

State News for NSPE Members

Winooski River Bridge Project Gets \$27M From US Department of Transportation

Vermont is set to receive a \$22.7 million grant from the US Department of Transportation to help replace the Winooski River Bridge between Burlington and Winooski, [Vermont Public reports](#).

The bridge, which acts as the only direct connection between the cities, is nearly 100 years old. Although it's still considered safe by government standards, state transportation officials said in a project outline that it was no longer equipped to handle the large volume of traffic between the two cities.

Around 25,000 vehicles, along with up to 2,000 cyclists and pedestrians and several transit routes, cross the bridge per day, according to the project's website.

"The replacement of the Winooski River Bridge will boost northern Vermont's critical infrastructure, improve safety and accessibility, and make Winooski more resilient to extreme weather," US Senators Bernie Sanders and Peter Welch and Rep. Becca Balint said in a press release.

The new bridge will feature expanded traffic lanes, a new shared path lane for pedestrians and bicycles, and an improved drainage system to better withstand flooding. [Read more](#).

State Concludes Vermont is Failing to Meet its Carbon Reduction Targets

The state has likely failed to reduce pollution from fossil fuels enough to meet its legally-binding emissions reduction goals over the next decade, according to a new report released by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. The same day, a state court judge dismissed a lawsuit brought by a conservation group meant to hold the agency accountable, the [VT Digger reports](#).

The 2020 Global Warming Solutions Act requires Vermont to reduce its carbon emissions to help lessen the dangers of a warming planet. The state has legally-binding goals to lower greenhouse gases by 26% below 2005 levels by January 1, 2025, 40% below 1990 levels by 2030, and 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.

The new agency report is both an estimate of how much carbon, methane, and other greenhouse gases Vermont emits every year since 1990 compared to historic baseline levels in 1990 and 2005, as well as an updated forecast of the state's progress towards hitting those targets.

In 2022, the inventory measured 8.25 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent greenhouse gas emissions, or almost one million metric tons above the 2025 goal, and falling only slightly from 2021 levels. The most common sources of emissions are transportation and heating. Both sectors are still largely dependent on fossil fuels like gas and oil, the burning of which are the largest drivers of human-caused climate change. [Read more.](#)

Working to Bring Sustainability to Vermont Schools

Nearly a dozen schools from across Vermont recently took part in the School Compost and Recycling Action Plan Institute, a new statewide program aimed at improving school waste systems.

Sponsored by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, in partnership with Long Creek Resources of Winooski, the goal of the program seeks to improve how schools manage waste both environmentally and economically.

"The goal of SCRAPI is to reduce waste; help schools develop effective systems for composting and recycling; and empower students to become leaders in sustainable waste management," said Kate Porterfield, project director and Principal for Long Creek Resources, a company that provides consultation on a variety of environmental concerns.

Among the schools that participated in the most recent training were representatives from U-32 Middle & High School in East Montpelier, Allen Street Campus in Rutland, Bellcate School in Essex, Burlington High School, Guilford Central School, Hartland Elementary School, Newark Street School, Tunbridge Central School, Westminster Center School and Woodstock Union Middle High School.

The kickoff for the program was held at Vermont State University's Randolph campus on June 30 with an all-day workshop for the SCRAPI teams covering

everything from materials management to sharing success stories. The questions ranged from how to keep bears and rodents out of compost, to how to lessen the compost odor. (In both cases, a 3/1 mixture of brown waste, carbon-rich materials that are typically dry and woody, and food waste is needed). [Read more in the Times Argus.](#)

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the [NSPE Advocacy Center](#).

NSPE Garners Victory for Tomorrow's Workforce

On July 4, 2025, the Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow's Workforce Act was signed into law as part of the larger One Big Beautiful Bill Act. The new law expands 529 education savings plans to cover expenses related to licensure, certification, and other postsecondary credentials.

As written, the legislation covers programs accredited by organizations such as the National Commission on Certifying Agencies (NCCA) or the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), as well as tuition, required materials, and testing fees. These changes will provide more flexible financial tools to support individuals working toward credentials in highly technical fields, including engineering, where continued education and professional development are essential.

This marks a major win for NSPE and the many members who engaged over the years to make it happen. Implementation guidance is expected in the coming months, and NSPE will share updates as federal agencies roll out the new provisions. [Read more.](#)

NSPE Backs Increased Mobility Through International Licensure Agreements

NSPE recently [issued a position statement](#) to express support for and encourage mobility of engineering licensure among US states, territories, and foreign countries as long as public safety, health and welfare is maintained.

To provide mobility with foreign countries, Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) between the National Council of Examiners for Engineers (NCEES) and their foreign equivalent should be encouraged, so long as the methods of establishing licensure in the two countries have been deemed equivalent in rigorousness. State boards are encouraged to adopt regulations to allow international comity, understanding individual states may continue to have requirements unique to engineering in those states.

NCEES and the Engineers Council of the United Kingdom [signed an MRA in April 2024](#) and 26 state boards agreed to consider adopting regulations to implement the MRA by signing on to it at the NCEES Annual Meeting in August 2024. The MRA builds on efforts by both organizations through the International Engineering Alliance and International Professional Engineers Agreement.

Professional Liability Trends Every Design Professional Should Know

Each year, NSPE, the American Institute of Architects, and the American Council of Engineering Companies join forces to conduct the annual [Professional Liability Insurance Carriers Survey](#) to provide highlight trends, coverage options, and risk management practices across the industry. Learn what's changing in professional liability and what it means for your firm in 2025 in a [new article](#).

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