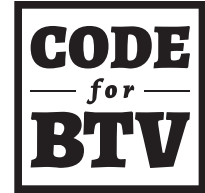


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Food Systems Hackathon at the NOFA-VT Winter Conference

How Can Technology Help Vermont's Food System?

BURLINGTON, Vt., February 14, 2014 – Code for BTV, a local Code for America Brigade, is organizing a food systems hackathon to coincide with the upcoming Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT) Winter Conference in Burlington. The hackathon will bring together software developers, designers, makers and others to build software/hardware prototypes.

Participants in the hackathon will include:

- Civic hackers, developers, designers and makers
- Organic enthusiasts, farmers and gardeners
- Policy makers
- Researchers
- Students

“The University of Vermont and Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) are very pleased to be participating in our first of what we hope are many civic hackathons,” said **Dan Harvey, Director of Operations for the OVPR**. “This is a chance for us to support local and regional economic development while providing interesting technology-based opportunities for UVM faculty and students.”

Code for BTV will facilitate a workshop between food systems domain experts and technologists at the beginning of the NOFA-VT Winter Conference to kickoff the two-day hackathon. This workshop will give

hackathon participants an opportunity to discover what problems organic enthusiasts, farmers, gardeners and consumers face while trying to develop an economically viable and ecologically sound Vermont food system.

“We at the Vermont Council on Rural Development are proud that we have been leaders in the conversation and policies about Vermont’s working landscape. For Vermont farmers to be profitable, productive, sustainable and resilient, they need to have access to the latest digital tools,” said **Paul Costello, Executive Director of the Vermont Council on Rural Development**. “The Food Systems Hackathon is a great opportunity for Vermont farmers and techies to come together to create digital tools that solve problems specific to Vermont’s small scale farms.”

The Food Systems Hackathon will take place on Saturday, February 15, 2014 and Sunday, February 16, 2014 at the Dudley H. Davis Center on the University of Vermont Campus in Burlington, VT.

The hackathon is in collaboration with NOFA-VT, and is produced by Code for BTV and Found Line. Sponsors for the hackathon include the Office of the UVM Vice President for Research, the Vermont Council on Rural Development’s Digital Economy Project, and Room 9 Redevelopment LLC and the New Moran Team.

For more information and the full schedule, visit:
<http://codeforbtv.org/events/2014/02/food-systems-hackathon/>

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About Code for BTV

Code for BTV is an official Code for America Brigade that facilitates sustainable collaborations on civic software and open data projects between coders, designers, and organizations (both governmental and non-governmental) in the greater Burlington, Vermont area. Code for BTV hosts events for civic hackers to come together and work on building and reusing civic apps and support open data initiatives.