October is National Cooperative Month

Each October, cooperatives across America celebrate the role, accomplishments and contributions of our nation’s cooperatives. VEC is one of 40,000 cooperative businesses serving more than 130 million people throughout the United States. As a member-owned, non-profit organization, VEC puts the needs of its members first and foremost. Unlike for-profit businesses which work for shareholders, each cooperative customer is also a member and has a voice in determining the direction of the organization.

At a time of increasing national concern about the economy, especially rising energy costs, the role of the electric utility co-op is more important than ever. More than 900 rural electric cooperatives own and maintain nearly half of the electric distribution lines in the United States providing electricity to 37 million people. Electric cooperatives demonstrate every day their service motivation and the benefits of local ownership and accountability. At the top of the list is providing reliable electric service to its members at the lowest possible cost.

Cooperatives are a type of business organization and while they operate under the rules of corporate law, it is the cooperative rules and principles that make a co-op unique. As an electric co-op in Vermont, VEC operates under the Vermont utility statutes. In addition, VEC’s articles of incorporation and bylaws keep the best interests of our member-owners at the forefront.

Democratic representation is critical to how a cooperative works and distinguishes how co-ops are different from investor-owned corporations. Members elect directors who in turn act on their behalf. All members have equal voice in the business—on a one-member, one-vote basis. Each year in May, VEC holds its annual meeting where members are asked to elect directors and vote on other business that requires membership participation.

The cooperative difference defines VEC as an organization that works for its members. See “Co-op,” continued on page 4.
It is beautiful, cool and sunny, as only an early fall day in Vermont can be. Down a gravel driveway through the trees off Pleasant Valley Road, an inviting homestead straddles the Seymour River in Underhill. Howard Leighton greets me in the parking area and takes me for a walk.

I am lured through the heather by the scent of  a brush fire and find Howard, his two sons and a nephew carried it a block and tackle to pull him out. Theicho Fire Department attached a weed-grown mud patch. Howard shows us the Starlight, Carolyn Leighton’s designed a weed-grown mud patch.

The first bridge, a footbridge, once spanned the river here until Howard and Carolyn Leighton’s white horse, got stuck in it this spring. Howard shows us the tree where the Underhill Echo Fire Department attached a block and tackle to pull him out.

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The Seven Cooperative Principles

1. Voluntary and Open Membership – Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political, or religious discrimination.

2. Democratic Member Control – Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

3. Members’ Economic Participation – Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership.

Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indistinguishable, benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

4. Autonomy and Independence – Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

5. Education, Training, and Information – Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives – Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional, and international structures.

7. Concern for Community – While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

Construction Corner by Harry Abendroth, Mgr. Regulatory & Planning Engineering

VEC has begun engineering work to replace about 6.5 miles of transmission line in the towns of Derby and Charleston that is supported on steel lattice towers. The transmission line to be rebuilt begins at Hinnan Settler Road in Derby and extends east to our West Charleston Substation. In concept, VEC plans to replace the existing transmission line with a new line supported on wood poles. The new line will be located immediately adjacent to the existing line, and within the existing right of way. More details will be provided as our design work proceeds.

As part of this work, VEC employees will need to walk the right of way to gather data for design purposes. If you have any questions about persons on the transmission line right of way in the vicinity of your property, please call 1-800-832-2667, extension 1135.

The Seven Cooperative Principles

- Create the platform to deploy smart-meters and demand response to better manage power supply and improve the efficiency by which customers use electricity.
- Help customers make better choices about their use of electricity. The rapid introduction of air conditioning has created a heavier reliance on expensive peak generation.
- Dramatically change the way electricity is used and make the use of energy more efficient and cost-effective.
- Utilize AMI for business development and job creation through furthering the state’s E-State broadband initiative.
- Provide a utility platform that would encourage customers to provide optional load control, such as hot water heaters, hot tubs and air conditioning to reduce the use of expensive peak power.
- Help speed up the introduction of AMI to Vermonters.

Meeting with VPPSA

VEC has been working Vermont Public Power Supply Authority (VPPSA) to discuss how we can work together to create greater operational efficiency and reduce the duplication of services between VPPSA and VEC, as well as the other public power utilities in the state. Presently, VPPSA represents 14 of 15 municipal utilities in Vermont.

If all of the public power utilities collaborated, in some way, under the VPPSA organization, public power would represent 29% of all electric meters in the state. As a point of perspective, IOU’s CVPS and GMP own 45% and 28% of the meters respectively. VEC has also met with Burlington Electric Department (BED), Stowe Electric and Washington Electric Cooperative (VEC) to assess their interest in greater collaboration and they all are interested in exploring ways to work together. VEC is looking to foster greater cooperation with other Vermont utilities to find solutions to the difficult energy problems that are facing Vermont and our nation.

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Community Blood Drive

Co-sponsored by

American Red Cross

Tuesday, October 28, 2008
Johnson State College
Noon—5 p.m.

A special invitation to VEC members and the community to join in the giving!

The need is great and blood saves lives.

www.newenglandblood.org/giving/
The permit granted by the VT Agency of Agriculture will define buffers to be maintained around all public and private water supplies. These are generally 200 feet on public water supplies and 100 feet on private water supplies, but may be increased based on recommendations from the Vermont Pesticide Advisory Council (VPAC), depending upon the specific chemical being used and/or the rate of application identified in the permit application.

Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) is a system of managing plant communities that considers a combination of methods to control undesirable vegetation and includes biological, chemical, cultural and physical (e.g., mechanical and manual) methods of control. IVM assists managers in improving the efficiency and cost effectiveness of vegetation management by utilizing the most appropriate and effective control methods based on individual site conditions.

VEC has chosen IVM to promote sustainable plant communities which are compatible with the electric facilities and do not discourage incompatible plants (i.e., plant species which at maturity will attain a height of greater than +/- 15 feet tall) that may pose concerns including safety, access, fire hazard, electrical reliability, emergency restoration, visibility, regulatory compliance, environmental and other specific concerns. The specific types of herbicide utilizing methods on utility rights-of-way have changed considerably over time. One of the most commonly used products today has the same active ingredient as the household name brand Round Up. Tuesday was chosen to be commemorated because this was the date the product was first manufactured more specifically to target the undesirable species along rights-of-way. They are readily broken down by microorganisms and what can be achieved by putting members’ best interests first. VEC looks forward to many more years of serving members with outstanding service in the cooperative way.

Founded in 1938: Vermont Electric Cooperative Celebrates 70 Years of Service to Rural Vermont

VEC is currently celebrating not only National Cooperative Month but also its anniversary of serving members in rural Vermont for over 70 years.

In 1936, Congress passed the Rural Electrification Act which provided federal funding for installation of electrical distribution systems to reach rural areas of the United States not already served by municipalities or investor owned utilities. Vermont Electric Cooperative was founded and managed by Harry Bowman in 1938. At its origin, VEC built lines to 155 homes in Eden and Lowell. Soon neighboring farms, homes and businesses were added. From the 1940’s until the early 1960’s, the service territory expanded in Northern Vermont through the construction of new lines and the acquisition of small private companies. In 1969, VEC expanded into Southern Vermont through a merger with Halfax Electric Cooperative. In 1970 VEC acquired the Internal Electric Company serving the Derby Line area located along the Canadian Border.

The Co-op experienced more growth in April of 2004, when VEC acquired the Vermont Division of Citizens Communications Company. This acquisition more than doubled the Co-op’s membership bringing the total to 37,000. In December of 2006, VEC sold its Southern District in the Windham and Windsor counties to Central Vermont Public Service (CVPS). This district was comprised of 2,770 members and because of its geographical location the sale made good business sense. This district also included twelve members in three towns in Massachusetts on the Vermont border and these members were taken over by Western Massachusetts Electric Company (WMECO) through a separate sale.

Today VEC proudly serves approximately 34,000 member-customers in 78 towns throughout Northern Vermont. VEC’s territory stretches across 10,266 square miles which include Addison County, Bennington, Essex, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamborn and Orleans counties under the direction of its Board of Directors.

“IVM,” continued from page 1

“Co-op,” continued from page 1

HONORING VEC’S FIRE FIGHTING LINEMEN

October is National Co-op Month. October 5th through October 11th is also Fire Prevention week. There could be no better way to feature two of our lineworkers/firefighters who model the Seventh Cooperative Principle: Concern for Community.

Gordy Smith is a first class lineman who has been employed at VEC for 28 years. Gordy has held various positions at VEC: lineman, scheduler, contractor inspector, and supervisor of rights-of-way.

In keeping with Cooperative tradition Gordy also serves his community as a volunteer with the Johnson Fire Department. He has been with their department for 36 years and worn the hat as Chief for the last 30 years. Gordy also serves as chairman of the Johnson Village Trustees and Town fire warden.

Shawn Jaure is the group leader in our Grand Isle District. Shawn has over 17 years experience with combined employment first as lineman of the former Vermont Division of Citizens Utilities, which VEC acquired in 2004, and currently as group leader in Grand Isle for Vermont Electric Cooperative.

Shawn also gives back to the community in which he works and lives as a volunteer firefighter with Grand Isle Fire Department. Over the last 20 years with Grand Isle, Shawn has worked his way up through the ranks to Assistant Fire Chief and was classified Firefighter II almost two years ago. Shawn also volunteers his time at North Country International Fire School.

VEC is extremely proud of all our co-op employees who give back to their communities in various volunteer positions. We have a lot to celebrate during Co-op Month.

Gordy Smith

Shawn Jaure

Our commitment to you is to use every available method to keep our rights-of-ways, which cross your lands, clean of unwanted, fast growing vegetation so that we can provide you with safe, reliable power in an efficient manner, at a reasonable cost.

It is understood that there are varying results to the environment associated with each type of action and all vegetation management techniques represent a cost, which will eventually be paid by VEC’s member-customers. When reviewing options for vegetation control, VEC has an obligation to all its member-customers to provide safe, reliable power in an efficient manner, at a reasonable cost.

Our commitment to you is to use every available method to keep our rights-of-ways, which cross your lands, clean of unwanted, fast growing vegetation so that we can provide you with safe, reliable electric service. Improved efficiency and cost effectiveness of vegetation management is critical to providing safe and reliable electric service at a reasonable cost. Achieving this goal is our promise to you and IVM will have the most direct impact in doing so.
COO Jeffery Wright

As the remnants of Hurricane Ike pass through northern Vermont, it seems like this summer’s unusual weather patterns are not going to stop anytime soon. This summer’s weather has been a challenge for many of Vermont’s utilities, but it seemed to target the northern portions of Vermont resulting in approximately $1 million in storm damage to our system. VEC will be a recipient of FEMA assistance for the July storms left Grand Isle and Lamoille Counties in the dark for up to four days. The storm contained winds exceeding eighty miles per hour and a confirmed tornado that destroyed thousands of Vermont Electric Co-op homes and a confirmed tornado that destroyed thousands of Vermont Electric Co-op homes.

The storms have we experienced this summer have put our crews and systems to the test, and have proved that VEC needs to be more aggressive with its tree trimming program. Trees and weather are the leading cause of outages for most utilities and your Cooperative is no different.

VEC has been working hard, putting all tree trimming resources to good use, but it is clear that not only do we need to cut more trees but we also need to refine our approach to clearing right of ways. One way for us to work smarter is to introduce the selective use of herbicides in our vegetation management program. Today’s herbicide application methods have been refined to the point that the use of herbicides is considered to be the method having the least impact on the environment. Cutting trees is similar to mowing your lawn; the more you cut it, the thicker it grows and we are seeing the long term affects of this in high brush densities in our rights of way and in higher than acceptable vegetation related outages. For more information on our plan to deploy herbicides, read Sara Packer’s article in this edition of the Coop Life.

Regarding our progress with critical upgrades to our system, please check our Construction Corner in the newsletters for summary updates. For more detailed information on these upgrades, you can access our Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) at http://vermontelectriccoop.coop/vec-irp.htm. The IRP details long range planning and capital strategies which ultimately affect the rates that you pay for service. The IRP was filed with the VT Public Service Board on July 1, 2008 and is currently under review. The PSB will facilitate a public hearing later in the year to solicit public comment. I encourage you to become involved in your Cooperative and provide feedback on our long range plans.

In closing, I’d like to thank everyone who recently participated in our Member Satisfaction Survey. All of us at your Cooperative use this information to continually improve and I assure you that your voice is heard. If you were not selected to participate in the survey, feel free to contact us at support@vermontelectric.coop with your comments. For more information on the survey results, please read this edition’s article written by Liz Gamache, Manager of Corporate Services.

COO UPDATE

Member and Employee Satisfaction Survey Results In

by Elizabeth M. Gamache, Manager of Corporate Services

Results are in for the 2008 member satisfaction and employee satisfaction surveys. Both indicate that VEC is an organization headed in the right direction. Performed annually, the surveys are important tools that provide a look at customer and employee opinions and perceptions from one year to the next.

Conducted annually by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), surveys are administered by telephone. Approximately 500 residential and commercial members provided feedback for the member satisfaction survey and more than 80% of VEC staff responded to the employee survey. Member satisfaction surveys were first administered in 2002 and the first employee satisfaction survey took place in 2007.

Member surveys indicate a higher level of overall satisfaction when compared to 2007. Residential members rated VEC most positively on courtesy, understanding and helpfulness of employees to members’ inquiries or problems. At-
Safety Begins At Installation:
• The EPA (United States Environmental Protection Agency) recommends using a certified professional installer to ensure safe and correct installation of your wood stove.
• Check with local authorities to be sure that you are complying with local fire and building codes as well as NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) standards.
• Install a stove listed by Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or other recognized testing laboratories.
• Install a smoke alarm in the proper location.
• Install a carbon monoxide detector.
Safety Includes Yearly Maintenance:
• The EPA (United States Environmental Protection Agency) and fire officials recommend having your chimney, vents and wood stoves professionally inspected and cleaned yearly.
• Test your smoke alarm on a regular basis and replace the batteries yearly.
• Test your carbon monoxide detector on a regular basis and replace the batteries yearly.
Safe Wood Burning Practices:
• Always keep children away from wood stoves.
• Keep a fire extinguisher handy.
• Keep the doors of your wood stove closed unless stoking or loading the live fire.
• Remove ashes from your wood stove on a regular basis. Store ashes in a metal container outdoors on a brick or cement pad, away from wood.
• Keep a fire extinguisher handy.
• If you smell smoke in your home from your wood stove, your stove is not operating efficiently or safely.
• Always keep children away from wood burning stoves and fireplaces to prevent burns.

Q: Pellet stoves sound great to me, so I’m getting one. How much will it add to my electric bill?
A: According to the U.S. Department of Energy, a typical pellet stove uses about 100 kilowatt hours (kWh) per month. At a rate of 12.5 cents per kWh, that’s $12.50 on your monthly electricity bill. These stoves use electricity to feed pellets into the stove, to blow air over the burning pellets and up the chimney, and to deliver heat to the room. Some pellet stoves also have glow coils that ignite the pellets, and these use electricity too.

To reduce the electricity use of your pellet stove, button up your home so the stove doesn’t have to work as hard. Good insulation and air sealing (spray foam into gaps between living spaces and the attic floor) can make your home more comfortable, as well as save energy. You can find a Vermont contractor who is specially trained in finding and fixing causes of inefficient home energy use, at www.efficiencyvermont.com/homeperformance.

One more thing: Before you buy a pellet stove, it’s a good idea to check on the availability of pellets in Vermont this season.

Efficiency Vermont
Bob from The Home Team
To find more energy saving tips or to submit a new question about energy use in your home or business, visit www.efficiencyvermont.com or call, toll-free: 888-921-5990 to speak with a customer service representative.

Energy Use In Your Home

“RESULTS” continued from page 5

“GOOD/BAD” continued from page 5

seats), and a new general manager.

So the question we are asking is, “could this happen at VEC?” As long as we continually ask that question, it is not at all likely. The VEC management team is confident in our internal controls, and has presented the Pedernales experience to the VEC Board of Directors. Beyond just self-reflection, though, VEC has several other things to make it easier to stay above reproach. In early September, VEC proposed a resolution at the Region 1 and 4 meeting of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) that stressed the need for all cooperatives to have policies in place to prevent Pedernales-type abuses. After some heated discussion, the resolution passed, and will be voted on nationally next year! For better (not worse, in this case), Vermont’s regulatory environment provides much more oversight than does Texas. Also, we work hard to maintain the support and involvement of our congressional delegation and state legislators. We are also providing a framework for transparency and oversight, as well as a detailed path toward financial and operational improvements, through our strategic planning process and in response to last year’s Business Process Review and Audit (BPRA) and other audits and reviews.

In summary, the commitment of VEC management to operate with transparency and accountability, in combination with regulatory oversight, will keep VEC far from the path that Pedernales took. Members, directors and staff must be engaged and set a high bar when it comes to ethics and expectations.

Dear “Ask Rachael” Readers,
Rachael here! After many happy years of answering your home energy questions, I’m moving on to a new assignment. You’ll be in great hands with my terrific Efficiency Vermont colleagues, Kathleen, Li Ling and Bob (aka “The Home Team”), who share my approach to lowering energy use. So now when you’ve got a home energy question, just Ask The Home Team! I’m sure they’ll find answering your questions as much of a privilege as I have.

All the best,
Rachael

Ask Rachael

What Happened to “Ask Rachael”?

MEMBER MAILBAG

The “Member Mailbag” is a new feature designed for members to communicate with us. If you have something you would like to say or a question to ask, please write and we will respond in the next issue of Co-op Life.

Please include your name, address, phone number, and email address so we may contact you if necessary. We will ask for your permission before we print your letter.

We look forward to hearing from our members!

Please send letters to:
Member Mailbag
Attn: Kathryn Kantorski
Vermont Electric Cooperative, Inc.
42 Wescum Road
Johnson, VT 05656

The July 2008 issue of “Member Mailbag” contained a letter from John Henry on the topic of Vermont customers getting less electricity than expected due to the weather this past summer. It included a personal story and a suggestion that VEC change its billing practices to reflect the actual usage, not the potential. We had planned to respond to this letter in this issue; however, in light of the controversy surrounding transparency and accountability, we will not be responding. We do appreciate John Henry’s interest and concern about the issue of energy usage, billing and billing practices, and encourage him to reach out to us directly if he has any questions or concerns.

July 2008

Dear Mr. Henry,

Thank you for your letter. We appreciate your interest in our billing practices and your concern about the issue of energy usage, billing and billing practices.

The Vermont Electric Cooperative has a policy of billing customers for energy use on the actual amount, and we do not adjust the billing for weather conditions. This policy is in line with the recommendations of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) which stresses the need for all cooperatives to have policies in place to prevent Pedernales-type abuses. After some heated discussion, the resolution passed, and will be voted on nationally next year! For better (not worse, in this case), Vermont’s regulatory environment provides much more oversight than does Texas. Also, we work hard to maintain the support and involvement of our congressional delegation and state legislators. We are also providing a framework for transparency and oversight, as well as a detailed path toward financial and operational improvements, through our strategic planning process and in response to last year’s Business Process Review and Audit (BPRA) and other audits and reviews.

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Rachael Campana
Director of Communications and Business Development, VT Electric Cooperative
Generating power at home is becoming more popular as Vermonters become increasingly aware of the adverse impact of electric generation on the global climate. There are many choices including wind, solar, biomass, hydro and geothermal for those interested in home power generation. In addition, new incentive programs to promote home generation are becoming available.

In the past, home power generation required a serious commitment, as systems required lots of attention. Utility rates were not standardized, and it was hard to find effective control systems that met the utility standards. It practically required an engineering degree to put together a system.

Today, many simple and reliable control systems exist, and owners of home power generation are often their next door neighbor. Across the United States, approximately 185,000 households have switched from a local utility to their own homegrown, renewable energy. The fastest-growing segment of this population is installing solar panels and wind turbines while staying connected to the grid to save money and ensure safety. And in many cases, they’re operating as mini-utilities, selling excess electricity back to the power company.

In Vermont, home self generation is measured through net metering. Net metering is a method of crediting customers for electricity that they generate in excess of their own electricity consumption. There are two scenarios under net metering: first, the customer whose generation offsets some of the amount of electricity they would typically purchase through the utility; and second, the customer who generates more than they use and in turn receives a credit on their electric bill. Individual customers can generate up to 15 kilowatts (kW) of power. This allows customers to effectively eliminate some or all charges associated with the energy portion of their bill, although other items such as meter charges remain.

New state legislation has produced another option known as group net metering. In this scenario, a group of customers can collectively invest in a generator and receive credits of up to 150 kW. At the close of the 2007-2008 session of the Vermont General Assembly, the Energy 2020 Act was passed, creating the Vermont Energy Generation and Net Metering Act. These new incentives cover approximately 20–25% of the total installed cost for eligible systems.

For consumers whose main objective is to save money on power bills, home generation typically does not provide the payback that would generate a return on investment. Even though high initial power supplied by utilities. However, there are organizations in Vermont that provide financial incentives which can help to improve the return on investment of home generation systems for consumers who are interested in developing a fully independent off-grid or grid-connected system.

Established in 2005, the Vermont Clean Energy Development Fund (CEDF) offers low-interest loans to help finance a variety of renewable and/or clean energy technologies. The purpose of the program is to promote the development and deployment of cost-effective and environmentally sustainable electric power resources, primarily with respect to renewable energy resources and the use of combined heat and power technologies, for the long-term benefit of Vermont electricity consumers.

Through Vermont Act 74, CEDF is funded with proceeds from Entergy Nuclear VT and Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc., and by any other monies that may be appropriated to or deposited into the fund. The Vermont Department of Public Service is currently accepting project proposals for grants and loans for grid-connected renewable energy systems.

The Vermont Solar and Small Wind Incentive Program offers financial incentives to renewable energy systems installed by local program partners. To take advantage of the incentives, connecting work with approved systems must be approved by the Solar and Wind Partnership Program. Program incentives cover approximately 20–25% of the total installed cost for eligible systems.

Detailed information and instructions on how to calculate incentives for a specific system application can be found on the program’s incentive reservation forms located at the Renewable Energy Resource Center (www.vermont-utility.org).

Energy Choices

There are pros and cons to each of the major sources of home generation. Solar is the most popular form of home generation, as anyone with an unobstructed south facing slope is a good candidate. These systems are extremely reliable and safe, and require little maintenance. While solar prices have not come down to the point that they are competitive with the power provided by electric utilities, they are getting closer every day.

A good wind site can provide an excellent payoff, often less than 10 years. However, the number of suitable sites is limited. A good site requires an average yearly wind speed that is greater than 10 miles per hour. Customers interested in wind should do a complete wind analysis before investing and select a wind producer who make this option a lucrative choice. VEC, for example, is interested in purchasing locally generated power of this type. For more information on hydro, go to the Community Hydro website, http://www.communityhydro.biz/vsha.html.

While home generation has not yet become a viable among all Vermonters, more and more are showing interest every day. VEC is responding by developing loan programs, partnering with providers, and working closely with its members. This article is the first of a series of four articles about home generated power. Future Co-op Life newsletters will include articles specifically targeted at solar, wind and hydro.

Wood Warms: Starting in Lamoille County

MORRISVILLE – This winter it is going to be tough for some low and middle income Vermonters to pay sky-rocketing heating fuel prices to heat their homes. Over the summer, the local United Way and RSVP offices set out to do something to help bridge the gap between local incomes and energy prices.

They started the Lamoille County Firewood Project.

Brendan Cosgrove has been given the nod as the state’s Wood Warms coordinator. He said of the Lamoille County project, “These guys are ahead of the curve. We’re going to try and model the Vermont Wood Warms program for the rest of the state after this project.”

Cosgrove added, after Wood Warms is up and running, it will become “one united effort” with the Lamoille County project. Senator Susan Willems Harrell, who was looking into making changes to Vermont’s Good Samaritan Law to cover this type of effort, Cosgrove said the state will be providing liability coverage for Wood Warms when it is up and running, but Archbold said the United Way of Lamoille County had to purchase liability coverage for the local effort this year.

BankNorth funded the rental of a wood processor, run by Gerard Bella, the reporter.

MORRISVILLE – This winter it is going to be tough for some low and middle income Vermonters to pay sky-rocketing heating fuel prices to heat their homes. Over the summer, the local United Way and RSVP offices set out to do something to help bridge the gap between local incomes and energy prices.

They started the Lamoille County Firewood Project.

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Cosgrove added, after Wood Warms is up and running, it will become “one united effort” with the Lamoille County project. Senator Susan Willems Harrell, who was looking into making changes to Vermont’s Good Samaritan Law to cover this type of effort, Cosgrove said the state will be providing liability coverage for Wood Warms when it is up and running, but Archbold said the United Way of Lamoille County had to purchase liability coverage for the local effort this year.

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