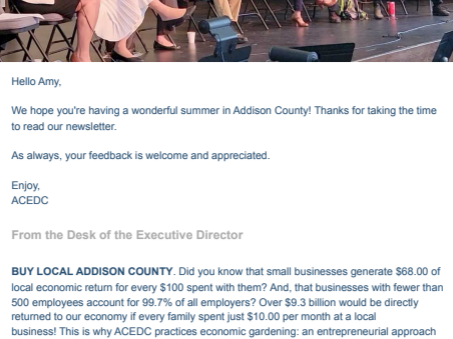




ADDISON COUNTY

Economic Development Corporation
Great starts here.



Hello Amy,

We hope you're having a wonderful summer 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

BUY LOCAL ADDISON COUNTY. Did you know that small businesses generate \$68.00 of local economic return for every \$100 spent with them? And, that businesses with fewer than 500 employees account for 99.7% of all employers? Over \$9.3 billion would be directly returned to our economy if every family spent just \$10.00 per month at a local business! This is why ACEDC practices economic gardening: an entrepreneurial approach to economic development that seeks to grow the local economy from within. Its premise is that local entrepreneurs create the companies that bring new wealth and economic growth to a region in the form of jobs, increased revenues, and a vibrant local business sector. Economic gardening seeks to focus on growing and nurturing local businesses rather than hunting for "big game" outside the area.

As an individual, family, or business, you have the power to help support and maintain our local businesses by shifting your consumer habits to focus on buying local. This can go beyond buying from the local farm stand, which, of course, is a great thing to do!

Consider:

- Making a purchase at your locally owned general or country store every week.
- Visiting your favorite orchard, berry farm, or other PYO operation this season.
- Taking a Staycation at a local Inn or B&B.
- Purchasing birthday and holiday gifts from local vendors such as Maple Landmark, Danforth Pewter, Vermont Soap, or Bee's Wrap.
- Sending gift packs from local vendors such as Dakin Farm, Champlain Valley Apiaries, V. Smiley Preserves, or Phenomenal Fudge.
- Purchasing your power equipment from Champlain Valley Equipment or Cyclewise.
- Purchasing locally produced beverages from AquaVTea, Vermont Cider Company, and Shacksbury Cider.
- Purchasing locally produced adult beverages such as WhistlePig, App Gap, or Lost Lantern.
- Utilizing local professionals for insurance, real estate, accounting, engineering, architectural services, etc.
- Seeing a show at a local venue such as the Town Hall Theater or Vergennes Opera House.

ACEDC is launching a campaign to encourage Addison County residents and businesses to support their neighbors and friends by buying local. Whether it's a farm stand, a local market, country store, or other retail store, a B&B, recreation opportunity, or locally made product, we want to feature your business, product or service in our Buy Local Campaign. We'll feature two businesses each month through our social media and email blasts. Then repeat features from the quarter in our quarterly newsletter. If you offer a local product or service, we would like to highlight you in the campaign. Please contact Barbara Richardson at (802) 388-7953 or brichardson@addisoncountynecd.org.

2023 Legislative Session Ends with Quick but Impactful Veto Session



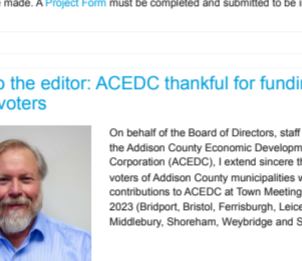
The Legislature set aside June 20-22 for a veto session but concluded their business in one day. One June 20, the General Assembly:

- Amended H. 171 to extend the hotel voucher program for homeless Vermonters.
- Passed House on voice vote, Senate on roll call 30-0.
- Overrode the Governor's veto of H. 217, the Childcare Bill. House override vote 116-31. Senate override vote 23-7. Bill will become law.
- Overrode the Governor's veto of H. 494, the Budget Bill. House override vote 105-42. Senate override vote 25-5. Bill will become law.
- Overrode the Governor's veto of H. 305, Fee increases for professions regulated by the Office of Professional Regulation. Bill will become law.
- Legislature did not have the votes to override S. 39, wage and benefit increases for legislators. Bill was sent back to committee without a floor vote.

For a comprehensive summary of the bills and actions of the 2023 Legislative Session, [click here](#).

ACEDC News

ACEDC Awarded \$50,000 USDA Grant for ACORN Food Hub Feasibility Study



ACEDC has been awarded a \$50,000 grant from USDA/Rural Development to undertake a study regarding the feasibility of expanding the ACORN Food Hub and adding a Commercial Community Kitchen to support the sale and distribution of local foods and increase local food access in the Champlain Valley region.

[View WCAX Coverage](#)

[Read More](#)

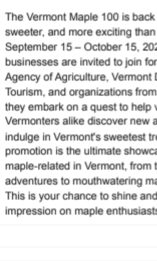
Addison County Hosts State Officials for ARPA Tour



On June 8, ACEDC and the ACRPC facilitated a meeting attended by about 60 residents to hear from and meet with officials from various State of Vermont departments and agencies regarding funding available through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Many thanks to Lisa Mitchell and the Town Hall Theater for hosting the event. Following the meeting, State officials fanned out throughout the county to visit projects, businesses, and non-profits interested in ARPA funding and projects that have already received ARPA funding through programs such as the Community Recovery and Revitalization Program (CRRP).

[View the Day in Photos and Video here.](#)

Efficiency Vermont highlights partnership with RDCs to help local business

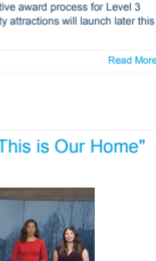


ACEDC and other RDCs (regional development corporations) partner with Efficiency Vermont to offer incentive programs to help install money-saving efficiency upgrades. Wooden Hammer owner Ben Ruffael worked with ACEDC and Efficiency Vermont to switch from propane heat to an air-to-water heat pump system in his workshop.

[Read More](#)

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. Look for invitations to these sessions in the coming weeks:



Upcoming webinars include:

- August 15: Employee Acquisition and Retention - Presented by Ross Gibson, TRG
- September 13: Ownership Succession - Virtual & in Person at the National Bank of Middlebury

Please join us!

[Read More](#)

Working on a Project in Addison County?

ACEDC is accepting projects to include in the 2023 Regional Priority Project List. Projects should be shovel ready or close to shovel ready, be seeking funding from multiple sources, but have a funding gap remaining. Projects will be scored and prioritized by a team representing the County. Then the top ten will be submitted to our State and Federal partners so they know what the priority projects are for Addison County when funding decisions are made. A **Project Form** must be completed and submitted to be included on the list.

[Read More](#)

Letter to the editor: ACEDC thankful for funding from county voters



On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff and clients of the Addison County Economic Development Corporation (ACEDC), I extend sincere thanks to the voters of Addison County municipalities who approved contributions to ACEDC at Town Meeting in March 2023 (Bridport, Bristol, Ferrisburgh, Leicester, Lincoln, Middlebury, Shoreham, Weybridge and Salisbury).

[Read More](#)

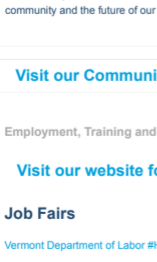
Have you updated your member profile on ACEDC's website?

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@addisoncountynecd.org or 802-388-7953 ext. 2.

Thank you for your support and participation.

Community News

Addison County Projects Approved for 2nd Round of CRRP Funding



Governor Phil Scott and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) announced the second round of approved Community Recovery and Revitalization Program (CRRP) grant applications for projects that spur economic recovery.

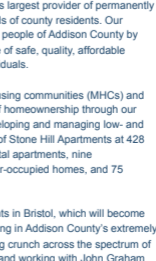
Outer Creek Child Center

The program, administered by the Department of Economic Development (DED), aims to strengthen communities across the state by reversing the harm caused by the COVID-19 pandemic through assistance with capital investments that will help businesses, nonprofits, and municipalities to recover, retain existing jobs, and grow the economy.

[Read More](#)

Want a Community Commercial Kitchen in Middlebury?

Addison County Relocalization Network (ACORN) and Addison Allies are working with a group of Middlebury College environmental studies seniors on their capstone project. Part of the project entails determining the need for a community commercial kitchen that could be co-located with the ACORN Food Hub.



This kitchen would be available to rent to anyone: farmers, value added food producers, caterers, community organizations, students and more.

Fill out the survey and tell us if you'd use this kind of space!

[Read More](#)

Addison County Farms Among Recipients of Dairy Farm Innovation & Alternative Management Grant



The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) has announced 24 recipients of the Dairy Farm Innovation & Alternative Management Grant, including three Addison County farms: Allendale Farms in Vergennes; Blue Lodge Farm in Salisbury; and Richville Farms in Shoreham.

[Read More](#)

Apply to join the Vermont Maple 100!

The Vermont Maple 100 is back and it's bigger, sweeter, and more exciting than ever before! From September 15 – October 15, 2023, Vermont businesses are invited to join forces with the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Vermont Department of Tourism, and organizations from across the state as they embark on a quest to help visitors and Vermonters alike discover new and delightful ways to indulge in Vermont's sweetest treat. This annual promotion is the ultimate showcase of everything maple-related in Vermont, from thrilling maple adventures to mouthwatering maple-inspired products. This is your chance to shine and make a lasting impression on maple enthusiasts from near and far!

[Read More](#)

VT Community EVSE Grant Program Launched

The Agency of Commerce & Community Development has announced the launch of the VT Community EVSE Grant Program. \$7 million in funding is available through the VT Department of Housing & Community Development, and will be administered by Green Mountain Power in partnership with ACCD. Incentives are available for full installation of Level 1 and 2 Workplace charging, Level 1 and 2 Multi-unit housing charging, and Level 2 charging at Community attractions. A competitive award process for launch later this summer.

[Read More](#)

Our Members & Partners in the News

Middlebury Highlighted in NBC5 "This is Our Home" Series

From historic buildings to ethically-owned businesses, the Middlebury community is cultivating a real home for its neighbors.

All of the businesses featured in this NBC5 "My Home" segment are ACEDC members!

[Read More](#)

Sarah Cowan named Vermont Bankers Association Woman of the Year 2023

Sarah Cowan, executive vice president of lending strategy and loan department head at **National Bank of Middlebury**, was named recipient of the **Vermont Bankers Association Woman of the Year 2023** award at the organization's annual meeting in March.

[Read More](#)

Business Resources

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 fixtures that ACEDC is making available for free to Addison County small businesses and non-profits.

Click "read more" below to see the list of what's available. All items are available on 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@addisoncountynecd.org for details on how, where and when you can pick it up.

[Read More](#)

Women Business Owners in Vermont – stand up and be counted!

Until now, no one tracked business ownership by gender, a fact that matters in our economy. Go to thiswayupvt.com, take the survey, and put yourself on the map. Be recognized for your hard work! This data will shed new light on what it takes to run a business in Vermont's rural economy and open more doors to funding, mentorship, and connection. Brought to you by the Vermont Women's Fund.

Community Events

CommonGood Vermont Nonprofit Summer Camp

This 3-day virtual nonprofit learning series is the perfect professional development boost and chance to connect with your peers during these slower summer days. From fundraising, to governance, to navigating change, this is an opportunity to build the skillset of your whole team.

[Read More](#)

Beginners Guide to the Google Suite for Business Owners

Join CVOEO and Technology4Tomorrow for an interactive training on the Google Suite.

[Read More](#)

2023 Vermont Community Leadership Summit

Nothing gets done in Vermont communities without the people who put themselves on the line for their town and for the issues they care about. The 2023 Vermont Community Leadership Summit will bring together these dedicated community builders from across the State, along with people from the non-profit, business, and government sectors to provide training in useful skills, work together on practical solutions for local initiatives, make new connections, and share ideas for our collective future. All people who care about their community and the future of our state are encouraged to attend.

[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: Addison County Community Trust

Addison County Community Trust

The Addison County Community Trust (ACCT) is the area's largest provider of permanently affordable housing, with over 750 homes serving thousands of county residents. Our mission is to enrich the lives of low- and moderate-income people of Addison County by ensuring the development, management and maintenance of safe, quality, affordable homes and related supports for families, seniors and individuals.

Since 1989, ACCT has been preserving manufactured housing communities (MHCs) and helping moderate-income buyers to realize their dreams of homeownership through our shared equity grant program. In 2005, we also began developing and managing low- and moderate-income rental apartments with the construction of Stone Hill Apartments at 428 Court St in Middlebury. Our portfolio now includes 354 rental apartments, nine manufactured housing communities with 340 lots for owner-occupied homes, and 75 shared equity single-family homes and condos.

This year, we're thrilled to be opening Firehouse Apartments in Bristol, which will become home to 20 households currently struggling to afford housing in Addison County's extremely tight rental market. Firehouse will help alleviate the housing crunch across the spectrum of needs, from people currently experiencing homelessness and working with John Graham Housing & Services, all the way to households who earn up to 120% of Area Median Income but who still cannot afford to live where they work.

We've also been busy upgrading the infrastructure in our manufactured housing communities—like Lindale, where we're in the midst of constructing a brand-new, code compliant, \$4-million community septic system that will serve the 67 homes there for generations to come. Built in the 1960s, Lindale has suffered from a severe lack of wastewater treatment capacity due to 70-year-old septic systems well past the end of their useful lives. Inadequate clean water facilities are a systemic environmental justice issue disproportionately affecting low-income residents of manufactured housing communities across Vermont. Thanks to new state and federal resources, these communities now have access to funding for infrastructure that most of us take for granted.

Looking forward, there is more work to do to alleviate the housing crisis in Addison County and ACCT has big plans to help ensure all our neighbors have access to a safe, decent, affordable place to call home. We at ACCT invite you to join us in celebrating how far we've come while raising awareness about how far we have left to go: on September 15th, we'll gather on the Town Green in Middlebury for *Addison Housing Rocks!*—a concert featuring The Grift and Moira Smiley to benefit our affordable housing programs. Those of you who are familiar with ACCT may have noticed that we're starting to look a bit different—that's because we're excited to be launching a new name and logo at the event. We are grateful to our Diamond Sponsor, Deppman Law, for making the event possible, and to ACEDC for this opportunity to invite the community more deeply into our work. Learn more at www.addisontrust.org.

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
1590 Route 7 South, Suite 8, Middlebury, VT 05753
(802) 388 - 7953

Email
Website

ACEDC activities are made possible, in part, by 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.