



ENVISIONING THE FUTURE OF VERMONT'S DIGITAL ECONOMY

Ideas for Action

Final ideas and suggestions stemming from the culmination of a day-long summit on the future of Vermont's Digital Economy.

September 23, 2014

Find out more about the summit at vtdigitaleconomy.org/conference

A SUMMIT BY THE
Vermont Council on Rural Development



Role of Technology in Education (C1)

1. Support access for the purpose of enhancing engagement and deeper learning.
2. Reach out to parents, get them access and educate them in parallel.
3. Engage the community through technology "shepherds".

• Presented by: Rebecca Holcombe



Solutions to the Digital Divide (C2)

1. Broadband as a public utility
2. Statewide public awareness
3. Network of digital literacy programs

• Presented by: Steve Gold

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How Nonprofits Fully Utilize Technology (C3)

1. Continue VCRD's in-organization consulting for non-profits
2. Pre-vetted list of VT technical consultants and recommended technology packages
3. Program to bring HS & College tech-savvy youth to help non-profits

• Presented by: Stuart Comstock-Gay

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How Small Businesses Fully Utilize Tech (C4)

1. Create a multi-faceted digital literacy campaign that meets people where they are.
2. Establish a curated repository for online learning.
3. Create B to B networking for sharing stories and lessons (fun!)

• Presented by: Andrea Cohen



How Technology Enhances Open Gov't (C5)

1. More training (how to run a meeting, grassroots marketing, issue framing) as well as technological tools
2. More tools for town officials and townspeople to use to get messages out
3. Push for civil discourse and public input

• Presented by: Steven Pappas



Technology in Resilience/Community (C6)

1. Every VT community has an emergency operations plan, generator(s) & broadband
2. Continue to build out and improve broadband infrastructure
3. Invest in community building tools like FPF and town websites

• Presented by: Lucy Leriche



Fostering New VT Tech Industries (C7)

1. Market initiative, tech and tourism. What's behind the barn door?
2. Create connections between businesses and high schools and colleges. Internships, presentations, relationships.
3. Find the one thing that identifies us—happiest, most sustainable, most innovative, livable, and strive to make it true.

• Presented by: Patricia Moulton



Valuing/Keeping Pace w/ Broadband (C8)

1. Bring deep fiber to closer to home
2. Equalize access as a public good policy – for “Mrs. Murphy” and others
3. Mobilize a consumer base and encourage the DPS to innovate and advocate

• Presented by: Holly Groschner



Role of Tech in Poverty/Inequality (C9)

1. Develop a hub/incubator and location of a place
2. Community outreach - be inviting and inclusive, through online and print media
3. Enhance funding / resources for collaborative work among community organizations

• Presented by: Kirstin Carlson