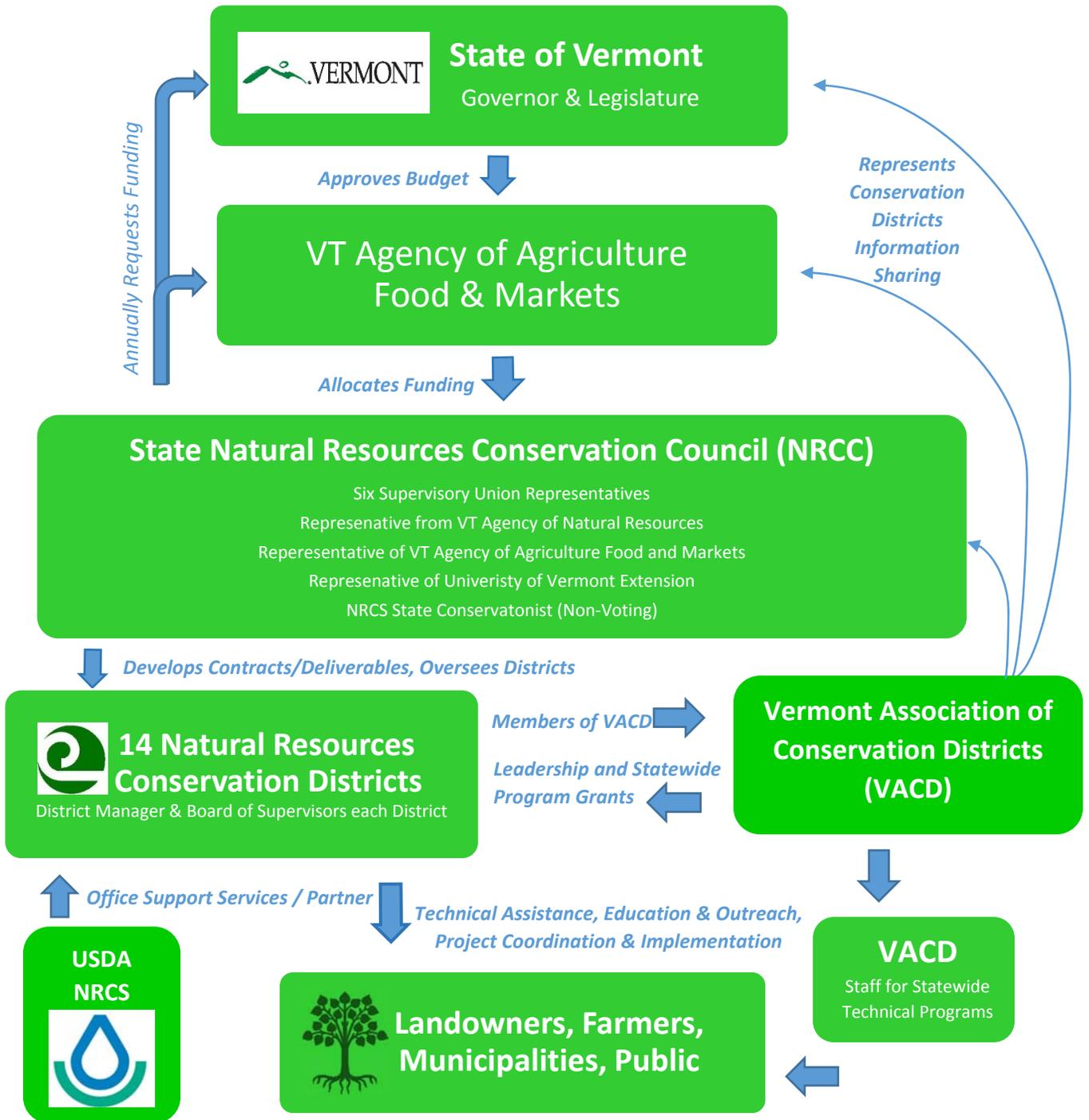


Organizational Chart of Vermont Conservation Districts



Vermont Natural Resources Conservation Districts
 Vermont Statute Title 10: Conservation and Development
 Chapter 31: Soil Conservation Act §§ 701 - 748

1. ASSESS Natural Resource Needs and UNDERSTAND Landowner Concerns

- *District assesses natural resource needs and identifies local priorities.*
- *District solicits landowner input through Local Work Groups and other events.*
- *Expertise of Supervisors and Staff enable district to assess needs and set priorities.*

2. REPRESENT Landowner Concerns

- *District represents landowner concerns in discussion with Vermont Legislators and other policy makers and program managers.*

3. INFORM and EDUCATE the Public

- *District informs the public about natural resource assets, needs, programs and opportunities to participate in addressing natural resource concerns.*

4. IMPLEMENT Projects

- *District implements projects to address natural resource concerns*

Project Areas: *See Vermont NRCD 2015 Annual Report*

Watershed Stewardship – Protecting, restoring and enhancing our water resources

Stormwater Mitigation – Greening of communities through improved development

Sustainable Forestry – Promoting responsible use of working woodlands

Agricultural Water Quality – Improving farm viability while protecting soil & water quality

Education and Outreach – Empowering land stewards with knowledge and expertise

5. Optimize PARTNERSHIPS

- *District expands reach and impact by working closely with other local, state and federal entities*

6. FUNDRAISE and MANAGE District

- *District solicits financial support to address natural resource priorities.*
- *District operations support fulfillment of the district’s mission and conform to legal requirements and best practices.*

State Natural Resources Conservation Council FY2015 & FY2016 Income

SOURCES OF INCOME	FY2015	FY2016
VT Legislature via VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets	\$155,500	\$112,000
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service	\$14,000	\$16,000
Total State and NRCS Supported Income	\$169,500	\$128,000
VT NRCDs Income (Grants, Fundraising, Sales)	\$1,514,800	\$1,500,000?

Vermont Natural Resources Conservation Districts



conserving
natural resources
for our future

www.vacd.org

Vermont Natural Resources Conservation Districts Managers and Supervisors - January 2016

Bennington County NRCD

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Jim Henderson, Bennington, VC
Alan Calfee, Dorset
Debbie Johnson, N. Bennington
Joe Nolan, Arlington

Caledonia County NRCD

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David McMath, East Hardwick, VC
Alice Allen, E. Ryegate
Larry Hamel, Lyndonville
Chris Laggis, East Hardwick
Andrew Mosedale, Barnet

Essex County NRCD

Heather Robinson, District Mngr

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William Manning, Island Pond, VC
Ursula Johnson, Canaan
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Phillip Parent, Enosburg Falls
Eileen Trudell, East Fairfield
Jerry Yates, Sheldon

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Roger Rainville, Alburg
Dwight Bullis, Grand Isle
Steven Robinson, South Hero
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Jo-Anne Ring, Hyde Park
Peggy Struhsacker, Morrisville
Fran Sladyk, Hyde Park

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Richard DelFavero, Derby
Paul Lisai, West Glover
Stephanie Mason, Irasburg

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Judy Howland, Hartland
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Kylie Quesnel, Whiting
David Russell, Bristol
Ted Simmons, Orwell
Paul Wagner, Bridport

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Hilary Solomon, District Manager

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Co-Chair
Ed Lewis, Poultney, Co-Chair
Chris Brooks, Poultney
Beth Kashner, Pawlet
Walter "Twig" Fordham, Poultney

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Ted Grembowicz, N. Clarendon,
Co-Chair
Peg Andrews, Rutland
Russell Reay, Cuttingsville
Alan Shelvey, Shrewsbury

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Mary Childs, District Manager

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Janet Angell, Randolph Center
Richard Harvey, Rochester
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Linda Corse, Whitingham, VC
Geof Dolman, Brattleboro
Katie Ross, Putney
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Russ Barrett, Northfield
Paul Hartshorn, Waitsfield
Lawrence Rowley, Milton

Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD)

Jill Arace, Executive Director

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VACD Board of Directors

Michelle Green, President
Larry Kasden, Vice President
Linda Corse, Treasurer
Peggy Ainsworth, Secretary

Vermont State Natural Resources Conservation Council (NRCC)

Michelle Gudorf, Chair
Kerry O'Brien, Administrator

NRCD Supervisory Union Reqs

Larry Hamel, Ed Lewis, Bill
Manner, Mike Raboin, Alan
Shelvey

Partner Agency Members

Jeffrey Carter, UVM Extension
Mike Middleman, VTA&M
Rick Hopkins, VT DEC

Associates

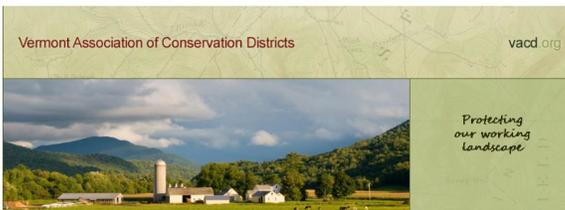
Vicky Drew, USDA NRCS
Jill Arace, VACD





Overview

The Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD) in partnership with the 14 Natural Resource Conservation Districts, UVM Extension and NRCS will assist small farm operators in the development of nutrient management plans (NMPs). The purpose of this program is to improve water quality by reducing phosphorus and other nutrient loading from small livestock farm operations in the Lake Champlain Basin and beyond. The program will be supported through an agreement with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), as well as through partner contributions provided by VACD, UVM Extension and Conservation Districts. The primary deliverable of this program is 40 nutrient management plans certified to NRCS standards per year. The Long Island Sound (LIS) RCPP program will extend this NMP Farmer Planning Program Statewide.



For Additional Information Please Contact:
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Target Clients: Small Livestock Farms in the State of Vermont

Project Summary: Nutrient Management Planning Training Program for Farmers and Conservation Practice Implementation Follow-up. 40 Farms a Year.

Project Duration: 5 Years: May 1, 2015—Dec. 31, 2019

Project Location: Lake Champlain Basin; CT River Basin

Project Goals: 1) Help farms reduce Phosphorus and Nutrient runoff from their farms.

2) Assist farms in meeting requirements for Farmstead implementation through EQIP with NRCS.

3) Assist producers in getting ahead of VT’s proposed WQ regulations requiring SFOs to develop a NMP.

4) Provide follow-up assistance after NMP Course.

VACD RCPP NMP Program Workflow

	<h2>1. Education and Outreach—Farmer Recruitment</h2>	
	Activity: - Phone calls and other outreach to prospective farmers - Farm visits for AAP education, to explain NMP program, and to sign producer up for NMP Program (CAP or CTA)	Partners Involved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NRCD • VACD • UVM Extension
	<h2>2. Field Office Map & Document Preparation for Planning Meeting</h2>	
	Activity: - Prepare initial planning visit document package including maps and relevant forms.	Partners Involved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VACD • NRCD
	<h2>3. Conservation Planning Meeting/Farm Visit</h2>	
	Activity: - Conduct Conservation Planning Interview with Farmer and identify all cropland and pasture fields.	Partners Involved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NRCD • VACD
	<h2>4. On Farm Field Work: Soil and Manure Sampling</h2>	
	Activity: - Soil sample all crop and pasture fields which receive mechanical applications of nutrients. - Sample all WSFs	Partners Involved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NRCD • VACD
	<h2>5. On Farm Field Work: Resource Assessment and Slopes</h2>	
	Activity: - Conduct and record Resource Assessments of all cropland and pastureland fields, including information for RUSLE2	Partners Involved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VACD • NRCD
	<h2>6. LTP Lite Preparation</h2>	
	Activity: - Prepare LTP Lite Binder with the 7 components necessary to take UVM's Digging –In Nutrient Management Planning Course	Partners Involved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VACD • NRCD
	<h2>7. Nutrient Management Planning Class</h2>	
	Activity: - UVM Extension will lead their Digging-In Nutrient Management Planning Course for Farmers across the State. - VACD and NRCD Staff will Assist Farmers at the class. NRCS Staff are invited to attend.	Partners Involved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UVM Extension • NRCD • VACD
	<h2>8. Implementation Follow-Up Visits</h2>	
	Activity: - Participant farmers will be offered follow-up support after completing the NMP course.	Partners Involved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NRCD • VACD • UVM Extension

Vermont Natural Resources Conservation Districts

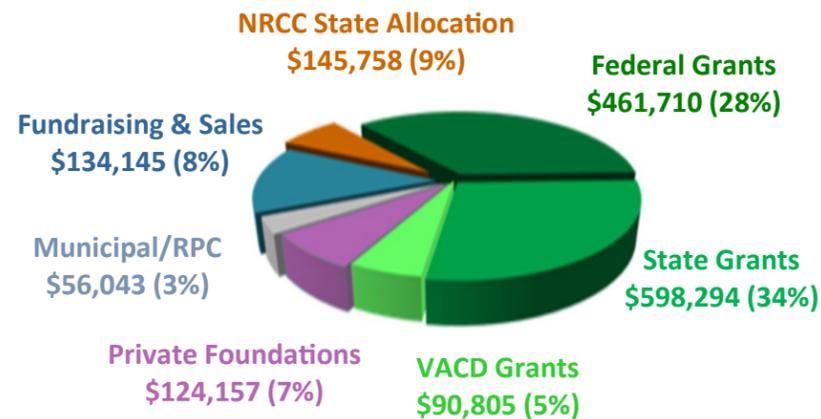
Sources of Income – FY 2015

In Fiscal Year 2015, Vermont's 14 Natural Resources Conservation Districts utilized \$145,758 from the State of Vermont through the Vermont State Natural Resources Conservation Council. Districts raised an additional \$1,514,799 in funding from public and private sources to implement vital conservation programs throughout the state, for a total of \$1,660,557. Conservation Districts developed partnerships with and received funding support from a wide range of organizations. District income was well diversified, as shown in the chart and table below.



For every dollar in base funding provided by the Vermont State Natural Resources Conservation Council, Conservation Districts raised an additional ten dollars.

Vermont NRCD Sources of Income - FY2015		
NRCC State Allocation	9%	145,758
Federal Agency Grants	28%	461,710
State of Vermont Grants	34%	558,294
VACD Grants	5%	\$90,805
Private Foundations	7%	124,157
Municipal/RPC Contracts	3%	56,043
Fundraising & Sales	8%	223,790
Total	100%	\$1,660,557



Vermont Natural Resources Conservation District Partners

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VT Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets VT Department of Environmental Conservation VT Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service USDA Farm Service Agency US Fish and Wildlife Service US Forest Service | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lake Champlain Basin Program Lake Champlain Sea Grant Vermont Community Foundation New Hampshire Charitable Foundation Green Mountain Coffee Roasters Ben and Jerry's Foundation Wellborn Ecology Fund University of Vermont Extension | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Municipalities and Businesses Regional Planning Commissions Conservation Commissions Watershed Associations Fishing and Hunting Clubs Agricultural Producer Cooperatives Land Trust Organizations |
|---|---|---|

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Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD) is the non-profit organization of Vermont's fourteen Natural Resources Conservation Districts (NRCDs). Each District educates and assists landowners and local stakeholders to address their natural resource needs. Districts network with local, state, and federal agencies to secure funds and implement strategies that protect soil and water quality. VACD promotes natural resource conservation by providing services to districts and implementing state-wide conservation programs.

Focus of Conservation District Projects

- Agricultural Practices**
Improving farm viability while protecting soil & water quality
- Watershed Stewardship**
Protecting, restoring, and enhancing our water resources
- Stormwater Mitigation**
Greening of communities through improved development
- Sustainable Forestry**
Promoting responsible use of working woodlands
- Education and Outreach**
Empowering land stewards with knowledge and expertise

Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future



In 2015 Districts raised \$10 for every \$1 provided by the VT State Legislature through the VT State Natural Resources Conservation Council.

Natural Resources Conservation Districts were created throughout the United States in response to the Dust Bowl in the late 1930s, with the purpose of helping farmers and landowners improve soil and water quality. Vermont's Soil Conservation Act of 1939 states that "the lands, water, forests and wildlife of the State of Vermont are among the basic assets of the State, and that the preservation of these lands, water, forests and wildlife by conservation, development and use is necessary to protect and promote the health, safety, and general welfare of its people." The first Vermont Conservation District was established in 1940, and since then districts have grown into strong dynamic organizations. Long-standing relationships with landowners and state and federal agencies allow districts to find solutions to natural resource issues in partnerships that are unique and successful.

Vermont Natural Resources Conservation Districts Project Highlights and Results 2015



Agricultural Practices

Improving Farm Operations while Protecting Soil and Water Quality

Conservation Districts educate agricultural producers regarding Vermont's Accepted Agricultural Practices and Best Management Practices. Districts help identify expertise and financing to address natural resource concerns on the farm, with support from State and USDA Farm Bill Programs. Assessments and planning for nutrient management, land treatment, and environmental management are completed to ensure the economic viability of farms.

- ◆ Agricultural Outreach Initiative
- ◆ Livestock Exclusion Projects
- ◆ Agronomy and Conservation Assistance
- ◆ Aeration/No Till Drill Equipment Rental
- ◆ Farmers Market Capacity Building
- ◆ Agriculture & Water Quality Workshops

Farmer Outreach Visits	NMPs Completed	Soil Samples Collected	Agronomic Practices/Acres	Livestock Exclusion Linear Feet	Agricultural Buffer Planting Acres	Agricultural Buffer Planting Stems
259	47	798	2939	5,200	38.5	11,004



Watershed Stewardship

Protecting, Restoring, and Enhancing Our Water Resources

To protect and improve Vermont's waterways and watersheds, Conservation Districts complete a wide range of activities to assess, plan, coordinate, and monitor the quality of water to ensure healthy environments for human activity and wildlife diversity. NRCDs create and/or utilize water quality data to prioritize and implement restoration and protection programs to improve Vermont's surface water.

- ◆ Lake Champlain Algae Monitoring
- ◆ Culvert/Aquatic Organism Passage Assessments
- ◆ Flood Resiliency Programs
- ◆ LaRosa Water Quality Monitoring
- ◆ Watershed Project Prioritization Projects
- ◆ Stream Team Clean Ups

Watershed Projects	Landowners Served	Community Partners	Buffer Acres	Buffer Linear Feet	Stems Planted
54	96	60	18.43	35,733	7,199

Stormwater Mitigation

Greening Our Communities through Improved Development

As the landscape changes, Conservation Districts work to ensure that Vermont communities are clean, healthy, and vibrant. Stormwater mapping and management plans allow NRCDs to educate, coordinate, and implement Low Impact Development (LID) practices for homeowners, businesses, road crews and municipalities to strengthen the community's flood resiliency.

- ◆ Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination Study
- ◆ Stormwater Mapping & Master Planning
- ◆ Stormwater Improvement/Retro Installments
- ◆ Better Backroads Projects
- ◆ Hydroseeder/Vactor Municipal Co-ops
- ◆ Pollution Prevention Programs

Stormwater Projects	Landowners Served	Community Partners	Acres Impervious Surfaces Removed
30	46	31	7.11



Education and Outreach Empowering Land Stewards with Knowledge and Expertise

A major focus of NRCDs is to provide education and outreach through informal and formal learning activities for current and future land stewards. Conservation Districts involve students, landowners, businesses, and municipalities in a variety of educational, service-learning, and technical training opportunities. These include in-school presentations, professional workshops, and county-wide field day events.

Participants	Workshops	Community Partners
15,956	123	83

- ◆ River and Roads Demonstrations
- ◆ Conservation Camps and Field Days
- ◆ Professional Development
- ◆ Service Learning Programs for Youth
- ◆ In-Classroom Presentations & Curriculum
- ◆ Webinars & Field Demonstrations

Sustainable Forestry Promoting Responsible Use of Working Woodlands

A healthy forest supports a vibrant forest economy. Conservation Districts support a healthy working landscape and assist the stewards of the forest to maintain their livelihood. By investing in the working lands, NRCDs are able to protect and restore native species and their habitats while promoting sustainable land management practices.

- ◆ Portable Skidder Bridge Rental Program
- ◆ Native Plant Restoration Nurseries
- ◆ Logging Presentations
- ◆ Emerald Ash Borer Response Planning

Skidder Bridge Rentals	Landowners Served
26	32

