Clicking on the “Ruler” button will open a pop up window that will show you a distance measurement, as well as a special cursor that you will use to modify this distance.

Google Earth™ allows us to measure distance in two ways: we can either measure a “line” distance from point x to point y, or we can measure a “path” distance in which we measure the distance between several points that we specify i.e. to measure an “absolute distance” from Burlington to Colchester, you might want to use the “Line” function, but to accurately measure the windy path of the Winooski River, you might choose to use the “Path” function.
LINE MEASUREMENTS: To begin measuring, click the left mouse button on the starting point of the distance that you would like to measure. Once the point is set, a white line should appear. To complete the distance calculation, move the cursor to the desired end-point and click the left mouse button again. This will freeze the white line, and a length measurement will appear in the pop up window.

PATH MEASUREMENTS: To begin measuring, click the left mouse button on the starting point of the distance that you would like to measure. Move your mouse to the next point, and click. Continue this process until the desired “Path” has been achieved. Notice that each time a new point is added to the path, the “Length” in the window changes accordingly.

Step 5: Making Another Measurement
To make another measurement, simply click “clear” and repeat steps 1-4.