

**NORTH COUNTRY
COUNCIL
PLANNING
REGION
COMMUNITIES**

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Bethlehem, NH 03574

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**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS...**

An up-to-date listing of meetings and events is available on our website at www.nccouncil.org

December 17, 2008, **Transportation Advisory Committee**, 3-5:30 p.m., NCC Offices.

December 18, 2008, **CPTNC Meeting**, 12-2 p.m., NCC Offices.

January 14, 2009, **RT. 3 Corridor Study**, hosted by Lancaster Planning Board, 6:30 p.m., Lancaster Town Hall.

January 15, 2009, **CPTNC Meeting**, 12-2 p.m., Red Barn Rocks Estate.

January 21, 2009, **NCC Board Meeting**, 3-5 p.m., NCC Offices.

February 4, 2009, **CEDS Meeting**, 2-4 p.m., NCC Offices.

February 18, 2009, **TAC Meeting**, 3-5:00 p.m., NCC Offices.

March 18, 2009, **NCC Board Meeting**, 3-5 p.m., NCC Offices.

April 1, 2009, **CEDS Meeting**, 2-4 p.m., NCC Offices.

April 15, 2009, **Transportation Advisory Committee**, 3-5:30 p.m., NCC Offices.

DID YOU KNOW?
OUR NEWSLETTER IS NOW
AVAILABLE VIA OUR
WEBSITE
WWW.NCCOUNCIL.ORG



North Country Council
Regional Planning Commission

POINTS NORTH

A Regional Report From The North Country Council

North Country Council, 107 Glessner Road, Bethlehem, NH 03574

December 2008

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North Country Timber Supply Study Released

Article By: Jeffrey Hayes

North Country Council and the New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development, Division of Forests and Lands announced the release of a new study on the availability of low grade timber in Coos County. The study, conducted by LandVest, Inc., was supported by a grant awarded to North Country Council, Inc from the Economic Development Administration, US Department of Commerce.

The report concluded that under normal conditions there are approximately 640,000 green tons of low-grade wood available in the study area, with a possible range of 280,000 green tons to 1 million green tons.

For the study LandVest selected Berlin as the likely location for a hypothetical wood-using facility to help define the "wood basket" for the study area which included several counties in New Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont. The study utilized Forest Service inventory data, as well as other data, run through the aggregate timber assessment system (ATLAS) and sub regional timber supply (SRTS) models to project future available timber. Additional model simulations were run to determine upper and lower limits to the timber supply.

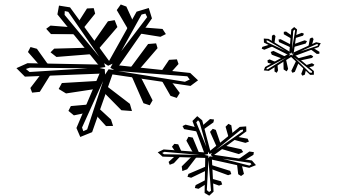
"With all of the interest in developing new wood-using fa-

cilities in Coos County we believe this study is very timely," stated Brad Simpkins, Acting Director of the Division of Forests and Lands. "The report will provide useful context for discussions about the future of the North Country's forest based economy."

"This wood availability report will help us imagine and plan for the future low-grade wood industry in Coos County, as was the priority of the forest industry leaders who served on the Wood Resource Committee of the Coos Economic Action Plan. Long standing questions about how much wood is available to support several proposed new biomass energy plants and wood pellet operations are answered. Now, the County is in a better position to plan for its future." said Jeff Hayes, Assistant Director NCC.

The Division of Forests and Lands protects and promotes the values provided by trees and forests. To learn more about the New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands visit our website at www.nhdf.org or call 603-271-2214.

The study can be found on the NCC website at www.nccouncil.org.



*Holiday Greetings From
The
North Country Council*

The North Country Council extends warmest wishes to you and your family during the holiday season. We would like to thank all of our towns and communities, officials and volunteers who continually strive to improve the quality of life not only in their immediate communities but in the North Country Region as well. It is a pleasure to work with you and for you.

Happy Holidays to All and a Healthy, Prosperous New Year



Innovative Land Use Planning Handbook for New Hampshire Now Available

Article By: NCC Planning Staff



The long awaited "Innovative Land Use Planning Techniques: A Handbook for Sustainable Development" is now available. The Handbook was rolled out by NHDES at the Fall Planning & Zoning Conference held in October by the NH Association of Regional Planning Commissions in Lincoln. It is the first comprehensive guide for New Hampshire planning boards on implementing RSA 674:21, Innovative Land Use Controls. The Handbook represents several years of work by New Hampshire's regional planners with the assistance of the Office of Energy and Planning, NH Municipal Association, and Department of Environmental Services, as well as other experts in the specific fields addressed. Topics include creative approaches for preventing sprawl, such as lot size averaging and service district boundaries; protection of high priority community resources, such as water quality, wetlands and other important habitat areas; and issues related to the design of specific developments, such as access management, lighting, and energy.

Communities interested in nonregulatory approaches

will find that the Handbook contains a wealth of useful information to guide local planning efforts and to provide guidance for landowners and developers. Both the background information and the model ordinances contain helpful information on issues of concern to local planners and conservation commissions. Topics include how to lay out a development in a way that will reduce and better manage stormwater, practices that can reduce the impacts of homes on wildlife, and suggestions for reducing the impacts of hilltop homes on the local scenery.

North Country Council will hold a series of workshops in the spring on several of the topics of most interest to North Country communities, including the No Adverse Impact floodplain model ordinance and lot size averaging, two of the four chapters in the Handbook developed by NCC Planning Director Tara Bamford. In the meantime, NCC will provide one free copy of the Handbook to each member planning board. The Handbook is also downloadable in its entirety or by topic at http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/repp/innovative_land_use.htm. For questions on applying the tools in the Huidebook in your community, contact Tara at (603)444-6303 or tbamford@nccouncil.org.

North Country Council recently published an updated guide to Member Services. The 56 page booklet summarizes the many services provided to member communities. Many of the services are provided free of charge to member communities using grant funds leveraged with member dues.

Call (603)444-6303 or email nccinc@nccouncil.org to receive your free copy of NCC Member Services and see what services your community might benefit from in the following areas:

Transportation

The GIS department has been kept busy this fall supporting Economic Development and the CEDS program. Much time has been spent analyzing census trends in the North Country, notably population, education, income, housing and employment. The data source, Census 2000, provides in-depth statistics that range from percent of population in the labor force to the number of homes with incomplete plumbing.

In addition, an array of reference maps has been created depicting services throughout New Hampshire, and specifically the North Country Council planning region. These maps provide

North Country Council Service Book Updated

Article By: NCC Planning Staff

Economic Development

Hazard Mitigation

Solid Waste

Natural Resource Planning

Housing Needs Assessment

Community Planning

Public Participation

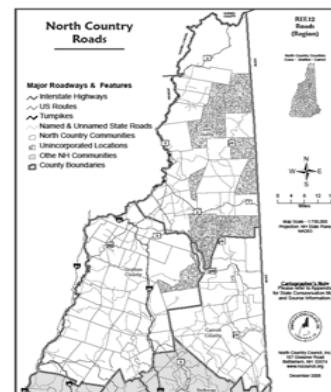
Review of Subdivision and Site Plan Applications

Community Outreach and Education

Geographic Information System Mapping

GIS News

Article By: June Garneau



easy access for commonly referenced services, such as airports, cell towers, roads, conservation and congressional districts. For more information on either census-based or reference maps that are available, please call June at NCC, 444-6303, extension 13.

Solid Waste Recycling

Article By: James Steele

Even as the value of recyclables fall in the midst of our struggling economy, it still remains an effective means of reducing the overall cost of solid waste disposal for our communities. The following poem from the Greenville County Solid Waste Division of South Carolina stresses the importance of recycling through one of our favorite holiday characters.



Every good Greenville likes recycling a lot...But the Grinch, who lived in Greenville, did not!

The Grinch hated recycling especially during the holiday season. Now please don't ask why. No one quite knows the reason.

It could be a paper cut once caused him great pain. It could be holiday junk mail drove him insane. But I think that the most likely reason of all May have been that his recycling bin was two sizes too small.

Whatever the reason, the junk mail or his small bin, The Grinch choose to make everyone more miserable than him.

I won't pre-rinse; I'll make my recycling smell. I'll hide garbage in my leaves so no one can tell. I'll put out my papers on days

when it rains. I'll add in some food waste to cause dirty stains. I'll recycle all plastics when only 1's and 2's are accepted I'll put in 3's through 7's, who cares if I'm corrected. I'll throw in some light bulbs, crystal and glass panes. They say "glass containers" but they're really all the same. And sometimes I'll simply throw my recycling away. After all, who is it hurting, if I miss one day.

The collectors struggled to recycle what they could But the Grinch's recyclables were simply no good. Left out on the curb so, so full of contamination, The overflowing bin sometimes littered. Oh, the abomination! Week after week, the Grinch called the collectors the fools. When week after week, he himself broke the rules.

Then one day the Grinch happened to see That the landfill was filling as fast as could be. And the Grinch began to ponder the meaning of this "In a landfill how long would his items exist?"

Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before. Maybe recycling, he thought, isn't really a chore. Maybe recycling, he thought, means a little bit more.

In a landfill, the waste items are good to no one But in recycling, waste items create jobs and so on. It is good to the earth and good for the community

And he thought that if everyone would recycle in unity And buy recycled goods when they shipped at the store And recycle correctly and recycle more...

Then, maybe, perhaps we could make recycling pay What happened then...well...in Greenville they say That the Grinch's small brain grew three sizes that day.

And the minute his mind wasn't feeling so maniacal, He thought of more ways and more reasons to recycle. And he spread these words to his neighbors and kin: Recycle correctly and recycle more in your recycling bin.

And to prove that he was dedicated to completing the caper He himself, the Grinch, switched to recycled-content paper.

NCC would like to remind its readers that services are available to its member communities under its **USDA Solid Waste Technical Assistance Grant**. This grant currently runs until Sept of 2009 and covers solid waste and recycling planning, household hazardous waste collections as well as fluorescent light, antifreeze, and electronics recycling. If your community would like assistance in any of these areas or has ideas for new recycling programs, please contact James Steele at 444-6303, extension 15.

Household Hazardous Waste

Article By: James Steele

NCC and the Pemi-Baker Solid Waste District held four (4) one-day collections this past fall. Collections were held in the towns of Haverhill, Lincoln, Lisbon, and Plymouth. A total of 311 vehicles or an estimated 746 residents utilized the collections. This is a relatively low number compared to past years, however, the number would be significantly higher if there was a means to calculate the numbers of residents who brought materials to collection points prior to the one-day events. In an effort to increase participation, NCC will no longer be restricting residents to specific collection sites. Residents will be allowed to attend any or all of the collections scheduled. The cost to each community that participates will be based on the percentage of participation in relation to the overall cost of each collection. Individual residents from communities that do not sign up to participate will be assessed a fee based on the amount and type of materials brought to the collection. Preliminary sites for the 2009 season are Colebrook, Haverhill, Lancaster, Littleton, and Rumney. Sites will be finalized based upon the communities that commit to participating in the program. Look for our HHW schedule in the next issue of Points North.

