

Staff Review of the 2018 Charlotte Town Plan Amendments (Enhanced Energy Plan Review)
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The Town of Charlotte has requested that the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) issue a determination of energy compliance with the enhanced energy planning standards set forth in 24 V.S.A. §4352 for the 2018 Charlotte Town Plan. The 2018 Charlotte Town Plan was adopted and confirmed in 2018.

The Town of Charlotte is in the process of amending the 2018 plan to address the requirements for enhanced energy planning. The Charlotte Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the town plan amendment on November 15, 2018.

Following the statutory requirements of 24 V.S.A. §4352 and Vermont Department of Public Service's Energy Planning Standards for Municipal Plans, I have reviewed the amendments to the 2018 plan to determine whether:

1. The Comprehensive Plan includes an energy element that has the same components as described in 24 V.S.A. §4348a(a)(3) for a regional plan and is confirmed under the requirements of 24 V.S.A. §4350.
2. The Comprehensive Plan is consistent with following State goals:
 - a. Vermont's greenhouse gas reduction goals under 10 V.S.A. § 578(a);
 - b. Vermont's 25 by 25 goal for renewable energy under 10 V.S.A. § 580;
 - c. Vermont's building efficiency goals under 10 V.S.A. § 581;
 - d. State energy policy under 30 V.S.A. § 202a and the recommendations for regional and municipal energy planning pertaining to the efficient use of energy and the siting and development of renewable energy resources contained in the State energy plans adopted pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 202 and 202b (State energy plans); and
 - e. The distributed renewable generation and energy transformation categories of resources to meet the requirements of the Renewable Energy Standard under 30 V.S.A. §§ 8004 and 8005.
3. The Comprehensive Plan meets the standards for issuing a determination of energy compliance included in the State energy plans as developed by the Vermont Department of Public Service.

Staff Review Findings and Comments

Consistency with the requirements above is evaluated through the Vermont Department of Public Service's Vermont Department of Public Service's Energy Planning Standards for Municipal Plans, which is attached to this document and briefly summarized below.

Standard	Met	Not Met	N/A Yet
1. Plan duly adopted and approved	X		
2. Submit a copy of the adopted plan	X		
3. Plan contains an energy element	X		
4. Analysis of resources, needs, scarcities, costs and problems in the municipality across all energy sectors	X		
5.a. Report Current energy use for heating, electricity, and transportation	X		
5.b. Report 2025, 2035 and 2050 targets for energy use	X		
5.c. Evaluation of thermal-sector energy use changes	X		
5.d. Evaluation of transportation-sector energy use changes	X		
5.e. Evaluation of electric-sector energy use changes	X		
6.a. Encourage conservation by individuals and organizations	X		
6.b. Promote efficient buildings	X		
6.c. Promote decreased use of fossil fuels for heat	X		
6.d. Demonstrate municipal leadership re: efficiency of municipal buildings?	X		
7.a. Encourage increased public transit use	X		
7.b. Promote shift away from single-occupancy vehicle trips	X		
7.d. Promote shift from gas/diesel to non-fossil fuel vehicles?	X		
7.e. Demonstrate municipal leadership re: efficiency of municipal transportation?	X		
8.a. Promote Smart growth land use policies	X		
8.b. Strongly prioritize development in compact, mixed use centers	X		
9.a. Report existing renewable energy generation	X		
9.B. Analyze generation potential	X		
9.c. Identify sufficient land to meet the 2050 generation targets	X		
9.d. Ensure that local constraints do not prevent the generation targets from being met	X		
9.e. Include policy statements on siting energy generation	X		
9.f. Maximize potential for generation on preferred sites	X		
9.g. Demonstrate municipal leadership re: deploying renewable energy	X		
10.-13. Include maps provided by CCRPC	X		

As drafted, the 2018 Charlotte Town plan with draft energy amendments does meet the requirements.

Additional Comments/Questions:

While these changes are not required for an affirmative determination of energy compliance, the changes discussed below would improve the plan’s efficacy.

1. Page 1-54, item 2 second bullet contains a typo where a \$ was used instead of a %.
2. Page 1-54, item 2 third bullet, the “town” should be replaced with “state” to accurately reflect the wording of the state’s goal.
3. Energy strategy number 4 only refers to the Vermont Residential Building Energy Standard. Consider also including the Vermont Commercial Building Energy Standard to make it clear that there are also standards for commercial uses.

4. In regard to policy 15 on page 1-59, the town does not have the authority to set expectations on applications for renewable energy generation.
5. If possible remove draft in references to the ECOS Plan.
6. Table A5 on page 2-66, there is a typo in the amount of solar energy generation reported. It should say 4,967 MWh not 4,097 MWh.

Proposed Motion & Next Steps:

PROPOSED MOTION: The PAC finds that the 2018 Charlotte Town Plan with the draft energy amendments, as submitted, does meet the requirements of the enhanced energy planning standards set forth in 24 V.S.A. §4352.

Upon notification that the Plan has been adopted by the municipality, CCRPC staff will review the plan amendment. If staff determines that substantive changes have been made, the materials will be forwarded to the PAC for review. Otherwise the PAC recommends that the Plan should be forwarded to the CCRPC Board for an affirmative determination of energy compliance.