalling resources, and collective action.

VCRD STANDS FOR

- ▶ Local Democracy
- ▶ Rural Voice
- ▶ Engagement
- ▶ Patriotism of Place
- ▶ Community Renewal
- ▶ Working Lands
- ▶ Innovation
- ▶ Climate Economy
- ▶ Youth
- ▶ Community



VERMONT COUNCIL ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT
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John Tracy, *State Director*, Office of Senator Leahy

David Weinstein, *State Director*, Office of Senator Sanders

The VCRD Board said goodbye this year to our wonderful member **Greg Brown**, who served out his full term limit of 12 years. We also said goodbye to **George Twigg** who moved on from his position with Congressman Welch and is enjoying new adventures in Colorado. We are grateful for their service and wish them well!

We've been excited to welcome **Monique Priestley** of The Space on Main in Bradford and **Rebecca Ellis**, the new State Director for Congressman Welch.



Letter from the Leadership

At the Vermont Council on Rural Development, when we go to rural communities we always say the same things:

- ▶ “Lincoln called Democracy an experiment. One tested in each time, and by each generation.”
- ▶ We say, “Don’t wait for Washington; don’t wait for Montpelier. It’s all about local leadership...and in a democracy, all are required to lead.”
- ▶ We ask, “What do you stand for?” Patriotism of place is lining up, setting priorities, and taking action.
- ▶ We say, “It’s all about power.” Not building a problem statement for someone else to resolve, but building directional action—don’t live the problem, act to build the solution.
- ▶ We are asked to bring leaders together—both locally and in public policy—and ask, “What is your priority lever for progress? How can we build enough unity behind this to make the difference?”
- ▶ We say to communities: “The center of world democracy is not Washington or even Paris, it’s where people line up together—it’s right here in this room.” It is where people of good will gather to add up what they agree on and to get things done.
- ▶ We bring these principals, and these questions, to the issues of the working landscape, climate change, and to the challenge of advancing community leadership itself.

When we look out at the world today, it is easy to be overwhelmed and discouraged by the massive and endless details of the social media version of our problem statement.

To be effective at addressing issues ranging from local needs to climate change, we need to turn to each other. We need to pay attention. We need to act in confidence in ourselves and in our communities. We need to grow and adapt, to include all of Vermont’s diversity, to reach out to those voices not currently at the table, and to bring deep listening, respect and attention, to those with whom we may disagree.

At VCRD we recognize all the challenges affecting rural communities, but are fortunate to see the inspiring stories of people throughout Vermont who are standing up, setting direction, working with their neighbors to frame and build community projects and to invite new neighbors into renewed communities. And their inspiration gives us confidence for our future and the collective story of this place we love and call home.

Megan Camp,
VCRD Board Chair

Paul Costello,
VCRD Executive Director

Paul Costello honored with the “Arthur Gibb Award for Individual Leadership”

The Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC) presented its 2018 Arthur Gibb Award for Individual Leadership to our Executive Director, Paul Costello, at their annual meeting on September 20, 2018. The award honors a Vermont resident who has made a lasting contribution in advancing the environment and communities of Vermont.

“Paul Costello epitomizes the characteristics that defined Art Gibb’s life. He has committed himself to working across Vermont to make the state, and the individual communities that comprise it, a better place. I am really pleased to recognize him for that work.”

-Brian Shupe, VNRC Executive Director

Costello, a lifelong Vermonter, obtained a BA from the University of Vermont and a PhD in intellectual history from McGill University. He took the helm of VCRD in 2000.



Community

Community Visits provide a neutral platform for community members to come together to identify goals and opportunities, select top priorities for action, foster and engage local leadership, and then connect to state, federal, private, and non-profit resources to move ideas to action.

Short-Term Facilitations support communities that have already identified key issues, challenges, and opportunities.



VCRD is grateful for our partnership with the Vermont Community Foundation (VCF) in our Community Visit program through their “Closing the Opportunity Gap” initiative. VCF is devoted to the progress of VT Communities and provides significant resources to community projects throughout the state.

Community Visits

In 2018, VCRD facilitated Community Visits in Newport, Wallingford, and Montgomery.

In **Newport**, more than 200 community members came together to strategize and move forward in the face of recent economic and community development setbacks. Residents identified economic development, events and celebrations, marketing and tourism, and health and wellness as key priorities to improve community vitality. Task forces are collaborating with other community groups and organizations in the City to advance year-round events and cultural experiences, to survey businesses to identify and tackle critical needs, to expand recreation opportunities, and build on Newport’s assets and brand to attract visitors and celebrate community life.

In **Wallingford**, about 160 residents discussed assets and challenges and decided on key priorities around economic development, events and community connection, and advancing outdoor recreation. Since the process concluded in July 2018, volunteer task forces have taken steps towards their goals including developing a business network to foster collective marketing and resource and information sharing, expanding and boosting local events, advancing communication initiatives to better connect the community, and reviving the annual Wallingford Day celebration.

In **Montgomery**, 160 community members came together to decide what is next for this northern VT community. Residents identified needs for community growth, village revitalization, and business support. The community set priorities to improve infrastructure and systems to make sure businesses and community members have what they need to thrive. Today, volunteer task forces are hard at work to improve cell and broadband access, develop community wastewater infrastructure, and improve village traffic flow and pedestrian safety.

Short-Term Facilitation

In 2018, VCRD facilitated a process in **Chelsea** to engage residents around the future of a general store in their village center. In **Proctor**, VCRD staff helped to engage volunteers, build task forces, and connect to resources around utilizing historic buildings in the village center, planning events and celebrating the community, and marketing Proctor as a place to live, work, and do business.



Do North Coworking: Rural entrepreneurship grows out of the Lyndon Community Visit

When the town of Lyndon came together in the 2017 Community Visit, residents shared a long list of community assets and were looking for ways to engage local volunteers and set concrete direction for the future prosperity and quality of life in their town. In a series of community forums, over 200 Lyndon residents identified four areas for concrete action for the future of their town and developed task forces around 1) recreation; 2) downtown businesses and storefronts; 3) schools, college & community; and 4) business growth and economic development.

As the task forces developed their plans of action, the idea of a co-working space and entrepreneurial hub emerged as a key priority. The center could attract new residents, support entrepreneurship and business development, bring vitality to the downtown, and better connect Northern Vermont University (NVU) to the community. Evan Carlson, a local entrepreneur, took the lead along with NVU partners to develop Do North Coworking, a new co-working space located in the previously unoccupied Bag Balm Building in Lyndonville's village center.

Following the Community Visit, Evan lined up key partnerships with NVU, NVDA, the Town of Lyndon, and others to develop the Do North concept. The coalition then build partnerships with key funders who attended Lyndon Community Visit meetings including USDA Rural Development, the Northern Borders Regional Commission, and the US Economic Development Administration, to raise the bulk of the funding needed to launch Do North Coworking.

With Northern Vermont University championing the initiative, Do North Coworking was setup with beautiful facilities equipped with some of the highest internet speeds in the area and startup funding from local partners and grantors. Today, Do North Coworking provides a community-driven space for the next wave of entrepreneurs in Lyndon and the Northeast Kingdom, and has formalized and strengthened the partnership between NVU and the Town of Lyndon, another key action items identified through the Community Visit process.

Highlight

Here's just one of many great projects that resulted from our Community Visit process!

"The Community Visit allowed the concept of coworking to be shared and naturally find an intersection with remote working, entrepreneurship and education. Do North's growing community of remote workers and entrepreneurs is creating a new energy which is emanating out of our facilities and into our community giving a renewed optimism about our economic future."

-Evan Carlson, Do North Coworking Founder

This mural, installed on a building next to the Coworking space, is part of the downtown improvement initiative.



Community

The Climate Economy Model Communities Program is helping Vermont communities rally citizens together to identify and implement action ideas that increase economic prosperity and reduce carbon emissions.

Climate Economy Model Communities Program

In 2018 the Climate Economy Model Communities program supported and wrapped up work in **Middlebury** and launched efforts in the communities of **Randolph** and **Swanton**.

In **Middlebury**, a featured effort was the neighborhood energy project that partners volunteers and utilities to complete home visits in order to help participants identify and move forward with projects that save money, save energy, and reduce climate impacts. Two neighborhoods participated in the project, resulting in nearly 80 home visits.

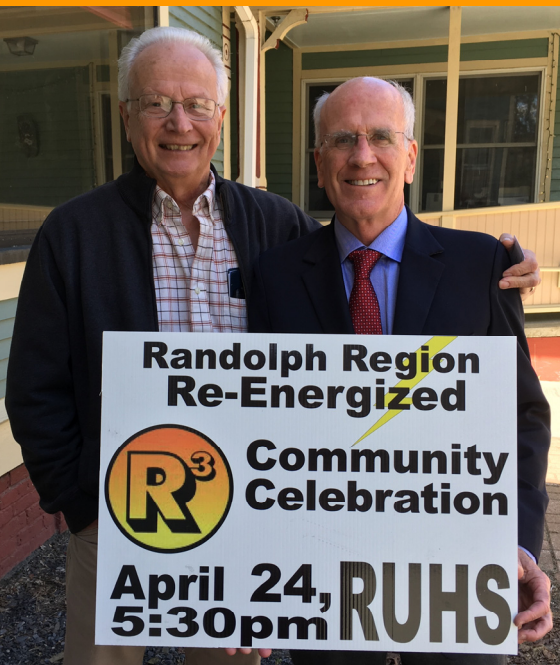
“Things have really to come together in Randolph and the Randolph Region Re-Energized (R3) process has been a key factor in our building momentum. With VCRD’s skillful facilitation and ongoing support, we are rallying together to strengthen the local economy and to make our region a hub of climate innovation. R3 helped bring about some long-needed organizational re-alignment that set us up for long-term success.”

-Patricia Moulton, President, Vermont Technical College and Chair, Randolph Region Re-Energized

In **Randolph**, the “Randolph Region Re-Energized” (“R3”) process convened nearly 300 participants to work on revitalizing the downtown and pushing forward with energy opportunities for homes, businesses, schools, and the municipality.

Swanton is rallying around a business energy visit campaign and an effort targeted at local landlords.

With past support from VLITE, Janes Trust Foundation, and the High Meadows Fund, we are excited to work with the communities of **Marshfield/Plainfield** and **Dorset** in 2019!



Vermont Glove Company: business transformation for the new climate economy

When Sam Hooper became the owner of Green Mountain Glove in Randolph in 2017, he took the helm of a storied manufacturer with a reputation for making the finest work gloves for utility line workers. Housed in a historic building with an ancient but still functioning coal boiler in the basement, he spent about \$15,000 on coal to keep the old and leaky building warm in his first year of business.

Under Sam's leadership, the now re-named Vermont Glove Company embarked on a full energy transformation in 2018. After the R3 process, he tackled a building insulation project in addition to replacing the coal boiler with a modern automated wood pellet heating system. These investments resulted in annual savings of about \$11,500. In addition to these efficiency improvements, Sam also worked with the local Catamount Solar to install a rooftop solar array.

At a recent R3 gathering to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the program, Sam shared the story of the energy transformation that he led at Vermont Glove Company. The enthusiasm of the audience was obvious as he described how he took a treasured community business and transformed it for the new climate economy.

Highlight

Here's one example of a project that sprung from our Climate Economy Model Communities process!

"I grew up in this area and I am deeply committed to helping my home community continue to thrive. R3 has been key in reminding us all what is so great about the Randolph region and helping us focus in on some key priorities to make it an even more attractive place to live and raise a family. As someone recruiting new employees, I have a whole new appreciation for how important this work is."

-Sam Hooper, Vermont Glove Company



Leadership

The Leadership Summit brought together over 500 local leaders working to improve life in their communities. Join us August 12th for the 2nd Summit.

VCRD's Leadership Awards celebrate Vermonters who exemplify "dedication, integrity and honorable service to community and to rural Vermont," and who have had a "transformational" effect on their communities.

2018 Vermont Community Leadership Summit

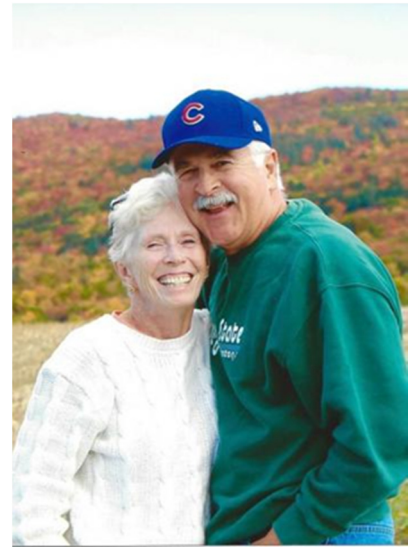
Making It Happen! Local Leadership for the Future of Vermont Communities

Over 500 community leaders from across the state came together on Oct 1, 2018 at Castleton University to learn new skills, address key community issue areas, and frame new ways Vermont can systematically support community progress. New, young, and emerging leaders participated along with veteran school and select board members, planning and conservation committee participants, local project organizers, students and all who are working to improve the economies and quality of life of their communities. New ideas for supporting youth and the diversity of the Vermont community were framed and VCRD has dedicated itself to follow up on building a "Community Leadership Resource Guide" and expanding its leadership coaching effort. VCRD is also working with partners to implement key findings from the Summit and is planning a 2nd Leadership Summit for August 12, 2019 to build on the strategies developed.

Leadership Awards

2018 Lifetime Leadership Award: Hank and Molly Lambert

The *Lifetime Leadership Award* was presented to Molly and Hank Lambert of Swanton, celebrating their deep experience working on behalf of Vermont communities and in their own community. Molly and Hank are a great team, working together for Swanton, and also in many roles supporting Vermonters. The impacts of their work are profound and have probably touched every single community in Vermont. Currently, Molly and Hank are essential leaders in the Swanton Enhancement Project, a citizen-led community and economic development initiative that hosted a VCRD Community Visit in 2015 that they co-chaired.



Vermont Community Leadership Award: Shannon Barsotti

The *Vermont Community Leadership Award* was presented to Shannon Barsotti, local chair of the Empower Pownal process, co-founder of Discover Pownal, and former member of the Pownal Planning Commission. Shannon was the local lead in applying for and organizing Empower Pownal, the inaugural community in VCRD's Climate Economy Model Communities Program. Shannon showed tremendous poise and commitment throughout the intense community conversations prompted by the process. At every opportunity she listened to her neighbors and worked to rally behind common initiatives, and the community is actively moving forward as a result.



Save the Date!

2019 Vermont Community Leadership Summit

August 12, 2019

Vermont Technical College

Join local citizens working to improve life in their communities at the 2nd Annual Leadership Summit!

- **Skills Workshops for Community Initiatives**
- **Community Project Success Stories**
- **Visioning Sessions for the Future of VT Leadership**

In democracy, all citizens are called upon to lead - where leaders step up, towns achieve great things.

Visit vtrural.org/summit19 for more.



Climate Economy Action Team

Since 2017, VCRD has convened the Climate Economy Action Team (CEAT), a group of businesses and individuals who are dedicated to advancing initiatives to expand distributed energy generation and efficiency in Vermont, cultivating climate economy entrepreneurs and startup businesses, and reducing Vermont's carbon impact while boosting economic development, creating jobs, and attracting youth and creative businesses to the state. Members of the team represent the over 460 members of the Vermont Climate Economy Partnership.

In the 2017-2018 legislative session, CEAT successfully advocated for several policy initiatives to advance Vermont's climate economy including an independent review of carbon pricing or trading structures for Vermont, support for built environment solar, directing VW Settlement funding towards electrifying the transportation system, and directing the Public Utilities Commission to study effective strategies to integrate electric vehicles into Vermont's transportation system. Because of our role in founding and leading CEAT, VCRD's Executive Director Paul Costello was asked to Co-Chair Governor Scott's Climate Action Commission, whose recommendations are seeds for future action.

Heading in to the 2018-2019 legislative session, CEAT advocated for initiatives to dramatically expand weatherization for low-income Vermonters and facilitate a shift to electric vehicles through targeted incentives. Weatherization expansion and EV incentives have been advanced in the legislature and are awaiting final approval at the end of the session, but there is much more to be done.

Working Lands Initiative

VCRD's Vermont Working Landscape Partnership unites over 1,000 farm, forest, value-added businesses and individuals working together to advance investment in the enterprises that conserve Vermont's land in practice and serve as a key foundation for the culture and economy of rural Vermont. In 2012, the Partnership's leadership council framed and supported the passage of the Working Lands Enterprise Fund to invest in the Renaissance of agriculture and innovative entrepreneurship in the natural resource economy. The fund spurs start-ups, supports growing businesses, and builds infrastructure to support jobs, communities, and the landscape of Vermont. Since WLEF's inception, VCRD has convened the Working Lands Coalition to serve as the crucial promoter of the investments. After six years of the program:

- ▶ **184** agriculture and forestry projects have been funded
- ▶ **\$5.3 million** in Working Lands funds were distributed
- ▶ **\$10 million** in matching funds were leveraged
- ▶ **\$31 million** in additional sales for the Vermont economy
- ▶ **501** new FTE jobs were created
- ▶ For every **\$10,000** invested **1** new job is created

Policy

Researching, developing, and advancing policies that support Vermont's quality of life while promoting economic opportunity is a central part of VCRD's work. Respected for its neutrality, fairness, and ability to facilitate productive discussions among disparate parties, VCRD has utilized a strong network of thoughtful and effective leaders to analyze and make crucial recommendations on VT policy.



Members and Donors

Thanks to the many contributors who support our work in service to Vermont's rural communities. Annual membership dues contribute to fund all of VCRD's programmatic activities.



Individuals (\$50-\$499): J. Riley Allen | Alice and Richard Angney | Anonymous (6) | Jill Arace | Laura Arnesen and Bob Meany | Ethan Atkin | Diana and Charles Bain | Rebecca Balint | William Barrette and Christine Lilyquist | Laura Carlsmith and Robert Bast | Helen Beattie and Brendan Buckley | George and Paula Bellerose Fund of the VCF | William D. Benton | Berlejung Family | Joss Besse | Alan Betts | Kathy Beyer | Michael Birnbaum and Karen Seeger | Putnam Blodgett | Tiffany Bluemle | Bill and Ruth Botzow | Darby Bradley | Ted and Erin Brady | J Mark Billian and Anne Brin | Chris Brimmer | Trudi Brock and Paul Kristensen | Greg and Carolyn Mayo-Brown | Charlie Browne | Paul Bruhn | Sally Burrell | Megan Camp and Alexander Webb | Erica Campbell | Darcy and Philip Carter | Sandal and Paul Cate | Susan Clark | Alison Clarkson and Oliver Goodenough | Hal and Shelley Cohen | Vaughn T. Collins | Peter Condxaxis | Chip Conquest and Fay Homan | Jon and Rebecca Copans | Knox Cummin | Lauren-Glenn Davitian | David Deen | Gregory Dennis | Matthew Dodds | Sally Dodge & Dale Guldbrandsen | Johannah Donovan | Jared Duval | Zon Eastes and Margaret Spencer | William and Marilyn Edgerton | Tony Elliott | Jane Ewing | Peter Falion | Margaret Farabaugh | Don Faulkner | Marty and Steve Feltus | Mike Flynn | Thomas Franks and Katherine Hayes | Patsy and Patrick French | Peter and Caroline Fritzinger | Joseph and Renae Fusco | Kenneth Gaertner | Newt Garland | Marsha Garrison | Elizabeth Gibson | Ernest and Charlotte Gibson | Peter Gilbert and Cindy Char | Jeff Glassberg and Amanda Bodell | Steven M. Gold | David Goodman | Wayne and Deborah Granquist | Charles and Catherine Miles Grant | Lucy Gratwick | Linda Gray | Susan Green | Vernon Grubinger & Tracey Devlin | Glen Gurwit | Shannon and Melissa Haggett | Geordie Hall | Scott Hammond | Thomas Hark | Roberta Harold & Wayne Fawbush | Nate Hausman | Richard and Emily Hausman | Cheryl and Ward Heneveld | Des Hertz | Aaron J. and Barbarina M. Heyerdahl | Paul and Vicki Hill | Pixley Hill | Alexa Holleran | Don and Allison Hooper | Peter and Wendy Hopkins | Irene and Jeffrey Horbar | Marie Houghton | Susan Houston | Bob and Cora May Howe | R. Webber Hudson | Nancy Wayne Jaffe | Lauren Jarvi & Lenny Gerardi | Thomas Johnson and Ina Smith | Ken Jones | Nancy Jones | Ben Joseph | Sarah Judd | Bob Justis | Ellen Kahler | Michael Katzenberg and Linda Prescott | Michelle Kaufman | Kathleen C. Keenan | Carolyn Kehler | Paul Kervick | Rob and Sandy Kilburn | Rep. Warren Kitzmiller | Candy Koenemann | Kathleen Kolb | Jenna and Ryan Koloski | Stephanie Lahar | Hank and Molly Lambert | The John C and Marian B Lawlor Charitable Giving Fund of the TIAA Charitable Giving Fund | James Leddy | Louis Mannie Lionni | Robert A. Lloyd | Katherine Lutz Coppock | Peter Lynch | Thomas and Charlotte Macleay | John Malcolm | Martha Manheim | Anne Margolis | William Marks | Rep. Jim Masland | Robert McBride | John McLaughry | Margaret and Patrick McCoy | Bob and Faith McDonald | Linda McGinnis and Sam Carlson | Stu McGowan | Timothy and Betty-Jane | Lis & Neil Mickenberg | Christy and Marc Mihaly | Julie Moore | Andrea Morgante | Brett T. Morrison | Sheila Morse | Cherie Morse and Kurt Cotanch | Tim and Susan Murray | Jenny Nelson | John Nelson | Phyl Newbeck | Nicole Carpenter and Eric Coker | Tino O'Brien | Ms. Sean-Marie Oller | Robert and Theresa Paquin | Scudder Parker and Susan Sussman | Carolyn Partridge | Andrew Perchlik | Albert and Marcia Perry | Philip W. Petty | Andrew and Jilda Pomerantz | Robert and Nancy Pope | David Porteous and Vicky Smith | Dave Potter | Wright Preston | Monique Priestley | Fran & Spence Putnam | Rachel and Scott Cummings | Doug Racine | Janet Ressler | Tom Roberts and Lorie Loeb | Patrick Robins and Lisa Schamberg | Andy Robinson | Ben Rose and Lori Fisher | Chuck Ross | George and Judith Russell | Jon Satz | Chip Sawyer | Fred Schmidt | Tom Scrodin | Brian R. Searles | Leigh Seddon and Ann Aspell | Michael and Nancy Sherman | Brian Shupe & Valerie Capels | Kate Siepman | Katherine Sims and Jeff Fellingner | John Sinclair | Heather Skilling | Dan Smith | Oakley Smith | Todd Smith | Susan and Jeb Spaulding | Gus and Cameron Speth | Gabrielle Stebbins | Emily Stebbins-Wheelock | Greg and Jennifer Stefanski | Kate Stephenson | Steve Maier | Will and Judy Stevens | Fran Stoddard | Valerie A. Stuart | William Throop | Susan and Bob Titterton | Maida F. Townsend | John Tracy | Robert Troester and Joan Stepenske | Dale and Nancy Trombley | April Tuck & Ron Carter | Frederick Wackernagel | Emily Wadhams | Kathleen and George Wanner | Karina and Stuart Warshaw | Frederick and Karen Weston | Justin Wheatling | Cathie and Jake Wheeler | Richard White | Alex and Jerelyn Wilson | Christopher Wing | Sanford and Margaret Camara/Witherell | Sanford and Margaret Camara/Witherell | Wolcott/MacCausland Families

Organizations (\$150-\$499): Anonymous (2) | Bank of Bennington | Bardill Land & Lumber Co. | Bourne's Energy | Bradford Community Development Corporation | Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation | Brattleboro Savings and Loan | Cabot Creamery Cooperative | Center for an Agricultural Economy | Chelsea Green Publishing | Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission | Town of Craftsbury | Emily Maclure, Craftsbury General Store | Davis & Hodgdon Associates CPAs | DEW Construction | Dosis Fund of the NH Charitable Foundation | EC Fiber | Town of Fairfax | Flywheel Communications | Franklin County Industrial Development Corp. | Goodridge Lumber, Inc. | Green Lantern Group (Solar) | Harry Hunt Architects | Hunger Mountain Cooperative | Integrity Energy | Island Pond Community Services | Pam Knights Communications | Lamoille Economic Development Corporation | Landvest Timberland | LCRCC/Greater Burlington Industrial Corps | Middlebury College | Miller Farm | Northshire Bookstore | NRG Systems | Pay It Forward Fund of the VCF | PW McCoy Corp | Richford Economic Advancement Corp. | Root 5 Farm | Rutland Economic Development Corporation | Rutland Regional Planning Commission | Ryegate Associates - Engie | Laury Saligman, Conservation Collaborative | Shelburne Farms | Society of American Foresters - Green Mountain Division

| Springfield Housing Authority | Springfield Regional Dev. Corp. | Stark Mountain Woodworking | Stevens & Associates, P.C. | Strolling of the Heifers | Town of Brighton | Town of Canaan | Town of Colchester | Town of Coventry | Town of Fairfield | Town of Hardwick | Town of Lyndon/Village of Lyndonville | Town of Pownal | Town of Swanton | Town of Wilmington | Town of Woodstock | Two Rivers - Ottauquechee Regional Planning Commission | US Small Business Administration | Vermont Association of Snow Travelers | City of Vergennes | Vermont Environmental Consortium | Vermont Land Trust | Vermont Woodworking School | Village of Essex Junction | VT Affordable Housing Coalition | Vermont Community Loan Fund | VT Housing Finance Agency | Vermont Precision Tools, Inc. | VT Public Power Supply | VT Sustainable Jobs Fund | Vermont Youth Conservation Corps | Weston & Sampson Engineers | White + Burke Real Estate Investment Advisors | White River Valley Chamber of Commerce

Leadership Members (\$500-\$999): BC Family Fund of the VCF | Billings Farm and Museum | Castanea Foundation | Chroma Technology Corp | Paul Costello | Greater Burlington Industrial Corp. | Rosanne Greco & Higley Harmon | Green Mountain & Finger Lakes National Forests | Housing Vermont | Joe Larkin | Main Street Landing | Mascoma Savings Bank | Rob and Karyn Miller | Norwich University | Passumpsic Savings Bank | Bill and Kate Schubart | Smugglers' Notch Resort | Ross Sneyd | St. Albans Cooperative Creamery | Sydney Lea and Robin Barone | Town of Killington | Union Bank | Vermont Agricultural Credit Corp | Vermont Gas Systems | Vermont Performance Lab, Sara Coffey and David Snyder | VSECU: Vermont State Employees Credit Union | Waitsfield & Champlain Valley Telecom | Washington Electric Cooperative Community Fund

Rural Champions (\$1,000+): The Alchemist of Waterbury-Stowe | Anonymous (2) | Judith Buechner | Community Bank | Co-operative Insurance Companies | Peter Fairweather | Green Mountain Power | Mateo & Andy Kehler, Jasper Hill Farm | Key Bank of Vermont | People's United Bank | Buzz and Betsy Schmidt | Union Mutual of Vermont | Ed Vilandrie and Martha Cavanaugh | VT Transco - VELCO | Yankee Farm Credit

Foundations and Special Project Funders: Patricia Passmore Alley | Anonymous | Bay and Paul Foundations | Bolton Valley & Redstone | Burlington Electric Department | Cabot Creamery Cooperative | Capstone Community Action | Center for an Agricultural Economy | Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission | Community National Bank | Concept2, Inc. | Encore Renewable Energy | Judy Geer and Dick Dreissigacker | The High Meadows Fund | Janes Trust Foundation | Johnson Family Foundation Fund of the VCF | The Lintilhac Foundation | Linda McGinnis | Ron Miller | National Life Group | NeighborWorks of Western VT | Northeastern Vermont Development Association | Northern Border Regional Commission | Northfield Savings Bank | Northwest Regional Planning Comm. | Northwest Regional Planning Comm. | Pomerleau Properties; Antonio B. Pomerleau LLC | Renewable Energy Vermont | SE Group | Seventh Generation | Shelburne Farms | Elizabeth Steele Fund | SunCommon | Sustainable Future Fund of the VCF | TD Charitable Foundation | USDA Rural Development | Vermont Agency of Commerce & Community Development | Vermont Association of Conservation Districts | The Vermont Community Foundation | Vermont Community Loan Fund | Vermont Energy Investment Corp | Vermont Land Trust | VLITE | Vermont Mutual Insurance Company | Vermont Natural Resources Council | VSECU: Vermont State Employees Credit Union | Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund | Vermont Woodlands Association | The Woodstock Foundation, Inc.

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Inkind: Castleton University | Front Porch Forum | vtdigger.org



VCRD staff (from left to right): Laura Arnesen, Paul Costello, Margaret Gibson McCoy, Jenna Koloski, Jon Copans

VCRD works toward a future for Vermont in which its:

- ◆ **communities** are healthy and resilient;
- ◆ **economy** is innovative and vibrant;
- ◆ **citizens** are engaged in community-building and governance, working closely with their neighbors;
- ◆ **communities** attract youth, entrepreneurs, and healthy diversity;
- ◆ **youngest citizens** are fully prepared to contribute to their communities and participate successfully in a changing economy;
- ◆ **rural character and open lands** are conserved and managed productively and profitably;
- ◆ **communities, businesses and citizens** prosper by designing and building economic solutions to climate change; and
- ◆ **communities** serve as a models for other communities throughout rural America.

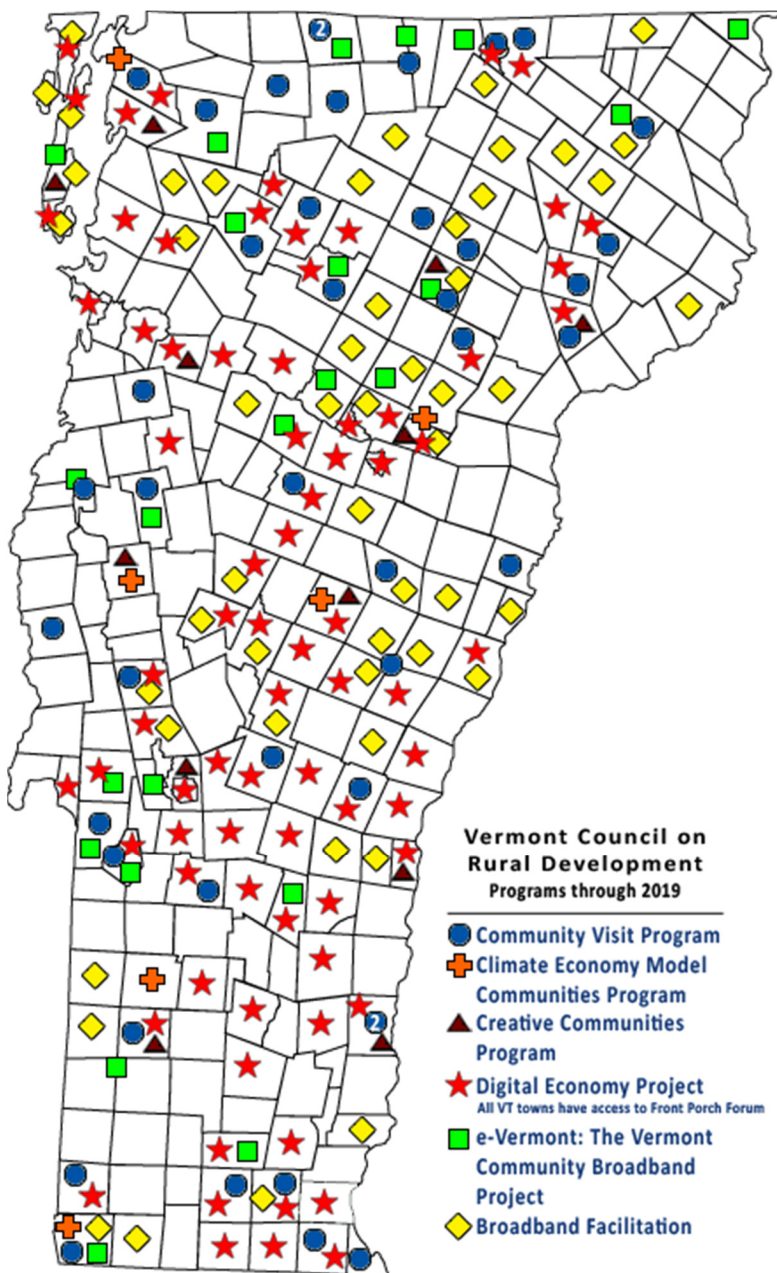


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- ▶ 22 years of Strategic Engagement for Action through 65 Community Visits creating over 240 community projects with thousands of volunteers.
- ▶ Led Broadband and Digital Economy Development Projects with 92 Vermont towns.
- ▶ Helped bring Front Porch Forum to every town in Vermont (the only state with community based social networks in every town).
- ▶ Developed 40 Downtown Wi-Fi Zones, supported the development of 40 municipal websites, and helped hundreds of businesses and non-profits enter the digital age.
- ▶ Led the development of VT's Working Lands Enterprise Fund that has increased business income by \$31M and created over 500 new jobs.
- ▶ Built over 21 Vermont Conferences and Rural Summits engaging over 6,000 people working together to spearhead rural progress.
- ▶ Developed 9 policy councils to unite Vermont efforts for the working landscape, in-state energy development, planning, the creative economy, the climate economy, and in setting vision through the Council on the Future of Vermont.
- ▶ Leading new initiatives to make Vermont a national leader for small business creation in the Climate Economy.
- ▶ Leading a statewide initiative to support community leadership in Vermont cities and towns.

Join VCRD. Make a contribution.

Follow our efforts:

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