

IS YOUR COMMUNITY READY TO BUILD AN ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEM?

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GROWING ENTREPRENEURIAL
COMMUNITIES SUMMIT
MAY 4, 2016

BURLINGTON, VERMONT



Six Principles

- 1. Encouraging economic self-sufficiency through local ownership and the maximum use of local resources ("seal the leaky bucket");**
 - 2. Equalizing the benefits and burdens of development;**
 - 3. Leveraging and recycling scarce public funds;**
 - 4. Protecting and preserving fragile environmental resources;**
 - 5. Ensuring full participation by populations normally excluded from the political and economic mainstream; and**
 - 6. Nurturing a robust "third sector" and "fourth sector" of private for-profit and private nonprofit organizations capable of working in concert with government to deliver essential goods and services**
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Framework to Develop Entrepreneurial Ecosystem

- **Political Leadership**
 - **Community Engagement**
 - **Financial Analysis and Funding**
 - **Capacity Building to Carry Out Initiatives**
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MUNICIPAL BOND FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY

\$11.3 Million Bond

- Reduced energy demand 5.7% over 20 years.
- Saves rate payers **\$11 million** per year.
- Over 25 years invested in energy efficiency.
(\$24.6M by BED & \$27.9M in matching expenditures
by its customers.)



Thanks to the energy savings generated by energy efficiency programs in 2014 alone, Burlington avoided the equivalent release of about 35,000 tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂).

VERMONT SUSTAINABLE JOBS FUND



- **The Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund, in consultation with the Vermont Agriculture Council, has written the comprehensive 10-year Farm to Plate Strategic Plan to strengthen Vermont's food system in 2011.**
- **Led to the creation of 4000 jobs over the last four years.**
- **Establishment of \$1M Working Lands Enterprise Initiative in 2012.**

LESSONS LEARNED

- 1. Vision is important, but you have to create the capacity to implement that vision.**
 - 2. Development created with principles, with a priority to Sustainability.**
 - 3. Ask who are the people in need and how do we meet their needs.**
 - 4. By articulating shared values, people feel empowered to make things happen and become unstoppable.**
 - 5. Organize and Empower groups so they all have voices.**
 - 6. Collaboration and having good partners is key. It comes down to relationships.**
 - 7. Some projects take years to come to fruition.**
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“ I think and I hope very much that maybe here in Burlington, Vermont, and as I understand, we are unique in being the only city in America that are sponsoring activities like this, and processes like this, that maybe in Burlington, Vermont we will strike a little bit of a spark, that might spread around the country.”

Mayor Bernie Sanders, Taken from the opening remarks from the *Progressive Entrepreneurship Forum*, June 30, 1985. The City laid out its approach to develop the economy over the next 25-30 years.

“Rhonda Phillips, Bruce Seifer, and Ed Antczak have written about sustainable economic and community development from a great point of view. They have actually done it. Based on their extensive experience in Burlington, Vermont, a city of 40,000 in Northwestern New England with a long history of commercial and industrial development, the three authors have put together a terrific combination of theory and practice in writing about this popular and elusive goal. This is a scholarly work and a how to manual wrapped together, and it has a happy ending. Burlington is fast becoming one of the most sustainable and livable cities on the planet.”

Howard Dean (former Vermont Governor 1991-2003)

For more detailed information,
review the book titled “Sustainable
Communities” and visit:

www.durableeconomy.com

