



Vermont RREA Program

RREA funds received in Vermont total less than \$50,000 per year, but represent funds that are targeted to make a significant and important contribution to the training of professionals and citizens across the state. Vermont is a state whose economy is based in large measure on the wise management of our working landscape, including the use of our renewable natural resources. RREA funds were instrumental in the development and implementation of a community leadership program in collaboration with the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, the expansion of knowledge and understanding of local community members, and to the initiation of programs that contribute to the development of new or expanded natural resources based businesses in rural communities with the Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing.

RREA funds were critical in the leveraging of dollars from other sources, including the Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing (\$56,000); the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (\$50,000); the Rubenstein School of the Environment and Natural Resources (\$5,000); and base funds reallocated within UVM Extension (\$40,000).

Success Stories

- Over 100 community members from across the state learned about and improved their local leadership skills for communicating about the management of renewable resources in their communities.
- Over 300 participants spent two days learning about and experiencing a range of activities that affect the future management of our renewable natural resources.
- Over 800 individuals contributed to the rural economy in Vermont, learning about how to enhance the positive economic impact of natural resource based tourism in the region.
- Nine of 10 chambers of commerce in northeastern Vermont joined a marketing partnership that grew from 5 to 143 individual businesses working together to create and expand natural resource-based enterprises in the region.



Jonathan Tourtellot, Director of the Center for Sustainable Destinations at the National Geographic Society, meeting with small groups for in-depth discussions on geotourism.

“Inspiring keynote speakers, great networking, and practical advice from the workshop. Excellent conference!”

– Participant, Northeast Kingdom Tourism Conference, June 2006

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