

Vermont

Stoking innovation in the northeast

Several initiatives are taking aim at innovation to expand Vermont's tech sector and prepare it for rapidly developing industries. In 2016, the city of Burlington was named a White House TechHire community, a campaign to expand small tech sectors around the U.S. by accelerating training for local workers. In Burlington, that means a partnership between the municipal government, local accelerator BTV Unite, Vermont companies and universities to train and employ a total of 400 workers by 2020.

As a whole, the Green Mountain State punches well above its weight in Grants Advanced Degrees, thanks to the 14.5 percent of its population over the age of 24 with a graduate or professional degree.

While Vermont has yet to see widespread testing of self-driving vehicles, officials at its Agency of Transportation are taking steps to increase the profile of the technology within the government.

The state's rural areas could become ripe SDV testing grounds — or so officials hope. “We have 8,000 miles of gravel roads, and so we need to build our own confidence that these vehicles are going to work for us,” said Joe Seagale, policy, planning and research director for the Agency of Transportation. “We want residents, businesses and visitors to benefit from the technology as soon as possible, and the testing can help get it deployed here maybe sooner than it would otherwise.”

Sources: (Vermont Technology Alliance) (Vermont Business Magazine) (BTV Ignite) (VPR)

WHAT DID WE DO RIGHT?

Vermont ranked among the top 10 states in Grants Advanced Degrees.

WHAT CAN WE DO BETTER NEXT YEAR?

Vermont lags behind most other states in VC investment and R&D spending per capita, where the state saw a 39-percent decrease year-over-year to \$395.46.

WHERE HAVE WE MOST IMPROVED?

A new bill requires the Department of Transportation to hold a meeting of experts on topics related to SDVs.

Best & Brightest	C
Fast Internet	B
Grants Advanced Degrees	A-
Tech Workforce	B
Tax Friendly	D+
Attracts Investment	D+
Entrepreneurial Activity	B-
Ridesharing	B
Short-Term Rentals	B
Sustainable Policies	C+
Self-Driving Vehicles	A
Drones	A



Fast Internet

64 percent of Vermont households have internet connections of at least 10 mbps, and 51 percent enjoy speeds of 25 mbps or more.



Entrepreneurial Activity

Vermont's small businesses created 53.50 new jobs per 1,000 people from Q2/2011 through Q4/2016.



Tech Workforce

Vermont boasts roughly 40 technology jobs per 1,000 residents in the state.



Best & Brightest

Vermont lacks Right-to-Work legislation, but does have state protections for workers from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

The Green Mountain State Lays the Foundation for a New Generation of Skilled Workers

Vermont policymakers are empowering business groups to fill holes in the state's workforce by training high school students to take in-demand jobs.

The state Department of Labor gave the Rutland Region Workforce Investment Board and Rutland Economic Development Corp a \$185,000 grant to launch Real Careers @ Rutland County.

The program will train high school students in high-demand fields such as health care, transportation and logistics, and manufacturing.

Logic Supply — an industrial computer company that counts NASA and General Electric as clients — will also expand its presence in South Burlington. The company received a Vermont Employment Growth Incentive Award and approval for another training program grant, helping it to expand its payroll by 83 positions by the end of 2020.

Sources: (Burlington Free Press) (Rutland Herald)

