

The University of Vermont Renewable Resources Act (RREA) Program, FY 2008

The Renewable Resources Act (RREA) program funds allocated to the University of Vermont total less than \$50,000 per year, but represent the ability to access an additional \$95,000 of matching funds. This funding advances the training of professionals and citizens across the state on matters of forest stewardship and opportunities for economic opportunity within a natural resources-based state. RREA funds were instrumental in the expansion of a community leadership program in collaboration with the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation, the expansion of knowledge and understanding by local community members about natural resources stewardship, and the educational support of maple producers to enhance the profitability of their natural resources-based businesses located in rural communities. Success stories are presented below.

Across the state, 92 local community members from 59 towns increased their ability to advocate for trees in the built environment through the Stewardship of the Urban Landscape (SOUL) training program.

Two communities with leadership from SOUL program graduates recruited other community volunteers to help their respective communities initiate and enhance management of street trees.

More than 300 maple syrup producers were given specific information regarding tapping times to help them improve efficiency and thereby increase sap production for enhanced maple syrup production. Increased syrup production leads to greater production and profits, strengthening local rural businesses that hire labor in rural communities.



“I really enjoyed it and am now a member of Branch Out Burlington. I would never have even known about this group if not for this course. Thank-you.”

– Participant, SOUL Program, 2008



The course opened my eyes about noticing trees and paying attention to their health and affects on our lives.

- Participant, SOUL Program, 2008

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