

WEST WINDSOR 2016 TOWN REPORT - ECFiber

West Windsor is a member of ECFiber, the East Central Vermont Telecommunications District, Vermont's first Communications Union District. The District commenced operations on January 1, 2016, replacing the 24-town inter-local contract West Windsor originally approved in the 2008 Town Meeting. ECFiber is still owned by its 24 member towns, and, as was true under the inter-local contract, local taxpayer funds cannot be used to subsidize the District's operations. The district must be self-sustaining and there is no recourse to taxpayers. Because ECFiber is a municipally owned non-profit organization, once construction of all 24 towns is complete, profits will be distributed to each town based on its subscription level.

On April 15, 2016, the District announced that it had completed a \$9 million offering of Series 2016A Bonds to refinance a portion of its debt, cover 2016 capital expenditures, and complete the design and make ready for 250 miles of construction in 2017. As of Dec. 1st 2016, 326 miles of fiber-optic network had been built and "lit" in parts of 18 member towns, serving about 1550 customers, 57 in West Windsor. ECFiber plans to continue to raise capital through the municipal bond market in 2017, 2018 and 2019, and to complete 1400 miles of network covering all underserved locations in its 24 towns by 2019. ECFiber is pleased to offer:

- Reliable high Internet speeds, which are symmetrical (the same in each direction) and are not "up to" (that is, ECFiber strives to actually provide the speeds for which its customers are paying at all times).
- Simple, stable pricing with no contracts, fine print, or data caps. Over the last two years ECFiber has increased its speeds but not its prices.
- Local and personable customer service. Phones are answered by an employee during business hours without an automated queue. Support is available 24 hours a day in the case of emergency situations.
- Local ownership and control, as governing board members meet monthly to set policy and are actively involved in promoting ECFiber within the community.
- Valued community services. For example, ECFiber offers over 25 community anchor institutions (schools, town facilities, and libraries) its highest level of service for its lowest monthly fee.

In 2016 ECFiber continued its practice of raising speeds but not prices, by announcing that the District's tiers of service would now be set at 10/25/100/500 Mbps (versus the previous 7/20/50/100/400).

Thanks to the interest shown by West Windsor residents in 2016, our Town is one of the six towns selected for construction in 2017, extending the network to nearly every premise served by utility poles. This spring (2017), construction of West Windsor's town wide network will begin with customer installations to follow as areas or network sections in town are completed. If you want to be alerted as soon as service is available on your road, please consider subscribing now (<http://www.ecfiber.net/subscribe/>). There are no contracts, no money required up-front, and no obligations. Subscribing *will* allow ECFiber to notify you once service is available to you.

Note: If you pre-subscribed to ECFiber in the 2016 Crowd Fiber campaign, a full subscription providing additional information is required to become a customer and receive service.

For additional information, visit the website(www.ecfiber.net), email (support@ecfiber.net) or call the office (802.763.2262) or West Windsor's delegate to the ECFiber Governing Board (westwindsor@ecfiber.net).

Ken Parrot
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