

ADDISON COUNTY

Economic Development Corporation
Great starts here.

Greetings and Happy Spring, Addison County community! 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

Even if we as individuals and businesses don't directly access their services, the health and vitality of our community depends on the dozens of nonprofit organizations that support Addison County with critical basic services and abundant cultural and social enrichment. This month, as spring takes hold, we highlight the ongoing work and special projects of our nonprofit partners and members. We gratefully acknowledge that many of our generous business members support these projects and programs and invite all ACEDC businesses to learn about and contribute to these organizations and projects that do so much to make Addison County an inviting, thriving community.

The **ACORN Food Hub** supports farmers, institutions, and eaters through its successful localized food supply chain and Farmacy: Food is Medicine program.

In addition to supporting residents' basic needs **Addison Community Action/CVOEO** offers microbusiness development coaching and workshops for budding entrepreneurs.

Addison Housing Works builds, manages and advocates for safe, energy-efficient and affordable housing for all through its many programs.

The **Climate Energy Action Center of Addison County** supports environmental justice through the Energy Navigator Project, reaching those most burdened by energy costs while protecting the climate.

The **Isley Library** is moving ahead with infrastructure updates to become a more welcoming, accessible, safe and sustainable community hub.

The **Lake Champlain Maritime Museum** offers an array of empowering experiential programs for youth and brings area history and culture alive through exhibits and events.

Middlebury Community Music Center offers lessons, classes and educational enrichment supported by needs-based scholarships/tuition assistance for all ages.

The **Middlebury Skatepark Project** is raising funds for a durable skatepark, creating much-needed public recreational opportunities for Addison County families.

Contributions to the **Middlebury Studio School** "keep the wheels turning" in their empowering arts education programming for kids and adults.

Orwell Green for the Green is crowdfunding to match a grant to buy and install high-quality, USA made benches and tables to the Town Green.

Otter Creek Child Center is leading a community-wide effort to increase childcare resources in Addison County with its expansion.

Porter Medical Center is seeking support for the Helen Porter Improvement Project to enable critical updates to Addison County's only skilled nursing facility.

Ruth Stone House is restoring the multi-award-winning poet's Goshen home to foster a grassroots literary community.

Town Hall Theater's expansion of performance, classroom and public space is underway, ensuring broad access to cultural programming.

The **Vergennes Opera House All Access Project** will open doors for visitors, patrons, and performers of all mobility levels.

The **Vergennes Pavilion Project** will provide a year-round, multi-use recreation and performance space in Veterans Memorial Park (make your donation through the Vergennes Partnership).

The **Willowell Foundation's** innovative, place-based environmental education center is seeking bridge funds to complete their preschool building and housing for their AmeriCorps interns.

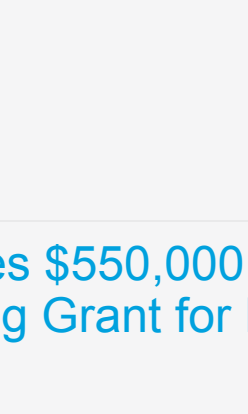
And last, but not least, the **United Way of Addison County** serves to strengthen nonprofits in the areas of Health, Education and Financial Stability. They're also the source if your staff wants to contribute through **volunteer projects**.

We apologize in advance if we missed a non-profit or project. Please let us know if we did at info@addisoncountycdec.org.

ACEDC News

Addison County Chamber and ACEDC Receive Grant to GROW Region

The Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing (VDTM) has awarded grant funds to 12 partner organizations through the Grants for Relocation Outreach Work (GROW) Program. The grants support regional organizations conducting new resident relocation, recruitment, and retention activities in Vermont.



[Read More](#)

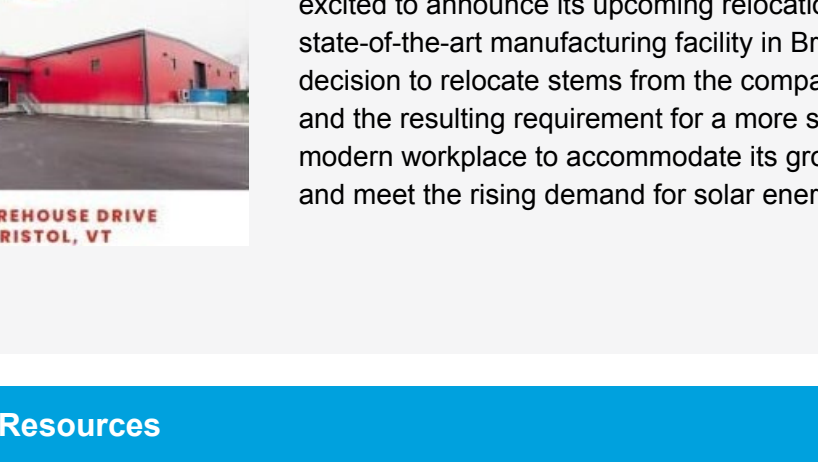
Is your ACEDC member profile up to date?

We want our member directory to be a useful resource for everyone; please take a few minutes to make sure your business profile is up to date.

We have a [video tutorial](#) and [written instructions](#) to guide you through the process. If you have any questions or issues, please reach out to Barbara Richardson, ACEDC Operations Manager, at brichardson@addisoncountycdec.org or 802-388-7953 ext. 2.

ACEDC Success Stories

Champlain Orchards



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Success Story

ACEDC secured a \$15,000 BGS Building Community Grant to enable Champlain Orchards in Shoreham to install a new hood and fryer for their (delicious) donut operation, and move it from their farm market to a commercial space where they also pack apples and make sweet cider.

[Watch the Video on YouTube](#)

Birchmore Sales & Service



"The Addison County Economic Development Corporation helped me big time getting everything lined up that had to go into the shop as far as equipment and renovations... the support helped, essentially, get everything I needed to do work out of the shop. There's no way otherwise it would have worked out."

[Watch the Video on YouTube](#)

See all of our ACEDC Success Stories

ACEDC Members and Partners in the News

Co-operative Insurance Companies Named in Best Places to Work in Vermont List for the 8th Year in a Row



ACEDC member **Co-operative Insurance Companies** has been named one of the Best Places to Work in Vermont in 2024.

This is the 8th consecutive year they have made the list. Congratulations!

[Read More](#)

Hannaford Career Center Receives \$550,000 Congressionally Directed Spending Grant for High-Tech Manufacturing Program



The U.S. Department of Labor has awarded the Career Center \$550,000 through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, which helps job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market.

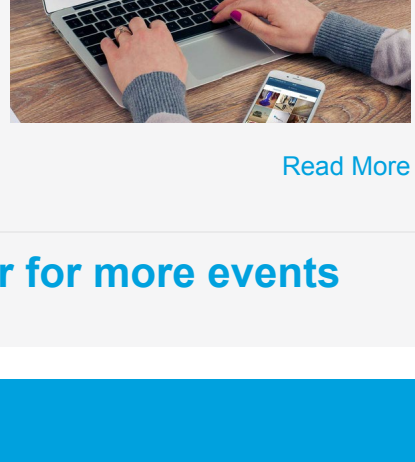
[Read More](#)

Community News

Bristol named in Yankee Magazine's "2024 Best Places to Live in New England"

Bristol made the list of Yankee Magazine's favorite New England towns and small cities in the "Up and Coming Food-Town" category!

Photo credit: Steve Crimby, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons



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AllEarth Renewables, Inc. Announces Relocation of Headquarters to Addison County



AllEarth Renewables, a prominent provider of sustainable solar energy solutions in Vermont, is excited to announce its upcoming relocation to a new, state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Bristol. The decision to relocate stems from the company's growth and the resulting requirement for a more spacious, modern workplace to accommodate its growing team and meet the rising demand for solar energy solutions.

[Read More](#)

Business Resources

Vermont Homes for All Toolkit

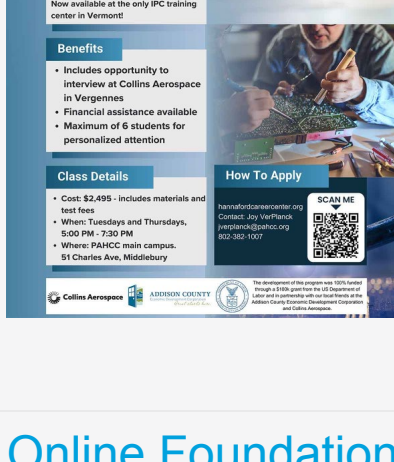
The Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development has released a "Design & Do" toolkit for small scale home builders, investors, and community leaders.

This toolkit includes a Missing Middle Homes Design Guide, Vermont Neighborhood Infill Design Case Studies, a Builders' Workbook, and Training Resources.



[Read More](#)

Two Important Changes Impacting Your Business



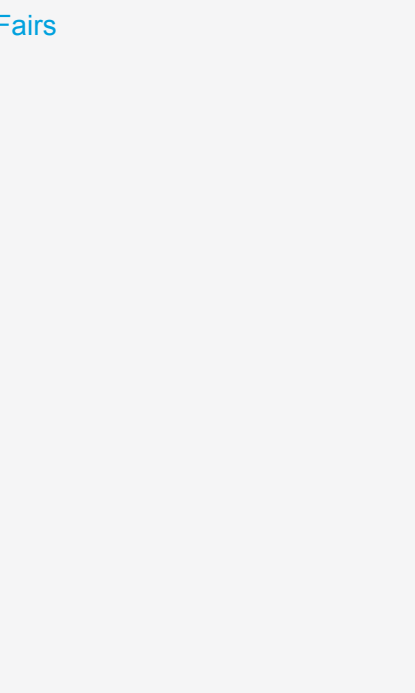
Collection of the Vermont Childcare Contribution payroll tax will start on July 1, 2024.

The State of Vermont and **The Hartford** will begin offering the **Vermont Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FMLI)** program for employers on February 15. Employers with two or more employees will have the opportunity to design a plan to fit the needs of their employees and business, with benefits beginning on July 1, 2024.

[Read More](#)

Two Vermont business surveys share results

Results from the Vermont Department of Labor 2023 Employer Survey and the 2024 Vermont Small Business Economic Outlook Survey



[Read More](#)

Backing Small Businesses Grant Program

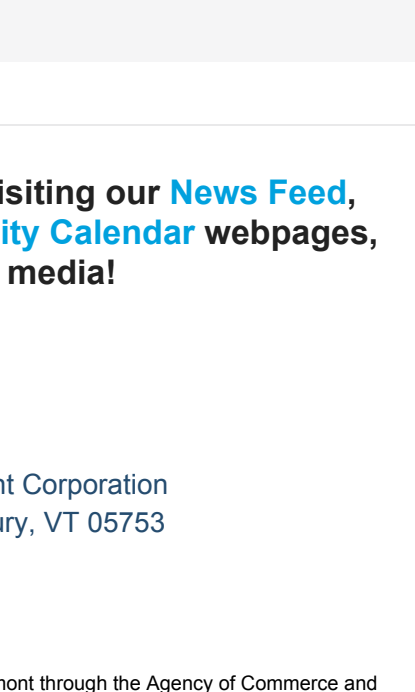


In partnership with American Express, the Backing Small Businesses grant program supports economically vulnerable and under-resourced small businesses with community reach. This year, eligible small business owners can apply for \$10,000 grants for projects that grow or improve their businesses by building community, supporting their economic viability, or bolstering meaningful change.

[Read More](#)

EV Charging and Fleet Vehicle Opportunities

Stand out and attract new customers and employees by offering plug-in electric vehicle (EV) charging. Businesses all over Vermont have charging stations on their properties, such as Stowe Mountain Resort, Killington, Burlington International Airport, higher education institutions, Healthy Living Market, King Arthur Flour, The Alchemist Brewery and Hannaford Supermarkets, to name just a few.



Considering EVs for your business' vehicles? Adding EVs to your fleet can save money through fuel savings and reduced maintenance costs, while also reducing the carbon footprint of your operations.

[Read More](#)

Employer Input Needed in PAHCC Survey

The Patricia A. Hannaford Career Center is asking employers to complete a survey regarding workforce development needs in Addison County. Participation will help PAHCC meet VT Agency of Education reporting requirements as well as facilitate program improvements. Survey responses are anonymous and your contributions are greatly appreciated. Please visit <https://tinyurl.com/pahccemployersurvey> to participate.

ACEDC Events

Sharing Heat: Exploring low-carbon heating & cooling solutions in Middlebury

Monday, April 15th from 5-6:30pm
Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, Middlebury

In this introductory, interactive workshop you can:

- Learn about a neighborhood approach to using the heat we already have to make low- carbon heating & cooling accessible across our community.
- Explore where we have excess heat and where we could use it.
- Understand how Thermal Energy Networks—a low-tech thermal solution—work and what we can do here in Middlebury.

[Read More](#)

Middlebury Spring Job Fest

Thursday, May 2nd from 11am-2pm

You are invited to participate in *Spring Job Fest 2024!* What is **Spring Job Fest 2024?** An outdoor job fair event being held at Middlebury Parks & Rec on Creek Road in Middlebury. There is no cost to participate in any of the events. These unconventional job fair events will feel a bit more like a farmer's market. VDOL has had good success with past events; jobseekers & employers provided positive feedback of their experience. Many reported they preferred the outdoor venue and felt as though conversations were easier.

[Read More](#)

Business Financial Literacy 101 - Understanding Your P&L and Balance Sheet

Tuesday, May 14th from 9:30-10:30am

Webinar offered virtually via Zoom
Presented by Marble Trail Financial
Hosted by the Addison County Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the Addison County Economic Development Corporation

[Read More](#)

SEO 101 - Understanding Search Engine Optimization and Why It Drives Success

Tuesday, June 11th from 9:30-10:30am

Webinar offered virtually via Zoom
Presented by The London Middlebury Agency
Hosted by the Addison County Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the Addison County Economic Development Corporation

[Read More](#)

[Visit the ACEDC Events Calendar for more events](#)

Community Events

Addison County Solar Eclipse Info

As we all know by now, a total solar eclipse will occur on Monday, April 8th. The eclipse totality will last roughly 2 minutes in northern Addison County. Northern Vermont is anticipating thousands of visitors to the region, and it looks like the weather might just cooperate for viewing. We've put together some links to information about viewing opportunities and events in Addison County.

[Read More](#)

Tourism Economy Day at the Vermont State House

Thursday, April 11th from 8am-6pm

Join tourism and hospitality industry leaders at the State House to engage with legislators and raise awareness of the collective contributions of these industries to the Vermont economy.

[Read More](#)

Repair Fair

Saturday, April 20th from 10am-2pm
American Legion, Middlebury, VT

Give your stuff a second chance and get it repaired! The Addison County Solid Waste Management District is hosting a free Repair Fair event, where residents can learn basic repair skills, enjoy refreshments, and build a culture of repair with their neighbors.

[Read More](#)

2024 Creative Sector Convening

Wednesday, June 5th & Thursday, June 6th

Save the date! June 5-6 for the Downtown Conference and Creative Sector Convening in Bellows Falls!

Join the Vermont Arts Council in Bellows Falls on Wednesday, June 5 for the **Downtown and Historic Preservation Conference** and on Thursday, June 6 for the Vermont Creative Network's **2024 Creative Sector Convening!**

Be inspired, make connections, and learn new skills to invigorate Vermont communities through creativity. Full details and registration coming soon!

[Visit our Community Events Calendar for more events](#)

Employment, Training and Education Opportunities

New Soldering Certification Course at PAHCC

The Hannaford Career Center is now offering an 8 week soldering certification class in their new IPC training center - the only one in Vermont.

Graduates of the course will become IPC J-STD-001 Certified IPC Specialists - the industry's gold standard.

Financial assistance is available, and the course includes an opportunity to interview at Collins Aerospace in Vergennes.

For more information & to apply, contact Joy VerPlanck at 802-382-1007, jverplanck@pahcc.org or visit hannafordcareercenter.org

[Download class flyer \(pdf\)](#)

Online Foundational & Career Advancement Courses Available

Learn new personal and professional skills online!

Patricia A. Hannaford Career Center, in partnership with ed2go, offers online open enrollment programs designed to provide the skills necessary to acquire professional level positions for many in-demand occupations.

Programs are designed by a team of professionals from each respective field, providing you with effective web-based learning programs. Instructors/mentors are actively involved in your online learning experience, responding to any questions or concerns, as well as encouraging and motivating you to succeed.

[Read More](#)

[Visit our website for a current list of job opportunities](#)

Job Fairs

Vermont Department of Labor #Hiring2DayVT Virtual Job Fairs

Middlebury Spring Job Fest

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: U.S. Economic Development Administration

The mission of the US Economic Development Administration (EDA) is to lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness, preparing American regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy. EDA's investment policy is designed to establish a foundation for sustainable job growth and the building of durable regional economies throughout the United States. Guided by the basic principle that sustainable economic development should be locally driven, EDA works directly with communities and regions to help them build the capacity for economic development based on local business conditions and needs. EDA's grant investments in planning, technical assistance, and infrastructure construction are designed to leverage existing regional assets to support the implementation of economic development strategies that make it easier for businesses to start and grow. Through its network of regionally based staff and portfolio of flexible grant tools, EDA helps communities experiencing economic distress take control of their future and position themselves for economic prosperity and resiliency.

One of EDA's focus areas is support for **regional economic planning**. ACEDC, together with the Addison County Regional Planning Commission and the RDCs and RPCs from Chittenden, Rutland, and Central Vermont received EDA funding to complete a **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the West Central Vermont Economic Development District**, which was adopted in November 2023. The CEDS is a framework for building capacity, supporting local initiatives, and developing economic resiliency. Having a CEDS unlocks additional EDA funding opportunities and also allows the region to apply to EDA for designation as an Economic Development District, which can lead to even more funding opportunities.

To learn more about the EDA, visit <https://www.eda.gov>.

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.

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