



April 2026 - eBulletin

Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission

The UVLSRPC newsletter returns this month as spring slowly approaches the Upper Valley. The work never stops here at the RPC -- the eBulletin has everything you need to stay in the loop!

In this issue:

- **UVLSRPCorner** - Learn about an ongoing staff project!
 - **Registration Open for Food Waste Diversion Training for Transfer Station Workers**
 - Register Now for School Chemical Safety Trainings
 - GSI Walking Tours
 - And more!
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UVLSRPCorner

*Join us every month in the **UVLSRPCorner** to learn more about our projects and the staff behind them!*

This month: Transformative Planning Grant

Late last year, UVLSRPC completed our work as part of a cohort of New Hampshire RPC's that received a Transformational Planning Grant from the NH Community Development Finance Authority. The goal of the project was to advance novel planning activities that could increase local housing supply. UVLSRPC's research and analysis considered how a bulk purchasing strategy of modular housing units could bring down the construction costs of new housing and make efficient use of limited water and sewer infrastructure.

The Transformational Planning Grant was instrumental in orienting UVLSRPC's housing work towards new goals and directions. The added resources from CDFA allowed the RPC to extend the work that began with our Keys to the Valley project and Regional Housing Needs Assessment. The intent of this project was to better understand how our region can manage necessary water and sewer infrastructure through coordinated development strategies across **high-value clusters** in each community.

UVLSRPC will continue refining the lessons learned through the Transformational Planning Grant and apply those lessons to our existing housing work.

If you would like to be involved in the RPCs housing work, contact John Haffner (jhaffner@uvlsrpc.org) or Renee Theall (rtheall@uvlsrpc.org).

More UVLSRP News

UVLSRPC Staff Met with Congresswoman Maggie Goodlander

Three of UVLSRPC's staff had the wonderful opportunity of meeting with Congresswoman Maggie Goodlander this month. Executive Director, Meghan Butts and Regional Planner John Haffner toured Lebanon's recently reconstructed Central Fire Station along with Congresswoman Maggie Goodlander, and other city staff and elected officials. Following the tour, attendees met to discuss topics of housing, childcare, transportation, aging infrastructure, and other community priorities in Lebanon. The conversations included John explaining the Keys to the Valley project, which has identified approximately three square miles in each community that are most suitable for future housing development, including infill. The visit reinforced the importance of continued collaboration across local, state, and federal partners.



Meghan and UVLSRPC Housing Navigator, Renee Theall, were able to meet with Congresswoman Goodlander again at the Connecticut River watershed forum to discuss topics of rural regions and municipal barriers to access to federal funding, the importance of collaboration and capacity building, and how NH and VT rural farming communities are not the same as large farms in other parts of the country.

UVLSRPC staff continues to build these relationships with local, state, and federal officials as they are important to long-term regional planning. Attending important events such as these fosters collaboration with other regional partners to provide a voice for small New England communities.

UVLSRPC Data Collection

UVLSRPC offers data collection and assessments of various roadway infrastructure for towns. Assessment criteria was created in collaboration with NH Department of Transportation (**NHDOT**), UNH T2, the Regional Planning Commissions, and other State agencies. Data collected can be utilized to create long-term maintenance plans, understand forecasted improvement costs, identify priority vulnerable infrastructure, as well as be used to support grant applications.

UVLSRPC currently offers data collection and assessment for:

- Stream Crossings/Culverts
- Drainage Culverts
- Pedestrian Facilities (e.g. crosswalks, sidewalks, bike lanes)
- Pavement Road Surface Management and Maintenance Forecasting

UVLSRPC has some funding to provide cost share opportunities for member communities on a first come first served basis. Please reach out to Ian Garland at igarland@uvlsrpc.org for more information!



Check Out the UVLSRPC YouTube Page

Find past webinars, recordings, trainings and more on our YouTube page. There are playlists from our School Chemical Safety series, our Food Scraps and Composting Series, Stormwater Management and Household Hazardous Waste. [Click here](#) to view!

Emergency Preparedness

If you'd like to sign up to receive alerts about hazardous weather in your area, visit [NH Alerts](#) and enter your email and/or phone number.



Transportation

Moving the Needle: April 20 Cross-Sector Traffic Fatality Strategy Session

The UNH Technology Transfer Center is hosting a cross-sector **Traffic Safety Strategic Planning Session on Monday, April 20, 2026**, at NHDOT (7 Hazen Dr in Concord, NH). This working session will focus on defining a set of meaningful, collaborative actions to address the most significant problem areas identified during this year's summit and reinforced by last year's discussion.

The work done on April 20th will focus on these four areas:

- Speeding and aggressive driving
- Impaired driving
- Distracted driving
- Rural access to post-crash emergency care

Candid dialogue and collaborative problem-solving will help to identifying practical actions that stakeholders can take in the next 24 months towards reducing traffic fatalities. Your professional perspective is important.

Session details:

April 20 | 9a-11a | NHDOT Hazen Drive (Coffee and donuts will be provided)

Please RSVP to Marilee.Enus@unh.edu, if you're available and interested in participating in this strategic action session.

Also, if you're interested in attending any of the roadway safety educational opportunities UNH T2 has planned this year, [details and registration info are found here](#).

USDOT Request for Information: Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success Initiative

The USDOT has issued a [request for information \(RFI\)](#) on rural and Tribal transportation needs as a part of the Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success Initiative (ROUTES).

This notice requests comments on unmet transportation infrastructure needs in rural communities, barriers that rural communities face in addressing those needs, and opportunities for ROUTES to improve its services and technical assistance to support rural and Tribal stakeholders.

Comments can be submitted [here](#). Comments are due by April 26, 2026 at 11:59 pm EST.

If you have any further questions about Rural Road Safety in your community, contact Tim Josephson at tjosephson@uvlsrpc.org or Ian Garland at igarland@uvlsrpc.org

Making Connections: A 4-Part Mobility Workshop for Older Adults

Making Connections is for people interested in helping solve transportation and mobility challenges facing older adults. Take a journey through time to understand why many of us are car dependent and what can be done to improve options for those who no longer drive or who drive less. John Haffner, UVLSRPC's Regional Planner, Mark Bradley, Bugbee Senior Center's Executive Director, and Jacopo Montobbio, Vital Communities' Transportation, Climate & Energy Program Associate will be facilitating this workshop.

Participants will learn key concepts of healthy and age-friendly community design, share their own experiences, get tips on mobility options in the Upper Valley, and dig into ideas for advocacy and action.

This 4-part mobility workshop will be held Mondays in June, from 10am-2pm at the Kilton Library in West Lebanon. This workshop will start Monday, June 1st and continue on the following dates:

- Monday, June 1. 10:00-2:00. Workshop 1: Why We Drive.
- Monday, June 8. 10:00-2:00. Workshop 2: What choices do we want as we age?
- Monday, June 15. 10:00-2:00. Workshop 3: Becoming a mobility advocate.
- Monday, June 22. 10:00-2:00. Workshop 4: Field Trip & community observations

For more information, please visit [Bugbee's Senior Center webpage here](#).

To register, [click here](#).

Registration Now Open for Trans-NH Annual Bike Ride

The Trans-NH Bike Ride is a fully supported 1, 2, or 3-day exploration of New Hampshire roads, scenery and fire stations. Its mission is to raise funds and awareness for people living with muscular dystrophy, ALS, and related neuromuscular diseases. This is your opportunity to explore different areas of beautiful and scenic New Hampshire supported by a 5-star volunteer crew, comfortable accommodations, and a welcoming community that rides for a great cause.

The ride will take place over the course of June 26-28th.

- Day 1 will start in Beecher Falls VT, and end in Littleton, NH.
- Day 2 will start in Littleton, NH and end in West Lebanon, NH.
- Day 3 will start in West Lebanon, NH and end in Concord, NH.

To learn more about the route details and register, [click here](#).

Environment and Energy

UVLSRPC and NHDES Food Scraps Diversion Workshop

The UVLSRPC is partnering with NHDES and the Town of New London to offer a workshop for transfer station workers! Paige Wilson from NHDES and Maureen Prohl from New London will discuss how you can divert food waste at your transfer station facility in this "choose your own adventure" format. Resources will be shared along the way to set you up for success, regardless of the "adventure" you choose. This workshop is eligible for SWOT training hours.

This workshop will take place on Wednesday, May 13th from 1-3:30pm at the Kearsarge Regional School District, located at 114 Cougar St in New London.

Space is limited to 30 people!

To learn more and register, scan the QR code on the flyer below, or click this link here:
<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/r4ajaxc>

Contact Grace Jackson at gjackson@uvlsrpc.org for any questions.

Divert Food Waste at Your Transfer Station: Helping you “Choose Your Own Adventure”



UVLSRPC is partnering with Paige Wilson from NHDES and Maureen Prohl from New London to provide a workshop for food waste management options that can take place at a town's transfer station! This workshop is eligible for SWOT training hours.



Wednesday, May 13th from 1-3:30pm
Kearsarge Regional School District SAU 65
114 Cougar Court, New London, NH 03257

Register Here!



<https://tinyurl.com/btk8b5rw>

**LIMITED TO
30 SEATS**

Questions? Contact Grace Jackson, gjackson@uvlsrpc.org

School Chemical Safety Trainings

The Commission is working with Becky Andersen of Hazardous Materials Consulting in Iowa again for school chemical safety training. This is a great opportunity for your schools to obtain the training now required to create and implement chemical hygiene and safety plans. Becky is a talented and experienced trainer with hands-on experience working with hazardous materials in schools and industry. The feedback from previous participants included comments to bring Becky back—and that's what we're doing.

We will have several webinars to teach school staff about chemical safety basics and how to write and enforce the State-required Chemical Safety Hygiene Plans. All schools are required to have these plans to address chemical safety in all classrooms, not just the laboratory. This includes many art classrooms and custodial closets. An additional webinar will address PCBs and vapes in schools.

To learn more about the school chemical safety webinars and to register, please click here or go to <https://tinyurl.com/SchChemSafety>. All webinars will be recorded for future training tools.

Live webinars will be the following Tuesdays from 10:00 – 11:30 AM.

1. Documentation Requirements – 7/14/26
2. Writing the Chemical Hygiene & Lab Safety Plan (Part 1) – 8/4/26
3. Writing the Chemical Hygiene & Lab Safety Plan (Part 2) – 8/18/26
4. Implementing Classroom Standard Operating Procedures – 9/15/26
5. PCBs and Vapes/E-Cigarettes in Schools – 9/29/26

School Chemical Safety Webinar Series

PROVIDED BY THE UPPER VALLEY LAKE SUNAPEE
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

MARCH 10 | MARCH 24 | APRIL 7 | APRIL 14 | JULY 14

AUGUST 4 | AUGUST 18 | SEPTEMBER 15 | SEPTEMBER 29

ALL WEBINARS WILL BE HELD 10 - 11:30 A.M., INCLUDING Q&A
REGISTER AT [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/SCHCHEMSAFETY](https://tinyurl.com/schchemsafety)



Upper Valley Earth Week Open House

Welcome your neighbors for this year's Earth Week Open House! Residents and businesses in 10 Upper Valley communities invite their neighbors to come see and discuss the earth-friendly strategies they've adopted in order to do less harm to their families, their communities, and the planet. Neighbors talking to neighbors is the best way to learn from each other, including what was easy, what was hard, and how they saved money.

Saturday and Sunday, April 25-26, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pick the sites you'd like to visit, and drop in any time during those hours.

The Upper Valley Earth Week Open House 2026 is sponsored by Sustainable Lebanon, Sustainable Woodstock, Sustainable Hanover, the Norwich Energy Committee, Vital Communities, and the Lebanon Energy Advisory Committee.



FREE Upper Valley Earth Week **OPEN HOUSE**

Saturday & Sunday, April 25-26

10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Plus select tours all week -- April 20-26

31 homes & businesses in 10 towns invite you over!

Pre-register to get the Open House guide:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/upper-valley-earth-week-open-house-tickets-1981871369617?aff=oddtcreator> or use QR code below

Chat with neighbors & business owners about how and why they made earth-friendly improvements.

organized by Sustainable Lebanon, Sustainable Hanover, Sustainable Woodstock, the Norwich Energy Committee, Vital Communities, and the Lebanon Energy Advisory Committee



Green Stormwater Infrastructure Workshops with Walking Tours

The Commission is offering two workshops to discuss and view green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) options for our municipalities. The first will be in New Hampshire and the second will be in Vermont as part of the bi-state Connecticut River Watershed stormwater project. Our consultant, Weston & Sampson will be providing the workshop in partnership with the Town of Hanover DPW and Mount Ascutney Hospital.

They will be discussing green stormwater infrastructure (GSI): What is it? Why and when would you use it? Is it better than traditional stormwater management practices? How do you monitor and maintain GSI sites? How can towns encourage the use of GSI?

The presentation and Q&A will be followed by a walking tour of the GSI structures on-site at the facilities and an adjoining housing project in Hanover. The events are free and open to all municipal staff and board members. This will be especially helpful for department of public works and highway personnel, select boards, and planning boards.

The first workshop and walking tour will be at the Black Senior Center in Hanover on May 12, 2026 from 1:00 – 2:30 pm. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/GreenStormwaterInfra>.

The second workshop and walking tour will be at the Mount Ascutney Hospital in Windsor, VT on May 19, 2026 from 1:00-2:30 pm. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/GreenStormwaterInfra2>.

These workshops will be followed by webinars for municipal regulations to encourage GSI in new development later in the year.

This event is provided by the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission in partnership with the Two Rivers-Ottawquechee Regional Commission and the Mount Ascutney Regional Commission with funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Contact Victoria Davis for more information: vdavis@uvlsrpc.org.

High Hazards at HHW Collections Webinar

How do you prepare for the unexpected at a household hazardous waste collection—or simply at your waste facility? Join us for a webinar on High Hazards at HHW Collections. Becky Andersen will present the webinar. Becky is a brilliant scientist, chemist, and experienced hazardous waste consultant for schools, municipalities, and industry.

Come learn about:

- Protection for staff and volunteers to prevent hazards from splashes, leaks, and spills.
- Common high-risk corrosive/caustic chemicals and how they can hurt! Think muriatic acid, pool oxidizers, naval jelly, and battery acid.
- Common high-risk toxins like pesticides, water reactive rodenticides and the acute and chronic inhalation risks.
- The unusual stuff that are rare but awareness can save your life. This can include either, collodion, military munitions, and peroxidizable solvents.

Please join us to hear about the trickier, high hazard wastes coming to an HHW event or to your facility.

When: Tuesday, May 5, 2026 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

Register here as a guest through the website of partner organization NAHMMA (North American Hazardous Materials Management Association). Note that the times on the registration page are in MT.

		High Hazards at HHW Collections Webinar A Training Workshop for for Facilities Operators
Date & FREE Registration Tuesday, May 5, 2026 1:00–2:30 PM ET (the time on registration page will be MT) Our partner NAHMMA (North American Hazardous Materials Management Association) will host this webinar. Please register on their website as a guest at https://nahmma.starchapter.com/meetinginfo.php?id=253&ts=1772831433	How to prepare for the unexpected at collections? • Protection for staff and volunteers: PPE to have on hand and primary exposure route concerns (splashes, leaking containers, spills) • Common high-risk corrosive/caustic chemicals: How they can hurt (muriatic acid, pool oxidizers, naval jelly, battery acid) • Common high-risk toxins: Pesticides, water reactive rodenticides and how they can hurt (acute and chronic inhalation risks) • The unusual stuff: High hazards that are rare, but HHW folks need to be aware of (ether, collodion, military munitions, peroxidizable solvents)	
For information: Victoria Davis Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission 603-448-1680 vdavis@uvlsrc.org		Trainer/Speaker: Becky Wehrman-Andersen, MEd Environmental & Safety Compliance Leader Engaging, Responsive, Experienced  Hazardous Materials CONSULTING

Everyday Toxic Products Webinar

Ever wonder what's in the products you buy in a department store, grocery store, or drug store? If you haven't, maybe you will want to after watching this webinar.

Becky Andersen is a brilliant scientist, chemist, and teacher. Becky will take us through some of the most common products we purchase on a regular basis. From the PFAS on food wrappers, pesticides in antimicrobial soap, flame retardants in furniture and children's clothing, phthalates in fragrances, solvents in hair and nail products, to metals in some cosmetics like lipstick. These are not healthy chemicals or products to put on our skin.

Please join us to hear about the products that impact us every day. Learn tools to take with you to the store to select healthier products.

When: Tuesday, May 19, 2026 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

Register here as a guest through the website of partner organization NAHMMA (North American Hazardous Materials Management Association). Note that the times on the registration page are in MT.

		Everyday Toxic Products Webinar A Training Workshop for for Consumers and Educators	
		How do we know what to purchase in the store? Everyday products can contain PFAS (Food Wrappers), Pesticides (Antimicrobial Soaps), Flame Retardants (Children's Jammies), Phthalates (Fragrance, Hair Care), Solvents (Hair and Nail Products), and Metals (Cosmetics). This webinar will address: • Just how toxic is "toxic"? • Understanding safety data sheet information. • Some simple chemical properties in our everyday products—halogens and solvents. • Resources to select safer options.	
Date & FREE Registration Tuesday, May 19, 2026 1:00—2:30 PM ET (note the registration page will be in MT) Our partner NAHMA (North American Hazardous Materials Management Association) will host this webinar. Please register on their website at https://nahmma.starchapter.com/meetinginfo.php?id=254&ts=1772831453		Trainer/Speaker: Becky Wehrman-Andersen, MEd Environmental & Safety Compliance Leader/Chemist Engaging, Responsive, Experienced  Hazardous Materials CONSULTING	
For information: Victoria Davis Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission 603-448-1680 vdavis@uvlsrc.org			

Universal Waste & Waste Bans: Free Training for Transfer Station Operators & Solid Waste Personnel

UVLSRPC will provide a free training and lunch on Thursday, June 4 from 10 AM to 12:30 PM at the Grantham Town Offices. Trainers will be Julie Ashton, NHDES Hazardous Waste Certification Program Leader and Tara Albert, NHDES Solid Waste Operator Training & Certification Coordinator. We will be in the meeting room accessed from the lower parking lot behind the building. Everyone is welcome with registration.

The training will focus on universal waste including aerosol cans, automotive antifreeze, cathode ray tubes (CRTs) found in TVs and monitors, fluorescent lamps, and other mercury-added products such as button cell batteries, thermometers, thermostats, and tilt switches. There will also be a discussion about the solid waste banned from landfills including wet-cell batteries (since 1991), leaf & yard waste (since 1993), electronic devices (since 2007, updated 2024), mercury-added products (since 2008), commercial/institutional food waste (since 2025), and lithium-ion batteries (since 2025) including batteries for electric bikes, lawncare equipment, toys, and portable electronics like phones and laptops.

Tara and Julie will also provide time for an open solid waste topic Q&A discussion.

Community Happenings

NBRC Projects In the UVLSRPC Region - Valley Regional Hospital's Workforce Housing Renovation

Valley Regional Hospital in Claremont was awarded a \$500,000 Catalyst grant from the Northern Borders Regional Commission in 2023 to renovate the historic nurses' dormitory on their grounds and convert them into 8 housing units for visiting nurses. UVLSRPC, as the Local Development District (LDD) for the region, administered the grants and worked with Valley Regional through the process. The construction finished up last fall and all the spots were immediately filled.

This project added much-needed workforce housing for traveling nurses on a short-term basis with the average stay being 1-3 months. This opens up more housing in the region for longer term tenants. This also helps to provide quality medical care for people in the Claremont area by alleviating the challenges travel nurses face when coming to our region.

Find more information on the grant here: <https://vrh.org/northern-borders-workforce-development-grant/>, see pictures from the developer here: <https://fulcrum-nh.com/renovation-complete-fulcrum-creates-temporary-housing-for-valley-regional-hospital/> and see the news article featuring Congresswoman Goodlander here: <https://goodlander.house.gov/media/in-the-news/wcax-goodlander-tours-new-housing-for-claremont-medical-workers/>

NBRC funds projects in the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York to enhance community, economic vitality, and industry growth, centered in three areas: Catalyst (for transformative projects to stimulate economic growth), Forest Economy (to support the forest-based economy and grow innovation), and Timber For Transit (using forest economy products for transportation infrastructure projects).

If your municipality or organization is interested in funding available from the Northern Borders Regional Commission, visit nbrc.gov or talk to Tim Josephson at UVLSRPC tjosephson@uvlsrpc.org.



Borrow an E-Bike!

The Upper Valley E-Bike Lending Library is a free selection of four e-bikes of assorted styles and retail costs that has one- and two-week residencies in towns and workplaces throughout the Upper Valley. While the e-bike library is stationed at a particular lending location, people can try multiple bikes at "Demo Days" or sign up to borrow a single bike overnight to see how an e-bike might fit into your lifestyle. Book a bike [here](#)!

Full Commission Meeting Dates FY 2026

- **April 8, 2026**



If you have any questions or concerns, please call Chris at 603-448-1680.

**Upper Valley Lake Sunapee
Regional Planning Commission**
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