



Vermont Natural Resources Council
2014 Annual Report | July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014
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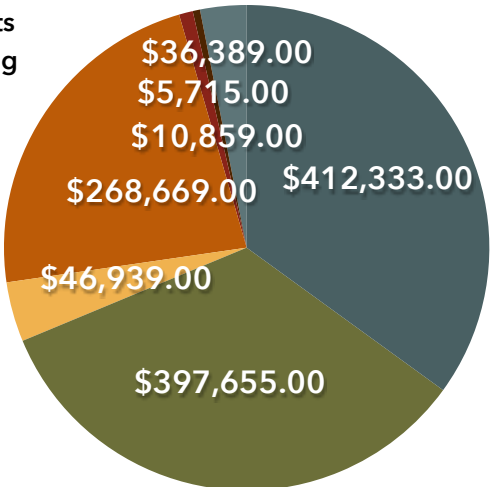
Financials

Assets	
Cash.....	\$112,268
Other.....	\$24,646
Total Current Assets.....	\$136,914
Investments.....	\$2,351,041
Property and Equipment.....	\$276,117
Total Non-Current Assets.....	\$2,627,158
TOTAL ASSETS.....	\$2,764,072
Liabilities & Net Assets	
Current Liabilities.....	\$73,000
Non-Current Liabilities.....	\$0
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....	\$73,000
Net Assets, Unrestricted.....	\$2,023,261
Net Assets, Temporarily Restricted.....	\$667,811
Total Net Assets.....	\$2,691,072
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS.....	\$2,764,072



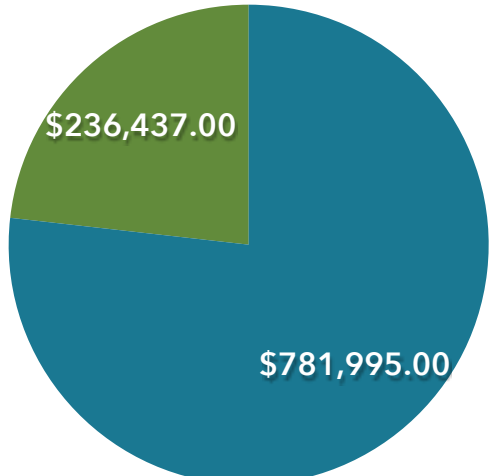
- Membership Dues & Contributions
- Grants
- Vermont Conservation Voters
- Investment Income (Net of Expenses)
- Donated Services
- Special Events
- Other Funding

Support & Revenue:
\$1,178,559



Expenses:
\$1,018,432

- Policy & Issues
- Membership, Development & Administration



Excerpt from the audited financial report for the period ending June 30, 2014.

The full reviewed financial report for the Vermont Natural Resources Councils is available upon request.

2014 Highlights

The Legislative Session:

- After two years of testimony, debate, and public hearings, **VNRC succeeded in pushing lawmakers to protect shorelands and water quality** with the final approval of a shorelands protection bill, H.526. The bill creates a new permitting program administered by the Department of Environmental Conservation – or towns if they have similar standards – for permitting of certain types of development along the shores of Vermont's lakes and ponds. The bill includes standards to minimize clearing of vegetation close to lakeshores in order to help protect the water quality and habitat. It also offers flexibility for landowners who have smaller lots.
- Lawmakers approved additional Act 250 protections for areas outside of our settled downtowns and village centers. The bill, H.823, **promotes downtown development while, for the first time in Act 250's history, also addresses sprawling strip development outside of our existing downtowns and villages**. This is key because it will help reinforce well planned development in good locations – the compact, often historic centers already served by services like water, sewer and sidewalks. This bill does not prevent development outside downtowns and villages, but it does specify how that development should occur, and ensures that our existing commercial strips are reinvigorated, not abandoned. The bill also updates Act 250 Criterion 5 (transportation) to facilitate better pedestrian, bicycle and transit access to new development. The current Criterion 5 deals primarily with traffic congestion, rather than looking at all modes of transportation.
- A complementary bill to H.823, H.809, was passed earlier in the session and **improves the state's Growth Center designation program** - a program to help communities target future growth in well-designed, compact locations that provide access to housing, transportation options, jobs, and services.
- Vermont's popular solar energy incentive program got a big boost this year with VNRC's help. H.702 **expands the state's successful net metering program and also makes it easier to build solar energy projects on capped landfills**. The measure once again opens the doors for Vermont homeowners, businesses, communities and farmers to go solar, save money over time, feed clean energy back onto the grid, and be part of the state's clean energy future.



Photo: Blake Gardener

2014 Highlights

- Another important energy bill S.202, moves **Vermont's energy efficiency work towards an overall "total energy" focus**. Specifically, it authorizes Efficiency Vermont and Burlington Electric Department to **provide incentives for new, efficient electric heating technologies such as air source heat pumps**. What S.202 recognizes is that in some cases, it may make sense to use more electricity, if that is going to offset the use of less-efficient, more-polluting energy sources such as heating oil or propane. The new program would likely go into effect in early 2015. In the meantime, you can still learn a lot about this exciting new way to reduce energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions here. You can also read more detail on legislative action on the energy front this year here.
- A central focus of VNRC's forest work for many years has been the threat posed by continued fragmentation of our forests due to development – an issue well documented by research conducted by VNRC in recent years. Lawmakers took up the issue this year, and have directed state officials to study it further, and come back to the State House with recommendations for legislation to help protect the integrity of forestlands and preserve large blocks of continuous forest land. While VNRC would have preferred more substantive action on the issue this year, we look forward to engaging next year on any proposed legislation to curb forest fragmentation.
- Also under legislation passed this year, the Commissioner of Forests, Parks, and Recreation will now have greater flexibility **to allow landowners to enroll ecologically significant treatment areas (ESTAs) in the Current Use program**. Previously, there was a cap on the amount of productive forestland that a landowner could enroll as an ESTA. The legislation eliminates that cap. This means that more habitat for rare or threatened species, forested wetlands, vernal pools, natural communities of statewide significance, riparian areas, and old forests will now be able to be enrolled in the program. This is a welcome improvement, especially since only 1,000 acres out of 1.8 million acres of forestland enrolled in Current Use have been enrolled as ESTAs to date.



2014 Highlights

Reading Vermont's Rivers

This VNRC publication includes articles on rivers written by river scientists, state officials, planners, and road engineers. You will learn how rivers change and what those changes look like. We have sought to assemble an accessible, informative introduction to how rivers behave and what makes them healthy

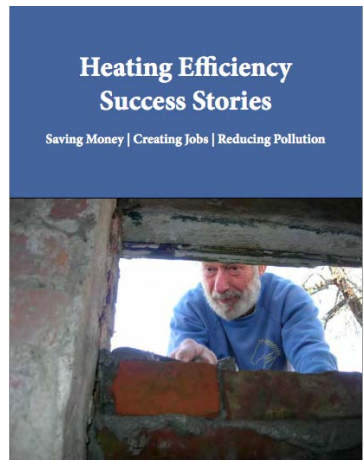


Forest Action Plan

While close to 80% of the state is forested, for the first time in over a century, forests are declining in Vermont. Development is responsible for this trend and forests are increasingly becoming fragmented across Vermont.

Heating Efficiency Success Stories

More and more Vermonters are reducing their energy bills — including high home heating costs — by investing in efficiency improvements. This publication highlights some of the people who are reaping many benefits from those investments.



Arthur Gibb Award for Individual Leadership

At VNRC's 2014 annual meeting in Charlotte, VNRC and our members and friends honored Andrea Morgante with the Arthur Gibb Award for Individual Leadership for her conservation work.

“She is a tireless advocate for natural resources and strong communities who has been able to build bridges among many different constituencies,” said Brian Shupe, VNRC executive director.

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Thank you to all of our members,
supporters and countless volunteers.
Without you, our work wouldn't be
possible!

With gratitude,
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*VNRC is grateful for the financial support of all our members. We send our heartfelt thanks.
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 Ellen Satterthwaite
 Sandy Schofield
 Virginia Scholl
 Walter Schwarz
 John and Suzanne Schwarz
 James Schweithelm
 William Scott and Bettina
 Edelstein
 Charles Scribner
 Timothy and Carolyn Scully
 Rev. Sister Laurian Seeber
 Ellen Seeger
 Nancy Segal
 Sarah Seidman
 Andrew and Carolyn Shapiro
 Michael Sipe and Patty Sipe
 Richard Sirola
 Janice Smith
 Deborah Smith
 Janet Sorice
 Bob and Peg Soule

Foundations

Anonymous (2)
 Powell Family Charitable Trust
 Canaday Family Charitable
 Trust
 Davis Conservation Foundation
 Patagonia
 Park Foundation Inc.
 High Meadows Fund
 Unilever U.S. Foundation, Inc
 Northeastern States Research
 Cooperative
 Lintilhac Foundation
 Ben & Jerry's Foundation
 Vermont Community
 Foundation

Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust
 Fund at the Boston Foundation
 League of Conservation Voters
 Education Fund
 Eliot and Ann Weathers
 Charitable Trust
 Baird Foundation
 Harris Frances Block
 Foundation
 United States Forest Service
 Jack and Dorothy Byrne
 Foundation
 New Venture Fund
 Benedictine Monks
 Barr Foundation

Organizations

Two Rivers-Ottawquechee
 Regional Commission
 Vermont Institute of Natural
 Science
 Quechee Garden Club
 Chittenden County Regional
 Planning Commission
 Earthwalk Vermont
 Efficiency Vermont
 National Wildlife Federation
 State Alliance for Federal
 Reform of Chemical Policy
 Institute For Sustainable
 Communities
 US HUD CCSP
 Dorset Citizens for Responsible
 Growth
 Efficiency Vermont

Gift-In-Kind

AO Glass LLC
 Ben & Jerry's Foundation
 Big Picture Framing
 Bluebird Tavern
 Cabot Creamery Cooperative
 CarShare Vermont
 Catamount Outdoor Family
 Center
 Champlain Valley Compost Co.

Craftsbury Outdoor Center
 Danforth Pewter
 EColor Printing, Inc.
 Ember Photography
 Farm & Wilderness Foundation
 Farmhouse Group
 Sabra Field
 Flynn Center for the Performing
 Arts
 Gardener's Supply Co.
 A. Blake Gardner
 Green Wind Farm
 Kim Greenwood and Ian Ormon
 Healthy Living Market
 Hugg-a-Planet
 Hunger Mountain Cooperative
 Keurig Green Mountain
 Klinger's Bread Company
 Kurt Budliger Photography
 Lake Champlain Maritime
 Museum
 Leunig's Bistro & Cafe
 Mad River Glen Cooperative
 Main Street Landing Company
 Mexicali Grill & Cantina
 Jerome Milks
 Montshire Museum
 Moose Meadow Lodge
 National Wildlife Federation
 Old Spokes Home
 Osmium
 Patagonia Burlington
 Petra Cliffs
 Pitcher Inn
 Seventh Generation
 Shelburne Farms
 Shelburne Museum
 SlopeStyle Ski & Ride
 Smugglers Notch Resort
 Stowe Mountain Resort
 Sugarbush Mountain Resort
 The Essex, Vermont's Culinary
 Resort & Spa
 The Point
 The Ski Rack, Inc

Three Penny Taproom
 Vermont Business for Social
 Responsibility
 Vermont Creamery
 Vermont Farm Tours
 Yestermorrow Design-Build
 School

Businesses

Concept II, Inc.
 Charles H. Reed Export, Inc.
 Freeman French Freeman
 Architects
 Weston & Sampson Engineers
 Inc.
 Verilux, Inc.
 Green Mountain
 Electromagnetics
 Snowald Corporation
 Forest Care
 Bobbin Mill Sand & Stone Co.
 Green Mountain Inn
 LandWorks
 Bluebird Barbeque
 Main Street Landing Company
 Necrason Group
 Petite Mort

Libraries

Brooks Memorial Library
 Brownell Library
 Dartmouth College
 Dartmouth College Baker/Berry
 Library
 Enosburg Public Library
 Fletcher Free Library
 Middlebury College Library
 Rutland Free Library
 Saint Michael's College Library
 Southern Vermont College
 Library
 University of Vermont Bailey
 Library Serials Dept.
 Vermont Law School Library
 VT Department Of Libraries

Williams College Library
Bequests
 Peter and Susan Alden

*Cover Photos: Blake Gardener

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 223-2328 ext 121**