Improved water and wastewater systems for 70,092 people

Housed 5,771 families

465 Engaged communities

Created 598 jobs

Committed to the future of rural communities.
Vermont’s Rural Economic Area Partnership Zone

Rural Development designated Vermont’s Northeast Kingdom as one of America’s five Rural Economic Area Partnership Zones in 2001. The designation, reauthorized in the 2014 Farm Bill by U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy, provides special funding for development projects in the Kingdom. In FY16, this designation brought the region an additional $6,701,706.

Senator Patrick Leahy and Congressman Peter Welch present Northeastern Vermont Development Association with a grant to work with REAP Zone communities to identify community development goals and create action plans to focus local efforts.

*Multi-family rental properties receiving rental assistance were counted as one project. Each multi-family rental property represents multiple families receiving Rural Development assistance.

For a detailed breakdown of Rural Development investments by county, visit RD.USDA.GOV/VT or RD.USDA.GOV/NH.
BUSINESS PROGRAMS

USDA Rural Development’s Business and Cooperative Programs support rural entrepreneurs, lenders, and non-profit organizations that are creating economic opportunities for the people of Vermont and New Hampshire. Rural Development helps rural residents through investing in job creation, rural businesses through supporting energy efficiency and renewable energy generation, and rural communities through strengthening vibrant downtowns.

- Business and Industry Guaranteed Loans
- Intermediary Relending Program
- Rural Business Development Grants
- Value-Added Producer Grants
- Rural Energy for America Program Grants and Guaranteed Loans
- Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program

2,790 VERMONT AND NEW HAMPSHIRE JOBS were created through RD Loans and Grants from ’09 to ’16.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

To help keep our communities viable, USDA Rural Development offers grants and loans to town governments and non-profits that provide essential community services. Our government loans have very favorable rates and terms.

- Community Facility Grants and Loans
- Water and Environmental Programs
- Broadband and Distance Learning and Telemedicine Assistance
- Rural Community Development Initiative Grants

$593,009,353 invested in COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE in Vermont and New Hampshire by RD from ’09 to ‘16.

Investing in Local Food Systems in New Hampshire’s North Country

The Women’s Rural Entrepreneurial Network (WREN) is strengthening northern New Hampshire’s local food system by working with farmers to grow their businesses. With the support of a USDA Rural Business Development Grant, WREN is providing area farmers with technical assistance focused on creating asset-based business plans, connecting entrepreneurs with resources, and developing market outlets for locally produced food. By investing in these farmers, WREN is helping the region capitalize on its agricultural assets to strengthen the broader economy.

Investing in Community Economic Development through Health Services

Seniors in New Hampshire’s North Country will have a supportive living facility where they can age close to the support of their communities. The Morrison of Whitefield received a $24.7 million USDA Community Facility loan to construct an 83 unit elderly care community that will open its doors in 2017. The Whitefield Senior Living Community will be the only facility of its kind in the North Country. In addition to providing local elder care, the Morrison anticipates that the project will employ roughly 75 area companies—creating jobs and kindling economic development in Whitefield and the surrounding communities.
HOUSING PROGRAMS

USDA Rural Development Housing Programs support families in need of extra financial assistance to purchase, rent or rehabilitate housing in rural communities.

- **Single Family Housing Programs**
  - Low Income Home Loans
  - Guaranteed Loans
  - Home Repair Loans and Grants
- **Multi-Family Housing**
  - Rural Rental Housing Loans
  - Loan Guarantees
  - Rental Assistance Program
- **Housing Preservation Grants**
- **Farm Labor Housing**

12,430 Vermont and New Hampshire families have achieved HOMEOWNERSHIP through RD’s programs from ’09 to ’16.

**Investing in the Bioeconomy: Kingdom Pellets**

Kingdom Pellets is establishing a wood pellet production plant in Gilman, Vermont, with financial support from a $2.5 million USDA Rural Energy for America Program loan guarantee in partnership with Community National Bank. The USDA also provided a Rural Business Development Grant to the Northern Forest Center to help develop the wood pellet market and evaluate the plant’s economic impact. The new facility will stimulate the region’s bioeconomy, helping to keep energy dollars local by preserving working lands, creating jobs, and providing a source of renewable heat and electricity.

**Investing in People— Dennis Miller and his Energy Efficient Modular Home**

In June 2016 Dennis Miller became the first homeowner nationwide to purchase a high performance energy efficient modular home using a Section 502 Single Family Home Loan through the new Energy Efficient Manufactured Home Pilot Program. This program aims to increase the quality of life for manufactured park residents by helping aspiring homeowners invest in energy efficient homes in manufactured home parks. Thanks to a partnership with the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, Efficiency Vermont and Windham and Windsor Housing Trust, Miller moved into his VERMOD, a Vermont-built net-zero house. His new home, designed for efficiency and comfort, will help him realize monthly savings on his energy bill while providing him with a safe and affordable place to live for years to come.

Dennis Miller stands in front of his newly purchased energy efficient modular home.

To learn more about news and opportunities from USDA Rural Development, sign up to receive updates via GovDelivery by visiting our website.

**VERMONT STATE OFFICE:**
www.rd.usda.gov/vt
USDA Rural Development
87 State Street, Suite 324
PO. Box 249
Montpelier, VT 05601
(802) 828-6080

**NEW HAMPSHIRE OFFICE:**
www.rd.usda.gov/nh
Concord Center
10 Ferry Street, Suite 218
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 223-6035

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