

# THE YANKEE PLANNER



American Planning Association  
Northern New England Chapter  
Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Northern New England Chapter of the American Planning Association

## NNECAPA Annual Conference - Hurry up!

*By Carl Eppich, NNECAPA Vice-President*

Here it is mid-August with just over a month until the NNECAPA annual meeting, this year in the beautiful and quaint coastal city of Belfast, Maine, September 24th & 25th. If you haven't already, register now, [click here](#).

We have lined up some excellent speakers for our themed, "YES WE PLAN! Seizing Opportunity" conference:

Opening the conference will be Robert Snyder, Vice President of Programs for the Island Institute. Rob will share how the experiences of island communities inform the development of sustainable, self sufficient communities.

Over Thursday lunch Uri Avin, Practice Leader for Regional Growth Management with PB PlaceMaking, will discuss the future of transportation and transit planning in Northern New England. Thursday evening the reception and awards will be held at the City of Belfast's Boat House. The reception will

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## Montreal Inaugurates Bike-Sharing Program

*By Ian Austen, Arizona APA Chapter*

When Gérald Tremblay, the mayor of Montreal, inaugurated North America's first large-scale bicycle-sharing system, an uncooperative microphone forced him to shout to the crowd in front of City Hall. Fortunately, the computer-chip based, solarpowered, WiFi-enabled base station that's the heart of the Bixi system worked flawlessly when Mr. Tremblay set off on a ceremonial first ride.

As explained at the website of the City's parking authority, which oversees the program, it works like this:

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### Special points of interest:

*Register NOW for the NNECAPA Annual Conference in Belfast - there is STILL time!*

## President's Message

*By Peg Elmer - NNECAPA President*

It's sunny, as I write this, and hot! Unlike most of the summer. We may not be ready to talk about what's coming in the fall, but this is the newsletter to bring it up in. The Maine planners have been hard at work, preparing an annual gathering for us in Belfast. Please check out the offerings and join us there September 24-25!

That conference will sweep us into ...October... well, yes but also...Community Planning Month! A national celebration and promotion provided by APA which we haven't paid much attention to in New England. There will be awards given to great spaces – Burlington has been a recipient and with only last minute notice. We are all challenged in galvanizing community interest in planning. If we prepare for this opportunity ahead of time, we could arrange within our communities to build on the promotion that APA will put out there.

Some of the ideas we could prepare to do at the local level, that came out of brainstorming with the other Chapter Presidents in Minneapolis, include:

- o Creating and posting a great UTube video promoting community planning
- o Putting yourself on the roster of Rotary, Kiwanis et al monthly speakers
- o Require all award submittals to be electronic... to facilitate...
- o **Gaining press coverage of NNECAPA awards!**
- o **Create a bigger party, and press coverage, of any of our communities that win the national APA awards (be better prepared for it)**

- o Creating lego village of the community with middle school students, as well as younger or older students
- o Create a ULI-like community planning issue competition for the high school social studies or civics class, using interactive mapping and providing some criteria, like promoting affordable housing and energy conservation
- o Take some of the above around to fairs or town meeting
- o Pull out great public television segments highlighting planning issues and successes and schedule for public access cable in October
- o Schedule a celebration of community planning with downtown/Main Street celebration
- o Write an opinion editorial to circulate

What ideas do you have? We'll discuss on the Executive Committee and try to be better prepared to leverage the opportunity for celebration and promotion in the future.



## Efficient Planning Purchasing is Goal of PLANSOURCE

Houston – August 1, 2009 – Local governments now have a more efficient method of procuring planning services—PlanSource.

PlanSource, a cooperative procurement program of the Houston-Galveston Area Council, gives local governments access to top planning firms at competitive rates and expedites the procurement process. Local governments can join more than 2,300 agencies from 37 states already eligible to participate in PlanSource by executing an interlocal contract with H-GAC.

Details for executing an interlocal contract with H-GAC, including a downloadable copy of the Interlocal Contract for Cooperative Purchasing, are available at [www.ThePlanSource.org](http://www.ThePlanSource.org), under the “Getting Started” tab.

“As communities face growth-related challenges, the need for professional planning services will increase,” said Amanda Thorin, PlanSource Team Lead. “In anticipation of this need, H-GAC launched PlanSource.”

The goal of PlanSource is to help local governments streamline the procurement process by giving users the opportunity to obtain planning services through a simple purchase order. Planning services offered through PlanSource have been subjected to a stringent competitive proposal format based on federal statutes for cooperative procurement under the Code of Federal Regulation Title 49.

Two-year contracts were extended in May 2009 to 39 planning firms with extensive national and international experience. Services offered include comprehensive, land use and transportation planning, parks and trails planning, development codes, economic development, urban design, visioning, and public involvement.

“We are excited about the response from local governments,” Thorin said. “We’re off to a good start and are looking forward to facilitating more professional planning services in the months ahead.”

Current projects include a Livable Centers Incentives Study, addressing the challenges and opportunities for funding public and private Livable Centers, and a Parks and Trails Guide, serving as a primer for local governments and developers interested in making their communities more accessible to cyclists and covering topics such as planning principles, design guidelines, local policies and ordinances. A Transit Service Planning Study, identifying locations of potential users and possible regional service, operations, facility improvements and transit providers, is also under way.



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## Accessing Your EECBG Funds

*By KC Boyce, ICLEI U.S. Services Manager*

Did you submit an application to receive Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funding from DOE to complete your Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy? If so, did you know that DOE requires a baseline energy use and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory and forecast within 120 days of making a funding award? From ICLEI – Local Government’s for Sustainability’s (ICLEI) experience, 120 days is a very aggressive schedule for a GHG inventory.

Not to worry, because you can get started right now. As part of ICLEI's ongoing assistance with economic recovery funding, here are the steps we recommend.

### **Step 1: Join ICLEI**

Not yet familiar with ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability USA? ICLEI is a membership association of local governments committed to advancing climate protection and sustainable development. Since its inception in 1990, ICLEI has grown to include over 1,100 cities in the world, 575 of which are in the United States.



At ICLEI USA our mission is to build, serve, and drive a movement of local governments to advance deep reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and achieve tangible improvements in local sustainability.

By becoming an ICLEI member, you will be part of a network of local governments working together to advance climate protection and sustainable development. As a member of ICLEI, you will inform and inspire innovative solutions and lead the way to cleaner, healthier, economically viable communities. Furthermore, the tools and resources available to ICLEI members can assist you with your climate and sustainability work. To learn more about ICLEI, or to join, visit [www.icleiusa.org/join](http://www.icleiusa.org/join)

### **Step 2: Data Collection**

Begin collecting data now! Data collection is one of the more time-consuming elements of a greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) inventory. You will need usage data for activities that emit GHGs, such as electricity, natural gas and other fuels, transportation fuels, and solid waste. For more information, please visit <http://www.icleiusa.org/news-events/greenhouse-gas-inventories-for-the-ecbg>

### **Step 3: Determine How You’ll Do Your Inventory**

ICLEI has extensive experience in conducting GHG inventories. Contact ICLEI’s Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Regional office at 617/960.3420 or [www.icleiusa.org/northeast](http://www.icleiusa.org/northeast) for more information on ICLEI’s GHG inventory consulting services.

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## Professional Development Updates

By Ben Frost, AICP, NNECAPA Professional Development Officer

### **NNECAPA CM CREDIT LOGGING GUIDE**

To help you log your CM credits, several chapters have collaborated on the creation of a template. This has been tailored to suit the peculiarities of the Northern New England Chapter, and it is available on the Chapter website under “Professional Development > Certification Maintenance”.

### **REGISTERING YOUR CREDITS**

A report from APA states that a significant proportion of the Chapter’s AICP members have not logged onto the Certification Maintenance reporting system. It’s important to remember that you must formally report your activities yourself by going to the AICP Certification Maintenance website ([www.planning.org/cm/index.htm](http://www.planning.org/cm/index.htm))—attending sessions and signing the attendance sheet will not suffice; you must report on the website and certify your attendance.

### **TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **Free Course: Planning for Healthy Places**

*Planning for Healthy Places with Health Impact Assessments* is the first in a series of CM-eligible online courses from APA. Through examples and activities, this “how-to” guide explains the value of Health Impact Assessments and outlines the steps involved in conducting one.

This course was developed in partnership between the American Planning Association and the National Association of County & City Health Officials and is offered free of charge through a grant from the Centers for Disease Control. CM | 6

[professional.captus.com/Planning/hia](http://professional.captus.com/Planning/hia)

#### **Free Monthly Webinars**

A dozen chapters of APA have pooled their resources to offer webcast training opportunities that are free to APA members. Below is the list of sessions that are still open for registration. You can visit the APA Utah Chapter website to register for any of these: [www.utah-apa.org/webcasts.htm](http://www.utah-apa.org/webcasts.htm). CM | 1.5 each

#### **Creating Truly Collaborative Planning: Future Melbourne’s Collaborative Plan**

September 18, 2009 – 4 pm - 5:30 pm CM | 1.5

#### **Fundamentals of Redevelopment Agreements**

October 9, 2009 - 1 pm - 2:30 pm CM | 1.5

#### **Community Visioning: Creating the Framework for Tomorrow’s Florida**

November 6, 2009 – 1 pm – 2:30 pm

#### **Creating Sustainable Communities**

December 4, 2009 – 1 pm – 2:30 pm

#### **Community Strategies for Dealing with Distressed Properties**

December 10, 2009 – 1 pm - 2:30 pm CM | 1.5  
LAW

#### **Topic to be Determined (Save the date!)**

December 11, 2009 – 1 pm - 2:30 pm

#### **APA Training Online**

##### **The 2008 AICP Symposium**

This free podcast is available until September 30, 2009. CM | 2.5. To participate, visit [www.planning.org/aicp/symposium/2008/](http://www.planning.org/aicp/symposium/2008/)

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## NNECAPA Annual Conference - Hurry up!

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open with a few words from William Roper, President and CEO of the Orton Family Foundation.

And over Friday lunch Michael Shuman, Director of Research and Public Policy with "BALLE", the Business Alliance for Local Living Economies, will discuss "locally owned, import substitution" a case for pursuing and encouraging local businesses.

Attendees will have three tracks of workshops to choose from:

- The Local Economy – This track will focus on finding ways to grow local economies from within and develop grassroots efforts to inspire and support community endeavors.
- Rethinking Transportation – This track will focus on finding solutions for New England communities to address rising fuel costs and increased vehicle emissions through alternative transportation.
- The New Built Environment – This track will focus on new approaches to integrating green and sustainable practices into infrastructure development.

In addition a variety of mobile workshops will be offered including Unity College sustainability initiatives, small scale wind power, the film *The Visible Community*, Historic Belfast, Penobscot Narrows Bridge, Bayside & Temple Heights Neighborhoods, City of Belfast energy & climate initiatives, Maine Organic Farm and Gardeners Association, and a harbor tour.

As well, AICP exam prep and both law and ethics sessions for CM requirements will also be offered. AICP members will also find CM credits will be available for other sessions.

## Efficient Planning Purchasing is Goal of PLANSOURCE

PlanSource is a voluntary program. Local governments are not obligated to purchase any of the services on a contract resulting from this program, and there are no minimum quantities or spending levels required by H-GAC. H-GAC charges an administrative fee of two percent of the total project bill.

For more information, please visit [www.ThePlanSource.org](http://www.ThePlanSource.org) or contact Amanda Thorin at 713-993-4587 or [Amanda.Thorin@h-gac.com](mailto:Amanda.Thorin@h-gac.com).

### **Houston-Galveston Area Council**

*The Houston-Galveston Area Council ([www.h-gac.com](http://www.h-gac.com)) is a voluntary association of local governments in the 13-county Gulf Coast Planning Region—an area of 12,500 square miles and more than 5.7 million people. H-GAC works to promote efficient and accountable use of local, state, and federal tax dollars and serves as a problem-solving and information forum for local government needs.*

## Montreal Inaugurates Bike-Sharing Program

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From station to station. Take. Ride. Return.



“The user takes a bike from one of the stations, pays at an automated pay station, and drops the bike off at any pay station in the network. The bike becomes another mode of urban transport unto itself, a practical, economical, ecological and healthy alternative to energy-guzzling vehicles.”

Bixi is nothing if not ambitious. The service is starting out with 3,000 of the specially designed bicycles distributed among 300 closely-spaced stations in its downtown core. But while it was directly inspired by Vélib, the service that started in Lyon, France, before moving to Paris, Bixi differs in many respects. Chief among them was a decision by the city to run the system itself, rather than use an outside operator, and to fund it with fees from users rather than relying on advertising. André Lavallée, the municipal politician who championed the Bixi, said that the advertising opportunities are more limited in Montreal, while city ownership allowed greater coordination with the city’s bus and subway system.



It was at Mr. Lavallée’s suggestion that the development and operation of Bixi be turned over to the City’s parking authority. While that seems an unlikely choice, he reasoned that it already has the real estate and the infrastructure needed for a bicyclesharing system. And while no politician mentioned it, others involved in developing Bixi said the semi-autonomous parking authority, [Stationnement de Montreal](#), is also less bureaucratic than other city departments.

Michel Dallaire, the industrial designer whose firm developed both the bicycles and the base stations, chose solar power primarily for logistical, rather than environmental, reasons. Because the base stations do not need any electrical connections, they can be dropped anywhere without any preparatory work.

That will allow the city to easily remove them each fall when Bixi goes into winter hibernation. And as demand patterns become more apparent, the city can easily adjust the size and location of base stations. European systems, Mr. Dallaire noted, usually rely on clamping the bicycles by their front forks. That can lead to wheel damage. In contrast, Bixi bicycles slot and lock into their stations through a triangular tab at the front.

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## Montreal Inaugurates Bike-Sharing

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Users release them in one of two ways. An annual subscription for 78 Canadian dollars—half price for transit-pass holders— buys a chip-encoded plastic fob. Day users can pay 5 Canadian dollars (a little over \$4) by credit card at the base station for a day pass. Like a rental car company, the base station puts a 250 Canadian dollar security hold (roughly \$216) on day users' credit cards.

The user takes a bike from one of the stations, pays at an automated pay station, and drops the bike off at any pay station in the network. The bike becomes another mode of urban transport unto itself, a practical, economical, ecological and healthy alternative to energy-guzzling vehicles.

The fees charged after that are intended to encourage rapid turnover. The first half hour is free. The second half hour is 1.50 Canadian dollars (\$1.30). After two hours, the 30-minute rate soars to 6.00 Canadian dollars (\$5.18).

While the frames are aluminum (and they are sponsored by [Rio Tinto Alcan](#), a major aluminum maker), they are mainly designed to minimize damage from vandals, to thwart parts thieves and to keep rolling with the minimum of maintenance rather than for lightness or speed.

That being said, the bikes are quite well equipped and include fenders (complete with a skirt guard), a chain guard to keep pants separated from the chain, LED headlights and taillights (powered by a front hub dynamo), a three-speed hub gear, effective drum brakes, a sturdy kickstand and a bell.

“We needed it to be physically robust and visually robust so people would have confidence,” said. Mr. Dallaire.

Most of the drive train is [stock Shimano Nexus equipment](#). Mr. Dallaire added a chain tensioner after learning that slack chains are a major cause of breakdowns in Paris. On a test ride, I found the bike to be stable and comfortable. The three gears, while widely spaced, included one low enough for climbing roads running up the extinct volcano which forms the island of Montreal. My only complaint was the relative smallness of the front carrier. But Mr. Dallaire said that anything larger would only encourage some riders to abuse it by carrying a passenger.

Montreal spent 15 million Canadian dollars (about \$13 million) to develop and start the system, although it is budgeted to ultimately become financially self-sufficient. But Montreal has received seven patents for Bixi and Mr. Lavallée hopes to sell it to other North American cities.





## Accessing Your EECBG Funds

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If you're going to do your inventory in-house, take advantage of ICLEI's trainings to get up to speed on the tools and resources ICLEI offers to help you with this effort. We offer regularly scheduled trainings on how to complete an inventory for ICLEI members, free of charge. Please visit [www.icleiusa.org/cacp](http://www.icleiusa.org/cacp) for more information.

As an ICLEI member, if you're hiring a consultant to assist you in your inventory effort, they can now take advantage of ICLEI's trainings for \$150 per training session. Visit the registration page for more details.

### Step 4: Completing Your EECS

Finally, don't forget about completing your Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy (EECS)! ICLEI can help, we have created a guide to complete an EECS (<http://www.icleiusa.org/action-center/financing-staffing/iclei-guide-to-preparing-your-eecbg-application-part-i>) and we are also offering enhanced services to develop detailed strategies for our members. Some of our enhanced services include:

1. **Complete Application Assistance** for local governments who are prepared to commit all of their EECBG allocation, and need assistance creating their Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy.
2. **Complete Application Assistance & Coordination** for local governments who are prepared to commit all of their EECBG allocation, and need assistance creating their Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy, and who need additional assistance in coordinating multiple internal government stakeholders. To sign up or learn more about any of these offerings, including fees, contact the ICLEI Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Regional office ([www.icleiusa.org/northeast](http://www.icleiusa.org/northeast))

### Step 5: Using Your EECBG Funds

Once you receive your EECBG funds from DOE, what next? ICLEI members have access to a variety of online resources, including guidebooks and toolkits, which are available in our Action Center (<http://www.icleiusa.org/action-center>). Here are few to checkout:

- Small Communities Toolkit
- Guide to Green Jobs Development
- Outreach and Communications Guidebook
- Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Guide
- Sustainability Planning Toolkit, and Much, Much More

Additionally, ICLEI staff can help you develop a custom implementation strategy for several high-impact programs for reducing your jurisdiction's energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. Custom implemen-

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## Accessing Your EECBG Funds

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tation strategies will be available for:

- Setting up an Energy Office
- Revolving energy funds
- Environmentally preferable purchasing programs
- Solid waste & recycling program enhancement

To learn more about these opportunities, or to join the movement of local government taking serious action on climate change, please contact the ICLEI Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Regional office ([www.icleiusa.org/northeast](http://www.icleiusa.org/northeast)).

## Vermont Grapevine

*By Tara Bamford, NNECAPA VT State Director*

Hartford's Planners have completed a revitalization plan for White River Junction. The plan includes a comprehensive analysis of existing conditions, needs and public and private future development plans, resulting in schematic design plans and detailed capital improvement program for future development over the next 10 -20 years. Those who have visited White River Junction in recent years have seen the successes of past efforts.

Planning Commissioners Journal's Wayne Senville is at it again, another cross country journey to share news of planning success stories, ideas and insights that is. Wayne's latest endeavor will be completed in stages and will be tracked in a variety of on-line venues including his blog found on CircleTheUSA.com. Check out Wayne's postings from the kick-off of the first leg in Vermont:

Main Street Mill: "The Perfect Trifecta," Richford

What Sound is Your Place?, Richford

"A Harbor You Can Sail Into," Putney

A Real Coffee House, Wilmington

Wrestling a Yankee, Brattleboro

## Professional Development Updates

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### **Tuesdays at APA**

The free podcast recordings of the after-work lectures “Tuesdays at APA” are available for CM credit, CM | 1.0 per recording. AICP members listen to the audio recording and follow along with a provided PowerPoint. To participate, please visit [www.planning.org/tuesdaysatapa/previous.htm](http://www.planning.org/tuesdaysatapa/previous.htm)

### **Economic Development Today**

In partnership with APA, the U.S. Economic Development Administration is producing a series of broadcasts called Economic Development Today for up to CM | 2.0. To participate, please visit

[www.planning.org/eda/broadcastcm.htm](http://www.planning.org/eda/broadcastcm.htm)

### **APA Online Courses Now Available:**

*Ethical Practice for Practicing Planners* – CM | 2.0 meets the ethics requirement

*Hot Topics in Planning Law* – CM | 3.0 meets the law requirement

Coming soon – *The Transportation/Land Use Connection*

To register, please visit the Self-Directed study site, and select “online courses” at:

[www.planning.org/education/selfdirected/index.htm](http://www.planning.org/education/selfdirected/index.htm)

### **AICP EXAM QUESTIONS**

Applicants can refer all exam related questions to [aicpexam@planning.org](mailto:aicpexam@planning.org). We also encourage you to check out our new AICP Exam web page at [www.planning.org/certification/index.htm](http://www.planning.org/certification/index.htm)

### **CM MEMBER EXEMPTIONS FOR LIFE OR RETIRED MEMBERS**

AICP members that are currently paying dues at the life member rate and meet the criteria for “retired” status qualify for the retirement exemption under the Certification Maintenance (CM) program. These members must apply for this exemption by submitting the Verification of Retired Status form available on our website [www.planning.org/cm/exemptions.htm](http://www.planning.org/cm/exemptions.htm). This is the only way to ensure that their membership records are up-to-date.

Should members have any questions about their membership status, contact membership customer service at [customerservice@planning.org](mailto:customerservice@planning.org). For questions regarding Certification Maintenance (CM) exemptions, please contact CM customer service at [AICPCM@planning.org](mailto:AICPCM@planning.org).

## NNECAPA's Executive Committee

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## Events Calendar

### APA Webcasts

#### The Future of Transportation: Providing Sustainable Choices for the Public

September 4, 2009

#### Practical Application of Takings, Exactions and Constitutional Procedural Requirements in Local Land Use Decision (LAW CM CREDIT)

October 2, 2009

#### Community Visioning: Creating the Framework for Tomorrow's Florida

November 6, 2009

#### Creating Sustainable Communities

December 4, 2009

**Details:** [www.utah-apa.org/webcasts.htm](http://www.utah-apa.org/webcasts.htm)

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### NNECAPA 2009 Annual Conference

**Date:** September 24-25, 2009

**Venue:** Belfast, ME

**Details:** [www.nnecapa.org/resources](http://www.nnecapa.org/resources)

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Visit our Calendar frequently for additional professional development opportunities: [www.nnecapa.org/calendar](http://www.nnecapa.org/calendar)

### Are you working on an innovative project in your community?

### Have you just finalized the creation or update on a plan you are proud of?

Please share your successes with your peers and submit an article for the NEW Northern New England Community Highlight section of the Yankee Planner!

Contact NNECAPA PIO Sandrine Thibault ([sthibault@ci.burlington.vt.us](mailto:sthibault@ci.burlington.vt.us)) for information and publication deadlines.