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Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation Quarterly Newsletter



All,

As we head into the winter months, with its short days and cold weather, we're collectively reminded to be thankful for what we have, despite the challenges of today. In this manner, it would be an understatement to say that we are thankful for our work with partners like you, who are committed to making Chittenden County a great place to live, learn, work, and play. The past few months at GBIC have been extraordinarily busy and productive, and we've been so glad to share them with you. Please see some of the highlights from our past quarter below.

Happy Holidays to you and your family!

Yours,
Frank, Sam, Curt, and Alex

Small Business Technical Assistance Exchange

Earlier this month, the RDCs of Vermont launched the extremely popular Small Business Technical Assistance Exchange ([SBTAE](#)) program. By the end of the day on which it launched, the program was oversubscribed for Chittenden County employers, and the program as a whole has over 500 applications from across the state.

This program will help small business awardees connect with local providers and grant funding to pursue one-time projects in support of their growth, and the community's overwhelming interest in the program is indicative of the necessity of supports like these for Vermont's continued economic success.

Fall Key Employer Visits



GBIC organized a number of successful key employer visits this fall. Frank attended the opening of [Beta Technologies](#)' state-of-the-art production facility in South Burlington in October with ACCD Secretary Lindsay Kurrle, while this November Alex conducted a day of visits with [Autumn Harp](#), [Blodgett Ovens](#), [Micro Wire Transmission Systems](#), and [The Essex Experience](#) with partners from Vermont's federal delegation, the Vermont Department of Economic Development, the Lake Champlain Chamber, and the Town of Essex. The Vermont Economic Progress Council also got to spend time in Chittenden County, visiting key employers [Rhino Foods](#) and [Twincraft Skincare](#) with Sam and Alex.

These visits remind us why we are consistently amazed at the diversity and success of Chittenden County and Vermont! Thank you to the many stakeholders who helped facilitate these visits.

Chittenden County Regional Affairs Committee

Together with the Lake Champlain Chamber, GBIC has co-founded the Chittenden County

Regional Affairs Committee. This committee brings together a number of key stakeholders from the private, public, and non-profit sectors to advocate for regional issues. The committee will be especially focused this legislative session on promoting public safety and housing - Two of Vermont's primary and inextricably linked issues.

Regional Project Prioritization List

Sam has been busy assembling this year's Regional Project Prioritization ([RPP](#)) list in collaboration with our partners at the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission ([CCRPC](#)). The RPP list formally names the highest priority projects for Chittenden County, giving them additional credibility when applying for funding opportunities at the local, state, and federal levels. Applications for this current list are closed, but mid-year revisions of the list can occur, so please reach out to Sam (sam@vermont.org) if you have a project you would like considered for the future.

NYTimes Reporter Ben Casselman Visits GBIC

Along with the Vermont Futures Project's Kevin Chu, New York Times reporter Ben Casselman attended GBIC's October Board meeting to discuss Vermont's economy. Ben's subsequent article concerns Vermont's aging workforce and potential avenues for addressing it, including building more housing and attracting workers to Vermont, positions supported by the [Futures Project](#). You can read Ben's article [here](#).

EDA Tech Hub Designation

GBIC has been participating in the creation of a regional [EDA Tech Hub](#) with partners like UVM, GlobalFoundries, and the State of Vermont. The Greater Burlington region was designated as one of 31 Tech Hubs across the nation, opening the door for up to \$75 million in federal grant funding for further research into Gallium Nitride (GaN) semiconductor technology.

VEPC Annual Retreat

Alex attended VEPC's annual retreat last month, where leaders in economic development had the opportunity to discuss the Vermont Employment Growth Incentive ([VEGI](#)) program and plan for its future. The VEGI program offers incentives to employers that create high-paying, benefits-providing jobs for Vermonters, and as such its future is critical to Vermont's future. As you consider ways to support economic development in Vermont, please think about expressing your support of VEGI to your legislators, who will be responsible for reauthorizing the program this year.

Funding Opportunity: Leahy Center for Rural Partnerships

The Leahy Center for Rural Partnerships has released its new [Seed Grant program](#). The

program will fund project costs associated with engaged partnerships between organizations and the University of Vermont. For-profit, non-profit, and governmental organizations may apply for the following funding tiers to support partnership efforts:

- **Capacity Grants** (Up to \$10,000) will catalyze partnership and project development. This is the entry track for organizations who have a vision for positive rural impact but need support to develop a relationship with University of Vermont partners.
- **Seed Grants** (Up to \$300,000) will fund research projects, stakeholder engagement initiatives, student internships and service-learning experiences, and business plan development for entities working to address rural challenges.

To learn more about this exciting new program, please visit the Leahy Center for Rural Partnerships' [website](#).

Heat Pump Incentives: Efficiency Vermont

Efficiency Vermont is offering up to \$2,400 off new, ducted heat pumps to both businesses and residential properties. There are additional incentives offered to Vermonters whose household income is at or below the specific income guidelines. Please click [here](#) to learn more.

CRRP Closed

Applications for the Community Recovery and Revitalization Program ([CRRP](#)) have officially closed, and the final round of grants will be decided soon. So far, the program has provided over \$31 million in grant funding to small businesses, non-profits, and municipalities to assist in their recovery and continued growth following the COVID-19 pandemic.

New 60 Main Street Sign



Last but not least, we got a new sign for our building! Thank you to Quinn Snedeker, UVM '25, our summer intern who designed it.

About GBIC:

As the certified non-profit economic development corporation serving Chittenden County, GBIC is dedicated to implementing our vision of a thriving Lake Champlain region. This includes an economic environment providing meaningful employment consistent with an uncompromised natural environment, enabling present and future generations of Vermonters to live, learn, work, and play in the Champlain Valley.

GBIC strives to attract, retain, and expand environmentally sensitive high-paying jobs in the Champlain Valley, and to initiate and support advocacy, education, and collaborative programs in promoting our Vision.

Visit gbicvt.org

GBIC Staff:



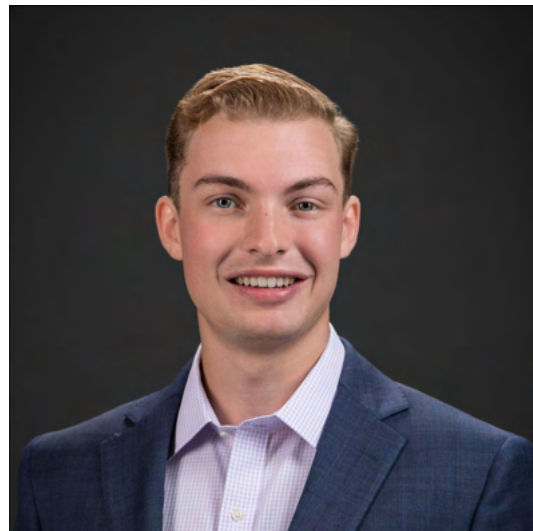
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Partners:

- [Agency of Commerce and Community Development](#)
- [Department of Economic Development](#)
- [Vermont COVID Information](#)
- [Vermont Labor Market Information](#)
- [Vermont Economic Development Authority](#)
- [Vermont Employment Growth Incentive](#)
- [Vermont Training Program](#)
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