



Resilience seems to be a topic on everyone's mind this month. Whether we're talking about the late-spring blossoms that still cling to their branches or our new Resilient Communities Scorecard, featured in the VNRC News section below, one thing is clear: we admire and support the ability of people and things to bounce back from adversity and adjust to change.



QUICK LINKS

- [Hot Issues](#)
- [Learn About VNRC](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [Become an Activist](#)

What does resilience mean to you? **We're having a contest to find out!** Send us your photos and tweets (140 characters or less) on the topic of resilience and we'll include the top five in the summer issue of our member newsletter, the *Vermont Environmental Report*. E-mail your entries to contest@vnrc.org.

[Join VNRC!](#)

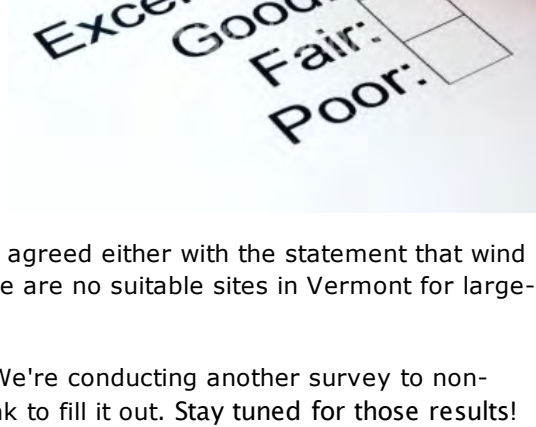


Happy late spring/early summer, and thanks, as always, for all that you do.

VNRC NEWS

Member Survey Results Are In!

VNRC conducted an online membership survey last month to help strengthen our relationships with current members and improve our fundraising and communications programs.



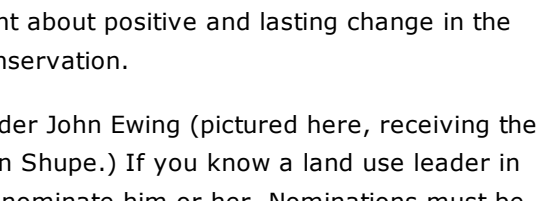
Key findings suggest that members trust VNRC to represent their environmental concerns with the legislature and state agencies, and wish they could have more time to advocate for the issues they care about.

While members revealed a range of points of view about specific policy topics, a large percentage – 80 percent – agreed that wind energy should be developed in "certain locations as long as there is consideration for wildlife, water quality, and the concerns of surrounding communities." The remaining respondents, in an even split, agreed either with the statement that wind energy should be developed as fast as possible or that there are no suitable sites in Vermont for large-scale wind energy development.

Click here to [read the survey results](#). Want to participate? We're conducting another survey to non-members, and you can email us at info@vnrc.org for the link to fill it out. Stay tuned for those results!

The 2013 Arthur Gibb Award: a Call for Nominations

VNRC is accepting nominations for the 2013 Arthur Gibb Award for Individual Leadership. This award will be presented to a Vermont resident who embodies qualities similar to Arthur Gibb, the Vermont lawmaker and chair of the Environmental Board who dedicated much of his life to public service and a healthy environment. Each year a selection committee of community leaders and several of Arthur Gibb's family members and colleagues gathers to review the nominees. The committee is looking for an individual whose leadership, vision, and courage has brought about positive and lasting change in the way their community or our state integrates growth and conservation.



Past award winners include Smart Growth Vermont co-founder John Ewing (pictured here, receiving the 2012 Arthur Gibb award from VNRC Executive Director Brian Shupe.) If you know a land use leader in Vermont who you'd like to recognize, we encourage you to nominate him or her. Nominations must be postmarked no later than Friday, June 28.

Click here to [download the nomination form](#). Contact our Sustainable Communities Program Director, Kate McCarthy, at kmccarthy@vnrc.org for a paper copy or if you have questions.

VNRC's Forest Roundtable: a Video Overview

We've created a new video about Vermont's forests, and you can check it out, right now, without moving an inch!



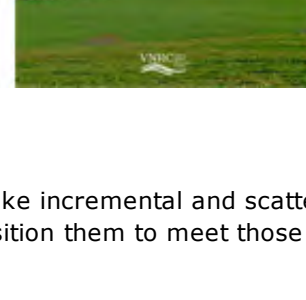
Conceived of and convened by VNRC in 2006, the Forest Roundtable is a venue for the exchange of information related to keeping Vermont's forests as forests, with particular attention focused on addressing parcelization and forest fragmentation.

This short, informative video features Jamey Fidel, our Forest and Wildlife Program Director, and other Roundtable participants describing what the Roundtable is and its value to Vermont.

Click here to [watch the video](#). Don't miss it!

VNRC Releases New Resilient Communities Scorecard

VNRC recently released the Resilient Communities Scorecard, a set of checklists to help towns rate whether or not they are economically, environmentally, and socially resilient. This update to the Smart Growth Scorecard, published by the Vermont Forum on Sprawl in 2001, makes it the first scorecard developed in Vermont that looks at resilience.



The Scorecard consists of twelve checklists on key topics, including land use, transportation, energy, and healthy community design. Each checklist has a series of questions that, when answered, combine to create a "score" for each topic.

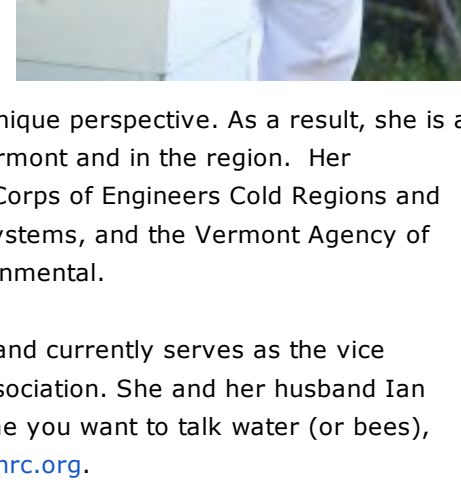
The tool will help communities address today's difficult challenges – like incremental and scattered development, rising energy costs, and climate change – and help position them to meet those challenges.

"Knowing how your community stacks up is the first step in developing goals, actions, and investment strategies to build or reinforce community resilience in a changing world," said VNRC's Sustainable Communities Program Director Kate McCarthy.

Visit our [Community Planning Toolbox](#) to learn more about the [Resilient Communities Scorecard](#).

Staff Profile: Kim Greenwood, Water Program Director

A VNRC staff member since 2005, Kim Greenwood leads VNRC's water policy work.



Kim's solid technical background, with degrees in aquatic resources and mechanical engineering, enables her to engage in the full spectrum of Vermont's water issues from technical rules to broad statewide policy. Kim ensures that whatever real-world policy VNRC is working on – whether it's protecting groundwater or surface water or mitigating the impacts of stormwater runoff – it is grounded in the literature. Kim gets deep satisfaction from seeing technical and policy work come together to produce the best possible protection for our waters.

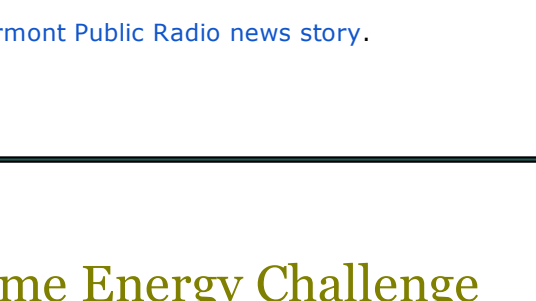
Having grown up in Vermont and worked in the private and governmental sectors as well as at VNRC, Kim has a broad and unique perspective. As a result, she is a frequently invited speaker at water conferences and panels in Vermont and in the region. Her background includes time at Scitest Laboratories, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Cold Regions and Research and Engineering Laboratory, Husky Injection Molding Systems, and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. She is former principal of Solid Ground Environmental.

Kim serves on the Duxbury cemetery and planning commissions and currently serves as the vice president and grant administrator of the Vermont Beekeepers Association. She and her husband Ian operate Camel's Hump Honey – a sweet endeavor indeed. Anytime you want to talk water (or bees), please reach out to her at [802-223-2328 X119](tel:802-223-2328) or kgreenwood@vnrc.org.

VERMONT NEWS

Climate Urgency Rises; Vermont Leaders Disappoint

Just as Vermont's legislative session ended with only the most incremental of steps passed to address climate change, there was grim news: for the first time in just over three million years the world's atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide topped 400 parts per million, as measured at a key monitoring station in Hawaii.



Most of the world's leading climate scientists say that 350 ppm is the safe level of carbon in the atmosphere for planetary stability.

In recent years, Governor Shumlin and other state leaders have said they are deeply committed to climate action and moving away from fossil fuels and towards a renewable, energy efficient future.

"We're gonna make sure that everyone has the resources, to do energy efficiency right," he said at a climate rally in Montpelier in 2011. "We're gonna take the buildings that we have and make them tighter, and the ones we build and make them zero-net energy buildings." This year, lawmakers passed a stripped down thermal efficiency bill without adequate funding to jumpstart significantly more building energy efficiency work. Shumlin appeared to offer only tepid support for strong legislation.

"Unfortunately, this year, while the rhetoric was great, the rubber never hit the road," said Johanna Miller, VNRC's Energy and Climate Action Program Director. "There is a serious need – and a tremendous economic opportunity – to tighten up Vermonter's homes and make a real commitment to renewables.

Reporter John Dillon recently examined the issue in this [Vermont Public Radio news story](#).

Special Incentive Offered by Home Energy Challenge

It's never too early to start saving energy - and money! Helping neighbors is the goal of the Vermont Home Energy Challenge, currently underway. Seventy-eight participating communities are working to motivate homeowners to undertake a comprehensive home energy retrofit.



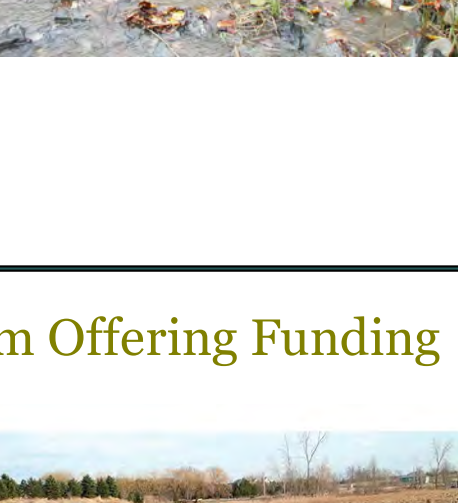
Any Vermonter can sign up today and save an additional \$500 this summer if they complete a home weatherization job by August 31, 2013. Efficiency Vermont is offering this seasonal promotion on top of its average incentive of \$2000/customer. This is a tremendous opportunity to start saving money and living more comfortably.

There are also opportunities available to reduce the cost of the audit. Act now before it's too late!

Click here to find out more about the [challenge and available incentives](#), or contact Efficiency Vermont's Customer Support at [888-921-5990](tel:888-921-5990).

Conservation Commissions Seeks Grant Applications

The deadline for applying for small grants through the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions is nearing. The "Tiny Grants" program, offered by AVCC for the last several years to local conservation groups, provides funding for projects including natural resource mapping, wildlife tracking projects, and other local conservation efforts.



Last year, AVCC became affiliated with VNRC and while it remains an independent non-profit organization, AVCC enjoys additional capacity through VNRC to fulfill its mission of serving conservation commissions in Vermont.

The deadline for applying this year is June 15 with grants awarded by July 1. Visit the 'Our Featured Work' section of [VNRC's website](#) for more information.

Culvert Sizing - Boots on the Ground in Bolton

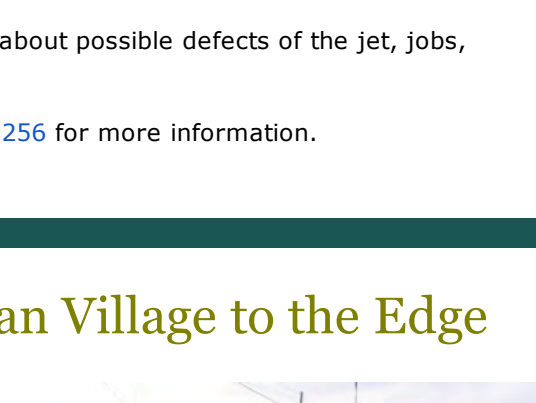
As policy makers consider road construction and reconstruction projects in light of recent severe weather including events like Tropical Storm Irene, many people, including town officials, are suggesting road crews install larger culverts to better contain stream flow under roads. While larger culverts are often more expensive up front, if they are wisely deployed, they end up saving taxpayers money because fewer road washouts will occur. Watch Bolton town official Eric Andrews discuss his rationale for using bigger culverts in these two videos from Burlington's James Valastro's video series, Voices from the Watershed.



- [Bolton Vermont Culvert Sizing, Part One](#) (3 min. 15 seconds)
- [Bolton Vermont Culvert Sizing, Part Two](#) (2 min. 40 seconds)

State Bike and Pedestrian Program Offering Funding

The VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program is soliciting applications for projects to improve access and safety for bicyclists and/or pedestrians through the planning, design and construction of infrastructure projects. The Bike/Ped Program provides funding for either scoping (feasibility) studies or for the design and construction of projects. Applicants must attend a training session on one of two available dates: Monday, June 3, from 1-3 pm and Wednesday, June 5 from 6-8 pm. Applications must be either post-marked or received by Friday, July 26, 2013.



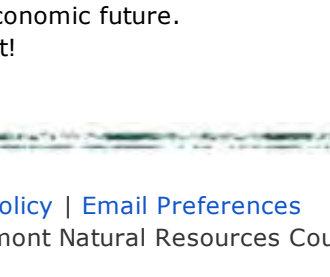
Click here for a copy of the [VTrans 2013 Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Guide and Application](#).

For more information, contact Jon Kaplan at jon.kaplan@state.vt.us or (802) 828-0059.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Vermont's First Annual Green Tie Gala

Join Renewable Energy Vermont on Thursday, June 6 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Shelburne Museum's Round Barn for an evening of live music provided by the Williams Reunion Jazz Band, dancing, carousel rides, delicious BBQ, and drinks.



F-35: A Citizens' Hearing

Why are 150 affordable homes now vacant or demolished because of F-16 noise? Is it true that the F-35 is more than four times louder than the F-16, and that it will put 3,000 more affordable homes in the noise zone that the federal government says is "unsuitable for residential use"?



Come and get the scoop! This event, scheduled for Thursday, May 30 at 7:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Burlington, features speakers Pierre Sprey, co-designer of the F-16 and A-10 jets; Ben Cohen, founder of Ben & Jerry's; Ret. US Air Force Colonel Rosanne Greco; "Gamma" Carmine Sargent, who lives in the noise zone; and Rabbi Joshua Chasan.

Join this community conversation and share your concerns about possible defects of the jet, jobs, safety, noise, and devastating effect on our neighborhoods.

Visit the [event website](#) or contact Chris Hurd at (802) 238-5256 for more information.

NATIONAL NEWS

Climate Change Brings an American Village to the Edge

The people of Newtok, on the west coast of Alaska and about 400 miles south of the Bering Strait that separates the state from Russia, are living a slow-motion disaster that will end, very possibly within the next five years, with the entire village being washed away.

Click here to read the full article in the [New York Times](#).

Am I a VNRC member? Good question. Receiving this email does not necessarily mean you are a supporting member, but now is a great time to become a member and join over 5,000 others dedicated to moving Vermont communities towards a healthy environmental and economic future. Your [donation](#) means a lot to us - and to Vermont!