

JUST ONE THING

Submitted by: Rebecca Bailey, rebecca@vitalcommunities.org

Company/Organization: Vital Communities

Type of Organization: Nonprofit organization

Number of Employees: 15 employees

Category: Environment

Challenge or Opportunity: Our organization brings people together to develop initiatives that enhance the civic, economic, and environmental vitality of the Upper Valley region of New Hampshire and Vermont. We wanted to help people develop as community leaders in climate change adaptation, called the Climate Change Leadership Academy (2CLA).

Approach or Solution: We started the Climate Change Leadership Academy (2CLA), with six monthly meetings to give people a solid grounding in the issue of climate change and support to develop projects to carry out in their own communities. One of those projects is a brochure offering a self-guided climate change hike at the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller NHP in Woodstock, VT.

Impact: 2CLA Graduate Leah Marshall created the self-guided hike, which highlights a poorly understood aspect of climate change: how it affects New England forests, such as affecting major species like sugar maples and white oak.