

Data on Current State of Connectivity in NEK

The Northeast Kingdom is lagging farther and farther behind the rest of the state in providing truly high-speed broadband for businesses, residents and visitors, even compared to other rural parts of Vermont. The data is clear.

The FCC now defines broadband as 25/3 (25 Megabits per second download speed/3 Megabits per second upload speed). Data intensive businesses will often require symmetrical speeds at 100 Megabits per second or higher.

Data-oriented businesses have few options for locating in the NEK:

- Only 6 out of 55 towns in the NEK (Albany, Canaan, Craftsbury, Greensboro, Hardwick & Lemington) have at least one building has access to 100/100 Mbps symmetrical service or better
- Statewide, 91 out of 255 towns have at least one building has access to 100/100 Mbps symmetrical service or better

Most NEK residents and businesses do not have access to true broadband:

- 46.7% of addresses in Caledonia, Essex and Orleans counties have access to 25/3 Mbps service or better. This is compared to 73.1% of addresses statewide with access to 25/3.
- In more than half of NEK towns (29), fewer than 20% of all addresses have access to 25/3 Mbps service or better. In 19 towns, these speeds are not available at all.
- Only five NEK communities exceed the statewide percentage for access to 25/3: Derby (77%); Lyndon (82%); Newport City (99%); St. Johnsbury (86%) and Troy (77%).

Many NEK communities lack widespread access to even the most basic internet service (4/1 Mbps):

- 1 out of 5 addresses in the NEK is not able to purchase even 4/1 Mbps
- For almost half of all NEK towns, 1 out of every 3 addresses is underserved by the most basic service.
- 16 out of the 20 most underserved towns in Vermont are in the NEK; 10 of those are in Essex County alone.
- Statewide only 7% of addresses are underserved to this degree
- Only two NEK communities have a lower percentage of underserved than the state as a whole: St. Johnsbury (5.9%) and Newport City (.5%)

Source: Vermont Department of Public Service (January 2018)