

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

14 Seminary Street Middlebury, VT 05753 www.acrpc.org Phone: 802.388.3141 Fax: 802.388.0038

Solicitation of Towns to Participate in Town Energy Planning Element Pilot

Letters of Interest should be submitted to ACRPC by Monday, October 1st

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) has received a third, and potentially final, round of funding to assist at least three towns within the Region with the development of town plan energy elements that are consistent with the provisions of Act 174 (see links to background information below). This is a great opportunity for towns that are interested in comprehensive energy planning at the town level in Vermont!

Thus far, we have worked with six towns. In order to allow ACRPC’s Energy Committee to make a fair choice of three again, we are asking interested towns to send us a letter of interest briefly outlining why they would be a good candidate.

We want to remind everyone that developing a town plan energy element that is consistent with the provisions of Act 174 is not mandatory; it is a town’s choice to do so.

Here is what we are looking for:

- 1) **Commitment to comprehensive energy planning.** While planning for the siting of renewable energy projects has garnered the most attention and interest, this planning process is much broader and deeper than addressing only siting issues. The towns we assist must be committed to understanding how energy is consumed in the town across sectors and how this relates to the town’s land use policies; what steps the town will take to a reduce energy consumption, transition away from non-renewable energy consumption, and move towards the adoption of renewable energy; what renewable energy development is appropriate within the town, and where and how it can best be developed; and the town policy basis for all of the above. The goal is to amend your current town plan to incorporate this energy element.

- 2) **Being one of these three towns has been discussed within the town, especially between the Planning Commission and Selectboard (along with the town’s Energy Committee, if you have one), and there is agreement that going through this process is something that would be good for the town at this time.** The ACRPC plays the role of facilitator and technical assistance provider when we assist towns with their planning efforts. The hard work is up to the town. It is the town that deliberates and makes the decisions, including what the town policies should be. Please consider whether or not the town is in a place where it is capable of having a thoughtful conversation about all aspects of energy, and whether or not this process will bring the town together rather than divide it.

- 3) **Recognition that this is a pilot effort.** While energy planning is not new to the ACRPC and not new to you, we will be working together to meet new energy planning standards established under Act 174, and we will be diving deeper into a broad spectrum of energy issues including use, efficiency, conservation, and generation. These standards are still rather

Addison	Bridport	Bristol	Cornwall	Ferrisburgh	Goshen
Leicester					
Lincoln	Middlebury	Monkton	New Haven	Orwell	Panton



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new, and the process young. While we do not anticipate serious difficulties, we will all be learning together.

Letters of interest from towns that would like to be one of the three towns chosen for this planning effort should explain what the town seeks to achieve through this comprehensive energy planning effort and indicate that the three conditions listed above are acceptable and desirable.

Letters of interest should be submitted to Adam Lougee at the address above or at alougee@acrpc.org . Please call Adam with any questions at 802-388-3141

For additional information:

Act 174

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Documents/2016/Docs/acts/ACT174/ACT174%20As%20Enacted.pdf>

Act 174 Regional and Municipal Planning Standards Overview:

http://publicservice.vermont.gov/sites/dps/files/documents/Pubs_Plans_Reports/Act_174/Standards%20Overview.pdf

Final Energy Planning Standards: <http://publicservice.vermont.gov/announcements/final-energy-planning-standards>

Public Service Department Energy Planning Page: <http://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/act-174-recommendations-and-determination-standards>