

## Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program

### Success Story: Vergennes, VT Commits to a Healthier Lake Champlain

**\$10.5 Million**

WWD loan from  
USDA RD

**1.75%**

WWD loan  
Interest rate

**\$7.08 Million**

WWD grant from  
USDA RD

**\$7.5 Million**

Leveraged funds from  
EPA and VTDEC

**2203**

Residents positively  
impacted

**31**

Businesses positively  
impacted

#### Protecting a Troubled NATURAL RESOURCE

Bordering Vermont, New York and Quebec, Lake Champlain is the crown jewel of waterways in the Northeast. Vergennes, situated along Otter Creek, a direct tributary of the Lake, has outdated and inadequate water infrastructure. Discharge into the Lake violated the state's water-quality bill, Act 64, as well as permitting standards set by the EPA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). Something had to be done, and it was up to the people of Vergennes to act.

#### 'All Hands on Deck' from CRUCIAL PARTNERS

In early March '22, residents voted to approve the 'Littlest City's' largest water-quality project to date: \$25 million in wastewater, sewer and stormwater improvements. By addressing the collective impacts from roads, agriculture, stormwater and wastewater, the project needed help from multiple partners: USDA RD, EPA, the VT Department of Environmental Conservation, and state and federal legislators, using funds from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds and ARPA.

#### A Full-Scale Formula for GENERATIONAL BENEFITS

Once the project is complete, Vergennes will meet NPDES and Act 64 requirements, doing its part to lower the nutrient pollution that has plagued Lake Champlain Basin for generations. It will improve sanitation and public health, mitigate climate change risk, and elevate overall water quality in the watershed. The project will take place in two segments, and includes an overhaul of the wastewater treatment facility, five sewer main segment replacements, and a pump station upgrade.

**For program regulations and requirements, please go to the [USDA RD fact sheet](#)**



*Photos courtesy of the City of Vergennes*