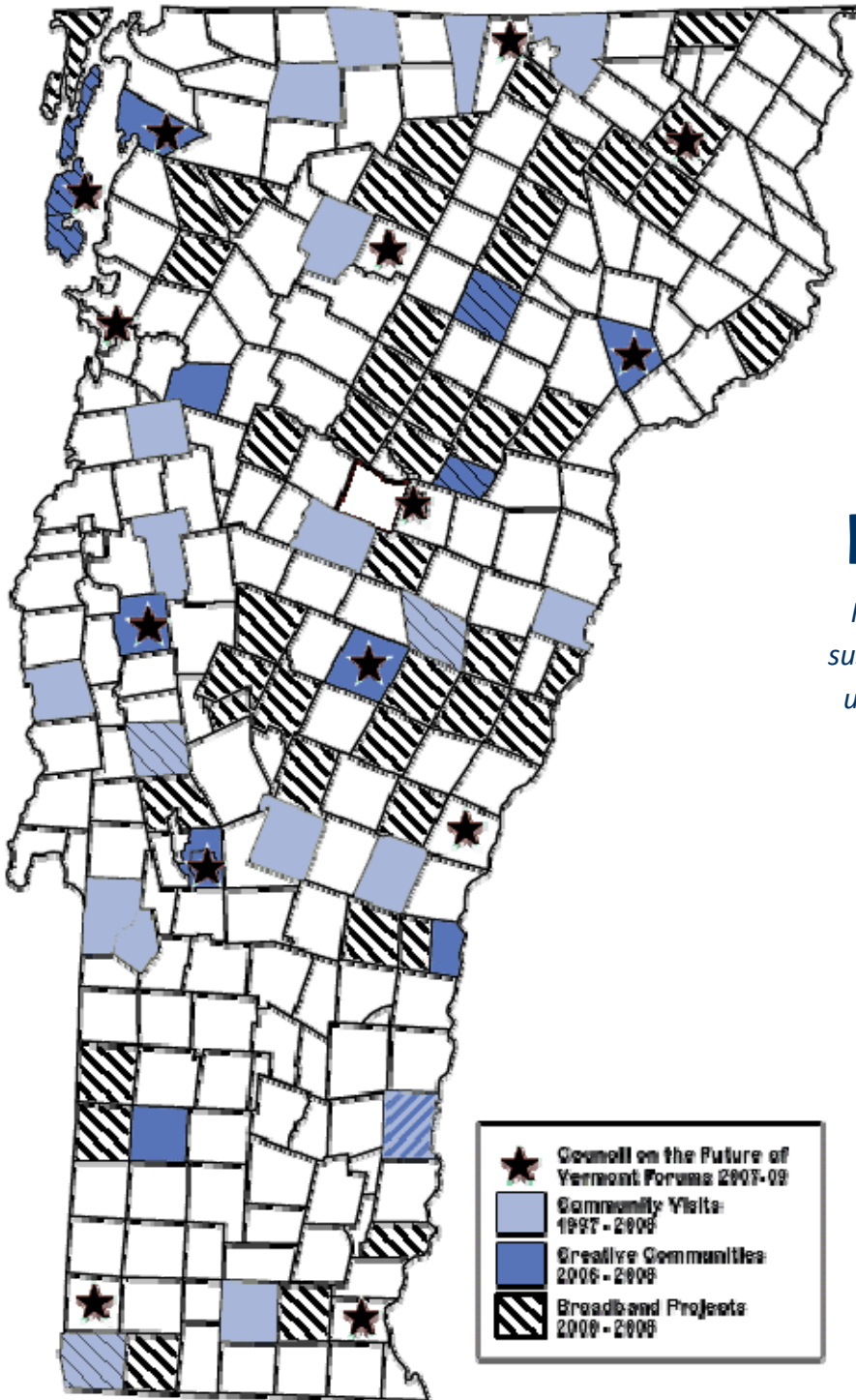


Vermont Council on Rural Development

*Helping rural Vermonters create a
sustainable future through effective
use of public and private resources*

2009 Annual Report



A member of the National Rural Development Partnership, the Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping Vermonters and Vermont communities develop their capacity to create a prosperous and sustainable future through coordination, collaboration, and the effective use of public and private resources. A dynamic collaboration of federal, state, local, non-profit, and private leadership, VCRD is uniquely positioned to build partnerships to address policy questions of rural import. We welcome your comments, suggestions, membership, and support.

STAFF

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Vermont Council on Rural Development

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<http://www.vtrural.org>

BOARD

FEDERAL

Jolinda LaClair, USDA Rural Development (term ended 6/09)

Meg Mitchell, Green Mountain National Forest (until 10/09)

Robert Paquin, Farm Services Agency

STATE

Roger Allbee, Agency of Agriculture

Kevin Dorn, Agency of Commerce & Community Development

Pat Moulton Powden, Department of Labor

Jonathan Wood, Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation

LOCAL

Greg Brown, Town of Dummerston

Jeffrey Francis, Vermont Superintendents Association (term ended 6/09)

Catherine Dimitruk – CHAIR, Northwest Regional Planning Commission

Steve Patterson, Northeastern Vermont Development Association

Christine Hart, Brattleboro Housing Authority

NON-PROFIT

Alex Aldrich, Vermont Arts Council

Hal Cohen, Central Vermont Community Action Council

Thomas Hark – SECRETARY, Vermont Youth Conservation Corps

John Bramley, Windham Foundation

PRIVATE

Bob Ackland – TREASURER, Consultant

Tony Elliott, Woodstone Company

Joe Fusco, Casella Waste Systems, Inc.

Marie Houghton – VICE CHAIR, IBM

Mark Young, First National Bank of Orwell

NON-VOTING CONGRESSIONAL LIAISONS

Tricia Coates, Office of Congressman Welch

Jenny Nelson, Office of Senator Sanders

Chuck Ross, Office of Senator Leahy

Welcome to the 2009 Annual Report of the VT Council on Rural Development!

Catherine Dimitruk, VCRD Board Chair



This has been a dynamic year for the staff and board of the Vermont Council on Rural Development. Our Council on the Future of Vermont effort set new goals and inspired much of the work documented in this report. Across the state, it challenged Vermonters to line up in leadership to address fundamental long-term challenges. At VCRD, we have initiated new projects with communities and continue to advance our efforts to expand broadband deployment, enhance economic opportunity, and promote the working landscape. Based on all we've learned, we look forward in confidence and are excited about the prospects of working with our many friends, members and partners to advance the long-term sustainability and prosperity of our state.

Values and Vision for the Future

Paul Costello, Executive Director



2009 was a year of severe challenges for the people of rural Vermont; it was also a time to refocus on priorities, and set long-term strategies in line with our best vision for the future.

What do we stand for as Vermonters? What positions, goals and values do we hold that lie beneath our political and social differences—or above them? How can we Vermonters line up today to advance efforts that will preserve the best of Vermont and also build the creativity and innovation essential to our future success and prosperity? These are the questions asked by the VCRD led **Council on the Future of Vermont**. What we heard from over 4,000 Vermonters will serve as the foundation of our work for the next five years, will condition the efforts of our partners, and will provide inspiration and substance for policy leadership in the years ahead. VCRD was honored to meet with so many Vermonters and hear so many points of view. Working with the board of the Council on the Future, we were both daunted and inspired as we sifted through testimony from community meetings, stakeholder sessions and written contributions documenting the depth of care, concern and commitment of Vermonters. Today, we stand dedicated to strategically advancing the key conclusions of the Council on the Future as points of unity that can bring us together as Vermonters and help us make hard choices and advance strategies that will confront the fundamental challenges facing us today.

For VCRD that means taking the priority values expressed by Vermonters seriously and leading a systematic re-appraisal of **Working Landscape Policy** in Vermont. It means taking the discussion of the “**transformation of education**” to the community level so that all of us are involved in leadership to advance opportunities for excellence for every child. It means seriously looking at **structures of governance** and **non-profit partnerships**—how do we organize together to efficiently and effectively use our human capital to address fundamental state and local needs? It means **advancing natural resource enterprises and food systems** and strengthening our connection to the land. It means taking systematic advantage of opportunities to expand **community connection** and build economic prosperity through the **Internet** in the most rural of Vermont settings. It means uniting around **economic strategies** for success, and around strategies to preserve working land, advance the energy economy, and seize our opportunities to lead in the green economy. It means renewing our dedication to local democratic participation and strengthening our services that support **community priorities** and the implementation of local work plans.

VCRD is proud of the work of the Council on the Future of Vermont and stands dedicated to serving as a non-partisan facilitator in service to Vermont at both the local and policy levels to help move its conclusions forward in action.

Staff and Board Updates

In 2009 VCRD said goodbye to dedicated board members **Jolinda LaClair** (Vermont USDA Rural Development), **Jeff Francis** (Vermont Superintendents Association) and **Meg Mitchell** (U.S. Forest Service). Jolinda served as Chair until the end of her term this June. She brought tremendous energy and leadership during her tenure. Jeff has completed his full term limit of 12 years with the board and we extend our deepest appreciation for his contributions. Meg has moved to Oregon to lead Forest Service activities in that state. We deeply appreciate the dedicated and tireless efforts of each of these board members and wish them all the best!

New board members in 2009 include **Greg Brown** (Selectboard Member, Town of Dummerston) and **Robert Paquin** (Farm Services Agency). Welcome!

In June, VCRD established a **Board Emeritus** category of Board Membership to retain the historical knowledge and expertise of key board leaders who had retired from active service. The board elected **Jolinda LaClair**, **Jeff Francis** and **Chip Evans** to serve two year terms as Board Emeritus Members.

VCRD also said goodbye to staff member **Sarah Waring**, Program Director of the Council on the Future of Vermont with deep appreciation for her terrific service.

Publications and Media Produced in 2009

Copies are available for download at www.vtrural.org or by calling 802-223-6091.



Imagining Vermont: Values and Vision for the Future, April 2009. *Final Report of the Council on the Future of Vermont.*

Final Report ~ Summit on the Future of Vermont, May 2009.

DVD ~ Council on the Future of Vermont, Spring 2009. *A multimedia resource for the Council on the Future of Vermont Program including 2 video productions and the Imagining Vermont report.*

Other News:

The Partners for Rural America Regional Conferences and the Goal of a National Rural Policy

The national association of State Rural Development Councils, **Partners for Rural America** (PRA), has been charged by the Obama Administration to convene Regional Rural Development Strategic Planning Sessions in each of four regions of the country this Spring. Paul Costello is the President of PRA, and VCRD has been selected to serve as the lead organizer of the **Northeast Regional Rural Convening**. This event will gather regional leadership, USDA RD State Directors, model program leaders, key congressional and state-level leadership to build regional partnerships to analyze issues and advance plans to support local foods development, broadband solutions, innovation in rural economic development, and rural energy development. Policy findings from each of the four events will be presented back to the federal administration and all state, regional and local partners working to promote a pro-active national rural policy. The Northeast event will take place at the Hilton in Burlington on April 12 and 13. Please contact us for more information.

2009 Program Updates

Council on the Future of Vermont

April 2009 marked the completion of nearly two years of listening, researching and writing for members of the Council on the Future of Vermont (CFV). Together with staff, the eighteen Council members traveled to each county in the state, held public forums and focus groups, and sat with Vermonters in churches, town halls, town offices, schools, restaurants, businesses, senior centers, and prisons. They read hundreds of pages of research and polling data, and agreed on a common interpretation which was articulated in the final report *Imagining Vermont: Values and Vision for the Future*, published in May (available at www.vtrural.org or www.futureofvermont.org). The report includes a clear summary of categorical findings, a synthesis that analyzes key themes and directions for the state, and a statement that consolidates all that we have heard about the values and points of vision of Vermonters as we look to the future together.

In April, the Council on the Future of Vermont presented their findings to Vermonters at the Vermont State House, joined by Governor Jim Douglas, Speaker of the House Shap Smith and Senate Pro Tem Peter Shumlin, each of whom thanked the Council for their work. The **Summit on the Future of Vermont**, held in May, saw 500 people gather and start to build actions around the findings. In June and July, VCRD presented the findings at 14 **public forums** (one in each county), and continues to travel around the state to present to community groups as requested. In September, a TV program overviewing the work of the Council aired on public access television stations in Vermont.

The community discussions, interviews, polling and research make this project probably the most intensive evaluation of public values and perspectives on the future and its imperatives that has ever taken place in Vermont. VCRD deeply appreciates the leadership of the members of the Council listed here.

Members of the Council on the Future of Vermont

Sue Allen, *Editor*, Barre-

Montpelier Times Argus

Paul Bruhn, *Executive Director*,

Preservation Trust of Vermont

Tom Debevoise, *CFV Chair*, Woodstock Dairy Farmer

Kara DeLeonardis, *Executive Director*, RU12? Community Center

Steve Gold, *Retired*, Vermont Agency of Human Services

Chris Graff, *Vice President*, National Life Group

Cheryl Hanna, *Professor of Law*, Vermont Law School

Wanda Hines, *Co-Director*, Legacy Project, Burlington Community and Economic Development Office

Brian Keefe, *Vice President*, Government & Public Affairs, Central Vermont Public Service

Richard Mallary, *Retired*, US Congressman, Vermont Legislator

Ellen McCulloch-Lovell, *President*, Marlboro College

William D. McMeekin, *Retired*, TD Banknorth

Félope Rivera, *Vice President for Communications*, Vermont Community Foundation

Charlie Smith, *President*, The Snelling Center

Emily Stebbins, *Strategic Planner/Analyst, Office of the Vice President*, University of Vermont

Greg Stefanski, *Executive Director*, Laraway Youth and Family Center

Fran Voigt, *President and CEO*, New England Culinary School

Laurie Zilbauer, *Senior Planner*, Northeastern Vermont Development Agency

Paul Costello, *Executive Director*, VCRD

Sarah Waring, *CFV Program Director*, VCRD

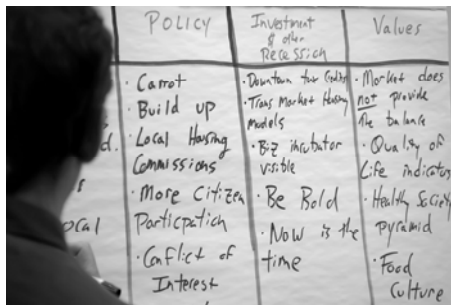


Summit on the Future of Vermont

Over 500 Vermonters participated in the Summit on the Future of Vermont on May 11, 2009 at UVM's Dudley Davis Center, coming from all parts of the state, from all sectors of government, business, non-profits and communities. We were joined by Governor Douglas, Senator Bernie Sanders, Senator Patrick Leahy (by video) and Congressman Peter Welch (by video), as well as keynote speaker Dr. Garret FitzGerald, the former Prime Minister of Ireland. Participants considered the



values, visions and conclusions of the two-year Council on the Future of Vermont project and worked together in fourteen task forces to define concrete action steps that could advance from its final report, **Imagining**



Vermont: Values and Vision for the Future. The task force groups included: Agriculture, Civic Life, Healthy Vermont, Clean Energy, Digital Communities, Diversity, Forestry and Industry, Economic Plan, Higher Education, K-12 Education, Land Use and Development, Working Downtowns/Working Landscapes, Demographics, and Public Transportation. The **Final Report of the Summit on the Future of Vermont** outlines the priority recommendations from each task force and is available at www.vtrural.org.

Photos by Lee Krohn

Action on the Conclusions of the CFV

In June of 2009, the VCRD board built a strategic plan to address key elements of the Council on the Future of Vermont Conclusions. It included convening economic development leaders to explore job creation strategies, expanding VCRD community programs, designing a Working Landscape platform and renewing our broadband efforts at an expanded scale (see separate sections below for more information on these initiatives). The Council on the Future conclusions were adopted as starting points by a number of our partners and VCRD was invited by a number of organizations to assist them as they act to implement the ideas outlined in the Council on the Future of Vermont report.

- VCRD facilitated four public forums for the **Addison Northwest Supervisory Union** for community input as they begin a proposal toward school board unification.
- The Council managed a strategic planning retreat for board members of the **Vermont School**

Boards Association, the **Vermont Superintendents Association**, and the **Vermont League of Cities and Towns** to evaluate current models of local and regional governance and consider ways alternative structures could advance efficiencies, local control, and results.

- Working with **Vermont Planners Association** (VPA) board members, VCRD developed and facilitated two strategic planning retreats for the members of the VPA as they evaluate the performance of the Growth Center Program and consider potential changes to the growth center statute to advance smart growth and economic development for Vermont communities.
- Advised the “**Farm to Plate**” initiative of the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund as it works to evaluate food systems challenges and opportunities and build a plan for future expansion.

Vermont Working Landscape Partnership

“When most people talk about the “Working Landscape” they are referring to the land actively used in productive agriculture and forestry. Yet, to many Vermonters the working landscape also means additional public values it provides, including aesthetics, contributions to the tourism economy, and its central role in building a common sense of place and the Vermont quality of life. These values are all hard to quantify, but vital to the personal identity of Vermonters.”

–From Imagining Vermont: Values and Vision for the Future, the final report of the CFV.

There is a major gap between the values expressed by Vermonters around their support for the future of the working landscape and the difficult realities facing the businesses and families that steward that landscape. According to the final report of the Council on the Future of Vermont (CFV), if current trends continue, we will lose the working landscape as we know it in the next 20 years. Vermonters rank “the working landscape and its heritage” more highly as a common value than any other. The CFV found that, in many ways, ***Vermont’s working landscape defines us, but that if existing trends continue, it will not exist for our children and children’s children.***

Based on the high priority placed on the Working Landscape by thousands of Vermont contributors to the Council on the Future of Vermont, VCRD’s board

has set the course for our future work to **Build a Strategic Partnership to Construct and Implement a new Vermont Working Landscape Policy**. The Partnership will connect agriculture and forest products industry leaders, state and federal officials, environmentalists, economists, tourism and recreation experts, scientists, policy and planning leaders to define the “Vermont Working Landscape,” to develop long-term goals for that landscape, and to design and together implement a strategic platform of action and policy to promote economic activity and regulatory reform.

In 2009 VCRD initiated work to build the structure, work-plan and membership of this partnership. The working partnership will aim at decisive action at each stage of its deliberations and complete a full platform of policy action before the end of 2010.

In 2010, we will build the **Vermont Working Landscape Partnership (VWLP)** to refine the platform and then partners will act within their power and in their diverse arenas to advance the common plans of the VWLP and encourage action by other state, federal, philanthropic, non-profit and private sector partners. VCRD plans to hold a **Summit on the Working Landscape** in 2010 to initiate this enterprise. Look for more information to come!

Food Systems Development

Over the last two years VCRD has facilitated the development of strategies and partnerships around three key areas vital to the future of agriculture and food systems in Vermont. Working with the John Merck Fund and Agency of Agriculture, the Council led a planning effort to establish the **Vermont Agriculture Development Corporation** to spur key high growth agricultural and value added enterprises and clusters. We helped develop a brand strategy to unite **agricultural events** into a common calendar and a collective **website** that can serve as a virtual Vermont

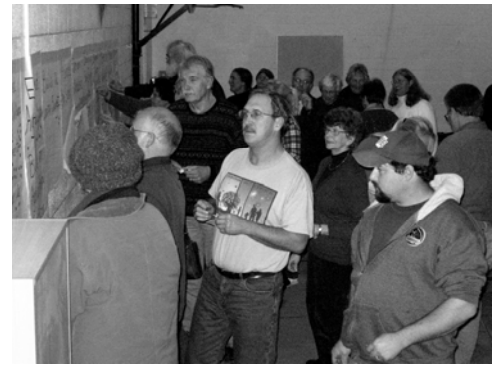
brand center for post-event purchasing. And, most recently, VCRD worked with the leadership of regional food systems to help them establish the **Vermont Regional Food Systems Collaborative**; this group will work to systematically expand their services to ‘cover the map’ of Vermont, establish ‘food hub’ centers of infrastructure and marketing, and meet gaps in regional food systems in ways that can spur local consumption, expand exports, inspire and support new farms and expand the opportunities for success of farm and value added enterprises in Vermont.

Community Visits

The CFV final report calls for “*strengthening democratic participation, fostering ongoing civic dialogue and engagement, and supporting local leadership in towns and communities.*” VCRD “Community Visits” work to build public engagement and civic participation, unite local residents across interests and diversity, develop priorities, expand leadership and implement strategic action plans to revitalize their communities. Towns evaluate issues, engage the public in decision making on priorities, build implementation teams, connect to resources, expand leadership capacity and begin to implement locally-determined community development projects.

In the last half of 2009 VCRD conducted a **Community Visit in Shoreham**. This process invited the entire community together in a series of gatherings to consider assets and challenges, to set priorities, to line up together for action, and to connect with resources to get things done. Over 80 Shoreham participants worked with the VCRD visiting team of 20 state, federal, non-profit and philanthropic leaders to craft a vision and set priorities for the town. Residents signed up to join task forces to follow up on the identified priorities.

An **Economic Development** task force was established to plan for and advance economic development opportunities in the town center. Other task forces are designed to **Improve Volunteerism and Community Engagement, and Build a Town Energy Committee.**



Shoreham residents voting their priorities at a meeting in December.

In 2010, VCRD will bring the Community Visit process to the towns of **Marlboro** (starting in February) and **Fairfield** (starting in August).

Meanwhile, in 2009 VCRD provided follow up support to past Community Visit communities and community development consultation to others considering how to take next steps forward, including: **Castleton, Killington, Middlebury, Plainfield, Richmond, Rutland, Windsor, Pittsford, West Fairlee, and Essex Junction.**

Economic Development Partnership Facilitation

Following from the CFV conclusions on the need for partnership to expand economic development in line with Vermont values, and opportunities in the energy, natural resource and green economy, VCRD convened and facilitated a partnership of leading business and development organizations, state officials, and regional planning and economic development directors to advance a set of non-partisan actions that could stimulate job creation in

line with Vermont’s best opportunities, brand identity, community values, and environmental ethic. VCRD will present key practical ideas to the Governor and Legislative leaders early in 2010.

Their platform of Recommendations to the Governor and Legislature, on **strategic planning, workforce development, broadband**, and additional ideas for long term consideration, can be reviewed at the VCRD site (www.vtrural.org).

Broadband in Vermont ~ www.VTRuralBroadband.org

VCRD has been working toward the goal of universal and affordable high speed Internet access for Vermont for nearly a decade. Our **Vermont Rural Broadband Project**, led by Laura and Al Duey of Burke, has provided consultation services to over 50 Vermont communities, helping many of them assess and aggregate their demand and negotiate with potential providers to draw services. Through a grant from USDA Rural Development, our **ConnectNEK Project** has helped small businesses, tourists and local residents in the Northeast Kingdom gain access to broadband by building a series of WiFi hotspots throughout the region. In 2009 and beyond this work carries on with the Northeast Kingdom Travel and Tourism Association at the helm as they take over the maintenance and expansion of the network.

As broadband availability increases in Vermont's rural areas, VCRD has shifted its focus toward productive **use** of the Internet. Our **e-NEK Project** is experimenting with a variety of activities in Northeast Kingdom communities to increase Internet usage by small businesses, individual residents and the community at large. In November, we announced the "**Internet Biz-2010 Contest**" in partnership with the Vermont Small Business Development Center. The contest has been organized to stimulate increased use of the Internet by small businesses in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom and will provide educational resources to scores of NEK businesses and then cash and services to help contest awardees use the Internet to build or grow their businesses. Contest winners will be announced in March 2010. Assistance and training will be available for anyone in the Northeast Kingdom interested in using the Internet for business purposes whether or not they formally participate in the contest.

e-Vermont: the Community Broadband Partnership

In 2009, VCRD led a planning process to unite a new consortium of organizations dedicated to supporting

the progress of community and business use of on-line tools to promote local prosperity and civic participation. Together we have drafted a statewide application to American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. **We are awaiting a federal response.**

e-Vermont: the Vermont Community Broadband Project, will stimulate the use of on-line services in rural Vermont communities through families, schools, libraries, businesses, civic networks and local government. Led by an unprecedented Vermont team of experts in rural community development, education, and business development, e-Vermont will build wholesale campaigns in 24 Vermont communities over two years to help them avail new services, build communications, social capital and community involvement, create jobs, improve business efficiencies and bottom line, build new Internet-related businesses, modernize the curriculum by embedding technology in schools, directly bring computers into homes, radically advance the development of digital culture, and dramatically increase local adoption rates for broadband services in underserved and previously un-served areas of Vermont.

Led and managed by VCRD, e-Vermont is an unprecedented partnership that will include services and support from: **Vermont's Department of Public Service, Vermont Small Business Development Center, Vermont State Colleges, State Department of Libraries, The Snelling Center, Front Porch Forum, and Digital Wish.** Together, these resources will support local leadership, local business growth and prosperity, and help communities avail all the opportunities and benefits of networking and e-commerce. It will also celebrate success and build a new atmosphere of hope and progress, a tremendous excitement around community exploration of what to these rural communities is a new medium, and build models of progress that will inspire other Vermont communities, and new Internet users, throughout the state.

2009 Members

VCRD receives financial support from Federal, State, Foundations, Businesses and Memberships. We would like to thank the many contributors who support our work in service to Vermont's rural communities.

Individuals

Bob Ackland	Harry Frank	Sandra and Michael Levine	Christopher Roy
Robert Bast	Charlotte and Ernest Gibson	Rob Lewis	Sister Janice Ryan
Kathy and Mark Blanchard	Steve Gold	Christine Lilyquist	Frank Sadowski
John Bloch	Alex Graham	Bruce Lisman	Kate and William Schubart
Walter Bothfeld	Barbara Grimes	John Malcolm	Bobette Scribner
Ruth and Bill Botzow	Vernon Grubinger	Susan McCormack	Nancy and Michael Sherman
Darby Bradley	Roberta Harold	William McMeekin	Michael Smolin
Michael Brands AICP	Matthew Hoffman	Glenn McRae, Ph.D.	Robert Starr
Phillip Cabot Camp, Sr.	Marie Houghton	Jill Michaels	Emily Stebbins
Vaughn T. Collins	Cora and Robert Howe	Ron Miller	Tess Taylor
Averill Cook	David Jescavage	David Murphey	Peter Thoms
John Cooper	Henry Jordan, MD	Susan Murray	Carol Wells
Paul Costello	Michael Katzenberg	John Nelson	Richard White
Douglas Cox	Rep. Kathleen Keenan	Jenny Nelson	Robert Winkler
Karl Decker	Thomas Kennedy	Scudder Parker	Julie Wolcott
John Ewing	Amy Kirschner	Richard Peck	Enid Wonnacott
Peter Falion	Candace Koenemann	Jilda and Andrew Pomerantz	Maryann Wood
Dana Farley	Jolinda LaClair	Patricia Rainville	Laurie Zilbauer
Dawn and Kevin Francis	Stephanie Lahar	Mary Randolph	
	Mark B. Lapping	Betsy Rosenbluth	

Organizations

Alteris Renewables, Inc.	Marlboro College	Vermont Department of Banking, Insurance, Securities & Health Care Administration (BISHCA)
Anonymous	NeighborWorks of Western Vermont	Vermont Economic Devel. Authority
Biomass Energy Resource Ctr.	Northern Community Investment Corp.	Vermont Electric Cooperative
BlueCross BlueShield of Vermont	Northern Vermont RC&D Council	Vermont Energy Investment Corp.
Brattleboro Housing Authority	NW Regional Planning Commission	Vermont Housing Finance Agency
Butternut Mountain Farm	Onion River Sports	Vermont Land Trust
Castanea Foundation, Inc.	Pizzagalli Construction	Vermont Law School
Central Vermont Community Action Council	Putney Food Coop	Vermont Precision Tools, Inc.
Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission	PW McCoy Corp.	Vermont Public Power Supply Authority
Chittenden Trust Company	Ryegate Power Station	Vermont Small Business Development Center
Chroma Technology Corp.	Shrewsbury Historical Society	Vermont Sustainable Exchange
Duey Associates	Springfield Housing Authority	Vermont Wood Manufacturers Assn
Economic & Policy Resources, Inc.	Sydney Lea Living Trust	Vermont Woodnet, Inc.
Green Mountain & Finger Lake National Forests	Systems InSync	Vermont Youth Conservation Corps
Green Mountain Dairy Farmers Coop	Town of Killington	Vermonter's for a Sustainable Population
Harry Hunt Architects	Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee RPC	Woodstock Foundation DBA Billings Farm and Museum
IBM	Union Bank	
Lake Champlain Islands Chamber of Commerce	Vermont Agency of Transportation	
	Vermont Association of Realtors	
	Vermont Association of Snow Travelers	
	Vermont Community Loan Fund	
	Vermont Center for Independent Living	

Leadership Donors (\$500+)

Citizens Bank
Housing Vermont
Main Street Landing
Merchant's Bank
Meg Mitchell

Passumpsic Savings Bank
Rutland RPC
Vermont State Employees Credit Union
Waitsfield & Champlain Valley Telecom
Washington Electric Cooperative
Yankee Farm Credit

Foundations and Special Project Funders

Anonymous
Chittenden Bank
The High Meadows Fund
IBM (in-kind)
The John Merck Fund
State of Vermont: Agency of Commerce
and Community Development
UVM's Center for Rural Studies
USDA Rural Development
The Windham Foundation

Summit on the Future of Vermont

(received in 2008 and 2009)
Anonymous
Cabot Creamery Cooperative
Central Vermont Public Service
Citizen's Bank
The Comcast Foundation
Community National Bank
Greater Burlington Industrial Corp.
Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of
Commerce
Lintilhac Foundation
National Life Group
Northfield Savings Bank
The Orton Family Foundation
Pomerleau Real Estate
Preservation Trust of Vermont
Vermont Association of Planning and
Development Agencies
Vermont Economic Development
Authority
Vermont Housing and Conservation
Board
Vermont Mutual Insurance Company

Vermont Superintendents Association
VELCO—Vermont Transit LLC
The Windham Foundation

NEK Internet Biz Contest

A.M. Peisch & Company, LLP
Chittenden Bank
Community National Bank
FairPoint Communications
Northern Community Investment Corp.
Passumpsic Savings Bank

Council on the Future of Vermont

Ben & Jerry's Foundation
Casella Waste Systems
Green Mountain Coffee Roasters
High Meadows Fund
Johnson Family Foundation
J. Warren and Lois McClure Foundation
National Life Group
Northfield Savings Bank
NRG Systems Inc.
Union Mutual of Vermont
The Vermont Community Foundation
VT Mutual Insurance Company

Join VCRD today in support of Vermont Communities!

Annual membership dues help us serve rural communities directly, and advance strong rural policy in Vermont. Make check payable to "VCRD" and mail to us at: PO Box 1384, Montpelier, VT 05602.

NAME/TITLE: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

- \$ 35 ~ Individual Member
- \$ 125 ~ Organizational Member
- \$ 500 ~ Leadership Donor
- \$ ____ ~ Other

Check here if you wish to remain anonymous and prefer not to be listed in our outreach materials.

VCRD is a 501c3 non-profit organization; contributions are tax deductible.

VCRD Programs, 1997-2009 Program reports are available at www.vtrural.org

Community Visits:

Shoreham, 2009
Killington, 2008
Derby, 2007
Richford, 2007
Hinesburg, 2006
Pownal, 2006
Woodstock, 2005
Chelsea, 2005
Bristol, 2004
Johnson, 2004
Enosburg, 2003
Poultney, 2002
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Wilmington, 2001
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Brandon, 1999
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Rockingham, 1998
Richford, 1996-97

Creative Community Projects:

Manchester, 2007
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Richmond, 2007
Plainfield, 2007
Randolph, 2007
Bellows Falls, 2006-07
St. Johnsbury, 2006-07
Islands, 2006
Hardwick, 2006
Windsor, 2006
Rutland, 2006
St. Albans, 2006

Summits:

Summit on the Future of Vermont, 2009
Advancing Creativity and Innovation in Rural America, 2008
Advancing Vermont's Creative Economy, 2007
Local Power: Energy & Economic, Development in Rural Vermont, 2006
Beyond the Divide: Conflict and Paths to Community Success, 2005
The Structure of Planning in Vermont, 2004
Vermont Rural Roundtable, 2003
Rural Economic Development, 2002
Rural Summit on Housing, 2001
Governor's Rural Summit, 1999

Councils:

Council on the Future of Vermont, 2007-09
Vermont Rural Energy Council, 2006-07
Vermont Council on Planning, 2004-05
Vermont Council on Culture and Innovation, 2003-04
Vermont Agriculture Viability Council, 2002-03
Vermont Forest Products Council, 2001-03

Other Efforts:

Forest Products Marketing Initiative
Vermont Rural Broadband Project, 2000-present

Vermonters Value:

Community –

a shared feeling of belonging, acceptance and trust; a sense that the success of each neighborhood, town, county, and the state depends on the contributions and engagement of every individual.

Environment –

a reverence for the land and committed stewardship of the working landscape, including farms and forests; the natural landscape, including mountains, lakes, and streams; and the built landscape, including the state's historic architecture and community centers.

Hard Work –

a tradition rooted in the state's agrarian and industrial heritage and legendary work ethic that invites and encourages entrepreneurship, resourcefulness and creativity.

Independence –

both politically and as a way of life, reflecting a desire to live independently and championing individual freedoms and self-reliance.

Privacy –

as a personal right and as an expression of respect toward others that encourages tolerance and open mindedness about the lifestyles and beliefs of others.

Small Scale –

the strength that comes when government, business and communities are accessible and personal.

Vermont –

residents feel the state has a unique identity that has been defined by centuries of traditions shared by young and old, urban and rural.

◀ The Council on the Future of Vermont synthesized their 2 years of listening to Vermonters into this **Values Statement** for its final report: *Imagining Vermont: Values and Vision for the Future.*



Vermont Council on Rural Development

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