

# Vermont Natural Resources Conservation Districts

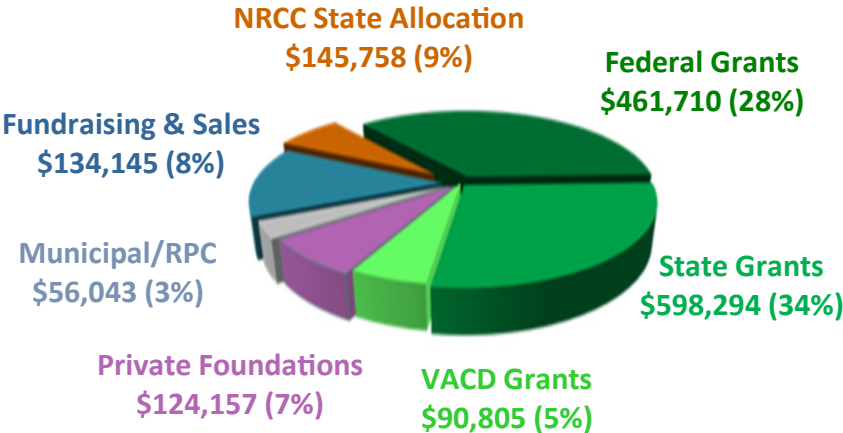
## Sources of Income – FY 2015

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
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$1,660,557</b>



### Vermont Natural Resources Conservation District Partners

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

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

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

