

# Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund

The **Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund (VSJF)** is a non-profit organization created by the Vermont Legislature in 1995 to accelerate the development of Vermont's green economy. VSJF provides financing, technical assistance, and networking resources to Vermont businesses committed to creating jobs, products, and services in the fields of renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and forestry.

## Strengthening Vermont's Food System

By many accounts, Vermont has developed the most comprehensive food system plan in the country and the first of its kind in New England. The **Farm to Plate Strategic Plan** is the state's roadmap for

increasing economic development and jobs in Vermont's farm and food sector and improving access to healthy local food for all Vermonters. The plan is being implemented by over 350 farm and food sector organizations from across the state all working together as the **Farm to Plate Network**.

Learn more at <u>www.VTFarmtoPlate.com</u>

The **Vermont Food Atlas** is a searchable mapping tool designed to help farmers and food businesses find resources on education, financing, and technical assistance, and build relationships with distributors, processing centers, other farmers, and all entities representing the state's food system.

Learn more at <u>www.VTFoodAtlas.com</u>

## Supporting Renewable Energy Feasibility and New Frontiers

The **Vermont Renewable Energy Atlas** is a website that maps existing and potential solar, wind, hydro, biomass, and geothermal sites in order to assist town energy committees, the Clean Energy Development Fund and other funders, educators, planners, policy-makers, and businesses in making informed decisions about our energy future.



The **Vermont Bioenergy Initiative** connects diversified agriculture and local renewable energy production for on-farm and community use by supporting research, technical assistance, and infrastructure development in emerging areas of bioenergy including biodiesel production and

distribution for heating and transportation, oil crops for on-farm biodiesel and feed, grass for heating, and algae production for biofuels and wastewater management.

Learn more at <u>www.VermontBioenergy.com</u>









#### Supporting Farm, Forest + Energy Entrepreneurs

The **Vermont Agriculture Development Program (VADP)** supports the growth and long-term success of value-added agricultural and forestry enterprises based in Vermont. The program provides venture coaching and technical assistance to strengthen the capacity of businesses in order to

serve an expanding market for Vermont food and forest products. Clients include Harlow Farm, Pete's Greens, Vermont Food Venture Center, Green Mountain Organic Creamery, Butterworks Farm, Amoskeag Woodworking, the Vermont Agricultural Trade Associations, and several others. VADP partners with the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board's Farm and Forest Viability Program on this effort.



#### Learn more at <u>www.VTAgDev.com</u>

The **Flexible Capital Fund, L3C (the Flex Fund)** is a mission-based investment fund that provides 'equity-like' financing in the form of royalty (or revenue-sharing) loans and subordinated debt to Vermont growth companies in value-added agriculture, forestry, and clean technology. The Flex Fund offers flexible, higher risk debt that functions like equity but doesn't require collateral or giving up ownership in their company, and won't force companies into an exit strategy or sale in order to

repay the investment. The Flex Fund also brings to borrowers business assistance, market expertise and instant access to networks. To date, the Flex Fund has invested in Vermont Smoke and Cure, Aegis Renewable Energy, Farmers To You, Liz Lovely Cookies, Vermont Butcher Block and Board Company, and Wall Goldfinger.



► Learn more at www.FlexibleCapitalFund.com

The **Peer to Peer Collaborative** is a CEO advisory program that gives growing companies access to a confidential, supportive team of experienced entrepreneurs and business leaders who share lessons learned and proven business strategies for building a stronger operational structure, improving profitability, and supporting livable wages for their employees.

Learn more at <u>www.vsjf.org</u>

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