2019 Impacts
USDA Rural Development / Vermont & New Hampshire

Improved water and wastewater systems for 471,298 people

Created 915 jobs

Housed 5,510 families

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. This designation, reauthorized in the 2018 Farm Bill, provides special funding for development projects in the Kingdom. In 2019, this designation brought the region an additional $9,581,187.

Rural Development works closely with the Northeast Kingdom Collaborative and other partners to identify and support projects for the region.

*Multi-family rental properties receiving rental assistance were counted as one project. Each multi-family rental property represents multiple families receiving Rural Development assistance.
Our Mission: USDA Rural Development is committed to increasing economic opportunity and the quality of life in rural America.

Staying Connected, Staying Healthy

Increasing e-Connectivity in Northern New England
E-Connectivity in rural America expands access to essential health, educational, social and business opportunities. With the support of a $188,547 Rural Community Development Initiative grant, the Northern Forest Center will provide technical assistance and capacity building to enhance e-connectivity in communities along the northern New England tier (Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire). This assistance will position recipient and beneficiary communities to pursue new forms of economic development, better harness technological innovations, grow and support a rural workforce, and leverage a rural quality-of-life while attracting new residents and businesses to rural communities.

Preserving Clean Drinking Water for Quality of Life and the Economy
The town of Bristol is situated south of Newfound Lake in New Hampshire’s Lakes Region. The former manufacturing town has relied heavily on the tourist draw of Lake Newfound, which has some of the cleanest and clearest water in New England. To help preserve this natural and economic resource, Rural Development provided a $10,567,000 loan and a $6,262,000 grant to extend wastewater lines to a designated growth area that includes nearly 500 additional residences along the south end of the lake. This investment will ensure Newfound Lake remains a pristine, recreational, and economic asset for the future.

Building Transportation Infrastructure for the Recreational Economy
The 94-mile Lamoille Valley Rail Trail is a four-season transportation corridor that stretches from Swanton to St. Johnsbury, Vermont. Using a $175,500 Community Facilities grant, the Town of Hardwick, Vermont will upgrade a section of the trail, providing a stable and firm surface capable of supporting bicycle, horse, wheelchair, and pedestrian traffic from Wolcott to Walden. Work will also include the repair or installation of missing culverts and bridges, replacement of washed out trail sections, vegetation clearing along the trail corridor, restoration of trailside ditches, and trail access improvements. This piece of transportation infrastructure will allow the community to leverage recreational opportunities for economic development, particularly in its downtown and local food industry.
Achieving the Dream of Home Ownership

When Crystal Taylor decided to leave Georgia for rural New Hampshire, she wasn’t sure how to achieve her dream of home ownership. But after a friend referred her to Rural Development’s Single-Family Housing Direct Loan program, she was on her way. Crystal visited the Lancaster, New Hampshire Rural Development office well-prepared with completed documents: a signed contract, home inspection, appraisal, home insurance binder, and credit report check. 16 business days later, she received the keys for her new home on Park Street in Berlin, NH.

A Hundred-Year-Old Company Invests in a Sustainable Future

Family owned since 1920, Vermont Glove in Randolph, Vermont has been making exceptional goat-skinned gloves for utility professionals and tradespeople for over 100 years. Committed to both social and environmental sustainability, in 2019 Vermont Glove transitioned to run 100% on renewable energy. A grant of $12,748 from Rural Development’s Rural Energy for America Program assisted with the purchase and installation of an efficient pellet heating system. The new system from SunWood Biomass handles all the company’s heating needs and replaced a coal-fired boiler, which consumed about 28 tons of coal annually. In addition to greatly reducing its carbon footprint, the reduction in energy cost will help Vermont Glove remain viable for years to come.

VERMONT & NEW HAMPSHIRE families achieved HOMEOWNERSHIP in 2019.

238 LOCAL BUSINESSES touched by RD’s 2019 investments.

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

5,510 VERMONT & NEW HAMPSHIRE families achieved HOMEOWNERSHIP in 2019.

Business Programs

USDA’s Business and Cooperative Programs catalyze economic development through supporting entrepreneurs, lenders and non-profits in their efforts to create jobs, strengthen businesses and enliven 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

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