

Spring 2011

Energy Fair a Success!

Approximately 400 people attended the RPC's Home Energy Expo at the River Valley Technical Center in Springfield on March 19th. This event was organized in coordination with town energy committees and coordinators in order to educate the general public and showcase local businesses that specialize in renewable energy systems or provide energy efficient supplies or services.

The RPC would like to extend a special thank you to all of the volunteers, vendors and speakers that helped to make this event such a success!



One of the many very informative vendor booths.



RPC President, Donald Barrett, shows everyone how to make a smoothie.



RPC Executive Director, Tom Kennedy, attempts to make his own smoothie after Don's lesson.



Julia Lloyd-Wright announces the "Living Off the Grid." presentation to a captive audience.



CVPS showed off their "Plug N Go" electric car.

Special points of interest:

- *Region sees 7.4% increase in housing*
- *May 14th HHW Collection Day*
- *Broadband internet access across the region*

COMMISSIONERS:

Don Barrett, Chair,
Springfield

Peter Daniels, Vice Chair, Weathersfield

Tom Bock,
Secretary/Treasurer,
Chester

Joseph Fromberger, Andover

Carol Lighthall, Baltimore

Shep Thomas, Alt., Baltimore

Etienne Ting, Cavendish

Cecil Waldo, Alt., Chester

Norm Vanasse, Ludlow

Rose Goings, Alt., Ludlow

John Mitchell, Reading

Hal Pyke, West Windsor

Steve Cottrell, Windsor

STAFF:

Thomas Kennedy,
Executive Director

Jason Rasmussen,
Senior Planner

Daniel Potter,
Assistant Planner

Katharine Otto,
Assistant Planner

John Broker-Campbell,
Planner

Cynthia Porter,
Financial Administrator

Angela Esslinger,
Office Manager

Broadband Planning Technology Initiative

SWCRPC, in coordination with the Vermont Center for Geographic Information (VCGI) and other organizations have partnered together to assess broadband internet access across the region. The approach is to identify current barriers to greater broadband use and application of high-speed internet

access in our communities. The goal is to ensure that we can take full advantage of its benefits, without leaving anyone behind through identifying and filling gaps. SWCRPC will establish a Regional Technology Team to develop a Regional Technology Plan and identify any gaps and needs for training that may exist

related to broadband technology implementation.

If you have any questions, please contact John Broker-Campbell at (802)674-9201.

Sectors to be included in Regional Technology Team	Goals and outcomes of the Regional Technology Team
Library Utilities /Energy Business Agriculture Technology Arts Retail Restaurant/Tourism Professional Services Manufacturing Education – College, K-12, Non-traditional Health Care –Hospitals, Health Centers Emergency services Local Town Government Youth Non-Profit/Service	Creation of new cross sector partnerships. Identification of broadband technology gaps Creation of sustainable adoption strategy Present unique goals and needs of our region to help the State’s efforts with broadband providers. Select key partnerships that will benefit through coordinated use of information technology. Set achievable goals for improving technology use. Recommendations for action Creation of a Draft Regional Technology Plan for achieving goals. Convene local and regional events to inform the public about the Regional and State Telecommunications Plans.

Brownfields Update

The Southern Windsor County Brownfields Reuse Project is gearing up for a very busy spring and summer! The cleanup at the J&L building in Springfield is scheduled to begin early this summer and the cleanup that is currently underway at the 100 River St./Former Fellows Gear Shaper building in Springfield is moving along rapidly.

Over the winter the report for the Phase II Environmental Assessment at the North School, also in Springfield, was finalized.

Other sites that are currently enrolled in assessment portion of the program include the Bryant Grinder building in Springfield, the former

Russell’s automotive shop in Weathersfield, and the Edgar May Recreation Center in Springfield. A Phase II ESA will be started early this summer on the Bryant Grinder building and funding has recently been secured to finish the additional required assessment at the EMRC.

One site that is new to the program is the former Russell’s automotive shop in Weathersfield.

A Phase I ESA was completed at this site over the winter and a Phase II ESA is in the works. The Perkinsville School in Weathersfield is currently being investigated as a potential enrollee in the program.



Governor Shumlin, SRDC Executive Director Bob Flint, Springfield Town Manager Bob Forguites, RPC Executive Director Tom Kennedy and others attend an environmental cleanup recognition event at the J&L site in Springfield.

For more information please contact Dan Potter at dpotter@swcrpc.org or (802)674-9201.

Save Money By Going Green During Way To Go Week May 16-20, 2011

Things are starting to get into gear for the 2011 “Way To Go” Commuter Challenge. Way To Go is a week long challenge for commuters to find alternatives to driving alone to work, whether walking, participating in a ride share, telecommuting or using the Park been taking hold across the state over the last few years. In 2011 it through 20th.

There are several good reasons to consider trying out commuting week: you can reduce the amount you have to spend on gas, reduce improve your health. You can also win prizes for signing up – even if commuting option. This year Vermont’s Way To Go program is also which is a trophy recognizing the businesses and communities (according to size) who have the best participation.



taking the bus, riding a bike, and Rides. Way To Go has will be the week of May 16th

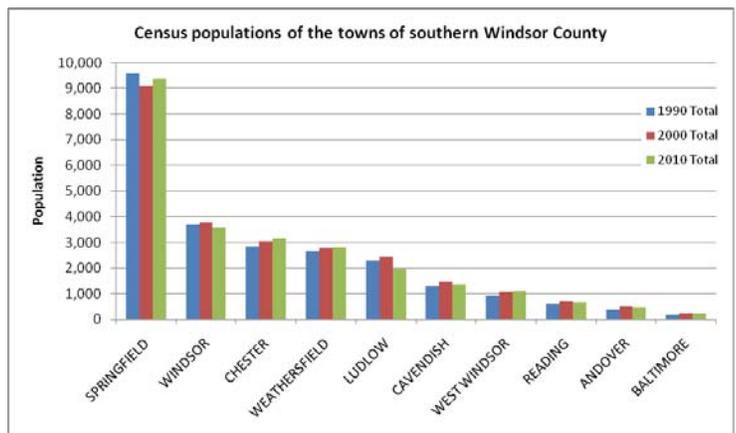
alternatives during Way To Go transportation pollution and you already use an alternative launching the Carbon Cup –

Sign up at www.waytogovt.org for a chance to win some great prizes. Also check out www.swcrpc.org for more information about local commuting options and events in and around southern Windsor County. For more information contact Katharine Otto.

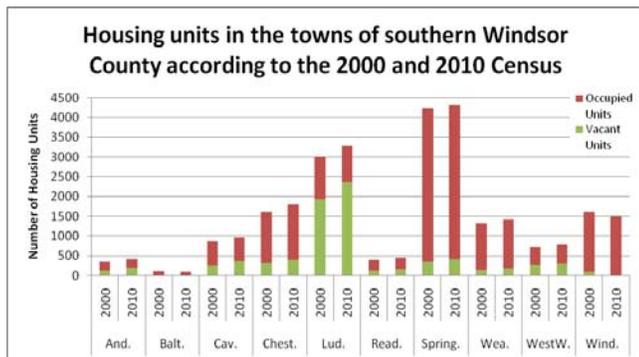
2010 Census Released

On February 11, 2011 the first data from the 2010 Census became available for individual communities in Vermont. Overall our population has decreased slightly from 25,105 to 24,711 (see table and graph below). This occurred despite notable increases in population in Springfield and Chester (and small increases in Weathersfield and West Windsor). Springfield moved up in the ranking from 11th to 10th largest town in the state.

For housing the region saw a 7.4% increase in the total number of housing units, with small increases in total housing units in nearly all towns. The majority of the housing units in the region were occupied – 70% of the total number of units. For most towns occupancy rates were above 60% with some town occupancy rates as high as 87% or above (Springfield, Windsor, Weathersfield and Baltimore). Ludlow had the lowest occupancy rate at 28.3%, down from 35.3% in 2000, suggesting an increase in seasonal units.



This data comes from the U.S. Census Bureau 2010 Census data release of February 11, 2011, as compiled by the Vermont State Data Center for use by Vermonters. The data release was intended primarily for legislative redistricting purposes in each state. Some preliminary race information has been released but is only down to the county level at the moment. More demographic data will be released in May/ June – with information about age, household size and composition, housing tenure and vacancy types.



For those interested in statistics for other towns and counties in Vermont, check out the full spreadsheet released by UVM’s Center for Rural Studies at <http://crs.uvm.edu/census/>.

For national data, check out <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.

For additional information on existing and upcoming census data for southern Windsor County contact Katharine Otto at kotto@swcrpc.org or

Transportation Updates

There has been much activity relating to transportation in the region over the winter despite the weather. Check out the [SWCRPC website](#) for details on recently completed and upcoming projects and activities including:

- Project Prioritization —
This is an annual process where transportation projects throughout the region are prioritized by our local Transportation Advisory Committee in order to help VTrans prioritize projects from across the state.
- Scenic Route 100 Byway nomination – The Byway Committee submitted their Corridor Management Plan to the Vermont Scenery Preservation Council in February. The Scenery Preservation Council held a public hearing for the Byway on March 24th, from which they recommended that the Vermont Transportation Board designate the Scenic Route 100 Byway as a Vermont Byway. We are currently awaiting news of whether the Byway has been designated by the Transportation Board, following their public hearing on April 13th.
- Summer activities in SWC —
Summer means field work in the transportation world whether it's inventorying bridges, culverts, sidewalks, roads or signs, or doing traffic or bike and pedestrian counts. SWCRPC will be working with towns to complete a variety of field work throughout the region.
- FY2012 Transportation Work Program

Please contact Katharine Otto for additional information by email kotto@swcrpc.org or by telephone at (802)674-9201.

Household Hazardous Waste Collections



**Saturday
May 14, 2011**

Springfield Recycling Center

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Rockingham Recycling Center

2:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

For District residents & businesses* only.

No pre-registration for District residents.

*Businesses will be charged for disposal costs and must pre-register.

**The next HHW collection will be hosted by
Springfield and Weathersfield
on Saturday, September 10, 2011.**

Collections sponsored by the Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management District in cooperation with the Towns of Springfield, Weathersfield, Rockingham

www.vtsolidwastedistrict.org
For more information, call 674-9235.

Bring in a mercury thermometer; we'll give you a digital thermometer.



Upcoming Spring Events and Workshops

2011 Town Officers Education Conference (TOEC)

April 20, 2011

Lake Morey Resort, Fairlee

TIME: 9:00 am –8:00 pm

CONTACT: Sally

PHONE: (802) 773-3349

WEBSITE: <http://www.uvm.edu/extension>

The day will include 6 different sessions (4-5 workshop offerings in each session) and your choice of lunch or dinner. We are planning or more exhibits-with time to visit them-and a new officer/new attendee functions as well. Come and join us for part or all of the day; learn something new and network with longtime friends and colleagues!

Selectboard Institute II

April 30, 2011

Registration/Cancellation deadline is April 22.

Capitol Plaza Hotel, 100 State Street, Montpelier

CONTACT: Jessica Hill (jhill@vlct.org)

PHONE: 802-229-9111

WEB SITE: http://www.vlct.org/d/eventcalendar/workshops/web_selectboard_institute11.pdf

PRICE: \$55 VLCT PACIF members, \$80 VLCT members, \$125 non-members. The Selectboard Institute is an annual program that focuses on the unique roles and responsibilities of VT selectboard members. Designed for both newly elected and more seasoned members, the program is highly interactive and allows members to learn from each other's experiences. Staff members who report to the selectboard are welcome as well.

Municipal Personnel Administration Forum

June 15, 2011

Capitol Plaza Hotel, 100 State Street, Montpelier

CONTACT: Jessica Hill (jhill@vlct.org)

PHONE: 802-229-9111

PRICE: \$55. VLCT PACIF members, \$80. VLCT members, \$125. non-members

Both municipal managers and their staff will find this workshop indispensable as it covers the fundamentals of personnel administration in a municipal setting. It will focus on the major state and federal employment laws and cases affecting municipalities as employers, including emerging employment issues in the digital age.

**For more information on upcoming events
please visit www.vlct.org**

RPC Calendar of Events

April 2011

- 19 Regional Planning Commission Meeting @ 12:00PM at Martin Memorial Hall, Weathersfield Town Office Building.
- 28 Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management District Meeting @ 6:00pm, Springfield

May 2011

- 11 Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting @ 6:00 pm, location TBD
- 13 Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management Executive Meeting @ 9:00am, Ludlow
- 17 Brownfields Steering Committee @ 11:30 am in the RPC Conference Room, Ascutney Professional Building.
- 17 Regional Planning Commission Meeting @ 12:00PM in the RPC Conference Room, Ascutney Professional Building.
- 18 Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting @ 7:00pm in the RPC Conference Room, Route 5, Ascutney VT.
- 30 **Memorial Day; office closed**

June 2011

- 8 Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting @ 6:00 pm, location TBD
- 10 Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management Executive Meeting @ 9:00am, Ludlow
- 21 Brownfields Steering Committee @ 11:30 am in the RPC Conference Room, Ascutney Professional Building.
- 21 Annual Regional Planning Commission Meeting @ 12:00PM in the RPC Conference Room, Ascutney Professional Building.
- 22 Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting @ 7:00pm in the RPC Conference Room, Route 5, Ascutney VT.

July 2011

- 4 **Independence Day; office closed**
- 8 Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management Executive Meeting @ 9:00am, Ludlow
- 13 Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting @ 6:00 pm, location TBD
- 19 Brownfields Steering Committee @ 11:30 am in the RPC Conference Room, Ascutney Professional Building.
- 19 Regional Planning Commission Meeting @ 12:00PM in the RPC Conference Room, Ascutney Professional Building.
- 28 Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management District Meeting @ 6:00pm, Springfield