The Center creates economic opportunity and community vitality from healthy working forests in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York.

www.northernforest.org

Founded in 1997, the Center is a leading voice in rural community economic development and forest stewardship.

Center programs include advancing modern wood heat, catalyzing innovation in wood products, enhancing quality in experiential tourism, supporting community forestry and using the Center’s core capacities to secure jobs, conserve managed forests and leverage investment.

The Center is led by a diverse board of directors representing the four Northern Forest and other New England states, and a professional staff with a main office in Concord, New Hampshire, and field staff offices in Milan, New Hampshire, South Portland, Maine, and Saranac Lake, New York.
10-YEAR IMPACT

2,200 Jobs
The Center’s programs have benefited businesses that provide 2,200 jobs in wood products, tourism, and modern wood heat, and our skills training initiatives have benefited 2,000 workers and students.

254,000 Acres
The Center’s programs have helped conserve 253,917 acres of forestland for community benefit through the Community Forest program and forestland purchases financed through New Markets Tax Credits.

$153.7 Million Investment
The Center’s programs have helped to secure and leverage $153.7 million for projects that benefit the region’s communities, the economy and forest stewardship.
Dear Supporters and Friends,

Igniting change takes time, but nothing gives us greater confidence for tackling the work ahead than what we’ve already accomplished together. We’re tracking the impact of our programs across the region (page 3). In the last 10 years we’ve directly supported 2,200 jobs, helped conserve 254,000 acres of forests for community benefit, and secured and leveraged investments in the region totaling $153.7 million.

And we’re not slowing down. Milestones for Fiscal Year 2015 and the first quarter of this year include:

- Helping communities create new Community Forests (page 7) for income, education, conservation and more.
- Advancing the new modern wood heat economy with Model Neighborhood initiatives in all 4 states as well as a new partnership in Windham County, Vermont to put modern wood heat in public buildings (page 9).
- Securing good jobs in wood product manufacturing by helping the industry innovate and train workers for the future (page 11).
- Working with Maine Woods tourism leaders to enhance the quality of tourism recreation experiences to create quality jobs in rural communities (page 13).
- And dozens of other accomplishments that help create economic opportunity and community vitality across the region (see opposite page).

The work we’re doing together in the Northern Forest is an outstanding collaborative effort, and it’s gaining the attention of others. We’ve been thrilled to help people—within the region, across the country and Canada—advance their own efforts and learn from our challenges and successes.

Our track record represents shared success for our donors and funders, partner organizations, public officials, board and staff. We thank you for all you’ve done and count on your continued involvement to improve the economic and ecological well-being of the Northern Forest and its communities.

Thank you for being part of this success!

Peter Bergh, Chair

Rob Riley, President
## Program Impact by the Numbers

1. new Modern Wood Heat project launched in Windham County, Vermont
2. stand-alone wood heat projects provided with fundraising or technical assistance and advice
3. counties engaged in tourism enhancement programs in Maine and Vermont
4. new innovation projects begun with wood products manufacturers
5. projects, initiatives and strategic forums the Center is engaged in across the Northern Forest
6. number of woodworkers and students issued Woodwork Passports
7. partners collaborating on creating forest-based economic opportunity and community vitality
8. people and 56 businesses trained in customer service and marketing to enhance tourism businesses and support job creation in Maine
9. people subscribing to the weekly *Northern Forest News Digest*
10. saved this year by participants in the Model Neighborhood Wood Heat Initiative, all of whom switched to heating with high-efficiency wood pellet boilers
11. Center program investment in Northern Forest communities, forests and economic development
12. total economic impact of the Model Neighborhood Wood Heat Initiative in 4 states since inception
13. public funding, foundation grants, business investment and organizational resources leveraged by the Center's program investment
Community Ownership—Community Benefits

The Center’s Community Forest program helps communities achieve their dream of forest ownership. Milan, N.H., is a great example. Residents in this town of 1,300 have long recognized important connections among the town’s land, people, economy, and culture. The community determined that it wanted a Community Forest to support the region’s forest-based economy and to provide income by stewarding a healthy forest.

Through Director of Forestry Julie Renaud Evans, the Center is helping Milan acquire 805 new acres to add to existing parcels to create an 1,803-acre Community Forest. The property will be owned by and for the people of Milan and be permanently conserved by an easement for future generations. Easements are a key element of Community Forests.

The Center’s support and project development helped Milan achieve a great milestone this spring when the US Forest Service ranked Milan’s as the #1 Community Forest project in the nation!

Milan is not alone. In response to ongoing selling and reselling of forestland, many communities see forest ownership as the best way to secure what they love about the forest: hunting, fishing, camping, hiking; a place to teach children about the natural world or to train young adults for careers based on the forest; a source of income through sustainable harvesting; a place for wildlife and habitat conservation.

Since the Community Forest program began, we have helped 30 communities work toward creating 11 Community Forests totaling nearly 45,000 acres, with 7 projects complete and 4 ongoing.

“When a small town like Milan has a vision to help secure its future, it's nice to have support from an organization that has a history of success. We’re hoping to provide the town with permanent open space and a reasonably stable source of revenue now and forever through timber harvesting. We really appreciate all the support the Northern Forest Center has provided.

—George Pozzuto, Milan Community Forest Committee Milan, New Hampshire

With your support, the Center is...

Helping communities purchase and manage forests for economic and community benefit and to conserve the forest forever.

Why it matters...

Continuing changes in forestland ownership affect the vitality of communities whose culture has been based for generations on access to productive forests. Community Forests put citizens in charge of managing their own forestland.

More information online
Almost 250 students and teachers threw their hands in the air to celebrate when the Burke Town School converted from heating with oil to wood pellets from the Northern Forest.

What made them so happy? Saving money. Improving the environment. Making their local economy stronger. And knowing that their demand for wood pellets creates jobs for their neighbors in the woods and in pellet making.

The fuel switch is good for the school budget in this northern Vermont town and a great lesson for the kids, who are learning the benefits of using wood pellets instead of oil for heat. They can be ambassadors for buying heat locally for the rest of their lives.

Across the region, the Center has helped schools and homeowners, businesses and nonprofits install 112 high-efficiency wood pellet boilers. Every one of these boilers is reducing heating costs, strengthening the economy and helping the environment.

Berlin, NH, led the way as our first Model Neighborhood community. Our Maine program serves Farmington and Wilton, as well as Franklin and Oxford Counties more broadly. In Vermont’s Northeast Kingdom we’re working with homeowners and farm-based businesses, and in New York, people in Saranac, Saranac Lake and Tupper Lake are busy evaluating their boiler options.

Since its beginning, our modern wood heat program has reduced heating costs for participants by $1.6 million, reduced net carbon dioxide emissions by 3,069 tons and generated a $3.4 million positive impact.

That’s a lot to feel good about!

“We saved half on our fuel bill last year, even with oil prices being low. It just shows how efficient these systems are. And we’re teaching our younger generation that we don’t need to import fuel—we can buy our green energy locally—and that’s good for the community.”

—Marc Brown
Facilities Manager,
Burke Town School
West Burke, Vermont

With your support, the Center is...

Advancing a “buy local heat” strategy using modern wood heat to retain wealth in the region, reduce net carbon dioxide emissions and create forest-based jobs.

Why it matters...

The Northern Forest states send nearly $4 Billion a year out of the region’s economy buying heating oil. Buying wood pellets sourced and produced locally will retain millions of dollars and create hundreds of jobs in the region.

More information online
When businesses can’t compete, they disappear and so do the good jobs they once provided.

That’s why the Center is helping wood products manufacturers transform the way they work. Appalachian Engineered Flooring in North Troy, Vermont, is taking advantage of every opportunity the Center offers to help businesses innovate for success.

Financial and technical assistance from the Center’s Wood Products programs have sparked wholesale change at Appalachian Engineered Flooring, keeping 18 good jobs in this small Vermont village of 600 people.

The changes began in May 2014 with transforming company culture, which improved morale and got everyone working as a team to improve the company. In December, the company began applying lean manufacturing principles to improve the production process. Finally, it added training and credentialing for workers to ensure the company will have the skilled workers it needs. Together these initiatives position Appalachian Engineered Flooring for growth.

The results speak volumes. Worker turnover has dropped from 20 to just 3 people a year. Base production is up by 60%, with spikes as much as 90% higher than before. Staff and management together are focusing on always adding value to their product. The company is now reliably profitable, while previously it was wildly unpredictable.

Since the Wood Products programs began, the Center has helped 56 manufacturing companies innovate for the future and introduced the workforce skills training program to dozens of companies and schools.

“With the Center’s help, we’ve been able to keep 18 good jobs here, help 18 families earn a living.

As the company grows, there will be more people and families that benefit. The whole community benefits too.”

—Jean Leduc, President, Appalachian Engineered Flooring North Troy, Vermont

Transforming a Traditional Industry

With your support, the Center is...

Sustaining and creating jobs in companies that make quality wood products sold around the world. We’re transforming companies and training workers to strengthen this traditional industry.

Why it matters...

Wood products manufacturing remains a vital part of the Northern Forest economy, employing more than 20,000 people. The industry needs supportive services to advance innovation and to continue providing quality jobs.

More information online
More and more, communities across the region see tourism and recreation as an important part of their economic mix. They see potential jobs in this fast-growing segment of the economy. And so do we.

While the job numbers are good, the quality of jobs in tourism and related services can be a challenge. That’s why the Center provides training, cooperative marketing services, and public policy support to enhance the quality of tourism recreation experiences. Quality experiences lead to quality jobs.

Kevin Slater and Polly Mahoney started Mahoosuc Guide Service in 1990 to offer fully-outfitted canoeing and dogsledding trips in Maine, New Hampshire and Quebec. With more than 40 trips a year, they draw hundreds of people to their base in Newry, Maine, and about a third of their bookings are repeat clients. The Guide Service is endorsed by Maine Woods Discovery for the quality of its trips.

Since 2011, Kevin and Polly have participated in Maine Woods Tourism Training Initiative workshops and recently took advantage of a micro-grant through that program to help modernize their website. They teamed up with the Center and other providers for the 2014 Thoreau-Wabanaki Tour, which secured roughly $1.5 million in media coverage for participating businesses and the Maine Woods region as a quality travel destination. Kevin was the lead guide and Polly managed food logistics for the 16-day trip.

Mahoosuc Guide Service now offers a Thoreau-themed canoe trip of its own, and they’ve hired a Penobscot Nation member from the Thoreau Tour to co-guide the trip.

The Center supports Maine Woods leaders like Kevin and Polly to position the region as a world-class visitor destination that also provides quality jobs in rural communities.

“It’s unusual to be able to make a living at this. Most guides need to have other jobs. We appreciate the work you’re doing to promote the Maine Woods. It’s important to get people into the woods in the more remote areas. Partnering with the Center is helping our business, helping people know there is more to Maine than the seacoast.”

—Polly Mahoney, Maine Guide and Co-owner, Mahoosuc Guide Service, Newry, Maine

Building Better Jobs in Tourism

With your support, the Center is...

Improving quality recreation tourism opportunities in the region to create better paying jobs in the fast-growing tourism economy.

Tourism is a fast-growing segment of the economy that already supports 74,000 jobs across the region. Research indicates that quality experiences attract high-spending visitors and generate quality jobs.

More information online
Northern Forest Trends

These maps provide a clear indication of population trends and income levels in the Northern Forest. Both are key indicators of community vitality.

While on the whole the population of the Northern Forest is increasing slightly, many historic community centers continue to see a decline in population, which creates challenges for maintaining schools, hospitals and other services.

Communities with stable population and/or higher income levels tend to be clustered around amenity-rich or less-rural areas.

The Northern Border Regional Commission contracted the Center to update a regional strategy to guide the Commission’s grantmaking.

Both maps represent the counties included in the Northern Border Regional Commission’s service area. The units within each county represent towns and cities.


Median Household Income: 2009 – 2013

National Median Household Income: $53,046

Data Source: Census American Communities Survey
Working regionally is in the Center’s DNA. We engage community and organizational leaders to hear their concerns and priorities for the Northern Forest, and we use our regional perspective to synthesize strategies to benefit the whole region.

This year, we’ve used that local input to craft an economic strategy to guide grantmaking by the Northern Border Regional Commission, and as input to the Center’s own strategic planning process.

The Center backed the idea of a regional economic commission for the Northern Forest from the start and has advocated annually for its funding. We’re proud to have helped secure the $14.5 million the Commission has invested in the region, and we are optimistic about the future benefits it will deliver.

For the Center’s own strategy, we recognize the need to ensure the quality and condition of the forest, and to increase community capacity to spur revitalization. We must find ways to counter the effects of declining populations and the related loss of key community services such as schools and hospitals.

The Northern Forest needs a compelling regional vision to help people, businesses and communities prepare for and capitalize on changing trends and opportunities. Everything we’ve heard from stakeholders this year is preparing the Center to provide regional leadership for that vision and to address the most fundamental issues that challenge the Northern Forest.

“The Center is an invaluable partner as the Border Commission seeks to grow its role and impact. I value the Center’s knowledge and strong relationships and the way they approach the region’s tough challenges.

—Mark Scarano, Federal Co-Chair, Northern Border Regional Commission

With your support, the Center is...

Providing regional leadership on state and federal policies and economic strategies, and advancing collaborative projects that deliver benefits to Northern Forest communities.

Why it matters...

Coordinating regionally on policy, investment and solutions helps accelerate initiatives at all levels and leverages funding to deliver better results, faster, for more people.

More information online
Catalyzing market demand for high-efficiency, modern wood heating systems to reduce heating costs, retain wealth locally, reduce net carbon dioxide emissions and generate millions of dollars of positive economic impact in the region.

Assisting wood products manufacturers to implement innovation and advance worker training and career opportunities. These programs help businesses become more competitive, enabling them to sustain and create living-wage jobs.

Strengthening the outdoor recreation tourism segment of the economy to enhance visitor experiences and improve job opportunities in rural communities. Programs are creating quality-based branding and providing training to tourism-based businesses.

Helping communities create locally-owned and managed forests that conserve forestland and generate economic and community benefits such as timber income, outdoor classrooms and recreational opportunities.

Advocating for Northern Forest communities at the state and federal level. The Center brings a unique multi-state perspective to the region’s congressional delegation and agency staff in Washington, D.C. to help shape public policy and secure federal funding for the Northern Forest.

The Center develops New Markets Tax Credit projects to finance multi-million dollar investments that can conserve working forestland, increase use of renewable energy and strengthen the wood products manufacturing and tourism sectors.

The traveling, exhibition Ways of the Woods: People and the Land in the Northern Forest provides museum-quality programming to colleges, museums and other public institutions to explore the history of the region.
Map shows the location of Center projects, Tourism program partners and training, Wood Products businesses and educational partners, and key state and regional engagement.

See page 24 for a full list of partner organizations.
NEW YORK

☑ Launched the Adirondack Model Neighborhood Initiative to help switch 20 homes in Saranac, Saranac Lake and Tupper Lake and 15 municipal and non-residential buildings in Essex, Franklin and Clinton counties to modern wood heat over the next two years.

☑ Helped Saranac install a wood pellet boiler in the town hall to reduce fuel costs by 10%, keeping money in the local economy, supporting forest-based jobs and reducing net carbon dioxide emissions over time.

☑ Continued to effect improvements in and implementation of the state’s Renewable Heat New York Program, which includes rebates for wood pellet boilers.

☑ Provided technical and financial assistance to advance innovation and secure future job opportunities at bookcase maker Hale Manufacturing, a leading employer in Herkimer County.

☑ Partnered with Morrisville State University to deliver educational programming through the Center’s museum-quality exhibition Ways of the Woods: People and Place in the Northern Forest. More than 500 students from 15 schools toured the exhibit, which was also open during four major on-campus events.

☑ Continued engagement in public policy and economic advancement through the NY Bioenergy Association, the Common Ground Alliance, the Adirondack Partnership, Adirondack Park Economic Development Strategy and other initiatives.

VERMONT

☑ Partnered with energy and economic development leaders in Windham County to win state funding for Windham Wood Heat, a $1.6-million initiative to switch schools and public buildings to modern wood heat and build the forest economy and green building sector.

☑ Provided funding and support for installation of 8 high-efficiency wood pellet boilers in homes and non-residential buildings in the Lyndon area to keep money in the local economy and support forest-based jobs, and reduce net carbon dioxide emissions over time.

☑ Supported a new tourism coordination and marketing initiative, led by Northeast Kingdom Travel & Tourism Association, focused on tourism destinations in the Northeast Kingdom’s Island Pond and Canaan.

☑ Provided technical and financial assistance to advance innovation and secure future job opportunities at Vermont Farm Table (Bristol) J.K. Adams (Dorset), Lyndon Furniture, Appalachian Engineered Flooring (North Troy) and Built by Newport.

☑ Worked with 14 wood manufacturers and educational institutions to advance worker training and career opportunities in the industry through the Skilled Workforce Initiative.

☑ Helped make the case for expanding state funding for wood pellet boiler rebates, making new high-efficiency technology more affordable.
2015

Highlights

NEW HAMPSHIRE

- Provided technical assistance to help residents in Milan begin creating a 1,803-acre Community Forest.
- Provided stewardship planning assistance for the 840-acre Cooley-Jericho Community Forest in Easton, NH.
- Helped stop a raid on the state’s Renewable Energy Fund, sustaining funding for rebates for wood pellet boilers and other renewables.
- Provided funding and support to install a high-efficiency wood pellet boiler at Tullando Farm in Orford to keep money in the local economy, support forest-based jobs, and reduce net carbon dioxide emissions over time.
- Since 2012, the Berlin Model Neighborhood Wood Heat Initiative has saved participants $1.4 million, reduced net carbon dioxide emissions by 1,886 tons over time, and contributed $2.9 million to the regional economy.
- Provided technical and financial assistance to advance innovation and secure future job opportunities at NorthWoods Manufacturing (Lancaster) and DCI Furniture (Lisbon).
- Introduced 8 manufacturers and educational institutions in Plaistow, Dover, Hudson, Derry, Bow, Ashland, Lisbon and Lancaster to the Center’s Skilled Workforce Initiative, designed to advance worker training and career opportunities in the industry.

MAINE

- Provided training and marketing assistance across the Maine Woods to 56 tourism-based businesses through coordination of the Maine Woods Consortium and Maine Woods Tourism Training initiative.
- Helped develop a $12-million tax credit financing package in central Maine that will enhance and create jobs in recreational tourism and provide a variety of community and conservation benefits.
- Provided funding and assistance to install 32 high-efficiency wood pellet boilers in Franklin and Oxford Counties, saving nearly $25,000 in fuel costs this year, supporting hundreds of forest-based jobs and reducing net carbon dioxide emissions over time.
- Provided technical assistance and capacity building to establish the 1,666-acre Perley Mills Community Forest in Denmark and Bridgton, and the 290-acre Twin Bridges Community Forest in Otisfield.
- Provided technical and financial assistance to advance innovation and secure future job opportunities at Duratherm Windows (Vassalboro) and Maine Wood Concepts (New Vineyard).
- Assisted National Wood Products of Maine (Oxford) in implementing an initiative for training and credentialing of employees through the Skilled Workforce Initiative.
- Advocated for and secured state support for a Rural Destination Area program to deliver technical and financial assistance in priority tourism destination areas.
“The Center was founded in the belief that if four states could speak and act as one, they could accomplish more than acting alone. That’s become increasingly evident, thanks in large part to the Center’s effectiveness in program delivery and its ability to represent the region in Washington, D.C. I’m proud to support the Center and its mission.”

—Harold Janeway,
Board Member,
Retired Investment Advisor
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The Northern Forest Center is grateful to all the individuals, businesses, foundations and government donors who so generously support our work. Every gift, at every level, advances the Center’s mission: advocating for the Northern Forest region and helping its communities benefit from forest-based conservation and economic development.

Your generous contributions make possible the impact and results highlighted in this report. Thank you!

This list of donors reflects gifts received from May 1, 2014 through April 30, 2015, except for recognition of donors to the New Era Campaign, which reflects gifts received between 2011 and 2015.

We wish to recognize all of our generous supporters. Please let us know if we have made any errors in compiling this list. Please contact Sarah Humphreys at 603-220-0679, ext. 112, or email her at shumphreys@northernforest.org, to notify us of any errors.

KEY

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The Evergreen Society is a committed group of people who provide charitable gifts through recurring monthly payments. Membership is growing, and you can be a member too!

“We enjoy the convenience of dividing our gift into monthly payments—it works quite well for us. The Center can count on our support each month, and we count on our gift helping the Center’s work not miss a beat. We don’t need to remember to write and mail a check. Payments go directly to the Center, our bank provides a monthly statement, and we receive one gift receipt at the end of the year. It’s a great way to support work that we believe in.”

–Fred and Patrice Ficken, donors
Brookline, Massachusetts

It’s easy to join. Sign up online to make a monthly recurring gift by credit card. Please visit www.northernforest.org, click the Donate button on the home page and choose Evergreen Society Donation. Thank you!

Click here to donate online!
SUCCESS: New Era Campaign Raises $2.2 Million

Thank you to all the donors who contributed so generously to the Center’s New Era Campaign from 2011 to 2015 to launch some of the Center’s key programs.

Their foresight and willingness to invest in new ideas launched the Model Neighborhood Wood Heat Initiative (page 9) and the Clean Water Carbon Fund. Their support enabled the Center to represent the region in Washington, DC, working closely with the Congressional delegation, elected officials, and federal agency staff to secure significant investment in the region.

The Center’s Board and Staff sincerely thanks these philanthropic leaders for their commitment to the Center and the Northern Forest.

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Steve Blackmer and Kelly Short
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Warren and Brammie Cook
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Richard Rockefeller
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IN MEMORIAM
The Center wishes to acknowledge with sadness the deaths of four friends of the organization: Jim Baldwin, Patricia Burnham, Albert Merck and Sam Pryor. We will miss their advice and friendship.

Northern Border Regional Commission
State of Vermont: Working Lands Enterprise Fund

Businesses
The following businesses contributed to the New Era Campaign by purchasing tax credits through the NH Community Development Finance Authority to support the Model Neighborhood Initiative:
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Checkmate Payroll Services
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2014 – 2015
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Maine Huts & Trails
Maine Land Trust Network
Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership
Maine Office of Tourism
Maine Professional Guides Association
Maine Rural Partners
Maine Tree Foundation
Maine Wood Products Association
Management Engineering
Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences
Massachusetts Housing Investment Corporation
Milan Community Forest Committee
Mooselookmeguntic Economic Development Corporation
Mountain Association for Community Economic Development
National Network of Forest Practitioners
Ned Therrien Photography
Neil & Louise Tillotson Fund, NH Charitable Foundation
New England Forestry Foundation
New England Outdoor Center
New England School of Architectural Woodworking
New England Wood Pellet NH Association of Conservation Commissions
New Hampshire Center for Public Policy Studies
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
New Hampshire Grand
New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association
NH Wood Energy Council
NY Bioenergy Association
North Country Listens
Northeast Kingdom Travel and Tourism Association
Northeastern Vermont Development Association
Northern Border Regional Commission
Northern Community Investment Corporation
Northern Forest Canoe Trail
Northern Maine Development Commission
Northern Outdoors
Northwoods Stewardship Center
Open Space Institute
Pellergy Systems
Penobscot Nation
Pinkerton Academy
Piscataquis County Economic Development Council
Plum Creek
Project SHARE
Rangely Lakes Heritage Trust
RuralEdge
SAU 81
Seven Islands Land Company
Somerset Economic Development Council
Song in the Woods
St. Johnsbury Academy
Sunrise County Economic Council
Tug Hill Commission
The Conservation Fund
The Lyme Timber Company
The Nature Conservancy
The Wild Center
Town of Colebrook, NH
Trust for Public Land
USDA Rural Development
US Endowment for Forestry & Communities
US Forest Service – White Mountain National Forest
USDA Rural Development
Vermont Community Foundation
Vermont Department of Forest, Parks & Recreation
Vermont Energy Investment Corp.
Vermont Housing and Conservation Board
Vermont Land Trust
Vermont Manufacturing Extension Center
Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund
Vermont Wood Manufacturers Association
Vermont Wood Pellet
Vermont Woodworking School
Weatherby’s Lodge
Western Foothills Land Trust
Western Maine Community Action
White Mountains Community College
White River Partnership
Wildlife Conservation Society
Wood Products Manufacturers Association
Woodwork Career Alliance
Yankee Magazine
Yestermorrow Design/Build School
The Center closed Fiscal Year 2015 (ended April 30) in a strong financial position and continues to dedicate nearly 80% of our resources to program and mission delivery. Each year we raise our entire annual budget and we greatly appreciate your investment that makes our collective success possible.

Overall revenues for the year were up nearly 10% from last year, due in part to our success in securing multi-year commitments from public sources including the US Department of Agriculture-Rural Development and the Northern Border Regional Commission. Investments from generous foundations and individuals were also critical to meeting our budget goals.

Program expenditures increased 5%, allowing us to advance innovation in modern wood heating, wood products manufacturing and experiential tourism. We also significantly increased our analysis of regional trends, challenges and opportunities to update a regional economic strategy for the Northern Border Regional Commission.

The financial summary presented here, however, does not provide a full picture of the financial impact of our work across the region. As highlighted on page 5, the Center directly invested $1.4 million in financial and technical assistance through specific projects. To help accelerate these projects, we used our resources to leverage an additional $8.9 million in public funding, foundation grants, business and organizational investment, and helped raise more than $740,000 in grants for other nonprofit organizations participating in collaborative projects.

All together, this represents more than $10 million to create economic opportunity and community vitality across the Northern Forest. Generating this level of investment to ensure strong partners and effective program delivery is one of the Center’s core capacities. The Center’s entire team, all our supporters and partners contributed to this success.

To request a copy of complete audited financial statements, please contact Carrie French: cfrench@northernforest.org or 603-229-0679, ext. 103.
Northern Forest Center
Guiding Beliefs

The Center embraces and promotes the following beliefs to advance its mission and achieve a widely shared vision for the Northern Forest region.

A robust regional economy is central to the long-term health of the Northern Forest region’s communities and forested ecosystems.

Management and use of the region’s forests should deliver direct benefits to people in Northern Forest communities.

Sound forest stewardship and conservation of natural resources lie at the heart of effective local, state and regional development efforts.

Leveraging the energy of networks and collaboration is the best way for The Center to help unlock the region’s full intellectual, financial and creative capacity.

Integrated thinking about economic, community and environmental issues is fundamental to reducing conflicts, and uncovering new opportunities for the Northern Forest.

Leadership and investment in potentially transformational ideas are essential to the region’s ability to compete and succeed at the national and global scales.
Board of Directors
Peter Bergh, Chair, New Castle, NH
Mary McBryde, Vice Chair, Norwich, VT
Terrance Large, Treasurer, Bow, NH
Harold Janeway, Secretary, Webster, NH
Paul O. Bofinger, Concord, NH
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Jerry Delaney, Sr., Saranac, NY
Elizabeth Ehrenfeld, Falmouth, ME
Kathy Eneguess, Berlin, NH
Brian Houseal, Westport, NY
Jim Tibbetts, Columbia, NH
Steve Wight, Newry, ME

New directors for Fiscal Year 2016
Gordon Scannell, Pownal, ME
Kate Williams, Waitsfield, VT

New officers for Fiscal Year 2015
Jim Tibbetts, Treasurer

Grateful thanks to our retiring directors:
Kathy Eneguess
Terrance Large

Program Committee Advisors
Volunteers serving in addition to Board members.
Chuck Clusen, Natural Resources Defense Council, Washington, DC
Cecilia Danks, University of VT, Burlington, VT
Roger Dziegeleski, Finch Paper, Glen Falls, NY
Brad Gentry, Yale School of Environmental Studies, New Haven, CT
Ben Leoni, Curtis Thaxter, Portland, ME
Garrett Martin, Maine Center for Public Policy Studies, Bangor, ME
Kevin McDevitt, McDevitt Trucking, Manchester, NH
Brian Ruder, Skylight Partners Inc, Scarsdale, NY
Janice St. Onge, VT Sustainable Jobs Fund, Montpelier, VT

Staff
Maura Adams, Program Director
Carrie French, Director of Operations
Sarah Humphreys, Development Coordinator (FY16)
Leslie Karasin, Adirondack Program Manager
Kim Maynard, Development Coordinator (FY15)
Collin Miller, Director of Wood Products Initiatives (FY15)
Jessica O’Hare, Program Assistant
Doreen Oliveira, Director of Philanthropy
Julie Renaud Evans, Director of Forestry
Rob Riley, President
Steve Rohde, Vice President for Innovation & Financing
Joe Short, Vice President
Kelly Short, Communications Director
Laurel Will, Staff Accountant
Michael Wilson, Senior Program Director

Photos

Cover: Blazing fall colors of a northern hardwood forest. Jerry Monkman photo.

Page 3: Live edge curly maple at Goosebay Lumber in Chichester, NH. Kelly Short photo.


Page 5, top: Milan, NH, resident and project volunteer George Pozzuto walking on the site of the future Milan Community Forest. Julie Renaud Evans photo.

Page 5, bottom: Saranac Councilman and Center board member Jerry Delaney with pellet boiler installed in town hall. Photo by Rob Riley.

Page 6: A forest harvest in Milan, NH, will help pay for land acquisition for the Milan Community Forest. Kelly Short photo.

Page 8: Students and teachers at the Burke Town School in Burke, Vermont, celebrate their switch to modern wood heat. Brian Adams photo.

Page 10: Employees at Appalachian Engineered Flooring check quality of finished product. Kelly Short photo.


Page 19: Section of a custom table top by WallGoldfinger. Collin Miller photo.


Page 26: Sunlit forest. Jerry Monkman photo.

Back cover, top row: NH County Foresters tour a forest harvest in Milan, NH, and an employee working at Appalachian Engineered Flooring in North Troy, VT. Kelly Short photos.

Back cover, bottom row: Mountain biking in Maine. Jerry Monkman photo. Model Neighborhood participant David Benckendorf with his wood pellet boiler. Photo courtesy of the Benckendorfs.