

Greetings and Happy 2024, Addison County community! Thanks for taking the time to read

From the Desk of the Executive Director

As we kick off a new year of potential and possibility, we are very excited to be back at full

staffing strength and we are ready to take on the economic development challenges and opportunities of the region. Just as a refresher, here are your staff at ACEDC: Fred Kenney, Executive Director, fkenney@addisoncountyedc.org

entrepreneurs, business owners, community officials, and property owners to provide assistance, advance the growth of businesses in our region, recruit new businesses,

and provide relocation services. • Business Education: Partnering with the Addison County Chamber, we'll offer another series of monthly business education webinars and seminars open to our members. Click here for the schedule. • Legislative Session: Monitoring, testifying, and providing information from our region

and business community to the Vermont Legislature. With the abundance of federal funding a thing of the past, the budget process will be very different this year. Priority issues are expected to include: flooding recovery assistance and disaster resilience you are particularly interested in and members, watch for our weekly legislative

and preparedness; Housing, including updates to Act 250; Climate Change and the Renewable Energy Standard; Crime and public safety. Let us know if there is an issue updates. • Grant Applications and Administration: We'll assist with application to the next rounds of Federal and State grants including USDA/Rural Development Rural Development Business Grants, Northern Border Regional Commission Grants, and Vermont Buildings and General Services "Building Community' grants, among others. And, we'll continue to administer several grants already awarded and underway.

 Project Development and Financing: We'll continue to assist businesses and communities to develop and finance economic and community development projects with access to capital including grants, loans, and investors. This includes our Revolving Loan fund which has loaned over \$5 million for over 100 business development projects in Addison County. Attracting new families and Individuals to Addison County: Partnering with the Addison County Chamber of Commerce, we're administering a Vermont Department of Tourism grant to convince folks from out-of-state that Addison County is where they

them feel welcome and ensure they become long-term residents. Small Business Technical Assistance: We are assisting dozens of small businesses to navigate the Small Business Technical Assistance program, which provides critical professional assistance to small business owners. • Economic Development District: In partnership with the Addison County Regional Planning Commission, we are implementing the West Central Vermont Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, developing a regional economic development strategy for Addison County, and applying to the US Economic Development Agency to

want to live, work, and play. The program will also work with new residents to make

get designated as an Economic Development District, all of which could direct additional federal funding to the region. • Business Incubator: We'll continue to research the potential to establish a business incubator for Addison County. Stay tuned to our website, newsfeed and social media as we work to advance economic

2024 Business Education Webinar/Seminar

Educational Webinar Series, hosted by the Addison County Chamber of Commerce in partnership with ACEDC.

## **ACEDC Announces New Staff**



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availability of the Downtown Transportation Fund (DTF) to support revitalization efforts in

Designated Downtowns and eligible Designated Village Centers. Since 1999, the DTF

program has invested over \$14 million in public infrastructure and helped municipalities

street lighting, and wayfinding signage. These vital infrastructural improvements to civic

The Working Lands Enterprise Initiative Impact Grant pre-applications are open now through January 19th.

There are two types of impact grants: ARPA Primary Producer Impact Grant and the Supply Chain Impact

Grant. Both grants can cover market development,

workforce training and development. Awards range

research and development, infrastructure, and

from \$50,000-\$250,000.

update streetscaping, parking, rail, and bus facilities, bicycle and pedestrian safety, utilities,

centers directly contribute to healthier and happier communities. Read More Pre-Applications Open for Working Lands Enterprise **Initiative Impact Grants** 

**Read More** Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets' Trade Show **Assistance Grants** 

Is your Vermont agriculture or forestry businesses

looking to expand into new markets? Vermont Agency

organizations seeking cleaner transportation options may now apply for the Electrify Your Fleet incentive program to support the transition to plug-in electric fleet vehicles. Applicants may receive up to \$2,500 for each internal combustion engine vehicle replaced or avoided. Read More

January 10th from 11am-12pm

**April 2-3, 2024** Albany, NY opportunities in dairy. **Read More** 

**Employment, Training and Education Opportunities** Weatherization & Heat Pump Trainings

• Up to \$1000 in stipends Free industry recognized credentials highly valued by employers · Lunch and snacks during all training days **EnergyWorks employer partners:** Gain access to curriculum to ensure it matches what you need in an employee

Childcare stipend up to \$225/week for kids in licensed daycares

Interact with potential employees before extending a job offer

Think of Energy Works as an extension of your own recruitment efforts

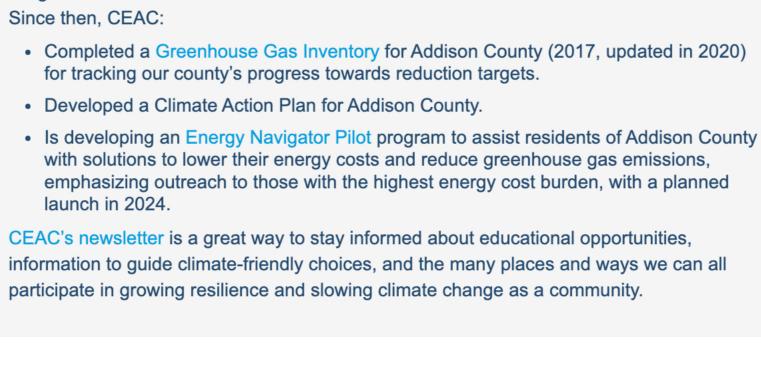
Brochures: For Participants • For Employers Visit EnergyWorksVermont.org for more information. Visit our website for a current list of job opportunities

Vermont Department of Labor #Hiring2DayVT Virtual Job Fairs

Resume Writing Workshop - Mondays at 9am Regional Employment Connections - Mondays at 1pm

of Addison County The Climate Economy Action Center of Addison County (CEAC), has a mission to reduce

**CLIMATE ECONOMY** 



the ACEDC Events and Business Community Calendar webpages, and following us on social media! **X (1)** (in) (ii)

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 a grant from the State of Vermont through the Agency of Commerce and

Our Annual Meeting of the Membership was held on November 2, 2023 at the Middlebury Inn. Thank you to all who attended! Photos from the event are here; members can watch a recording here (you must be logged in to the ACEDC website as a member to view). ACEDC Wins \$59,322 in Economic Development **Grants for Seven Addison County Businesses** The Addison County Economic Development Corporation was awarded \$59,322 for seven Addison County businesses through the Building Communities Grant Program for projects in Bristol, Goshen, Middlebury, Ripton, and Vergennes. Read More Update your member profile on ACEDC's website! 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@addisoncountyedc.org or 802-388-7953 ext. 2. **Our Members & Partners in the News** Town Hall Theater in Middlebury begins work on \$7.8M expansion Town Hall Theater held a ceremonial groundbreaking on December 12th for its expansion project. ACEDC Assistant Director Karen Duguay said she is certain the expansion will draw more foot traffic to shops and restaurants in downtown Middlebury. "Absolutely, it's a draw," Duguay told NBC5 News. "It's been a draw for a number of years. So to augment what's already here and to be able to offer even more programming, even better events, even more of a reason to come into Middlebury and the surrounding area, honestly, it's really great for Addison County." Read More Maclay Architects Becomes Vermont Integrated Architecture – Maclay Studio Maclay Architects and Vermont Integrated Architecture, P.C. (VIA) are excited to announce that Maclay Architects will become VIA ("Maclay Studio") as of January 1, 2024. Read More **Community News** Governor Scott Announces Winners of Over \$4 Million in Downtown & Village Center Tax Incentives, including \$190,439 in Addison County Governor Phil Scott and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) announced over \$4 million in funding to support a record number of rehabilitation and revitalization projects throughout Vermont's designated downtown and village centers. These 31 project awards will help generate over \$150 million in building improvements and public infrastructure around the state. Read More **Business Resources** Take the Vermont Business Economic Survey! The Vermont Chamber of Commerce and Davis & Hodgdon Advisory Group have launched their annual Business Economic Survey to understand the economic issues facing Vermont businesses in 2024. Please consider taking 5-10 minutes to complete this brief survey to ensure that Addison County is well represented. Since launching this survey in 2013, the VT Chamber and Davis & Hodgdon have been able to collect valuable feedback from Vermont's businesses which they've shared with state media and legislators.

of Agriculture, Food & Markets' Trade Show Assistance TRADE SHOW ASSISTANCE Grants might be able to help! These matching grants **GRANTS** Apply today! buyers. VERMONT Act. This law creates a new beneficial ownership

government contracting. **Read More** 

A Vermont Adult Learning Program **EnergyWorks** 

**Weekly VT DoL Virtual Workshops** 

**Highlighted Partner: Climate Economy Action Center of Addison County** 

Since then, CEAC: Completed a Greenhouse Gas Inventory for Addison County (2017, updated in 2020) for tracking our county's progress towards reduction targets.

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.

Powered by Glue Up All-in-one CRM Software for Growing Communities

provide businesses with funds to exhibit and sell their Vermont products at trade shows targeting out-of-state Read More New Federal Business Reporting Requirement In 2021 Congress passed the Corporate Transparency information reporting requirement as part of the U.S. government's efforts to make it harder for bad actors to hide or benefit from their ill-gotten gains through shell **Beneficial Ownership** companies or other opaque ownership structures. Information FinCEN will begin collecting beneficial ownership information in January 2024. New Electric Fleet Vehicle Incentive Program **Community Events** Am I Doing This Right? Business Basics Drop-In Sessions with Emily Eley - CWE Vermont January 10th from 9-10am Am I Doing This Right?! Business Basics Drop-In Sessions January 22nd from 5-6pm Join CWEVT experts in a relaxed, welcoming drop-in session to get your questions answered and connect with other clients. This is a 'business basics' session where you can check your thinking and get some insight into next steps if you're feeling stuck. **Read More** Intro to the Vermont APEX Accelerator (formerly VT PTAC) VERMONT

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
VERMONT APEX ACCELERATION February 14th from 10-11am A short intro to the Vermont APEX Accelerator Intro to VT APEX Accelerator (formerly VT PTAC) program. Learn how experienced **Vermont Economic Conference** January 30th from 8:30am-3:30pm Industry professionals, policymakers, business owners, and community members are encouraged to register to attend this premier economic event of the year. **Read More** Maximizing Internships for Small Business & Non-**Profits** February 13 from 9:30-10:30am Virtual via Zoom Presenter: Panel from Middlebury College & UVM Read More Data Security - Protecting Your Org. from Phishing & more March 12 from 9:30-10:30am Virtual via Zoom Presenter: The Leahy Center for Cybersecurity **Northeast Dairy Innovation Summit NORTHEAST DAIRY** INNOVATION SUMMIT THE April 2-3, 2024 | Albany, NY Digital Directory Management - How to Grow Your **Online Persona** April 9 from 9:30-10:30am Virtual via Zoom Presenter: The Addison Independent **Read More Visit our Community Events Calendar for more events** 

and community development in Addison County during 2024! **ACEDC News** Schedule We're excited to announce our 2024 Business Assistant Director position. Kenney, ACEDC Executive Director. "Her knowledge of the region and the relationships she has developed will help advance our mission to create an entrepreneurial and innovative environment in Addison County." Annual Meeting of the Membership

Click here to view the current ACEDC Board and Officers. Click here to view our impact on the region since 2018. Here are some of the things we will be working on in 2024: • Business Expansion, Relocation, and Recruitment: We'll continue our outreach to

our newsletter. As always, your feedback is welcome and appreciated. Enjoy, **ACEDC** 

Karen Duguay, Assistant Director, kduguay@addisoncountyedc.org Barbara Richardson, Operations Manager, brichardson@addisoncountyedc.org

Read More Vermont businesses, municipalities, and nonprofit

> procurement counselors can assist your business to navigate the sometimes challenging processes of

**Read More** From farm innovation to processing innovation to workforce development, dig into the challenges and

EnergyWorks trains Vermonters for careers in the green energy sector with forwardthinking employers.

The purpose of EnergyWorks is to introduce participants to the trades of weatherization and/or heat pumps and connect them with directly to employers who are hiring and offer

competitive wages and benefits.

Save time and money!

**Job Fairs** 

Interviewing Skills - Fridays at 1pm

launch in 2024.

**EnergyWorks provides participants:** 

Transportation support when possible

Free EnergyWorks trainings: Vet applicants' readiness to engage in work Provides soft skill training to increase reliability and productivity • Ensures every student engages in supervised hands-on experiences Provides opportunities to earn Industry Recognized Credentials

Interviewing Skills - Tuesdays at 9am Re-Employment Strategies - Wednesdays at 9am Resume Writing Workshop - Wednesdays at 1pm

**ACTION CENTER** greenhouse gas emissions in Addison County in a timely and equitable manner, while promoting and supporting a just transition to a healthy and sustainable local economy. The organization was conceived in 2017 through a participatory community process sponsored by the Vermont Council on Rural Development's Climate Economy Model Communities Program.

Stay up to date between newsletters by visiting our News Feed,