



## Melissa Levy

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### Selected Projects

**Walton Family Foundation Nature Based Tourism, 2011 - present** – Presented two workshops on the wealth creation approach and measurement to nature based tourism grantees of the Walton Family Foundation in the Lower Mississippi River Valley and the Verde Valley of Arizona. Now, we are coaching grantees in the wealth creation approach and assisting with regional and local tourism demand studies.

**Town of Johnson, VT, 2011-2012** – Managing a market study for a commercial/light industrial park in the Town of Johnson.

**Town of Johnson, VT, 2011** – Managed a feasibility study related to a community grocery store.

**One Voice, 2011** – Researched local food system models including best practices for potential usage in Mississippi.

**Ford Foundation, 2010 - present** – Coaching Alabama and Mississippi grantees and managing Central Appalachian grantees of the Foundation's Wealth Creation in Rural Communities initiative.

**U.S. Forest Service, 2009 - present** – Conducting biomass energy pre-feasibility studies for communities in the northeastern region of the U.S.

**Vermont Community Foundation and the United Way of Addison County, 2010** – Presented You Get What You Measure® modules to their grantees.

**Community Foundation of Greater South Wood County, 2009-2010** – Conducted an evaluation of Workforce Central, a workforce development program in Wisconsin. As part of this work, analyzed a survey of service providers in South Wood County, Wisconsin.

**Vermont Environmental Consortium, 2009** – Conducted a study of the environmental sector in Vermont.

**Save Passamaquoddy Bay, 2009** – Reviewed and critiqued an environmental impact statement for a proposed liquid natural gas facility in Passamaquoddy Bay.

**U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities, 2009** – Developed an annotated list of tools for evaluating resilience for the Endowment.

**Central Appalachian Network, 2009** – Worked with the Network on strategic planning and evaluation, using You Get What You Measure®.

**Wallace Center at Winrock International, 2008-2010** – Assisted in the evaluation of the Wallace Center's sustainable agriculture programs.

**Town of Brattleboro, VT, 2008** – Inventoried the municipal infrastructure assets in order to comply with GASB 34 and create a capital budget and plan.

**West Central Initiative, 2008** – Researched alternative technologies related to water infrastructure for three towns in west central Minnesota.



**America's Scenic Byways, 2007** – Designed an economic impact measurement tool for America's Scenic Byways.

**Village of Derby Line, VT, 2007** – Researched the economic and fiscal impacts of a border station expansion in Derby Line, Vermont

**Northeast Sustainable Research and Education (NESARE), 2007** – Evaluated program experience with outcome funding.

**Barnstable County, MA; Richmond, MA; Litchfield, ME; New Gloucester, ME; Hancock, NH; Montgomery, NY; Hinesburg, VT; Thetford, VT; Westford, VT; 2006-2008** – Assisted communities in New England to inventory and assess their municipal infrastructure.

**Massachusetts Trust for Public Land, 2006** – Researcher of the full range of economic benefits of public land, produced paper with Mt. Auburn Associates, "Parks and Beaches: Common Cents for the Common Wealth."

**Franklin, NY, 2006** – Researched green building technologies for a recreation building in New York State; researched examples of rural municipal green buildings, particularly recreation centers, as well as best practices in New York that involve using federal dollars and green technology in historic buildings.

**Deep Root Organic Vegetable Cooperative, VT, 2006** – Conducted market research of the potential demand for Vermont organic vegetables for a Vermont/Quebec organic vegetable cooperative.

**National Association of Development Organizations, Research Foundation, 2006** – Researched the impact of brownfields funding from the Environmental Protection Agency on regional development organizations.

**Save Passamaquoddy Bay, 2005** – Researched the impacts of liquid natural gas development in the Passamaquoddy Bay region of Maine on local governments, public safety, community infrastructure, and public investment.

**Town of Hinesburg, VT, 2005** – Researched alternative techniques for disinfection of wastewater for the town.

**Town of Hardwick, Vermont and The Northeastern Vermont Development Association on behalf of Vermont Soy, 2005** – Conducted market analysis of the potential demand for a Vermont-made organic soy milk product. Also conducted best practices case studies of successful soy beverage ventures.

**The Plattsburgh-North Country Chamber Of Commerce, 2005** – Assisted in a study of the economic impacts of Canada on Clinton County, New York.

**Frederick County Dairy Processing Task Force, MD, 2005** – Conducted market research to determine the potential demand for a Frederick County, Maryland dairy product. Also conducted best practices case study research of successful dairy enterprises.

**University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives & HomeGrown Wisconsin 2004** – Researched the potential institutional demand for local fresh and fresh processed produce in and around Madison, Wisconsin; conducted interviews in order to learn about the ownership, management and structure of public markets around the country.



**Fairplay for Harpswell, ME, 2004** – Researched the potential impacts of a proposed liquid natural gas facility terminal in Harpswell on real estate values and municipal government.

**Town of Richmond, VT, 2003** – Assisted in pilot Green Community Technologies program in Richmond, providing information on applications of alternative technologies to municipal infrastructure and comparisons of cost and performance of conventional and alternative technologies.

**University of Minnesota Extension Service, 2003** – Worked with two UofM program areas, Leadership & Civic Engagement and Business Retention and Expansion, to develop survey database applications to measure social capital.

**National Community Forestry Center, Northern Forest Region, 2003** – Worked with two communities, Lincoln, Vermont and the New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association, through the National Community Forestry Center, Northern Forest Region, to report their experiences with community forestry and participatory research.

### **Additional Experience**

**1997 – 2001. Managing Editor/Rural Brownfields Research Coordinator. National Association of Development Organizations. Washington, DC.** Managed monthly 12-page publication, Economic Development Digest (circ. 10,000, readership 50,000), on sustainable community and economic development for small metropolitan and rural communities. Also coordinated rural brownfields research project.

**1994 – 1997. Business Services Director. Co-op America. Washington, DC.** Managed quarterly business newsletter, providing information on effective management of socially and environmentally responsible businesses. Directed various functions for the business members of the organization, including: membership, advertising, publications and events.

### **Selected Speaking Engagements**

**NADO Rural Sustainable Development Workshop, 2012** – facilitated “Social Equity in Rural Communities: Setting Goals and Tracking Progress” with Wayne Fawbush of the Ford Foundation and Noah Dorius of HUD Region 1.

**NADO Economic Development Finance Service Peer Networking Conference, 2012** – speaker on Wealth Creation in Rural Communities for the session “Working Lunch: Rural Wealth Creation.”

**NADO National Rural Transportation Peer Learning Conference, 2012** – co-presented a workshop titled “Visioning and Beyond: Developing Plans and Measuring Implementation.”

**Walton Family Foundation, 2011** – Measurement and Wealth Creation Workshops co-presenter.

**Alt.Consulting, Arkansas, 2011** – Measurement and Wealth Creation Workshop co-presenter.

**Sustainable Rural Regenerative Enterprises for Families, Alabama, 2011** – Measurement and Wealth Creation Workshop presenter.

**National Wildlife Federation, 2011** – Measurement and Wealth Creation Workshop co-presenter.

**Rural Wealth Creation and Livelihoods: A National Conference and Conversation For Practitioners, Researchers and Policymakers, 2011** – Integrating Measurement into Wealth Creation Work.



**Minnesota Campus Compact, 2011** – Wealth Creation and Campus Connections presenter.

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Community Involvement Conference, Arlington, VA, 2011** – You Get What You Measure® workshop co-presenter.

**Alliance for Nonprofit Management Conference, 2010** – “You Get What You Measure: An Alternative Strategic Planning and Evaluation Tool.”

**Vermont Environmental Consortium Annual Conference, 2010** – “Vermont’s Environmental Sector: Identifying Green Workforce Training Needs and Opportunities.”

**Ford Foundation Triple Bottom Line Working Group Meeting. Chapel Hill, NC., June 2009** – Presentation to the Working Group: “Sample Indicators of Community Wealth.”

**Vermont Law School, 2008** – Green Community Technologies® workshop presenter: “Getting Prepared to Save Energy and Reduce Carbon in Your Community— Assessment Tools and Resources: A Hands-on Technical Workshop & Training.”

**Adirondack Research Consortium Annual Conference, Tupper Lake, NY, 2007** – Participatory Research workshop presenter.

**Middlebury College. Middlebury, VT, 2003** – Participatory Research workshop co-presenter.

**Cornell University, Indicators Project, 2007** – You Get What You Measure® workshop co-presenter.

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Community Involvement Conference, Jacksonville, FL, 2007** – You Get What You Measure® workshop co-presenter.

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Community Involvement Conference, Milwaukee, WI, 2006** – You Get What You Measure® workshop co-presenter.

**What Works! The Future of Rural Entrepreneurship and Community Development in the Northeast. Burlington, Vermont, 2005** – Green Community Technologies® presentation.

### **Selected Publications**

**Hoffer, Doug and Melissa Levy. Measuring Community Wealth. 2011.**

**Hoffer, Doug and Melissa Levy. Measuring Community Wealth: Appendices. 2011.**

**Hoffer, Doug and Melissa Levy. Sample Indicators of Community Wealth. 2009.**

**Brownfields Resource Guide for Rural and Small Communities. 2002.** Washington, DC: National Association of Development Organizations.

**Reclaiming Rural America’s Brownfields: Alternatives to Abandoned Property. 2001.** Washington, DC: National Association of Development Organizations.

**Thompson, L. and M. Levy. 2000. Rural Brownfields: Asset or Liability?** In Public Risk, May/June 2000. p.60.

### **Education**

University of Vermont - Master of Science in Natural Resource Planning, Burlington, Vermont, 2003

State University of New York at Binghamton - Bachelor of Arts, Environmental Studies, Binghamton, New York, 1993



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## **Community Service and Affiliations**

Board Member, Vermont Environmental Consortium, October 2011 - present.

Member, Communications Committee, National Rural Assembly.

Member, Hinesburg Conservation Commission, Hinesburg, Vermont, 2002 – present (Chair from 2010-2012).

Member, Vermont Planners Association, 2003 – present.