

Be a steward of *The Northern Connector*

Imagine every person in the Northern Green Mountains doing their part to keep our *air and water clean, our forests and fields productive, and our wildlife healthy and strong. It can happen!*
These programs can assist you to make this vision become a reality:

Want to join your neighbors to act locally to protect our Northern Forest?

[Cold Hollow to Canada](#)

Contact: Charlie Hancock, Chair person

Tel: (802) 326-2093

Website: www.coldhollowtocanada.org

(CHC is a good place to start with any Northern Greens questions.)

Want to learn more about your land?
These groups provide educational trainings and programs about natural resources.

[Vermont Coverts](#)

Contact: info@vtcoverts.org, (802) 388-3880

Website: www.vtcoverts.org

[Vermont Woodlands Association](#)

Contact: Tel: (802) 747-7900

Website: www.vermontwoodlands.org

Who can provide technical or financial assistance for land management?

[Audubon Vermont](#)

Contact: (802) 434-3068

Website: www.vt.audubon.org

(Provides forest bird habitat assessments for owners of large tracts of forestland in select locations.)

[Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife: Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program \(WHIP\)](#)

Contacts: Dave Adams, (802) 879-2330

Dave.Adams@state.vt.us

Website:

<http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip/>

(A voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance for landowners interested in developing and improving fish and wildlife habitat. Participants enter into a conservation plan and receive cost sharing support and technical assistance with implementing practices that benefit wildlife.)

[Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation](#)

Contact: (802) 241-3777

Website: <http://www.vtwaterquality.org/rivers.htm>

(Provides aid in addressing storm water runoff and other issues related to the meandering of waterways. The River Management Program also provides assistance for riparian restoration and river corridor easements.)

[Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation: County Forester](#)

Contact:

Franklin County: Nancy Patch,

Tel: (802) 524-6501 nancy.patch@state.vt.us

Lamoille and Orleans County: Ray Toolan

Tel: (802) 888-5733 raymond.toolan@state.vt.us

Website:

http://www.vtfpr.org/resource/for_forres_countfor.cfm

(Provides education about forest management, and they can work directly with landowners. County Foresters also manage the Use Value Appraisal (Current Use) program, designed to enable Vermont landowners who practice long-term forest management to have their enrolled land appraised for property taxes based on its value for forestry

rather than fair market value (which generally lowers taxes).

[Natural Resources Conservation Services \(NRCS\)](#)

Contact:

Franklin County: (802) 527-1296

Lamoille County: (802) 888-4935

Orleans County: (802) 334-6090

Website: www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/

(Their goal is to ensure productive private lands while simultaneously caring for the health of the area's environmental resources. In addition to acting as an educational resource for owners of private land, NRCS also administers a number of financial incentives programs to help with the costs of managing a healthy landscape. Collectively, these programs provide a range of funding opportunities for a diverse assortment of projects including conservation planning, irrigation systems, enhancements to landscape health, soil, air, and water quality enhancements, improvements to fish and wildlife habitat, purchase of development rights, the restoration or enhancement of grasslands and wetlands, and more. If you contact the local office, a soil conservationist can tell you which program(s) may be appropriate for you.)

[Vermont Natural Resource Conservation Districts \(NRCDs\)](#)

Contact:

Franklin County: Renae Masse, District Manager
(802) 524-6505 renae.masse@vt.nacdnet.net

Lamoille County: Kim Komer, District Manager
(802) 888-9218 kimberly.komer@vt.nacdnet.net

Orleans County: Dayna Cole, District Manager
(802) 334-8325 dayna.cole@vtnacdnet.net

(Provide landowners and agricultural producers with technical, financial and educational assistance for working with state and federal programs, including the ones listed above. These programs, some of which provide financial incentives, include water quality protection, erosion control, riparian plantings, and education about natural resources.)

Who can help with long-term conservation of your land?

New England Forestry Foundation

Contact: info@newenglandforestry.org, (978) 952-6856

Website: <http://www.newenglandforestry.org/>

(Works with landowners to conserve their working forest lands with conservation easements.)

The Nature Conservancy

Contact: Joan Allen, jallen@tnc.org, (802) 229-4425

Website:

<http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/vermont>

(Works with landowners to conserve ecologically important natural areas and wildlife habitat, through land purchase and through conservation easements.)

Northeast Wilderness Trust

Contact: James Northup, (802) 453-7880

Website: www.newwildernesstrust.org

(Works with landowners across northern New England and the Adirondacks to restore and conserve natural areas, both big and small, as forever wild.)

For information on additional technical assistance institutions working across the state, Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife maintains a Web Guide to Technical Assistance Programs at:
<http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/webguide.cfm>

Trust for Public Land

Contact: Kate Wanner, vermont@tpl.org, (802) 223-1373

Website: <http://www.tpl.org/what-we-do/where-we-work/vermont/>

(Conserves land for the benefit of the public. Most often, they are involved in helping a community to protect large-acreage properties and community forests.)

Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife

Contact: jane.lazorchak@state.vt.us, (802)479-4405

Website: www.vtfishandwildlife.com/lip_intro.cfm

The Fish and Wildlife Department works with landowners to conserve critical fish and wildlife habitat through land purchase and conservation easements.

Vermont Land Trust

Contact: Carl Powden, carl@vtl.org

Tracy Zschau, tracy@vtl.org

Website: www.vlt.org

(Works with landowners to protect working farms, forestland, and natural places through conservation easements.)

Are you interested in a Forestry Certification Program?

If you own and manage forestland, these programs offer third-party certification that forestry operations meets certain sustainability criteria. See individual program websites for more information:

American Tree Farm System: In Vermont, this program is managed by the Vermont Woodlands Association: www.vermontwoodlands.org/
Forest Stewardship Council: www.sfiprogram.org
Sustainable Forestry Initiative: www.fsc.org



This list was put together by the Staying Connected Initiative. For more information about Staying Connected, please visit www.StayingConnectedInitiative.org or contact: Conrad Reining, Conrad@wildlandsnetwork.org. (802) 785-2838

What resources are available to your town or organized group?

New England Grassroots Environmental Fund (NEGEF): Small Grants Program

Contact: info@grassrootsfund.org, (802)223-4622

Website: <http://grassrootsfund.org/>

(NEGEF administers grants intended for small organizations and grassroots entities working on community-based environmental projects.)

Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife: Community Wildlife Program

Contact: Jens Hilke, jens.hilke@state.vt.us, (802) 476- 0199

Website:

http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/cwp_home.cfm

(Provides assistance and resources for municipal planners in their efforts to protect wildlife habitat and significant natural communities.)

Vermont Department of Housing and Community Affairs: Municipal Planning Grants

Contact: (802) 828-3211

Website: www.dhca.state.vt.us

(This annual funding program supports municipal planning projects for Vermont communities with a confirmed local planning process.)

Vermont Natural Resource Council

Contact: Jamey Fidel, jfidel@vnrc.org, (802) 223 2328

Website: <http://www.vnrc.org/>

(While VNRC focuses many of its efforts at the state level, the Council can also help communities in their efforts to plan for a sustainable future that includes renewable energy, healthy forests and biodiversity, smart economic growth, and enhanced water quality.)

This list is merely a sampling of some of the programs and resources available locally. It is not intended to be comprehensive. Fall, 2011