

Vermont Public Radio

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Quarterly Issues / Program List

4th Quarter - October 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016

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 |
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| Agriculture | A group of Vermont investors has reached a tentative agreement to back a hemp farm in Hardwick that is producing pills with a high concentration of a substance claimed to have a number of health benefits, including blocking seizures in epileptics. | 10/28/16 at 4:04 & 5:44 pm (3 min); 10/29/16 at 8:04 am (1 min) |
| Business / Economics | Developers who want to build one of Vermont's largest solar projects in Brattleboro have filed for a their state permits. VPR's Howard Weiss-Tisman has this report. | 11/21/16 at 6:44 & 8:04 am (3 min) |
| Education & Schools | Vermonters who have school choice are pushing back hard on new rules that the State Board of Education is proposing. At a state board hearing in Manchester Monday, more than 700 people came out to fight the rule changes, which they said would force unfair demands on private schools that accept public money. VPR's Howard Weiss-Tisman has this report. | 12/13/16 at 5:44 pm (3 min) |
| Elections | All this week we're examining the results of the VPR Poll, conducted by the Castleton Polling Institute. The survey of 579 likely voters suggests that Hillary Clinton will carry Vermont easily in this year's presidential race. But as VPR's Peter Hirschfeld reports, it's unclear whether Clinton will provide a lift to the Democrats running for statewide and local offices. | 10/19/16 at 5:44 pm (3 min) |
| Elections | Donald Trump did not carry Vermont in this month's election. But he did receive a significant number of voters. In fact, Trump carried 61 of Vermont's 240 towns. You can see a list of those towns online at vpr.net and see which Vermont towns that supported Barack Obama four years ago supported Donald Trump this year. Also, this week we're profiling some of the Vermont voters who cast their ballot for the president-elect. Each had their own reasons for doing so. | 11/30/16 at 5:44 (3 min) |
| Energy / Fuel Costs | A VPR investigation found that Green Mountain Power customers will be billed millions of dollars over the next year for company spending that wasn't properly documented. As VPR's Taylor Dobbs reports, Vermont regulators aren't enforcing rules that were put in place to protect customers from paying for poorly documented costs. | 10/12/16 at 5:44 pm (3 min); 10/13/16 at 6:04, 6:44 & 8:04 am (1 min) |
| Environment | The Department of Environmental Conservation has uncovered new sources of two dangerous chemicals that were used in manufacturing. Commissioner Alyssa Schuren says the state is looking for P-F-O-A and P-F-O-S in landfills in southern Vermont that may have received waste from a suspected source in Bennington. | 12/5/16 at 6:04, 7:04 & 8:04 am (1 min) |
| Gov't & Politics | Vermont's incoming Attorney General says he's prepared to stand up to the federal government. Speaking today on Vermont Edition, Democrat TJ Donovan [DUN-uh-vin] said he's concerned about the anti-immigration rhetoric coming from president-elect Donald Trump. And Donovan says he'll protect immigrants in Vermont in his new role as AG. | 11/16/16 at 4:04 & 5:44 pm (1 min) |
| Gov't & Politics | A study committee created by Vermont's legislature is recommending lawmakers create a public retirement program. That would be for Vermont workers whose employers don't offer one. VPR's Steve Zind reports. | 12/29/16 at 5:04 pm (1 min); 12/30/16 at 6:04, 7:04 (1 min) |

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| Health Care / Public Health / Medicine | The future of Vermont Health Connect, the state's health care exchange, is a key issue in this year's race for governor. Republican candidate Phil Scott says he has no confidence that the exchange will ever work properly and he wants to dump it and have Vermont join the Federal system. But Democratic hopeful Sue Minter says moving to a federal model might be bad for Vermont consumers and could end up costing the state more money. | 10/03/16 at 5:44 pm (3 min); 10/04/16 at 6:44 & 8:04 am (1 min) |
| State Finances | A state program created more than two years ago to fund improvements to internet service has yet to award any money. VPR's Steve Zind reports on why it's taken so long to start the program. | 10/04/16 at 5:44 pm (3 min); 10/05/16 at 6:44 & 7:44 am (1 min) |
| Town Meeting / Town Issues | Questions over whether communications between public officials violate the state's open meeting law aren't unusual. But the internet has opened up a myriad of ways to communicate. Electronic communications was an issue in Strafford last year when a resident claimed a series of emails exchanged by selectboard members was a violation of the open meeting law. | 11/7/16 at 7:20 & 7:44 am (3 min) & 12:04 pm (2 min) |
| VT History / VT Culture | In Vermont, a June blizzard blackened leaves on the trees; frosts and drought in July and August killed or stunted crops. It's said that many left the state because of the hardships of that year. But others stayed and, in some instances, did more than survive. In Bethel, residents built the town's first church and public building. As VPR's Steve Zind tells us, it was consecrated on Christmas Eve 200 years ago. | 12/23/16 at 5:44 pm (3 min) |
| Wildlife / Fish / Forests | While rifle hunting season is still a week away, around 7-thousand young Vermonters will be getting the chance to hunt for deer this weekend. Every year, kids under 15 get the first chance at shooting a deer during Youth Hunting weekend. The Department of Fish and Wildlife says the event gives kids a chance at a successful hunt...and also helps them collect information on the health of the deer herd. VPR's Melody Bodette reports. | 11/3/16 at 5:44 pm (3 min); 11/4/16 at 6:20, 6:44 & 8:04 am (1 min) |