

# CVCLT Seeks “Green” Designation

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The Central Vermont Community Land Trust (CVCLT) Board of Trustees passed a resolution on October 2, 2013 to participate in the NeighborWorks Green Organization Program, “a comprehensive commitment to sustainable operations.” The program will credit CVCLT, a NeighborWorks Chartered Member Organization, for the green practices already in use while also requiring the organization to take further steps ensuring that sustainable practices are part of the standard operating procedures in all of CVCLT’s dealings. The resulting principles and procedures will be part of an ongoing effort to reduce waste, encourage recycling, promote energy conservation and raise overall awareness of the importance of sustainable practices.

Some steps the non-profit organization will take include the development of an implementation plan, staff training in green homes and healthy living concepts, and offering loan funds for green rehabilitation or retrofits of existing homes.

CVCLT already meets about half of the practices and policies required for NeighborWorks’ official green designation, due to informal efforts initiated by staff members. The community development corporation also focuses heavily on implementing green technology whenever possible, providing further evidence of the company’s commitment to the environment and a sustainable future.

Implementation of the new policies and procedures will take the better part of a year, after which CVCLT plans to formally apply for the green designation. Once that designation is granted, NeighborWorks will continue to review the organization to test that the criteria are being consistently met.

The green designation is the short-term goal for which CVCLT will strive in these efforts, but the overarching purpose for participating in the program is the ongoing commitment to a better, cleaner, more sustainable future.

NeighborWorks America is one of the country’s preeminent leaders in affordable housing and community development. The national non-profit organization works to create opportunities for lower-income people to live in affordable homes in safe, sustainable neighborhoods that are healthy places for families to grow. Headquartered in Washington, DC, NeighborWorks America operates through a national office, two regional offices and seven district offices.

The Central Vermont Community Land Trust (CVCLT) is a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit corporation, formed in 1987, under the laws of the State of Vermont. It is an affordable housing organization built on the Community Land Trust model (See the Institute for Community Economics for more information on the Community Land Trust Model).