

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Chittenden County ECOS Partnership Releases 2017 Annual Report: *The State of Chittenden County***

*Winooski, VT* – The Chittenden County ECOS Partnership has released its **2017 ECOS Annual Report** and online data **Scorecard**. For the third year in a row, the Annual Report is an infographic that visually displays some of the most interesting trends and notable accomplishments from 2017 relating to people, place, and prosperity in Chittenden County.

The ECOS Annual Report summarizes progress toward the goals set in the 2013 Chittenden County **ECOS Plan**, the combined Regional Plan, Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Chittenden County. The ECOS Plan includes 17 broad goals in four categories: Natural Systems, Social Community, Economy, and Built Environment. ECOS stands for *Environment, Community, Opportunity, Sustainability*.

To track progress made toward ECOS goals, the ECOS Partnership monitors 90+ indicators over the course of the year. The indicators are drawn from the most reliable statistics, objectively based on substantial research, and intended to be understood by broad audiences.

A few notable highlights from the 2017 ECOS Annual Report include:

- **Opioid Crisis** | The waitlist for Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) has fluctuated over time, reaching monthly levels as high as 302. However, in September 2017, the waitlist reached zero and remained at zero through the end of the year.
- **Diversity** | 94% of the population growth in the last six years has been non-white and Hispanic. This equates to 4,529 of the additional 4,826 people from 2010-2016. For many business owners, such immigrant workers have been a vital reason why their businesses have been able to thrive in recent years.
- **Clean Water** | We continue to work toward the goal of reducing excess phosphorus in Lake Champlain by 34% statewide. Stormwater runoff from roads is a notable phosphorus input to the lake. CCRPC has been assisting our municipalities in identifying the problem areas and defining solutions for them. We'll continue this work now that the Municipal Roads General Permit is now released.

All data informing the Annual Report is found in the **ECOS Scorecard**, an interactive online platform that promotes easy access to the indicators that measure how Chittenden County is doing. To access the online platform and track how Chittenden County is doing year to year on a wide variety of topic areas, visit [ecosproject.com](http://ecosproject.com).

Following the adoption of the ECOS Plan in 2013, the ECOS Partnership formed to keep the focus on implementation. The Partnership includes the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, the City of Burlington, Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation, Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce, United Way of Northwest Vermont, University of Vermont, University of Vermont Medical Center, and the Vermont Department of Health. The Partners remain committed to working together to build upon collaborative successes and address areas of concern.

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