

Hardwick, Brighton VCDP Grant Recipients



Left to right: Rob Lewis, Hardwick Town Manager, Governor Jim Douglas, Connie Stanley-Little, Northern Enterprises, and Alison Meaders, NVDA.

At a July 7th ceremony at Recycle North's new facility in Barre, Governor Jim Douglas announced the award of \$3.3 million in Community Development Block Grants. Two NVDA towns were recipients.

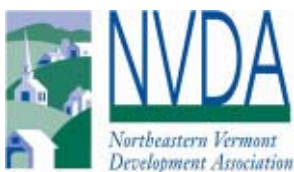
The Town of Hardwick received a \$650,000 implementation grant, which will be sub-granted to Northern Enterprises, Inc., for the construction of Vermont Food Venture Center2, a 13,400 square foot multipurpose food processing facility in the Hardwick Industrial Park. The project is expected to create 19 jobs, 10 of which will be for individuals with low to moderate incomes. The VCDP grant will match more than \$1+ million in grant funds from the Economic Development Administration, as well as a \$100,000 HUD-EDI Special Project grant through Senator Leahy, and \$150,000 from private foundations. The project is also supported by a \$500,000 grant from a USDA Rural Development Rural Business Enterprise Grant. In addition to serving as incubator space for existing and

new businesses, the facility will also house two anchor tenants: Jasper Hill Farm cheese making and Vermont Soy for new soy-based product testing.

"We are excited about being part of the strong agriculture cluster that is growing in the Hardwick area," said Connie Stanley-Little, Executive Director, Northern Enterprises. "We look forward to continuing our work with food producers and assisting in the diversification of Vermont's agriculture industry."

Marselis Parsons will be Guest Speaker at NVDA's Annual Meeting on September 3rd.

See page 3 for details.



Planning

NVDA to Address Energy, Low Impact Development

Our Fiscal Year 2010 includes two exciting regional programs.

First, NVDA will be receiving funds from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program to spearhead a number of energy efficiency initiatives in the region.

Job creation: NVDA will offer a training program to allow more individuals to enter the “green” jobs market.

Strategic planning: The regional plan will be revamped to focus on specific energy efficiency and weatherization goals.

Direct assistance: A cost share program will help municipalities fill the funding gap for local energy audits and other energy efficiency programs.

Second, NVDA will provide technical assistance to communities who are interested in using low impact

development standards to protect groundwater and prevent nonpoint source pollution. Assistance will address three issues that are particularly challenging to our region:

Municipal waste systems: Identify LID strategies to redirect stormwater in order to reduce the occurrence of combined sewage overflows into surface waters.

Lakeshore development: Identify site layout standards in order to reduce stormwater and runoff into surface waters.

Development on steep slopes: Identify development siting standards in order to prevent runoff, erosion, and damage to other properties.

If you, your planning commission, or your local energy committee would like to find out more about these initiatives, please contact David Snedeker at 802-748-5181.

Planning & Zoning Updates

Technical Assistance: NVDA is currently working with the following towns:

- Troy and Morgan with updates to their zoning bylaws;
- Westfield with updates to their town plan and zoning bylaw; and
- Concord with the preparation of a new town plan.

The Barnet and Derby town plans received regional approval from the NVDA board on May 26th. The Granby town plan received regional approval on June 26th. NVDA regularly reviews town plans for approval. Although approval is not required, there are certain benefits for a municipality with an approved plan. For example, a town is usually required to have an approved plan in order to apply for Municipal Planning Grant funds.

A reminder about Chapter 117 compliance: Zoning and subdivision regulations must be in compliance with all statutory changes by September 1, 2011. Chapter 117 materials are available online at the Vermont Planning Information Center’s web site: www.vpic.info. Additionally, NVDA can come to your community for a presentation and training. If you are interested, call Dave Snedeker at 748-5181.

Ortho Maps: The Vermont Center for Geographic Information (VCGI) has taken over the orthophoto-graph mapping program formerly handled by the Vermont Tax Department. VCGI has already notified all Vermont towns of this change. However, new orthophotographic images are not yet available.

The regional planning commissions, including NVDA, have agreed to help VCGI with the distribution of new orthophotographic images to Vermont towns. Upon request, and depending upon availability, NVDA will provide member towns with the following:

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) in the Northeast Kingdom:

Barton: \$578,250 for paving Highway #1
Hardwick: \$450,000 for paving Center Road
Newport City: \$362,163 for paving Lake Road

95% of total construction costs available for:
Barnet: 95% Bridge #42, Town Highway #81
Greensboro: Bridge #26, Town Highway #4
St. Johnsbury: Bridge #104, US Route 2

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Economic Development



Andrew Boutin (right) of Pelligy LLC demonstrates pellet conversion products to an attendee at NVDA's Energy Fair. The event, which was held at Lyndon State College in March drew more than 500 attendees.

The Northeast Kingdom Energy Fair, held March 27-28, attracted more than 500 attendees, who passed through the gymnasium at Lyndon State College to talk with exhibitors and receive energy information from high tech geothermal, solar, wind and biomass experts. The fair featured pellet stoves, hybrid vehicles, electric bicycles, and information on weatherization, energy conservation, green building, home energy audits, tax credits, and low interest loans for energy improvements.

"The goal for presenting this popular event was to offer a venue where homeowners, business owners and farmers could increase their knowledge of renewable energy technology and better understand the opportunities they present," said Special Project Manager Lorna Higgs. "The event was an unqualified success!" To find out more about the Northeast Kingdom Energy Fair – and view a list of energy resources – visit www.nvda.net

VCDP Grants

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"We are extremely pleased to have been selected for this grant and believe it will further secure the foundation laid for current and future job growth here in Hardwick, the region, and the state," added Hardwick Town Manager Rob Lewis.

"If there was ever a team effort, this project was it," said NVDA Executive Director Steve Patterson. "Senator Leahy, USDA Rural Development, the Vermont Community Development Program, the EDCNV, the Economic Development Administration, the Town of Hardwick, and the private sector — everyone played a critical role. The end product is a significant opportunity for economic diversification in the Northeast Kingdom."

The Town of Brighton, another VCDP grant recipient, received a \$20,000 planning grant to develop a plan to integrate the Island Pond commercial downtown with Island Pond's lakefront by redesigning and improving the existing five acre Lakeside Park.

"This grant will allow us to design a park that will bring the lakefront to the downtown commercial area, as well as provide for increased use by the general public. The current park is a great park, but serves more to separate the lake from the downtown, rather than bring them together," explained Brighton Administrative Assistant Joel Cope.

The State of Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development awards the competitive grants based on recommendations of the Vermont Community Development Board and approval of the Agency Secretary Kevin Dorn.

Marselis Parsons to Speak at NVDA Annual Meeting Sept. 3rd

Marselis Parsons, News Director at WCAX-TV, will be the guest speaker at NVDA's Annual Meeting, which will be held on Thursday, September 3rd, at 6 p.m. The award-winning anchor and his Channel 3 News team have a loyal following in Vermont, New Hampshire, New York, and Quebec. Marselis, who recently announced his retirement, has been with WCAX for twenty-five years as a reporter, anchor, program producer, and News Director.

The 2009 Annual Meeting will be held at Jay Peak Resort. To reserve your space at the meeting, please call Shannon Bedor at 802-748-5181.



P.O. Box 630
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

*NVDA's Annual Meeting is September 3rd.
Make your reservation today!
802-748-5181*

1. **One large (42" x 52") composite orthophoto-graph of the entire town.** This will be much easier to use than the multiple panelled orthophotographs provided in the past.

2. **A DVD with the orthophotographs** These can be viewed in ArcReader, a free downloadable program.

Brownfields Update: An EPA Phase II Brownfields assessment is underway for (Barton Motors) properties in the Barton Village. Gilman Housing Trust will be seeking funding for Barton Village to redevelop those properties in the village's designated village center. A

market survey is being conducted by UVM Extension, NVDA, and the Barton Area Chamber of Commerce to determine commercial opportunities.

Northeast Kingdom Collaborative Forum on August 24th: The Collaborative has been hosting a series of Regional Forums since early March. The purpose of the public events is to acquire community input and address regional and local priorities as the Collaborative sets goals and strategies for the region.

The Collaborative was formed in 1996 to address community and economic development issues and

improve the quality of life in the tri-county region. It helped to establish the NEK as a Rural Economic Area Partnership, a designation that has helped the NEK gain access to more than \$50 million in USDA grants and loans.

NVDA is the coordinator for the Collaborative and is responsible for the REAP Zone reporting activities. The next NEK Collaborative Forum -- on **ARTS & CULTURE** -- will be held on August 24th, at the Barton Memorial Building, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. Contact Dave Snedeker at 802-748-5181 if you are interested.

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Northeastern Vermont Development Association serves the three counties of the Northeast Kingdom -- Caledonia, Essex, and Orleans -- as the region's economic development and planning entity. Visit www.nvda.net.