

Northern Forest News Digest

September 26 - October 10, 2024

COMMUNITY & ECONOMY

Vermont leads the nation in median household income gains

10.4.24 - Vermont - Peter Hirschfeld

Vermont saw the nation's highest increase in median household income last year, and economists say it's tough to pinpoint the exact reasons for the jump.

[Vermont Public Radio](#)

Disaster unemployment benefits available for Vermonters affected by late July storm

10.3.24 - Vermont - Kristen Fountain

Under the declaration, individuals living, working, or scheduled to work in Caledonia, Essex, and Orleans may be eligible – including independent contractors, self-employed individuals, and agricultural workers.

[VTDigger](#)

How this artist's Cosmic Portal may reconnect you with nature

9.23.24 - New York - Julia Botero

Cosmic Portal incorporates LED lights into layers of wood that rhythmically change colors in response to the electrical impulses of plants. That artwork now has a permanent home at the Adirondack Experience: The Museum of Blue Mountain Lake.

[North Country Public Radio](#)



50 Donor Challenge Success!

Thank you to everyone who stepped up in September to help us meet the challenge of 50 donors to the Northern Forest Fund for the month! 62 donors contributed, making critical investments possible in Northern Forest communities. It's not too late to take part in the Northern Forest Fund. [Make your donation today to help the fund reach the \\$30 million milestone before the year ends.](#) Thank you!

RECREATION & TOURISM

Black Mountain in Jackson moves toward co-op ownership

10.6.24 - New Hampshire - Paula Tracy

As the state's ski industry gears up for the upcoming winter season, the focus is on snowmaking investment after a rainy past season and an effort to find a new path forward for its oldest ski area.

InDepthNH.org

Bridging the outdoors: Diversifying the Adirondack experience

10.4.24 - New York - David Escobar

Adirondack museum provides beginner's guide to outdoor recreation at "Xperience for All" event.

[Adirondack Explorer](#)

Out and about: Groups to study trail accessibility

10.4.24 - Vermont - Liz Sauchelli

A \$644,000 Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative Community grant will be used to form a Vermont Trail Accessibility Hub, an online database that will compile trail assessments from across the state, as well as resources on how to build accessible trail and grant funding opportunities.

[Valley News](#)

Lake Placid area adding major downhill mountain bike competition

10.2.24 - New York - Mike Lynch

Fresh from hosting its first World Cup mountain biking races, the Lake Placid region is adding another discipline to mix next year. The resort area will host downhill for the first time in addition to cross-country races next year.

[Adirondack Explorer](#)

Do you have what it takes to paddle the longest canoe trail in the U.S.?

9.23.24 - Regional - Maria Aldrich

Nearly 18 years ago, a 740-mile water trail known as the Northern Forest Canoe Trail (NFCT) was established. This iconic trail weaves through captivating wilderness and is the longest-established canoe trail in the United States.

[Adventures on Si](#)

Plans for long-distance mountain bike route in Vermont take step forward with 1st piece of 'Velomont' trail

9.16.24 - Vermont - K. Fiegenbaum

Once complete, the multiuse trail is expected to run 485 miles from Massachusetts to the Canadian border, connecting existing mountain biking networks alongside backcountry huts

and small-town hostels.

[VTDigger](#)

FORESTS & FOREST PRODUCTS



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Register now for the [Mass Timber Maine Conference](#) hosted by the Portland Museum of Art. This event will bring together industry leaders, artists, innovators, and visionaries to explore the future of construction with mass timber technology.

In new plan for Worcester Range, state attempts to balance logging and preservation

10.7.24 - Vermont - Emma Cotton

Some environmentalists say the plan includes too much logging; timber harvesters wanted to see more land designated for timber harvests; and researchers say the plan achieves a variety

of goals.

[VTDigger](#)

Global investors bet big on Adirondack forests for carbon credits

10.6.24 - New York - Chloe Bennett

A review of public documents shows the carbon market's investment in the Adirondacks covers at least 428,000 acres, about 7% of the park.

[Adirondack Explorer](#)

Aurora logging plan 'incompatible' with headwaters easement

10.4.24 - New Hampshire - Paula Tracy

The “carbon-first” approach to managing the 145,000-acre Connecticut Lakes Headwaters tract rather than logging represents a breach of contract, members of the Coos County Commission charge.

[InDepthNH.org](#)

Wolcott community forest boosts trail access

10.3.24 - Vermont

A new 735-acre community forest within walking distance of the Wolcott town center is now permanently protected. The new public land is directly next to Wolcott Elementary School, Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, and the proposed Velomont Trail.

[News & Citizen](#)

Hancock Lumber plans to buy Tiny Homes of Maine

10.2.24 - Maine - Laurie Schreiber

Limited Access

Hancock Lumber, headquartered in Casco, plans to expand its manufacturing capabilities with the acquisition of Tiny Homes of Maine, in the Aroostook County town of Dyer Brook.

[Mainebiz](#)

Maine land bank's first test will be redeveloping East Millinocket site

10.1.24 - Maine - Laurie Schreiber

Limited Access

Maine's first statewide land bank was established in 2022. The former Great Northern paper mill in East Millinocket is the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority's first project.

[Mainebiz](#)

Related: [Maine's new land bank authority is officially up and running](#)

Residents want more time for permit process of proposed Lyndon biogas plant

9.27.24 - Vermont - Emma Cotton

While developers have pitched the project as environmentally sustainable, locals and environmentalists want a more in-depth permitting process for the technology, which is new to the United States.

[VTDigger](#)



Use Your Forest Story to Connect with Customers

The Center is offering a third round of the [“Telling Your Forest Story Marketing Series” in the fall of 2024](#). If you are interested in participating, please contact Business Advisor **Amy Robinson** to learn more about the program. Space is limited to 10 businesses, apply by Friday.

POLICY & LAND USE

Vermont utility regulator recommends tax in place of clean heat standard

10.4.24 - Vermont - Emma Cotton

In a status update to lawmakers, the Public Utility Commission, charged with developing a clean heat standard, said the program “does not make sense for Vermont,” but lawmakers say there isn’t enough information yet to draw a conclusion.

[VTDigger](#)

Related: [Public Utility Commission says Vermont should pivot from clean heat standard proposal](#)

Big Tupper ski facility land auction set for Nov. 7

10.4.24 - New York - James Odató

Investors interested in purchasing the former Big Tupper ski center and property around it in Tupper Lake, a total of about 240 acres, will have a bidder’s chance on the wooded acreage on Nov. 7 in Malone.

[Adirondack Explorer](#)

Housing is big in NH governor race

9.26.24 - New Hampshire - Josh Rogers

With the cost of buying or renting a home in New Hampshire more expensive than ever, affordable housing is a top issue in state political races this year.

[New Hampshire Public Radio](#)

BROADBAND

Research shows fiber broadband to rural communities boosts income, business investment

10.1.24 - Vermont

A new peer-reviewed economic study released by the nonprofit Center on Rural Innovation reveals that fiber-fed broadband experiences enabled by local providers in rural communities significantly boost income, entrepreneurship, and business investment.

[VermontBiz](#)

EVENTS

[Heritage Trail - Lancaster Work Days](#)

The Town of Lancaster Conservation Commission, Northern Forest Center, and Appalachian Mountain Club are teaming up to restore the Heritage Trail through Lancaster, NH! Join us on **October 19 and 26, 9:00-3:00 PM** to help bring this 12-mile segment to life. [Registration is required.](#)