ACEDC Fall 2023 Newsletter

ADDISON COUNTY
Economic Development Corporation
Great starts here.

Hello Amy,

Welcome to fall in Addison County! Thanks for taking the time to read our newsletter.

As always, your feedback is welcome and appreciated.

Enjoy,
ACEDC

From the Desk of the Executive Director

We recently wrapped up another exciting and impactful fiscal year. During FY23, ACEDC conducted 158 business visits, 14 business education and networking events, sent countless communications about state and federal programs, and spent many hours on grant research, application, assistance, and administration.

During FY23, ACEDC was involved directly (as applicant, recipient, or administrator) and indirectly (as advocate, advisor, or supporter) in bringing another $5.6 million in grants and loans to the region. ACEDC won six “Building Community” Economic Development grants from BGS, totaling about $53,000 and leveraging $1.6 million in capital investments and new job creation by six area small businesses. To date, 10 Addison County projects have been awarded $3.3 million in Community Recovery and Revitalization Program grants (the second highest number and dollar value for a county in VT) , including three housing projects and three early childhood education projects. Our loan program helped bring a new family of six to the area and kept a hospitality property locally owned and operated. We received a $50,000 grant through USDA/Rural Development to conduct a Feasibility Study to scale up ACORN’s Champlain Valley Food Hub and add a Commercial Community Kitchen. Take a look at our interactive impact map here for details on all the events, grants, loans, business visits, and other impacts throughout the region. Or, view our FY23 Impact Report here.

Partnerships are key to ACEDC’s impact in the region. Much of what we do, especially to advance the underlying infrastructure of economic development - such as workforce development, housing, childcare, broadband – is through partnerships regionally and at the state and federal levels. Regionally, we partner with the Addison County Chamber to offer business education programs and to market the region. We partner with our wonderful municipalities on infrastructure and development projects and the three downtown organizations on events and regional marketing. We work with the Addison County Regional Planning Commission on numerous projects such as the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and brownfields identification and assessment. We have projects underway with several other regional partners such as ACORN, the United Way of Addison County, and Addison Housing Works. ACEDC convenes the Addison County Partners and the Addison County Workforce Alliance to encourage coordination and collaboration. Check out the “Highlighted Partner” section at the end of this newsletter for information about another important regional partner: CVOEO. At the state level we partner with our legislative delegation to advance issues and solutions of interest to the business community. We also work closely with several state agencies such as Commerce, Labor, and Agriculture. We have a great working relationship with Efficiency Vermont, ensuring that our businesses are benefitting from the contributions they make through their energy bills. On the federal level, we work closely with our Congressional Delegation and directly with several federal agencies such as USDA/Rural Development, SBA, NBRC, and EDA. For more details on our partnerships and partner projects click here and here.

Best,
Fred Kenney, Executive Director

ACEDC News

ACEDC Annual Meeting of the Membership

Member Businesses, Municipalities, Partners of the Addison County Economic Development Corporation, and honored guests:

In accordance with the bylaws of the organization, warning is herein provided to the membership of the Addison County Economic Development Corporation of the 2023 Annual Membership Meeting.

WHEN: Thursday, November 2, 2023, from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

WHERE: Middlebury Inn, 16 Court Square, Middlebury, Vermont

ATTENDANCE & VOTING:

- Each member business may send up to four representatives to the Annual Meeting. However, only one representative of each member business may cast a vote. Please select which attending member will cast votes for your business.
- If you cannot attend the Annual Meeting, please designate someone else from your business to attend and pass along this invitation.
- Partner Members (Non-profit regional organizations who are members of ACEDC): we welcome your attendance, but please do not vote.

AGENDA:
7:15: Registration at door (if not pre-registered)
7:30: Breakfast and networking
8:00: Business Meeting
8:30: ACEDC Client Panel

View the full agenda & 2022 meeting minutes on our website.

PANELISTS: Alessandra Rellini, Agricola Meats; Bram Kleppner, Danforth Pewter; Colin Davis, Shacksbury Cider; Kevin Harper, Bristol Bakery & Café Wholesale/Stoney Hill Properties.

Please register before close of business on Friday October 27, 2023. Cost is $25 per person. You may pay when you register or pay at the door.

Looking forward to seeing you on November 2nd!

Event Registration

ACEDC Annual Mixer at Woodchuck Cider

Thanks to everyone who came out to our annual mixer, held September 13th at the Woodchuck Cidery in Middlebury! We had a great time catching up with members of our community, and we hope you did as well. Check out our social media pages for more photos of the event!

2023 Business Educational Webinar Series

One of the MANY benefits of ACEDC membership is our educational webinar series, presented in partnership with the Addison County Chamber of Commerce. Attendance is free and offered exclusively to members.

Our final webinar of the 2023 series takes place on Tuesday, November 7th at 9:30am:

Exploring Motivation & Procrastination
Two sides of the same coin, Motivation and Procrastination are neurologically related. Unlocking the keys to motivation can loosen procrastination's hold, and breaking down procrastination leads both to incremental progress as well as upticks in motivation. Join us for this conversation to learn how these phenomenon function in your brain and how you can use that information to boost motivation and avoid procrastination.

Don't procrastinate, register today!

Have you updated your member profile on ACEDC's website?

We would like our member directory to be a useful resource for everyone, but we need your help! We would greatly appreciate it if you could take a few minutes to provide some basic information about your business. We have prepared a video tutorial and written instructions to guide you through the process.
If you have any questions or issues as you complete this process, please reach out to Barbara Richardson, ACEDC Office Manager, at brichardson@addisoncountyedc.org or 802-388-7953 ext. 2.
Thank you for your support and participation.

ACEDC Success Stories

Treeline Terrains

TREELINE TERRAINS
3D WOOD MAPS

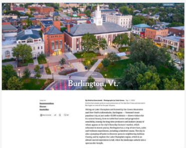
Treeline Terrains creates unique 3D map artwork that celebrates the founders' appreciation of the natural world. Alex Gemme, Nathaniel Klein, and Jacob Freedman started their business journey while they were students at Middlebury College. All three wished to remain in Vermont after graduation, and so they founded Treeline Terrains in April of 2021. Over time, they built a name for themselves and demand for their products grew. They moved to a larger shop, invested in more equipment and advertising, and grew some more. As demand continued to increase and another holiday season approached, Alex, Nathaniel and Jacob realized they would need even more equipment to meet demand. Through the Addison County Economic Development Corporation, they were able to secure a BGS (Buildings and General Services) grant that allowed them to effectively double their machinery and keep up with an ever-increasing volume of orders.

Read More

Our Members & Partners in the News

Addison County Businesses Featured in The New York Times

A variety of Bristol businesses were featured in a September 7th feature in The New York Times offering a "to do" list of activities for a weekend in Vermont. Businesses mentioned include Minifactory, Silkworm, Vermont Honey Lights, Island Girl Jewelry, Farmhouse Chocolates, Jones the Boy, and The Tillerman.



Click here to read the article.

Community News

Participate in Study of Big Building Energy Use

The energy committees of Bristol, Middlebury, and Vergennes, in collaboration with the Climate Economy Action Center of Addison County (CEAC), have embarked upon a study of Big Buildings and Energy. They are looking for people who own or manage large buildings (e.g. factories, warehouses, stores, office buildings) and are willing to take 20 minutes to answer questions about what they are thinking and doing about the ways they use energy. They would like to understand what actions people have taken or plan to take, what barriers exist to taking action, and what sorts of resources and incentives might help. This in turn will support efforts to support the work of saving money, providing healthier and more comfortable working conditions, and decreasing greenhouse gas emissions.
If you are interested in participating or want to learn more, please either fill out this form https://forms.gle/NY3zWCpyrrM6z3to8 or contact Mike Roy roymichaeldonald@gmail.com from CEAC who is organizing this effort.

Do You Live, Work, or Travel Through Northern Addison County?

Planning & Environment Linkages (PEL) Study

VTrans, in partnership with ACRPC has launched a public survey for the Vergennes Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study.

Help VTrans and the ACRPC explore options for reducing the impacts of truck traffic on VT 22A (Main Street) in Downtown Vergennes and better understand the issues that are important to you.

Transportation solutions being evaluated include new roadways, improvements to existing roadways, and an option where traffic flow does not change. Potentially affected municipalities include Ferrisburgh, Vergennes, Waltham, Weybridge, Panton, Addison and New Haven.

Please take a few minutes to fill out the Vergennes PEL Study Public Survey by clicking here - and please share it with your friends and neighbors!

VHCB Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) Seeks Consultants

The Vermont Housing & Conservation Board is seeking to grow its network of consultants for their Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI).

- REDI provides grant writing and technical assistance to rural communities and working lands businesses that lack capacity to access federal and other complex funding sources.
- More information about REDI, the type of skills/services they are seeking, and the **online RFQ form** are available at: https://www.vhcb.org/redi/consultant-RFQ
- **Responses are due by Friday, October 6, 2023 and will be reviewed on a rolling basis.**

Questions? Contact Mariah Noth, Mariah@vhcb.org or 802-828-1098

Center for Women & Enterprise Fundraiser

4 WEEK FUNDRAISER
LIFT UP THE WOMEN
WHO LIFT UP THE WORLD
CWE POWERLIFT 75
Center for Women & Enterprise

CWE Powerlift 75
Changing Lives, Building Futures

As a CWE Powerlifter you commit to raising a minimum of $1,000 from friends, family, and colleagues. No donation from your network is too small. Every gift- $25, $50, $250 helps to lift up the women who lift up the world. With your help we will reach our goal of raising $75,000 in the month of October.

Read More

Business Resources

- **Flood Resources**

President Biden Approves Major Disaster Declaration for the State of Vermont

FEMA announced that federal disaster assistance has been made available for the state of Vermont to supplement recovery efforts in the area affected by severe storms and flooding that occurred Aug. 3-5, 2023.

The President's action makes public assistance federal funding available to state and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities in Addison County.

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Business Emergency Gap Assistance Program

The Department of Economic Development has created the Business Emergency Gap Assistance Program (BEGAP). This $20 million grant program is for businesses and nonprofits that suffered physical damages from flooding dating back to July 7, 2023. Applicants must intend on restoring, reopening, and bringing their employees back to work as soon as possible and will utilize these grant funds for that purpose.

As of 9/21/2023, BEGAP awards are increasing to get more money to flood damaged organizations. This change is retroactive. The new formula eliminates the prior $20,000 cap and increases payouts to 30% of net uncovered damages. This change applies to all BEGAP grantees - past, present & future.

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Vermont Main Street Flood Recovery Fund Launches to Support Small Businesses Affected by Record-Breaking Flooding

The Vermont Main Street Flood Relief Fund is dedicated to providing direct financial aid to Vermont small businesses for the purpose of rebuilding and recovering from damage and losses suffered due to the recent flooding.
Applications are now being accepted. The Fund will be providing up to $2,500 in grant allocations with the opportunity to reapply as funds become available.

Read More

Visit our website for more flooding assistance information.

• Other Resources

Applications Open for VCRD's Climate Catalysts Innovation Fund

Deadline for Grant Submissions is5pm on Monday, November 6th, 2023.
VCRD launched the Climate Catalyst Innovation Fund in 2021 to support local innovators

developing solutions that move Vermont closer to its climate and energy goals. The objective of the fund is to support projects for which a small grant could have a meaningful impact.

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Partnership Opportunities with Prevent Child Abuse Vermont

Prevent Child Abuse
Vermont™

Looking for new ways to support the families of your employees and customers? Prevent Child Abuse Vermont has served children and families in schools, childcare centers, Parent Child Centers, and with our Family Support Groups. A partnership with PCAVT and your business can help keep more children safe, and ensure more families are strong and nurturing.

Through corporate philanthropy, event sponsorship, workplace giving/matching donations, training and materials provided to your employees, or other creative collaborations, your business can bring real help to parents seeking help, skills in healthy relationships to children and youth, internet safety, and training to any adult who wants to learn how to keep children safe. You'll be strengthening the community who works for you and patronizes your business. Learn more at pcavt.org, and contact Mary Rockwell Thon at mthon@pcavt.org.

Upskilling Grants for Employees 50+

Association of Women's Business Centers
Upskilling Grants for Employers
Training their Employees
Ages 50+
$2,000-$2,500 Training Reimbursement Grants

For small businesses that intend to train and upskill low-wage workers age 50+, this grant program will reimburse employers up to $2,000-$2,500 per employee for training.

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Free Office Furniture and Fixtures Available to Small Businesses and Non-Profits

The National Bank of Middlebury has generously donated several items of office furniture and equipment that ACEDC is making available for free to Addison County small businesses and non-profits. We also have some small items and office supplies to offer.

Click "read more" below to see the list of what's available. All items are available in a first-come, first-served manner. ACEDC will not hold items and you must move the items yourself. If you are interested in an item contact Barbara Richardson at (802) 388-7953 or brichardson@addisoncountyedc.org for details on how, where and when you can pick it up.

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Community Events

Intro to the Vermont APEX Accelerator (formerly VT PTAC)

VERMONT
APEX ACCELERATORS
Intro to
VT APEX Accelerator

October 11th from 11am-12pm
The Vermont APEX Accelerator is a government-funded program assisting Vermont businesses to pursue and perform government contracts with the Department of Defense, other federal agencies, state and local governments, and with government prime contractors. Vermont APEX Accelerator provides a wide range of free services including individual counseling, proposal assistance, marketing opportunities, assistance with registration in contracting systems and government certification programs, training and networking events.

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From Idea to Investment: Capital Strategies for Vermont Entrepreneurs

October 11th from 3:30-5:30pm
Hula, 50 Lakeside Avenue, Burlington, VT
Join Vermont State Treasurer Mike Pieciak for a panel discussion featuring the SEC Office of the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation Senior Special Counsel Julie Davis exploring strategies and solutions to access capital for small businesses and startups. The discussion will include fellow panelists Benchmark Space Systems CEO Ryan McDevitt and The Center for Women & Enterprise Vice President of Policy Gwen Pokalo Hart. Attendees will have the opportunity to network following the panel discussion.

Read More

Starting Your Own Business - free webinar from VtSBDC

October 19th from 10-11:15am
Starting your own business can be challenging, especially for first time business owners. If you're ready to take the next step and explore turning your idea into a real business opportunity, then this is the workshop for you.

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10th Annual Vermont Chamber of Commerce Manufacturing Summit

VERMONT CHAMBER of Commerce
THE MANUFACTURING SUMMIT
OCTOBER 25-26, 2023

The 10th annual Manufacturing Summit on October 25 & 26 is bringing together industry peers to create a niche network and facilitate sourcing and procurement opportunities between OEM buyers, suppliers, and partners for stronger, adaptive, innovative, and nimble supply chains in Vermont, throughout New England, and in the U.S. and Canada. This two-day virtual event with an in-person networking reception highlights the manufacturing sectors of aerospace and aviation, defense and space, industrial, naval, and marine, and medical devices as significant economic drivers.

Sponsored in part by ACEDC member Collins Aerospace.

Read More

ACCoC Awards & Hall of Fame Induction Dinner & Meeting

ADDISON COUNTY
Chamber of Commerce
Annual Meeting
2023
AWARDS PRESENTATION AND HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

October 26th from 5-8:15pm
Vergennes Opera House
Join the Addison County Chamber of Commerce at the 2023 Awards, Hall of Fame Induction and Annual Meeting Dinner. This event promises to be a highlight of the year for the 2023 business and non-profit communities of Addison County!

Read More

Visit our Community Events Calendar for more events

Employment, Training and Education Opportunities

Visit our website for a current list of job opportunities

Job Fairs

Vermont Department of Labor #Hiring2DayVT Virtual Job Fairs

Weekly VT DoL Virtual Workshops

Resume Writing Workshop - Mondays at 9am

Regional Employment Connections - Mondays at 1pm

Interviewing Skills - Tuesdays at 9am

Re-Employment Strategies - Wednesdays at 9am

Resume Writing Workshop - Wednesdays at 1pm

Interviewing Skills - Fridays at 1pm

Highlighted Partner: Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity Micro Business Development Program

cvoeo
Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity
Micro Business Development

The Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO), the community action agency serving Addison County residents, addresses fundamental issues of economic, social, racial, and environmental justice and works with people to achieve economic independence.

CVOEO's Micro Business Development Program's small but mighty staff offers free resources to eligible entrepreneurs and small businesses, meeting people wherever they are in the process. Their well-stocked toolbox includes classes and workshops, technology resources, networking opportunities, and one-on-one advising in all aspects of business planning. Business Counselors also assist with grant and financing applications.

CVOEO Upcoming MB Workshops and classes: https://www.cvoeo.org/micro-business-workshops/

- Thursday, October 5th at 4pm - Introduction to Excel
- Thursday, October 12th at 4pm - How to Create a Website in the Google Suite
- Thursday, October 19th at 4pm - Social Media Marketing
- Tuesday, October 24th at 10am – Understanding Commercial Leases
- Ongoing: Digital Literacy Classes for Business Owners

Stay up to date between newsletters by visiting our News Feed, the ACEDC Events and Business Community Calendar webpages, and following us on social media!

Addison County Economic Development Corporation
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(802) 388 - 7953
Email
Website

ACEDC activities are made possible, in part, by a grant from the State of Vermont through the Agency of Commerce and Community Development. Loan programs are made possible by USDA/Rural Development. ACEDC is an equal opportunity service provider and lender, with all services and funds available on a non-discriminatory basis.