

Randolph 2016 Town Report – ECFiber

Randolph 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 Randolph originally approved at Town Meeting in 2008. ECFiber is still owned by its 24 member towns, and 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.

In April, 2016, the District completed a \$9 million offering of 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. 1, 2016, 326 miles of fiber-optic network had been built and “lit” in parts of 18 member towns, serving about 1550 customers, **including about 100 in Randolph.** 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. The expansion strategy for 2018 and beyond will again be decided based on the highest rates of pre-subscription. Randolph could be a major beneficiary of the next phase of growth.

ECFiber offers:

- Reliable high Internet speeds, which are symmetrical (the same in each direction) and not dependent on weather or the number of users on the local network.
- 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. An employee answers phones during business hours without an automated queue.
- 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.

For additional information:

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