WiredWest Fiber Network for Charlemont

What is the WiredWest network?

A regional fiber-optic network reaching ***every home and business*** in Charlemont delivering high-speed ***internet, phone and television service***.

What's in it for Charlemont?

Economic development – existing and new businesses, tele-commuting
Property values – increase value of your home, hard to sell without broadband
Tourism – visitors and guests expect 21st century telecom
Education – lack of broadband at home disadvantages our kids and our teachers
Demographics – keep young families in town, keep Hawlemont full

What's in it for residents?

YouTube, movies, music, entertainment, web sites – all with no data caps
Video chat (Skype, Facetime) with friends and family for free
Vital technology for home businesses
Local home-based workers can serve as EMTs and firefighters
Helps elderly citizens stay in their homes (telemedicine, support services)
Online education (MIT, Stanford courses), e-textbooks, flipped classrooms
Competition for TV service benefits consumers
Economic development can reduce our taxes

Financing

40% of the construction cost paid by the state, 60% by town borrowing
Subscription fees will pay for network operations and generate profits
At 40% or higher subscription rate, we expect to see ***no impact on tax rates***
Any profits will reduce rates or be distributed to the towns (cooperative model)
Borrowing authorized for $ 1.75M, interest-only during construction phase

Owned by us, run by us

Owned and run collectively by a cooperative of small, rural towns in our region
Responsive to local needs, keeps our dollars local, creates jobs
The profits go back to the towns

Why isn't DSL good enough?

Cannot reach everyone in Charlemont
You often cannot get connected until someone else cancels service
Verizon wants to eliminate all copper services – including DSL
Slow, aging technology cannot keep pace with future needs
Fiber-optics are the fastest, most robust, most future-proof solution

Financing Details

Total construction costs	$ 2,670,000
State contribution	$ 920,000
Town borrowing authorization	$ 1,750,000

If enough residents take service (40%), the network profits will cover the town's debt payments

Impact on tax rates

Year	Total Town Payments Due	Per $100K of Assessed Value (annual)	Average Home Per Month	
			< 20% Subscribers (worst case scenario)	40% Subscribers
1	$ 3,200	$ 2.52	$ 0.39	**$ 0.00**
2	$ 12,800	$ 9.98	$ 1.53	**$ 0.00**
3 - 5	$ 85,500	$ 65.56	$ 10.05	**$ 0.00**
6 - 20	$ 133,958	$ 100.34	$ 15.39	**$ 0.00**

- WiredWest cooperative will return all profits to the towns to cover debt payments.
- At a 40% subscription rate, WiredWest projects full coverage of debt service, resulting in no net impact on town tax rates.
- Short term financing for years 3-5 may require tax rate increases (depending on construction schedule) that would be repaid in subsequent years, though we are working to try to avoid any temporary increases.
- Monthly cost for average home based on average home valuation of $184,317

We need 40% pre-subscribers to join: www.wiredwest.net/register
$49 deposit, credited to first bill, refundable if you move or change your mind
Financial hardship? Visit http://fiberfund.charlemont.com

Vote for Prop 2 ½ debt exclusion: May 26 Town Election (noon – 7pm)
Vote for debt authorization: May 26 Annual Town Meeting (7pm)