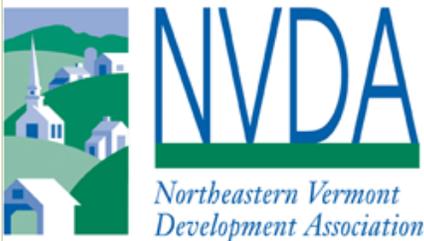


VERMONT WORKING LANDS ENTERPRISE INITIATIVE

Northeastern Vermont Development Association (NVDA)

St. Johnsbury, VT



Formed in 1950, at the same meeting where U.S. Senator George D. Aiken coined the term "Northeast Kingdom" to describe Caledonia, Essex and Orleans counties, the Northeastern Vermont Development Association has served the people, municipalities and businesses of this region as both the Regional Planning Commission and Regional Development Corporation.



NVDA plans to help launch the Northern Forest Center's Model Neighborhood Wood Heat Initiative in the Northeast Kingdom. As a component of a multi-state effort, the Initiative demonstrates the viability of high efficiency wood pellet boilers using sustainable, regionally-produced fuel to retain wealth, create jobs, reduce net carbon dioxide emissions and advance forest stewardship.

Building on its previous experience, the Center is replicating this effort to create a cluster demonstration of high-efficiency heating systems in multiple commercial building types to promote the wide-ranging benefits of this technology. WLEB funding would subsidize installations in seven working lands businesses.

WLEB funding would help strengthen Vermont's working lands by:

1. Diversifying low grade wood markets for landowners by creating demand for locally produced wood pellets, and
2. Directly support working lands businesses transition to wood heat, saving them 40% in fuel costs and improving overall business profitability.