

Vermont Public Radio

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Quarterly Issues / Program List

3rd Quarter - July 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015

The Community Issues listed in this section of the report aired during local VPR newscasts. This listing is illustrative of the programs aired on VPR and is not meant to be an exhaustive listing of programs responsive to issues of importance to the community. A daily programming and local newscast schedule is provided at the end of this report.

Issue	VPR News Story Narrative	Air Date(s) & Length
Agriculture	The boom and bust cycle of milk prices continues to affect Vermont dairy farmers. The past year has been a prime example. Prices have dropped from historic highs to a level at or below the cost of producing the milk. As VPR's Steve Zind reports, despite the falling prices a new insurance program designed to protect farmers hasn't kicked in.	07/10/15 at 4:04 & 5:50 pm (3 min); 07/11/15 at 8:04 am (1 min)
Agriculture	Cool spring and early summer temperatures and an abundance of rain in May and June have combined to limit vegetable production in the state so far. But there are some positives for gardeners and farmers. VPR's Ric Cengeri has more.	07/25/15 at 8:04 am & 12:04 pm (1 min)
Agriculture	The Northeast Kingdom is getting a windfall from the U.S. Department of Agriculture-- 8 million dollars in grants to dozens of recipients. VPR's Charlotte Albright reports.	09/04/15 at 5:50 pm (1 min); 09/05/15 at 12:04 pm (1 min)
Arts & Culture	The Bennington Museum has been gifted a collection of artwork and artifacts more significant than any received in the last decade, including works by Grandma Moses and Jules Olitski.	07/27/15 at 5:04 & 5:50 pm (3 min)
Business & Economics	The long-time IBM micro-electronics plant in Essex Junction...now OFFICIALLY has a new owner. The sale to California-based GlobalFoundries was finalized following federal approval of the deal. Senior Vice President Mike Harrison says the Vermont facility is responsible for products and processes that can't be duplicated at the company's other plants.	07/01/15 at 4:04 & 5:50 pm (1 min); 07/02/15 at 6:44 & 7:44 am (1 min)
Business & Economics	A Burlington-based social network garnered national attention when it launched last year. Now, the company is hoping to expand with a new app and expanded features. Ello emerged in 2014 as an indie alternative to Facebook and about a million users logged on.	07/03/15 at 5:04 pm (1 min)
Business & Economics	What will the town of Richmond look like in 10 years? How about 20? Planners in town say the answer to those questions can be influenced by the input of the town's residents. As VPR's Annie Russell reports, the town has launched a year-long effort to develop a 20-year vision for the town.	07/12/15 at 10:04 am (1 min)
Business & Economics	Burlington is hoping to be finished demolishing nearly a-hundred homes near the Burlington International Airport by September. But it's still unclear what exactly will happen to that land.	07/14/15 at 5:04 & 5:50 pm (1 min); 07/15/15 at 7:44 am (1 min)
Business & Economics	Hearings on a large mixed-use development proposed for Exit 4 on Interstate 89 continued Friday in Randolph. The proposed Green Mountain Center at Exit 4 is striking in its size: one-point-one million square feet.	07/19/15 at 8:04 & 9:04 am (1 min)
Business & Economics	Part of the 600-million dollar economic re-development plan underway in the Northeast Kingdom...is now back on track. Vermont's "Department of Financial Regulation" is giving developers the conditional okay to seek new investors to help upgrade a ski resort in Burke.	07/22/15 at 5:04 & 5:50 pm (3 min); 07/23/15 at 6:04, 7:20 & 8:20 am (1 min)
Business & Economics	Efficiency upgrades can save home owners a lot of money. But as VPR's Nina Keck reports, nonprofits can benefit from tightening up as well.	07/25/15 at 8:04 am; 07/26/15 at 8:04 am; 07/27/15 at 6:04, 7:04 & 8:20 am (1 min)

Business & Economics	Waterbury-based Keurig Green Mountain says it will cut approximately 200 jobs in Vermont. VPR's Steve Zind reports.	08/06/15 at 5:50 pm (3 min); 08/07/15 at 6:44 am (1 min)
Business & Economics	Today Governor Peter Shumlin joined officials from the "Vermont Department of Labor" to highlight a new survey focused on how young people view the state's job market. VPR's Annie Russell has more.	09/24/15 at 5:50 pm (1 min); 09/25/15 at 6:20, 7:20 & 7:44 am (1 min)
Education & Schools	After a long hiatus, college students could soon return to downtown Lebanon, New Hampshire. River Valley Community College, based in Claremont, is in the process of buying the building formerly occupied by Lebanon College. The site has been vacant since Lebanon College abruptly closed its doors last winter because of financial problems.	07/04/15 at 8:04 am (1 min)
Education & Schools	Today Vermont's Agency of Education released results from a new standardized test kids took earlier this year. But as VPR's Sam Gale Rosen reports, the state says it needs more data to figure out exactly WHAT the results mean...	08/24/15 at 5:50 pm (3 min); 08/25/15 at 6:20, 7:20, 7:44 & 8:20 am (1 min)
Elections	We got an early peek at campaign fundraising with some new Vermont state filings today. And there are some signs the 20-16 race for governor could be the most expensive in Vermont history.	07/15/15 at 5:05 5:50 pm (3 min); 07/16/15 at 6:04, 7:20 & 8:44 am (1 min)
Elections	Former Wall Street executive Bruce Lisman is one of many Vermonters who are flirting with a run for governor. But Lisman is different than other potential candidates - because he isn't formally aligned with a major political party.	07/20/15 at 5:50 pm (3 min); 07/21/15 at 6:44, 7:20 & 8:44 am (1 min)
Elections	There's a big change at the top of the Vermont Democratic Party as it heads into the next election cycle. Connor Casey is the party's new executive director.	07/23/15 at 4:04 & 5:50 pm (3 min); 07/24/15 at 6:44 & 8:04 am (1 min)
Elections	A new national poll out today shows Bernie Sanders is gaining ground in his presidential campaign. VPR's John Dillon reports.	07/30/15 at 5:50 pm (3 min); 07/30/15 at 7:20 am (1 min)
Elections	Democratic Presidential candidate Bernie Sanders drew the largest crowds of the 20-16 primary over the weekend. Despite these huge rallies, Sanders faced some controversy on the trip over his record on race and civil rights. VPR's Bob Kinzel reports.	08/11/15 at 5:50 pm (3 min); 08/12/15 at 6:44 am (3 min)
Elections	Vermont's longest-serving attorney general says he will NOT seek another term in office next year. VPR's Peter Hirschfeld has more.	09/28/15 at 5:50 pm (1 min); 09/29/15 at 7:04 & 7:44 am (1 min)
Energy / Fuel Costs	The Upper Valley village of Tafts-ville....will not be getting a solar farm, after all. The developer has decided not to buy the land. And as VPR's Charlotte Albright reports - there's now a NEW buyer.	07/02/15 at 4:04 & 5:50 pm (1 min); 07/03/15 at 7:04 & 7:44 am (1 min)
Energy / Fuel Costs	Vermont Gas Systems reported to state regulators this week that its Addison County gas pipeline is on time and on budget. The project has come under heavy criticism in the past year after cost estimates went from \$86-million dollars to \$154-million dollars.	07/18/15 at 9:04 am (1 min); 07/19/15 at 10:04 am (1 min)
Energy / Fuel Costs	An underwater power line planned for Lake Champlain has won key support from two Vermont state agencies. And as VPR's John Dillon reports, it promises to pay the state hundreds of millions of dollars for using Vermont as its pathway to the market.	07/21/15 at 4:04, 5:04 & 5:50 pm (3 min); 07/22/15 at 6:20, 6:44, 7:44 & 8:44 am (1 min)
Energy / Fuel Costs	A new survey released by the AARP shows the majority of Vermont voters oppose the decisions of the state agency that's supposed to represent them in utility cases.	07/24/15 at 4:04 & 5:50 pm (1 min)
Energy / Fuel Costs	Vermont Gas Systems has been hit with a \$100 thousand dollar fine for failing to report cost overruns in a timely fashion. V-P-R's Steve Zind has more.	07/31/15 at 4:04 & 5:50 pm (3 min)
Energy / Fuel Costs	This is the time of year many people begin to shop for heating oil. And first prices are low right now. In Vermont, they average \$2.30 per gallon. Matt Cota [Coat-uh] , executive director of the Vermont Fuel Dealers Association says they're the lowest in six years.	09/16/15 at 5:50 pm (3 min); 09/17/15 at 6:04 & 8:04 am (1 min)
Environment	Vermont wants to step up its regulatory role of radioactive materials used in the state. But that does NOT involve new state oversight of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power plant. VPR's John Dillon reports.	07/16/15 at 5:50 pm (3 min); 07/17/15 at 6:44 & 7:44 am (1 min)

Environment	A major law aimed at improving water quality has Vermont officials preparing for a big push to cut the state's share of water pollution. But some of those efforts have been underway for decades. VPR's Taylor Dobbs takes us to Vergennes tonight - that's where the city and the state have spent years trying to stop raw sewage from overflowing into Otter Creek...while they've also been ALLOWING sewage overflows.	07/17/15 at 5:04 & 5:50 pm (3 min)
Gov't & Politics	Next year's legislative session will be the last for Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin. Last month, the Democrat announced he will NOT be seeking reelection in 2016. Now, some prominent lawmakers are hoping to get a marijuana legalization bill to his desk before he leaves office. VPR's Peter Hirschfeld reports.	07/07/15 at 5:50 pm (3 min)
Gov't & Politics	The long-time leader of the Vermont Workers' Center is leaving his post to focus on political advocacy. Josh O'Gorman with the Vermont Press Bureau has our story.	08/02/15 at 9:04 am (1 min)
Health Care / Public Health / Medicine	Vermont has poured millions of dollars into addiction-treatment programs in recent years. Now, a new federal grant will try to keep people from using drugs in the first place. VPR's Peter Hirschfeld has more.	07/06/15 at 5:04 & 5:50 pm (3 min)
Health Care / Public Health / Medicine	The American Civil Liberties Union in Vermont is raising concerns about the constitutionality of the state's new education law. The group is now threatening legal action - unless lawmakers make some changes. VPR's Bob Kinzel reports.	07/08/15 at 4:04, 5:04 & 5:50 pm (3 min); 07/09/15 at 6:04 am (1 min)
Health Care / Public Health / Medicine	Each year in Vermont, doctors write about 500-thousand prescriptions for opioids. But it isn't always easy for providers to find out what drugs their patients are already taking, before adding a new prescription. As VPR's Charlotte Albright reports, Vermont just received a grant that will make information like that easier to collect and access.	09/09/15 at 5:50 pm (3 min)
Schools & Education	A confidential memo obtained by Vermont Public Radio shows the Agency of Education is still trying to decipher a school reform law passed by state lawmakers earlier this year. The ambiguity centers on how to deal with the 93 Vermont towns where parents get to decide WHICH school their children attend.	07/29/15 at 5:04 & 5:50 pm (3 min); 07/30/15 at 6:20, 6:44, 7:44 & 8:44 (1 min)
State Finances	This afternoon the panel that oversees Vermont's \$4 billion pension fund...rejected calls to sell off its shares in oil and coal companies. But proponents of fossil fuel di-vestment say they'll continue pushing the state to cut financial ties with the industries...they blame for climate change.	07/28/15 at 5:50 pm (3 min); 07/29/15 at 6:04, 7:44 & 8:44 am (1 min)
Town Meeting / Town Issues	Voters in Bristol will head to the polls on Tuesday to weigh in on a plan for a new fire station. VPR's Melody Bodette reports.	07/05/15 at 8:04 & 10:04 am (1 min)
Town Meeting / Town Issues	The weather may be warm now, but in just a few months temperatures will drop, and homeless people will be looking for refuge. As VPR's Charlotte Albright reports, organizers are trying to win approval for a shelter in St. Johnsbury.	07/11/15 at 12:04 pm (1 min)
Town Meeting / Town Issues	Vermont's Veterans' Cemetery is getting larger and adding some features designed to help people find friends or loved ones buried there. A new grant that will fund the improvements.	07/26/15 at 8:04 am (1 min)
VT History / VT Culture	For the first time, there is now a chapter of the "National Association for the Advancement of Colored People" - in Vermont. And even though Vermont is one of the LEAST racially diverse states in the country - organizers say the [N-double-A C-P] has plenty to focus on when it comes to discrimination. VPR's Steve Zind has more.	07/09/15 at 5:04 & 5:50 pm (3 min); 07/10/15 at 6:20, 6:44 & 7:44 am (1 min)
Wildlife, Fish & Forests	Burlington officials closed two beaches today after blooms of blue-green algae were spotted in Lake Champlain. State Toxicologist Sarah Vose says the bacterial blooms sometimes produce toxins that can affect the liver and nervous system.	07/13/15 at 4:04, 5:04 & 5:50 pm (3 min); 07/14/15 at 6:44, 7:20 & 7:44 am (1 min)
Wildlife, Fish & Forests	Town officials in Franklin have closed a public beach on Lake Carmi [CAR-my]. That's after algae blooms were spotted on the lake.	08/19/15 at 5:50 pm (3 min); 08/20/15 at 6:20, 7:20 & 8:04 am (1 min)