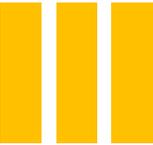


Communications Union Districts

November 13, 2020

- 9 Districts
- 157 Member Towns
- 55 Towns in Study Areas
- 157 board member and 157 alternates
- Organized under [Title 30: Public Service, Chapter 82: Communications Union Districts](#)



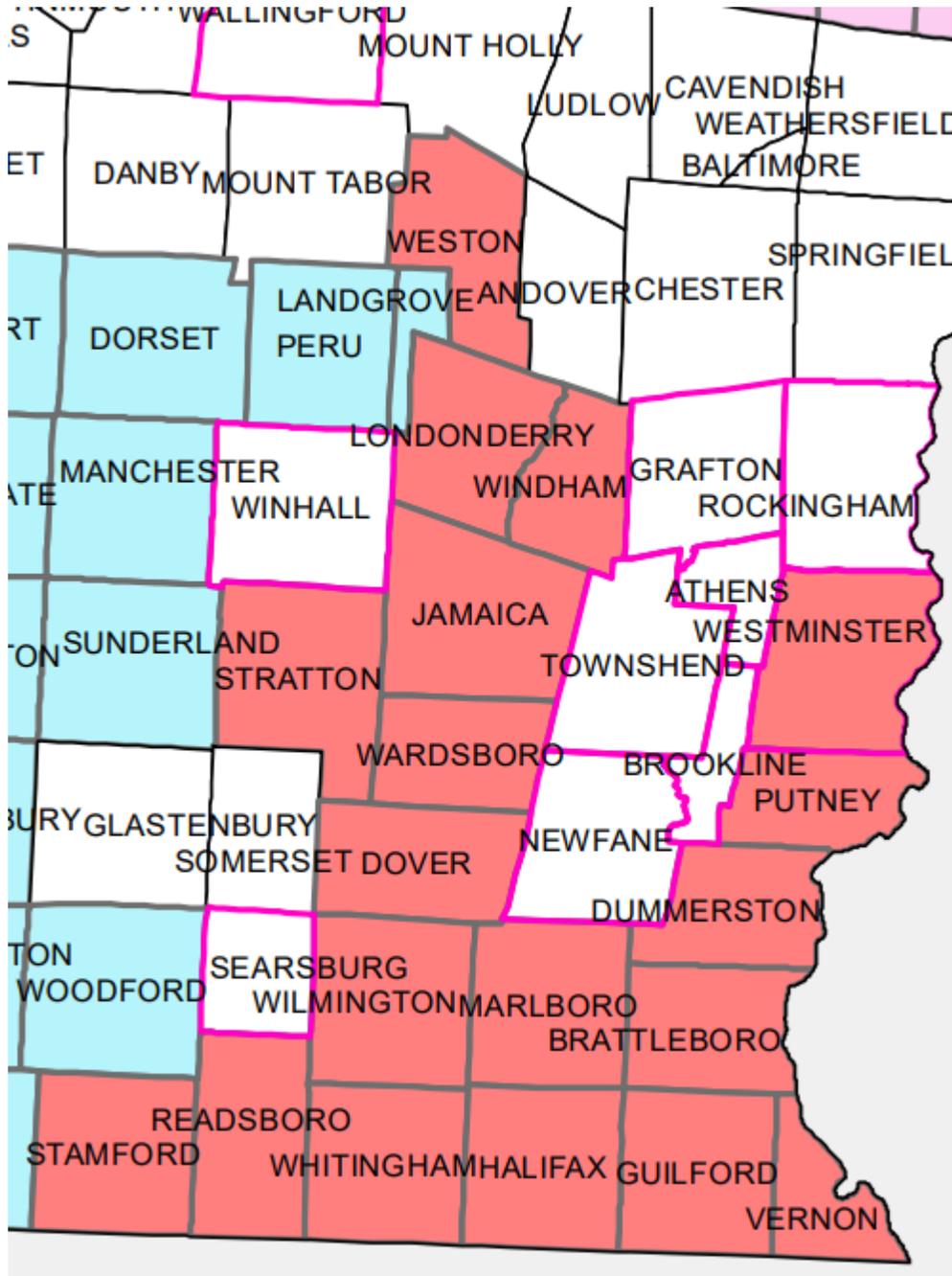
Rob Fish
Rural Broadband Technical Assistance Specialist
Vermont Department of Public Service
802-522-2617 (mobile)
robert.fish@vermont.gov

DV Fiber

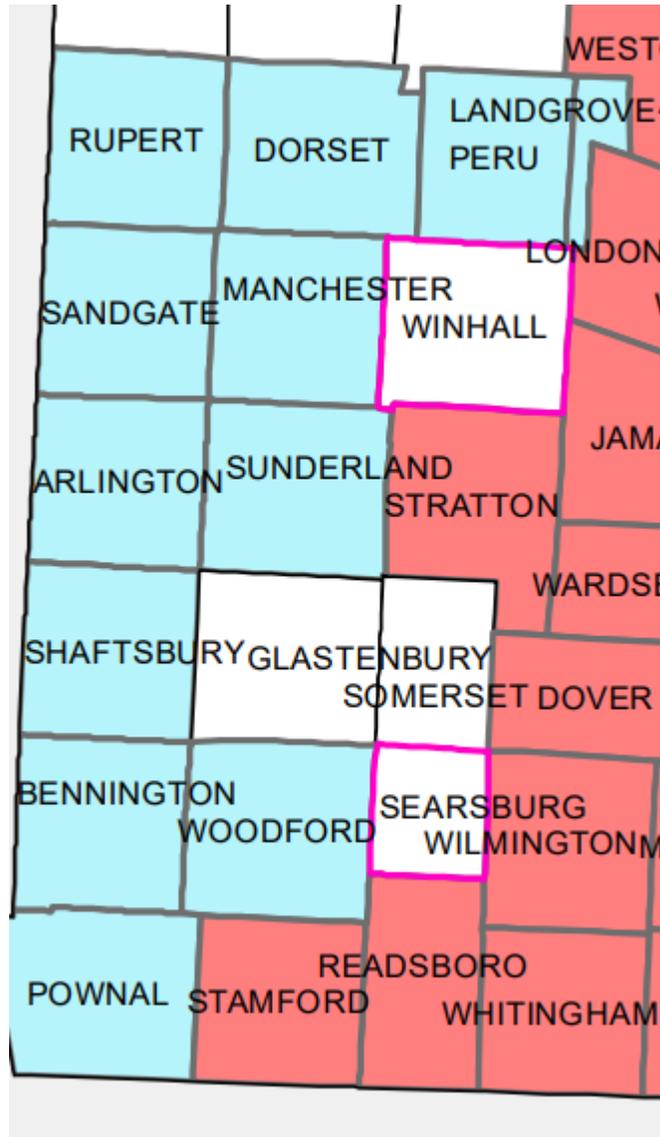
- Formed April 9, 2020, with 5 towns
- Grown to 19 towns in 3 Counties
- Created a governing board, leadership team, vendor committee, communications, and finance committees
- Completed a Feasibility Study. Business plan will be finalized early next year
- Explored collaborating with utilities and other partners to bid in the FCC Rural Development Opportunity Fund reverse auction
- Assisting in gathering information on telehealth, remote learning needs, and potential wi-fi hot spot locations
- Retained legal services, created a website, and newsletter
- Applied for funding from Northern Borders to complete a pole study and engineering study for the entire district.
- Awarded grants from the Vermont Community Foundation Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation, and Public Service Department
- Created a joint committee to explore collaborating with SoVT CUD

<https://dvfiber.net/>

19 Towns



Southern Vermont CUD



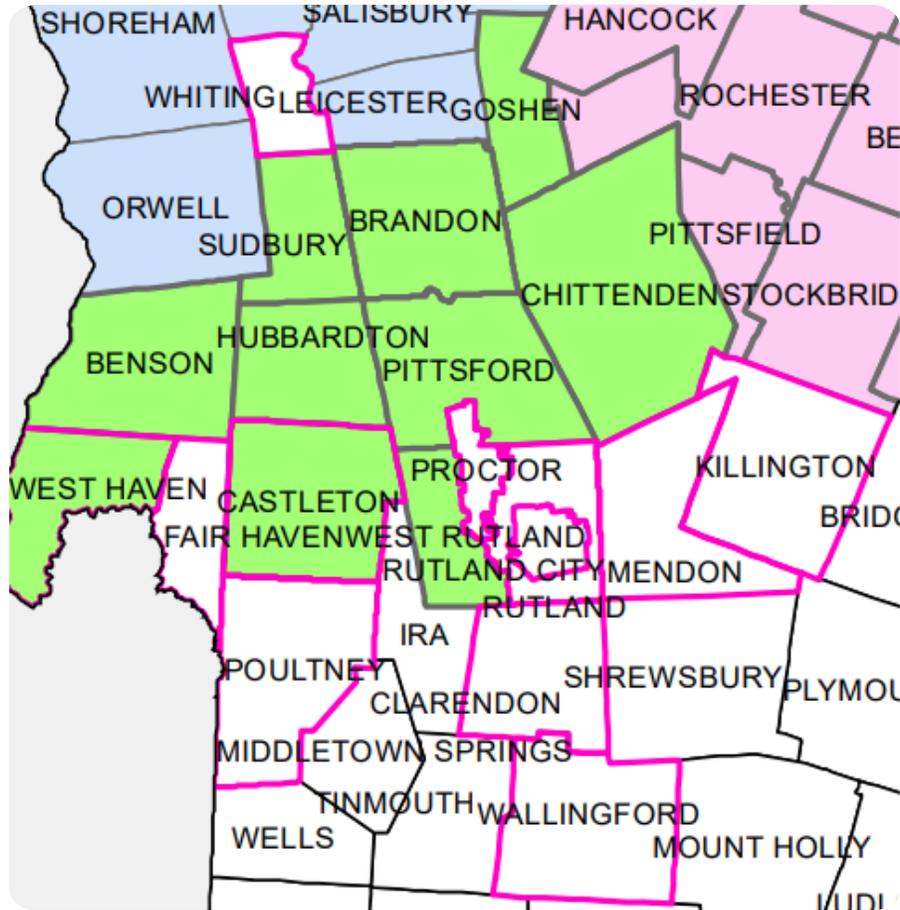
- Formed March 3, 2020 by town meeting vote of twelve towns in Bennington County
- Completed a feasibility study via the Broadband Innovation Grant, which recommended exploring operational partnerships with the Deerfield Valley CUD
- Commissioned a focused four-town pole survey of the district's most underserved municipalities as a necessary first step toward understanding existing infrastructure and responding to connectivity challenges related to telehealth and remote learning.
- Secured dba trade name, Catamount Fiber, for forthcoming fiber-to-the-premises market operations
- Conducting a two-county business plan; embarking on a robust pre-subscription campaign; and relying on personnel from the Bennington County Regional Commission for expanded assistance

<https://sovtcud.net/>

13

(Note: Londonderry also a member)

Otter Creek CUD



- Formed in July 2020, created governing board and executive committee, now 10 towns.
- Feasibility Study nearly complete
- Awarded 3 grants: 2 Vermont Community Foundation grants and the CARES Act funding.
- Coordinated the identification of multiple hotspot needs throughout the Rutland Region and shepherded the award of 11.
- Retained legal services and created a website
- Developing an Outreach, Clearinghouse, and Case Management Tool and Communications Strategy for the coordinated identification of internet connectivity needs and outreach to the public and dissemination of State, Federal, and local resources to support this need.

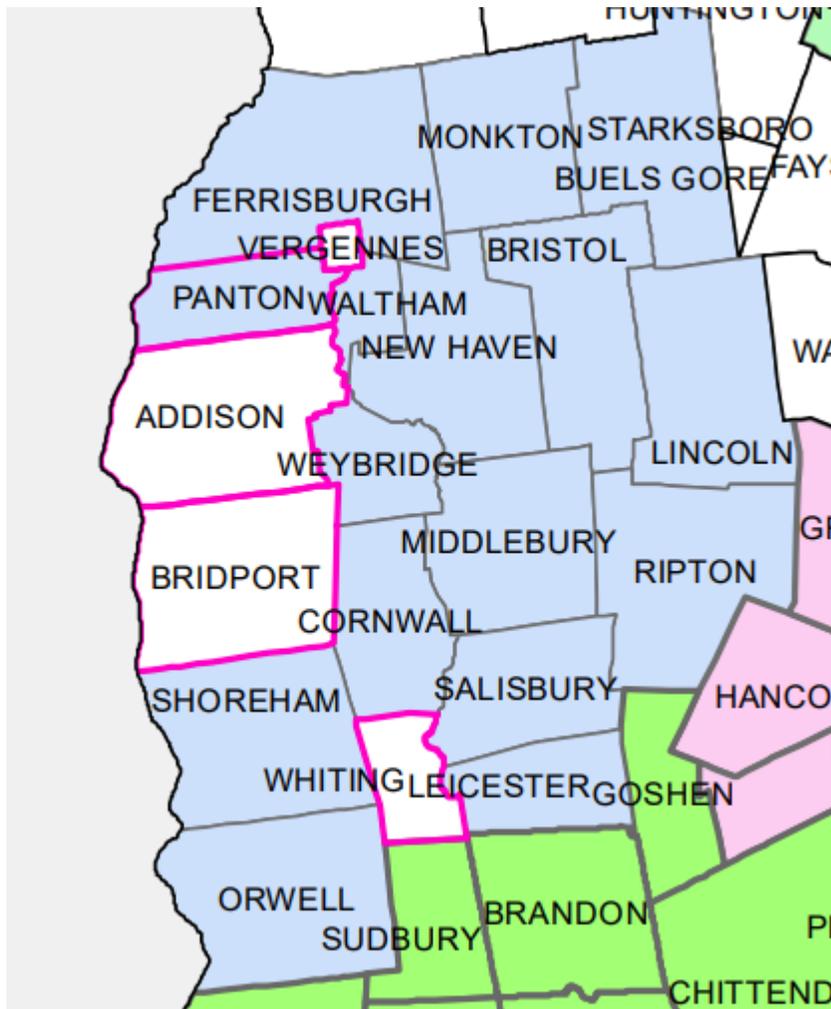
<https://www.townofbrandon.com/otter-creek-communications-union-district/> (temporary)

10 Towns

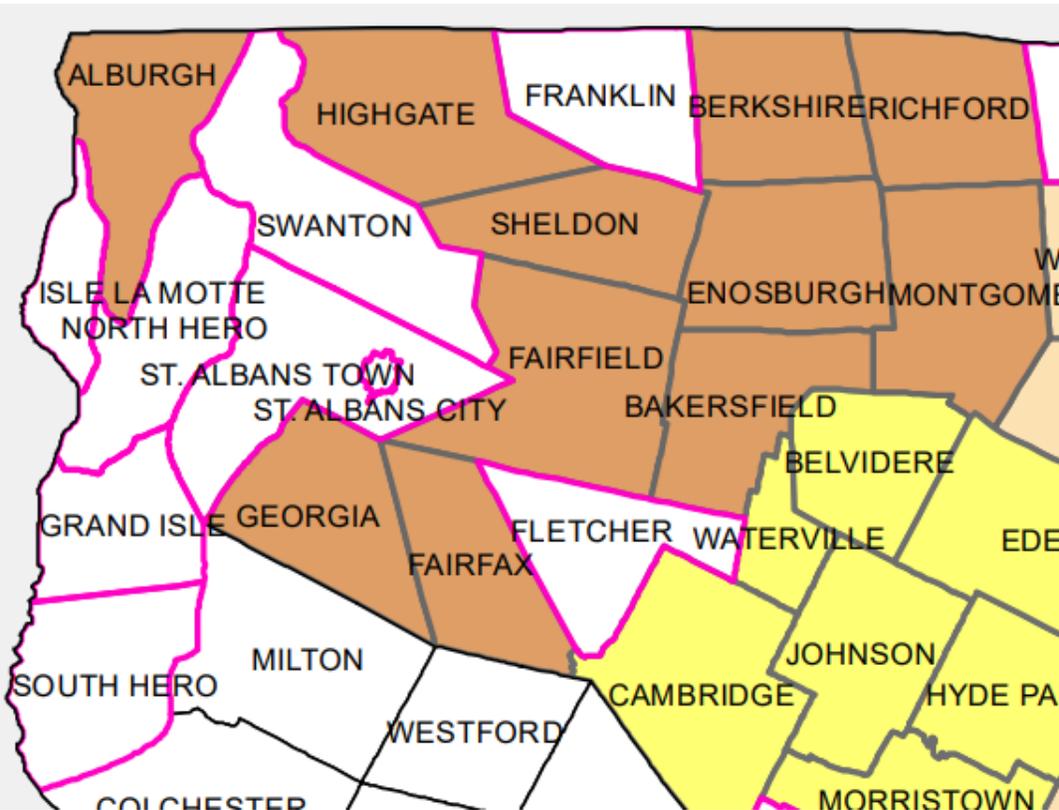
Addison County CUD

- Addison County CUD, 16 towns, created October 1, 2020
- Created governing board and elected Executive Committee officers, including chair, vice-chair, three at-large delegates, treasurer and clerk
- Engaged an attorney who reviewed all CUD organizational documentation for accuracy and compliance with Vermont's open meeting law and Title 30, Chapter 82 enabling CUDs
- Engaged consultant to perform Feasibility Study (in progress)
- Engaged website and marketing specialist to build a website, create and distribute introductory marketing piece (in progress)
- Exploring a WISP project in a member town

(website coming soon)
16 Towns



Northwest CUD

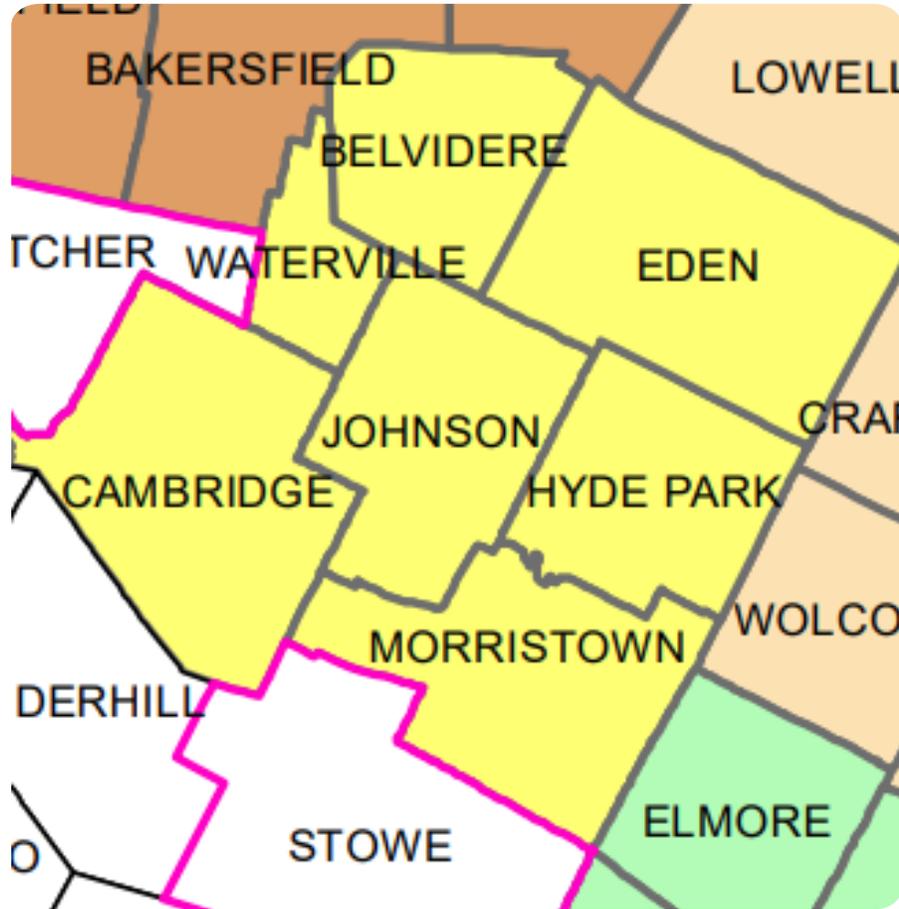


- Incorporated, created a governing board
- Grew to eleven municipalities in just 4 months
- Created a website detailing vision, mission and goals
- Supporting the deployment of 10 new wi-fi hotspots in the district.
- Surveying existing internet access and broadband needs across the district
- Coordinating with the Northwest Regional Planning Commission to conduct a feasibility study and business plan for Northwest VT.
- Met with local ISP's and municipalities outside Vermont to learn about different business models

<https://www.nwcud.com/>

11 Towns

Lamoille FiberNet

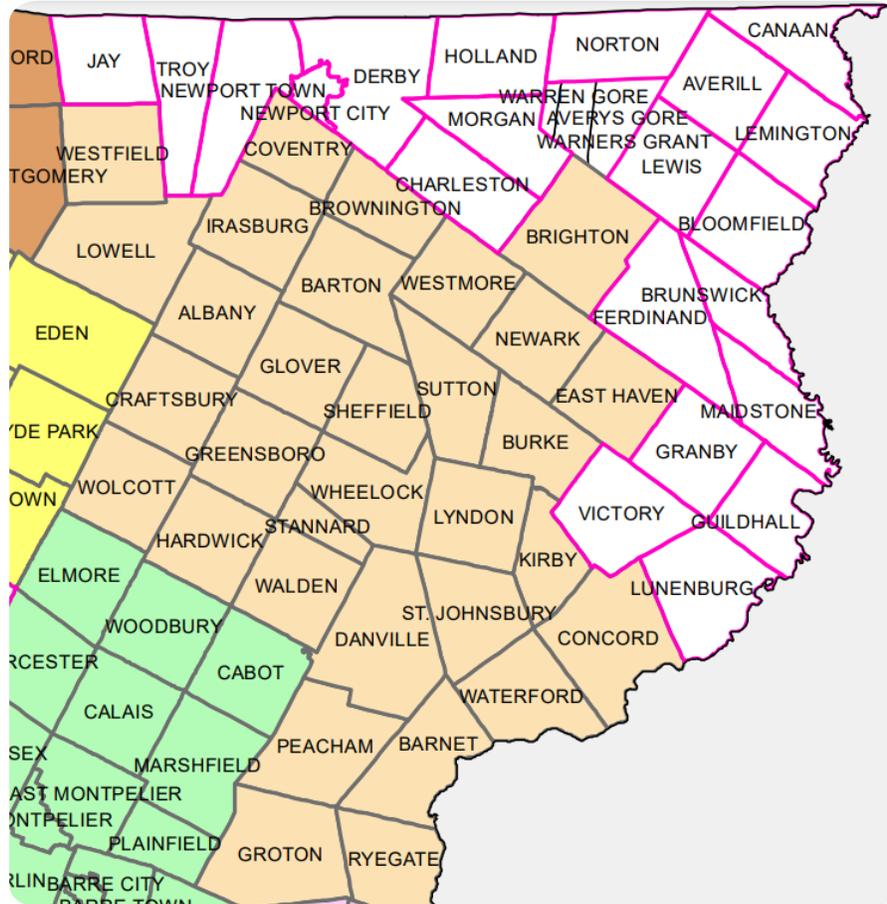


- Formed on July 14, 2020
- Created a solid organizational foundation:
- Developed Bylaws, Governance Policies, and Website, and provided Board training.
- Hired a project manager and a bookkeeper.
- The Governing Board and Committees (Executive, Technology and Marketing & Communications and Website) met 34 times.
- Completed a feasibility study with the Broadband Innovation Grant funding awarded to the Lamoille County Planning Commission.
- Launched a focused make-ready study and utility pole assessment for three out of seven-member towns to better understand telehealth and remote learning needs.
- Reached out to schools and healthcare providers and applied for funding to increase connectivity for students.

<https://lamoillefiber.net/>

7 towns

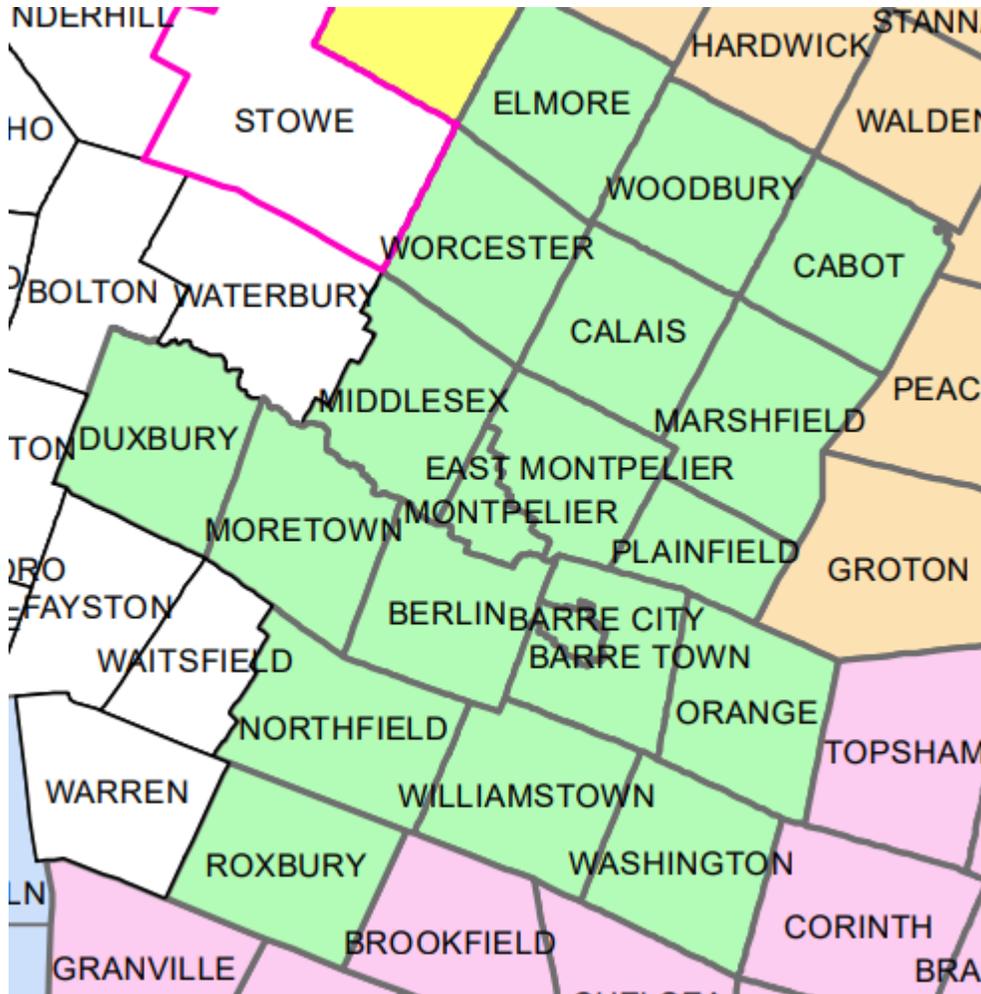
NEK Community Broadband



- Created standing Finance and Technology Committees
- Adopted a Statement of Mission, Service Goals, Operating Principle. Approved a Hybrid Public-Private Operator model
- Conducting a feasibility study and business plan.
- Hired a part-time Project Manager, Bookkeeper/Clerk and Administrator/Treasurer. Hired Christine Hallquist of Hyde Park as part-time Project Manager.
- Project with Kingdom Fiber to fund customer portion of fiber connections for up to 100 underserved addresses in Albany, Craftsbury, Greensboro, Hardwick and Irasburg.
- Commencing construction of a 7.67 mile fiber network in the town of Concord. Tilson Technology will be the ISP. NEK Community Broadband will own the network.

<https://nekbroadband.org/>
32 Towns

CV Fiber

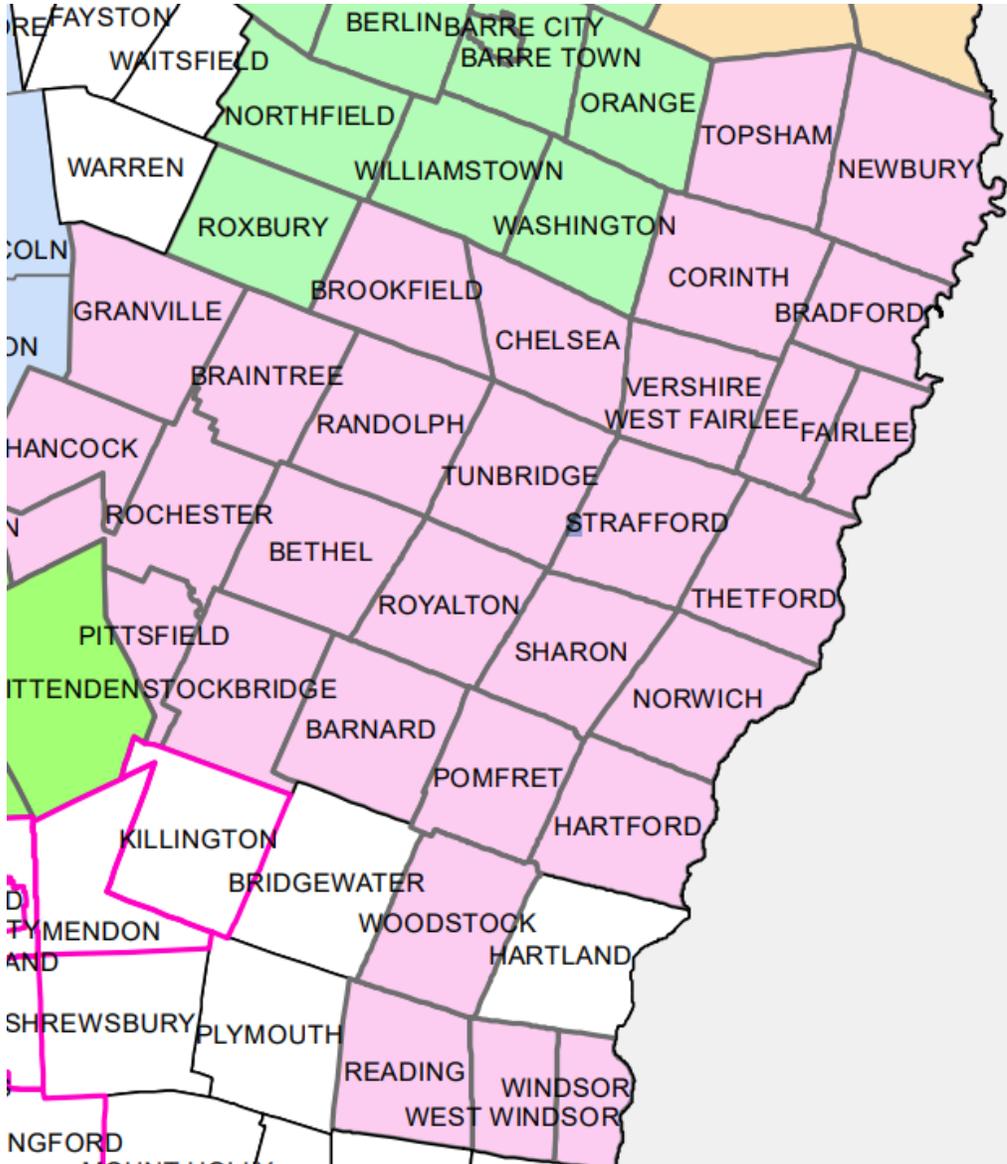


- Created in 2018
- Expanded to 20 towns
- Completed a feasibility study & our business plan
- Will complete joint fiber projects with ECFiber and Waitsfield Champlain Valley Telecom to reach a total of approximately 100 locations
- Conducting a districtwide outreach/communications campaign to advertise CVFiber & share information about available connectivity programs
- Applying for a VEDA loan early next year to start construction

<https://cvfiber.net/>

20 Towns

EC Fiber



- Admitted 8 new towns for a total of 31 members
- Built an additional 294 miles of network, reaching 1,285 miles of an estimated 1,976 miles total
- Serving 5,700 customers by year-end, up from 4,239 at the end of 2019
- Completed installation of conduit at 13 trailer parks in the district located on "lit" network lines and are continuing to complete work for individual mobile homes in the district.
- Decided to go ahead with the high-tech "pole harvest" for 8 new towns to significantly accelerate the buildout. Not funded with CRF.
- Building all of the Fairlees, Bradford, and Windsor west of I-91 in 2021.
- Selling an additional \$12 million of municipal bonds with an anticipated closing in early December.

<https://www.ecfiber.net/>

31 Towns (Note: Washington is also a member)