



Vermont Community Development Association

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Dear VCDA Members, Colleagues and Friends,

Vermont communities have shown strength and resiliency throughout this past year. The Vermont Community Development Association (VCDA) has worked to bring organizations and entities together and provide valuable information related to a variety of community development topics. With our semi-annual conferences, our organization has the unique capacity to bring together community leaders to address emergent needs in our state.

The mission of VCDA is to build a network of effective community development professionals by offering unique, targeted, and timely educational forums that provide the tools to improve the quality of life in Vermont communities. During our Spring Conference, VCDA members and guests visited West Windsor to discuss the economic vitality of outdoor recreation and the strategies that municipalities can use to attract and retain residents and draw visitors to their towns. We heard the success story of the Ascutney Outdoors Center, and conference attendees were able to spend some time outside enjoying the trails through walking and mountain-bike tours.

This fall, we reflected on the unprecedented flooding experienced throughout the State and looked at ways Vermont can mitigate disasters through climate resiliency and adaptation in Brandon. Doug Farnham, Vermont's Chief Recovery Officer, joined as our keynote speaker and addressed the critical coordination and resilience we have seen over the past couple of months and how to support and amplify this work going forward. FEMA representatives laid out their response process and the resources they have to support communities to help mitigate disasters. The Town of Brandon showcased the celebrated the work they have done to mitigate flooding impacts which likely saved their downtown during the July flooding.

We rely on members and supporters like you to build such impactful and informative events centered around critical Vermont community development topics. **This is why we are writing today to ask you to RENEW or JOIN as a VCDA Member to support these efforts in 2024.**

Whether you are an individual, a student, a municipality, small organization, or large organization with more than ten staff, VCDA has a membership option for YOU! *Click here to join or renew your membership with VCDA using our Joinit platform.*

If you have questions or need additional information on membership, please contact Christine Golden at info@vtcda.org, one of the board members, or visit VCDA's website: www.vtcda.org.

We hope we can count on your support in 2024!

The VCDA Board