

10 V.S.A. Chapter 15, §303

(3) “Eligible activity” means any activity which will carry out either or both of the dual purposes of creating affordable housing and conserving and protecting important Vermont lands, including activities which will encourage or assist:

(A) the preservation, rehabilitation, or development of residential dwelling units which are affordable to lower income Vermonters;

(B) the retention of agricultural land for agricultural use, and of forestland for forestry use;

(C) the protection of important wildlife habitat and important natural areas;

(D) the preservation of historic properties or resources;

(E) the protection of areas suited for outdoor public recreational activity;

(F) the protection of lands for multiple conservation purposes, including the protection of surface waters and associated natural resources;

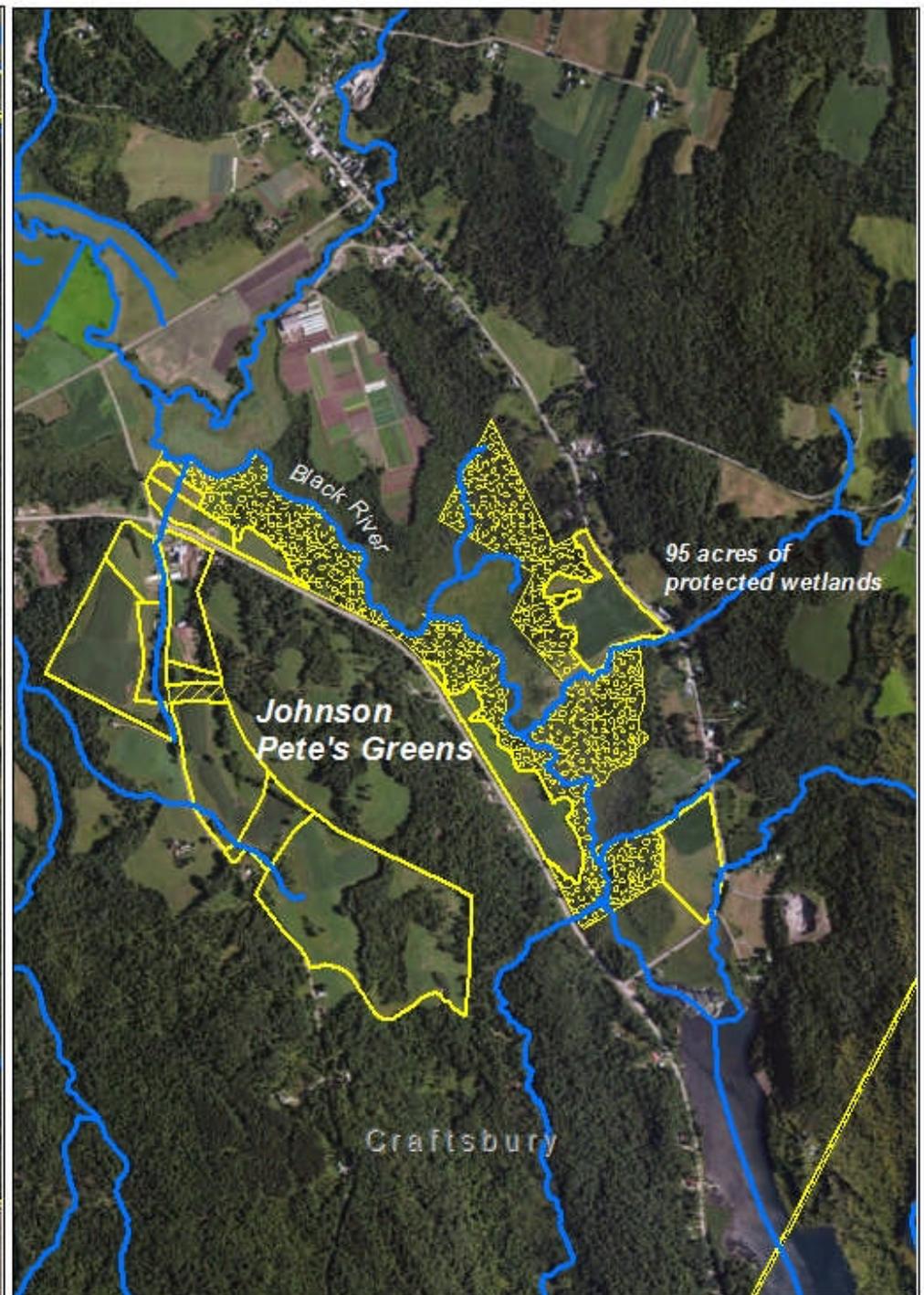
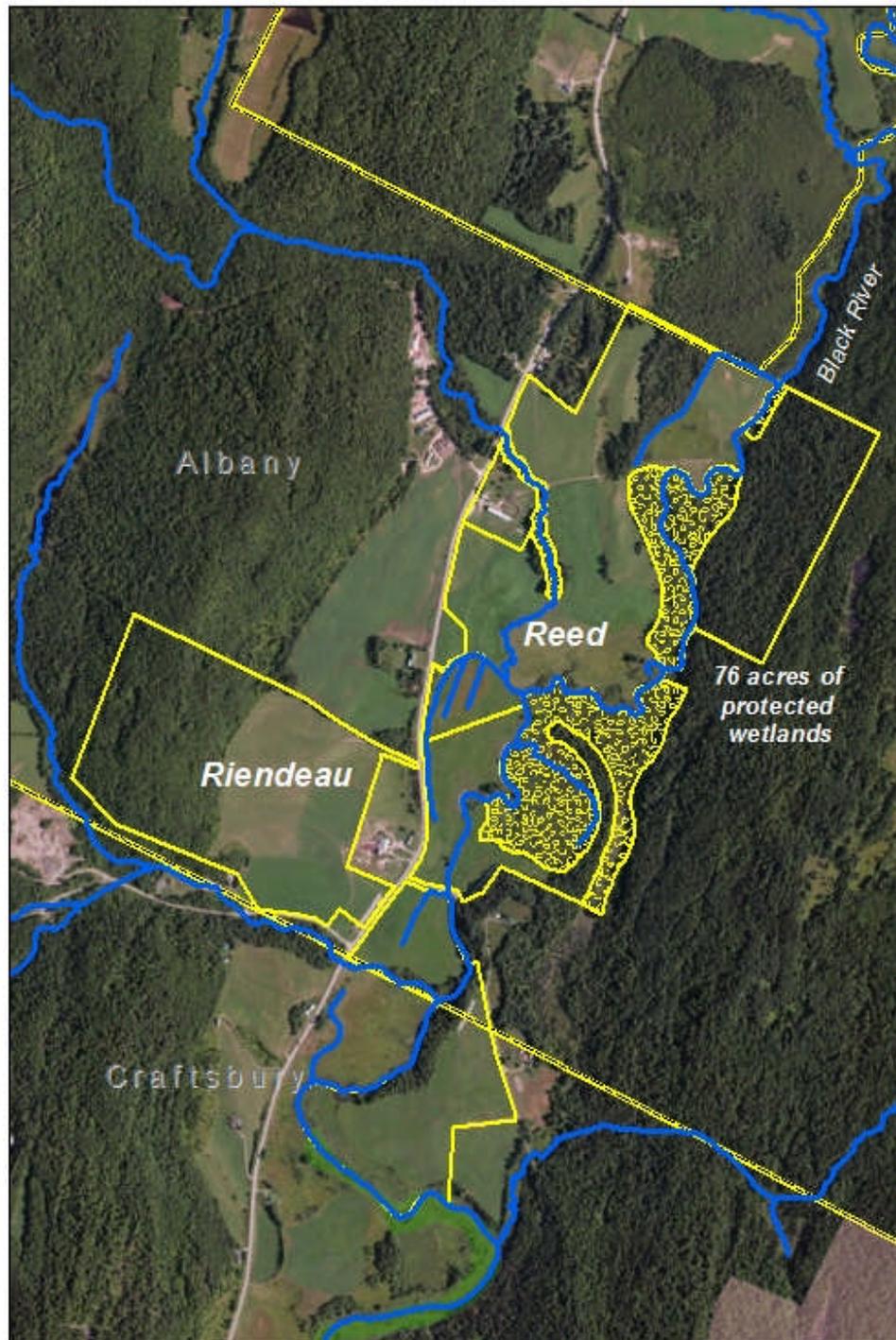


Closing on the conservation of the Robillard Farm in Irasburg in 1994. 659-acre family dairy operation.

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Guy Choiniere on his Highgate Farm, conserved by his parents. Guy's agricultural practices have greatly enhanced water quality and soil health.



Conserved Farms with buffer protections along the Black River in Craftsbury and Albany

- Protected Property
- Rivers and Streams
- Riparian Buffer/Special Treatment Area



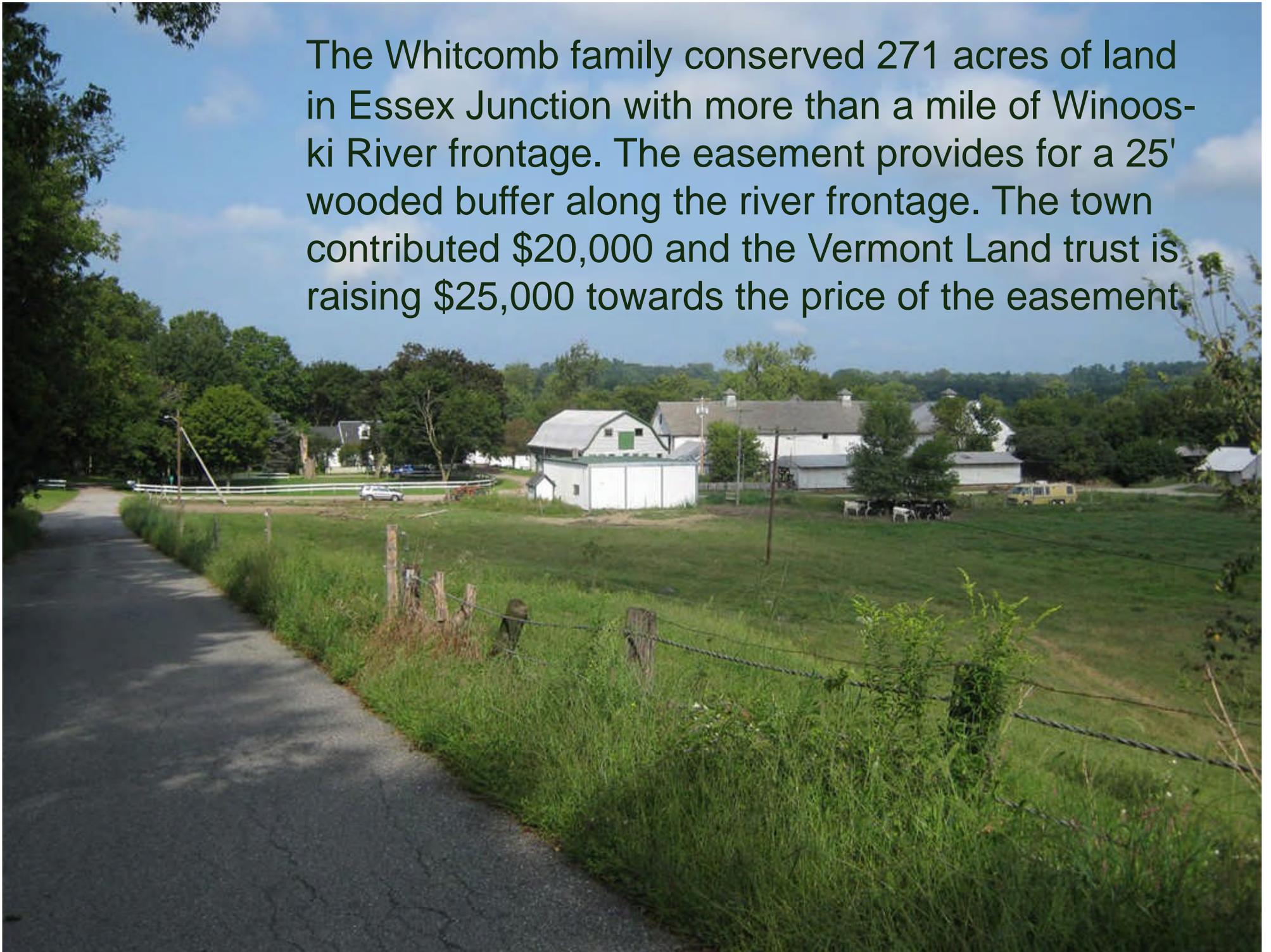
Water Quality

- Since 2011 VHCB has doubled the number of farm projects with special water quality easement provisions (riparian buffers, surface water protection zones, special treatment areas, etc.).
- \$6.5 million in VHCB funding will help match \$16 million dollars in RCPP funds over four years. RCPP is specifically targeted to funding farmland protection and farm water quality practices in the Champlain basin.
- 2 • All VHCB farm projects must have a NRCS-approved comprehensive resource management plan.
- VHCB's Viability Program advises farmers on business plans to finance and implement water quality protection, best practices, improving soil health and reducing agricultural run-off.
- Over 80% of the farms in the queue for FY16 funding will have water quality easement provisions; 15 of the 19 are in the Champlain basin. Every one of these with wetlands, stream, or river frontage will have water quality language in the proposed easements.



Justin and Angie Poulin's conserved farmland in Randolph. 2,350 ft. of river frontage and public access to a buffer strip along the 3rd branch of the White River. The farm fields were impacted by Tropical Storm Irene.

The Whitcomb family conserved 271 acres of land in Essex Junction with more than a mile of Winooski River frontage. The easement provides for a 25' wooded buffer along the river frontage. The town contributed \$20,000 and the Vermont Land trust is raising \$25,000 towards the price of the easement.





With NRCS assistance, the Lynds built a manure pit and installed fencing on their conserved farm. A VHCB Dairy Improvement Grant toward the construction of a heifer barn and bedded pack system lessened runoff problems from stored manure.



The town of Bennington acquired 162 acres of wetlands and recreational lands with trails located at the edge of downtown. With 108 acres of Class II wetlands, the property includes the confluence of Jewett Brook and South Stream, and about 2 miles of frontage on these brooks and the Walloomsac River. The town plans to develop canoe/kayak launch and fishing access sites, maintain the trails and add signage, and make trail connections to other nearby properties owned by the town and/or non-profits.



Ribbon cutting at Harrington Village in Shelburne: 82 new homes for seniors, multi-family rentals and homeownership in a new neighborhood. Conserved land along the Laplatte River donated to the town.



**13.8 acres donated to the Town of Shelburne.
Trails to be developed along the LaPlatte River.**

Map Geographics, CNEC/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS,
and the GIS User Community

VHCB Conservation Projects for the May 8, 2015 Board meeting

TOWN	ACRES	WATERSHED	DISCHARGES TO	Total \$ REQ. TO VHCB
Morgan	154.8	Clyde River	Memphremagog	\$ 86,500
Braintree	210	Connecticut River	L.I. Sound	\$ 79,000
StJWaterford	35	Connecticut River	L.I. Sound	\$ 20,910
Fairlee	28	Connecticut River	L.I. Sound	\$ 65,500
Fairfax	224	Lamoille River	Main lake	\$ 221,500
Fairfax	161	Lamoille River	Main lake	\$ 134,000
Fairfax	100	Lamoille River	Main lake	\$ 88,000
Ferrisburgh	132.5	Litte Otter Creek	Main lake	\$ 104,000
Pawlet	168	Mettowee River	South lake	\$ 85,700
Fairfax	206	Mill River	St. Albans Bay	\$ 221,500
Cambridge	81	Missisquoi	Missisquoi Bay	\$ 130,000
Newport	121	Missisquoi	Missisquoi Bay	\$ 58,500
Alburgh	57	Mud Creek	NE Arm Lake	\$ 24,000
Addison	72	Otter Creek	Main lake	\$ 45,000
Addison	360	Otter Creek	Main lake	\$ 189,000
Cornwall/Brid	92	Otter Creek	Main lake	\$ 56,750
Whiting	123	Otter Creek	Main lake	\$ 84,000
Milton	261	Trout Brook	Main lake	\$ 184,000
Milton	184	Trout Brook	Main lake	\$ 61,000

Total Ag	2770.3			\$ 1,938,860
Total in Lake Basin	2342.5	85%		\$ 1,686,950 87%

Other Conservation

Johnson	1.89	Lamoille River	Main lake	\$ 77,500
Williston	39	Winooski River	Main lake	\$ 164,888
Pownal	25.9	Hoosic River	Hudson River	\$ 39,850
Westmore*	2,965	Willoughby River	Memphremagog	\$ 200,000
Lyndon	132.9	Connecticut River	L.I. Sound	\$ 172,374
West Windsor*	1,581	Connecticut River	L.I. Sound	\$ 300,000

*Headwaters projects

Total other cons	4,746			\$ 954,612
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Historic Preservation

Grafton	5			\$ 100,000
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Total Historic	5			\$ 100,000
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Anticipated farm projects for Fall 2015: 12 farm projects(1827 acres) requiring a total of \$1,365,200 in state funds are in the pipeline, of which 7 (1064 acres) are in the Champlain Basin. Total state funds required for these Champlain Basin farms is approximately \$885,700.

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Sally McCay photo

The Addison County Community Trust developed 25 affordable senior apartments in Vergennes convenient to businesses and services. HUD 202 operating subsidies for 8 apartments create affordability for extremely low-income households. Very energy efficient with a super insulated shell and wood pellet boiler; service coordination (SASH).



Modular Home in place at the Riverside Mobile Home Park and the living room of a model home, manufactured in Wilder Vermont by Vermod High Performance Homes as part of the Manufactured Housing Innovation Project spearheaded by VHCB with Efficiency Vermont and the High Meadows Fund.

