

City of Montpelier Funding Event – 1/3/23

\$14.4M WEP loan & grant - 2020
\$3.5M WEP grant
\$15.9M WEP loan
\$19,519,000 Total

[Salutation]

We are so proud to fund this project with \$19.5 million through the USDA Community Facilities Water and Waste Disposal loan and grant program. Upgrading the WRRF and addressing the stormwater infrastructure for East State Street will result in significant economic *AND* environmental benefits for Montpelier families, businesses and institutions.

The leaders and people of this great city are making great things happen. Montpelier is a pioneer in energy sustainability and environmental solution making. We want to thank these insightful and committed city officials for the incredible work they're doing on the ground to reach a goal of zero net emissions by 2030.

The fight against climate change is a mission priority for me and my staff. We are committed to directing funds where they'll do the most good in this struggle, and make the biggest difference for people who feel its effects most severely.

In January 2020, USDA invested \$14.4 million in the WRRF to implement the cost-saving 'organics to energy' model, using solid waste from area farms and businesses to power the facility through high-capacity biodigesters.

Today's investment includes funding for a waste-drying system powered by the onsite biogas, predicted to reduce yearly sludge output from 3800 to 1300 tons, roughly 65 percent. The resulting Class A biochar can be used in agriculture instead of depositing it in local landfills, a direct cost-savings benefit.

The East State Street sanitary sewer and storm water improvements will reduce hydraulic overloading of the systems that can occur during rain and flooding, reducing discharges into the Winooski River.

On Earth Day in April, we announced more than \$17.5 million to rebuild and rehab the wastewater treatment facility in Vergennes. Three weeks ago, USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack announced \$285 million in critical infrastructure funding for 844 projects across 46 states to combat climate change and expand access to clean energy through the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP).

In Vermont, eight small businesses received \$1.67 million to implement renewable energy systems and make operations more energy efficient through REAP.

We must address climate change in conventional and creative ways, and to do this we have to engage and nurture meaningful partnerships on the ground.

Thank you to our friends at the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development, whose work demonstrates their deep understanding of how crucial water and waste-management systems are to thriving tourism, successful businesses and affordable housing.

Thank you to our partners at the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, who invested more than \$3.2 million in this project—more in Vergennes—and once again are demonstrating their proactive, productive approach to the daunting challenges we face as members of rural areas, residents of this great state and citizens of the global community.

[Handoff]

Haley Pero, Sanders



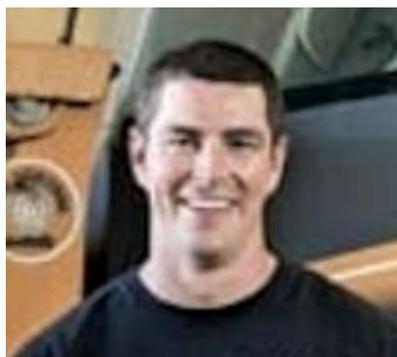
Bill Fraser, City Manager



Michelle Monroe, Welch



Chris Cox - WRRF Operations



Lindsay Kurrle, VT ACCD



Kurt Motyka, Dep. Director of Public Works



Neil Kamman, VT DEC



