NWCUD

Generational Change

Establishment of universal broadband internet service is critical to the vibrancy, success, and security of our communities. The need was already present, but the Covid-19 pandemic has changed the way our children learn, how we receive health care, how we work, how we participate in our government, and how we communicate with our families and loved ones, near and far.

How Big is the Problem?

14,090 Premises in NWCUD

2,091 Unserved (Does not have any connectivity)

6,602 Underserved (Does not meet the FCC standard for broadband 25/3)

47% of premises do not have adequate connectivity.

Vision:

Break the barriers to Internet access for all in our communities.

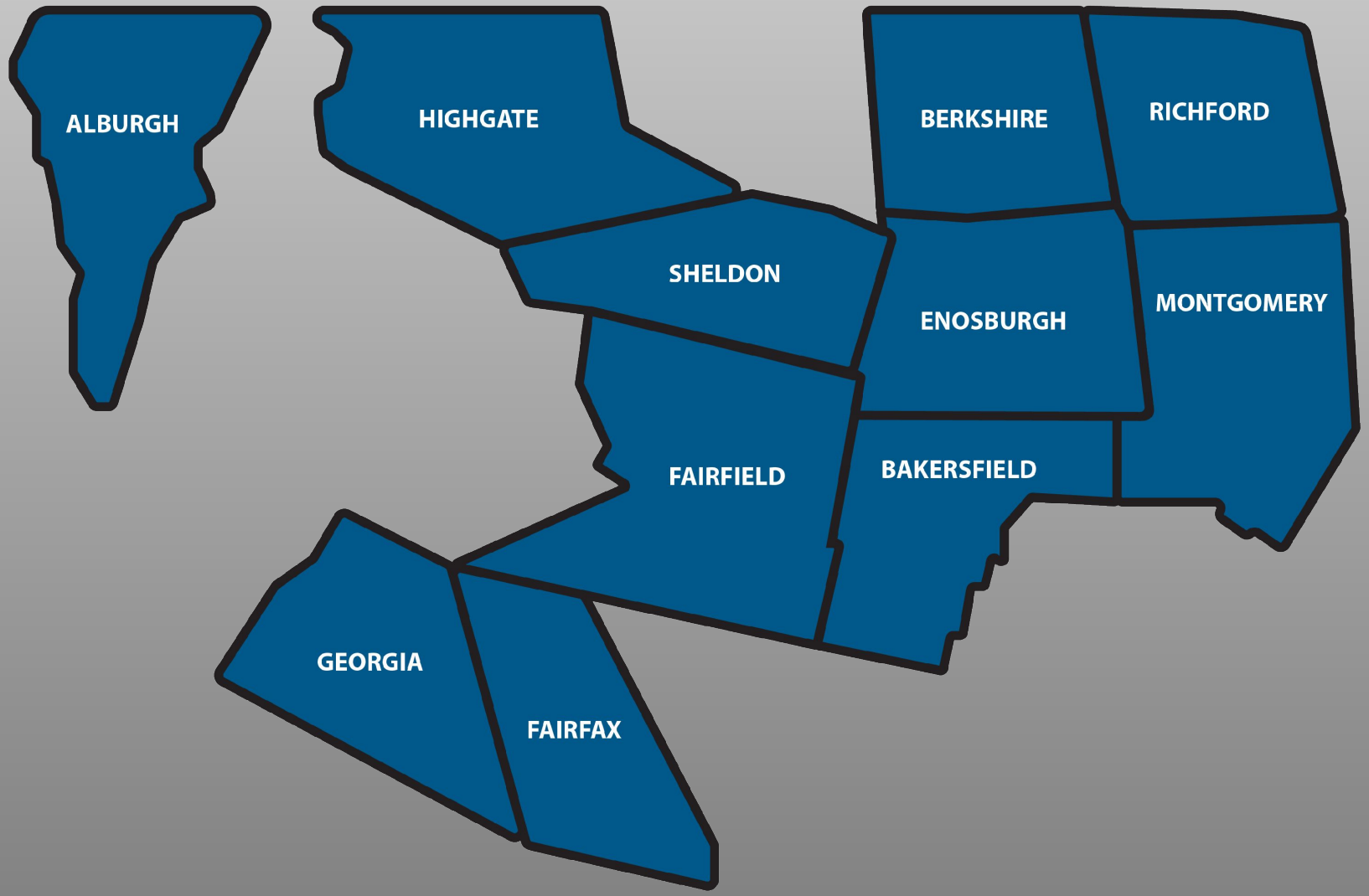
Mission:

Leverage partnerships and procure funding to connect Northwestern Vermont via Open Access Fiber to ensure opportunity for all homes and businesses in our region.

Goals:

- Universal Access to all homes and businesses in our region.
- Technology Platform based on Fiber to the Premise (FTTP) that allows for Open Access to services.
- Prioritizes the unserved in our region.
- Reliable & Affordable
- Accelerate the Timescale for access to internet services focusing on the unserved.
- 2022 for some level of implementation

Member Communities

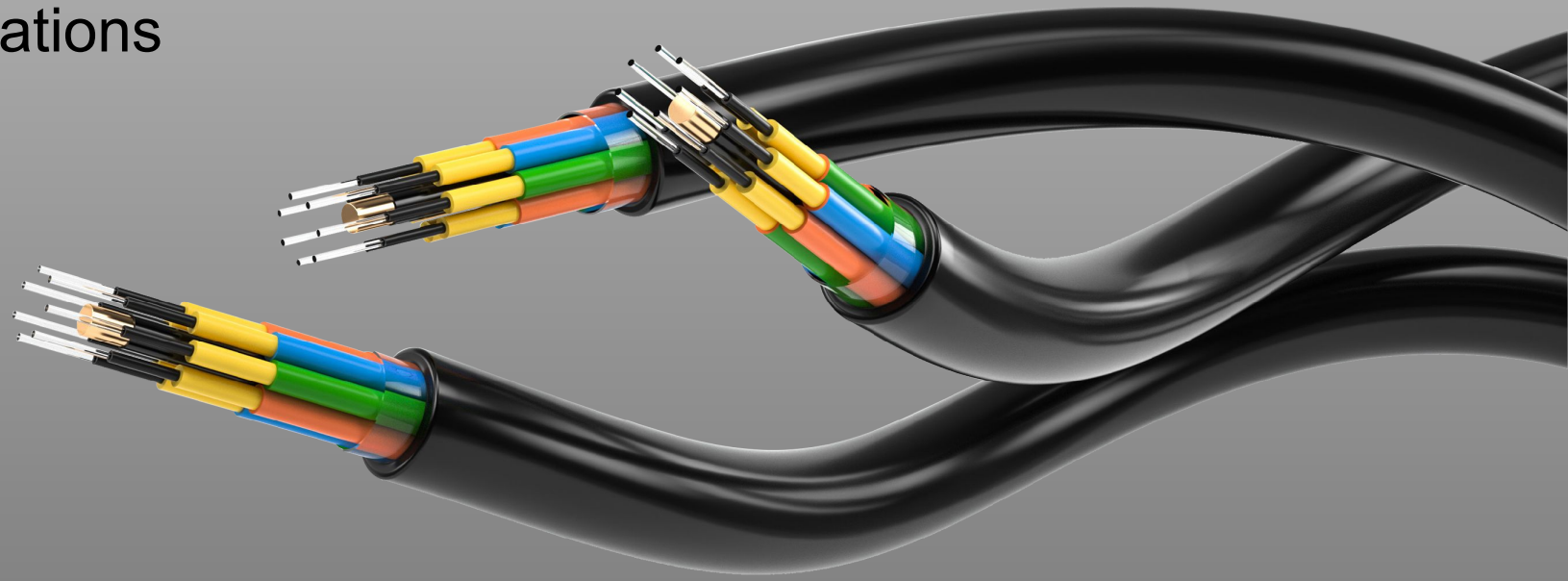


A Look Back

- Created in Aug of 2020
- Collaborated with NRPC for the Broadband Innovation Grant (awaiting feasibility report)
- Completed a regional survey to further assess broadband need
- Deployed 19 free Wi-Fi hotspots
- Collaborate in VT Community Foundation to provide local library a technology grant.
- Seeking collaboration with CUDs, SUs, and electric utilities about sharing resources.
- Subcommittees for Communications, Project Management/Ops, and Finance
- Applied for various grant for capacity building, VCF, USDA, PSD, and EDA
- Engage with the legislature for broadband bills. H360/S118/ Future

Looking Ahead

- Selecting the consultant for business plan
- Hire CUD Program Manager
- Project plan of phased approach to regional buildout (partnerships)
- Seeking to hire an operations manager.
- Site surveys and make ready process. (Utility poles)
- Preparing us for phase 1 implementation in mid 2022



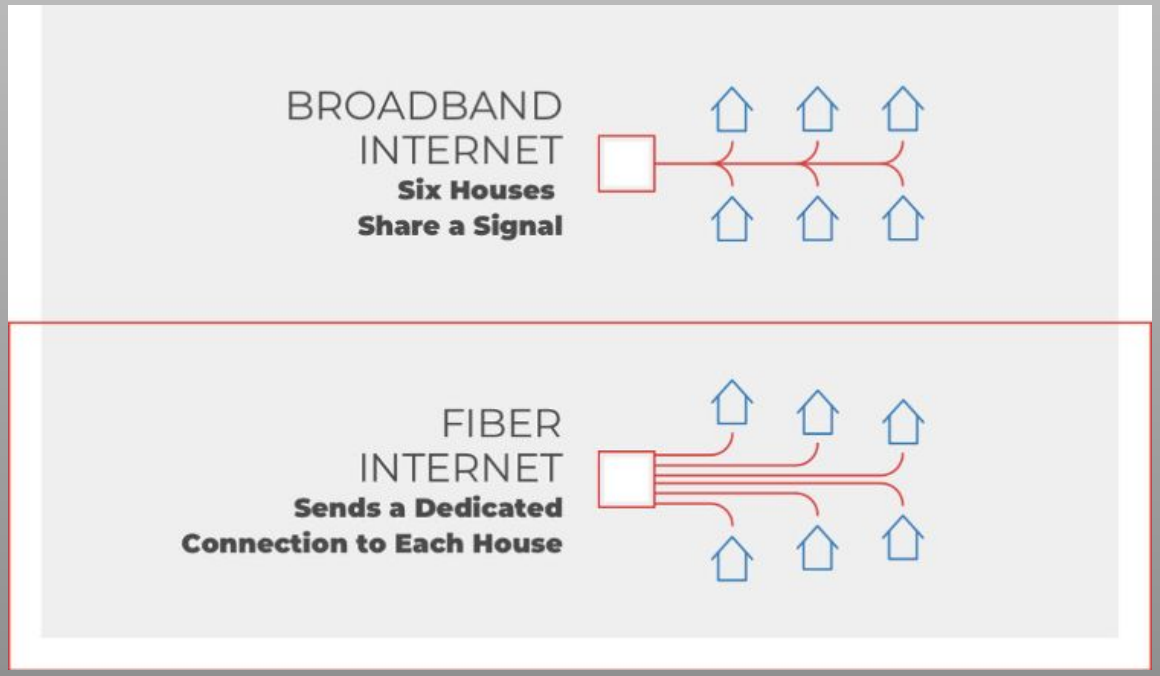
Why Fiber?

Speed: With fiber-optic technology, you can access the fastest speeds in the nation. And, you'll get symmetrical speeds for upload and download.

Reliability: Fiber connections allow you to stream uninterrupted with very little downtime, no matter how many devices you have connected.

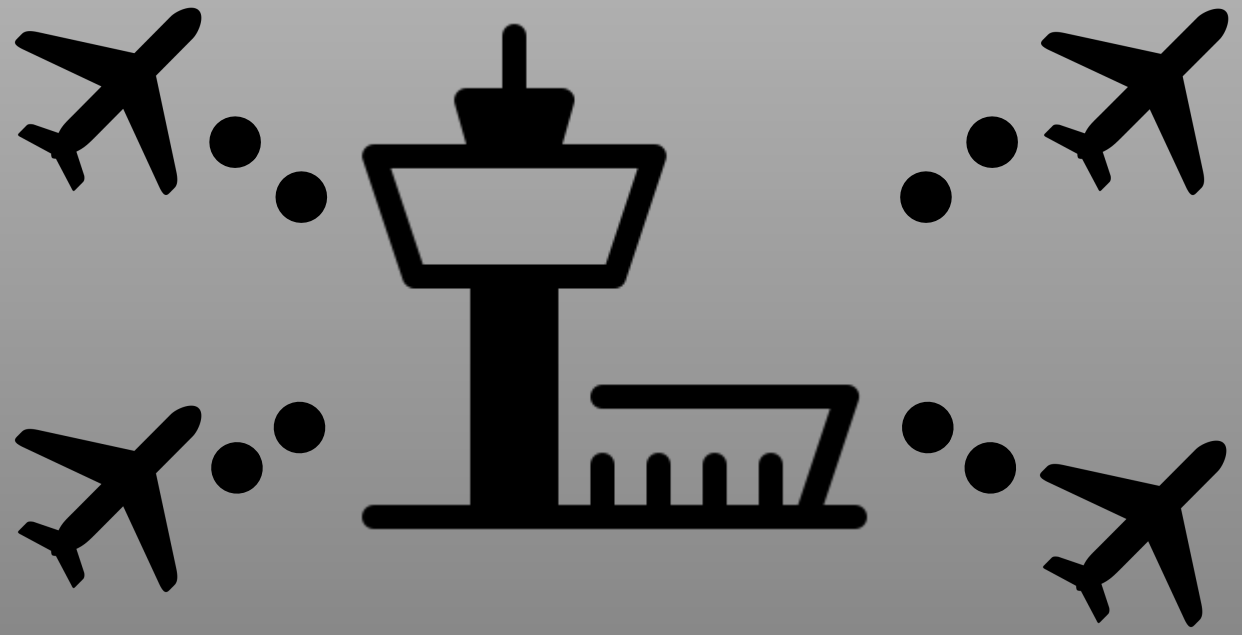
Affordable: Fiber is generational technology that will make significant socioeconomic contributions to employment, business development, and even property values.

Future Proof: Fiber optics can handle immense amounts of data, which means it can power applications we haven't even thought of yet.



What is Open Access?

An Open Access Network essentially means that the operator of the network and the Internet service providers are two separate entities. An Open Access Network essentially means that the operator of the network and the Internet service providers are two separate entities.



Questions

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