



CHITTENDEN COUNTY RPC
Communities Planning Together

**Regional Planning
CCRPC Board Training
November 18, 2015**

Regional Planning Commission Duties (§ 4345a)

The 18 duties include:

- Prepare a regional plan
- Provide assistance in preparation of town plans, review and confirm municipal planning process
- Cooperate with neighboring regions and states
- Prepare implementation guidelines to attain consistency with the State planning goals (**§4302 goals**)
- Prepare guidelines for provision of affordable housing
- Review proposed State capital expenditures and assist municipalities in doing the same
- Appear before DEC to aid in Act 250 review, and PSB to aid in Section 248 review

Purpose of the Regional Plan (4347)

General Purpose: Guiding and accomplishing a coordinated, efficient and economic development of the region which will, in accordance with the present and future needs and resources, best promote the health, safety, order, convenience, prosperity and welfare of the inhabitants as well as efficiency and economy in the process of development. Plus 6 additional purpose statements.

- Must be consistent with State Goals (§4302)
- Must contain the required elements (§4348a)
- Must be developed in line with specific process (§4345a(5))

ECOS Plan Development Process

1. Goals – distill from 60 plans
2. Analysis – increase understanding
3. Indicators – track progress towards achieving goals
4. Implementation Priorities – identify concerns
5. Develop ECOS Plan (regional plan, Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy) – tie actions to strategic priorities
6. Monitoring – annual report of indicators and accomplishments

ECOS Plan Strategies

- 1. Economy:** Improve and strengthen the economic systems of our region to increase opportunities for Vermont employers and employees.
- 2. Smart Growth:** Strive for 80% of new development in the 15% of the County planned for growth
- 3. Water Quality:** Improve the safety, water quality, and habitat of our rivers, streams, wetlands and lakes in each watershed.
- 4. Rural Protection:** Increase investment in, farms, forests, other valued ecological lands, and local food, while decreasing subdivision of working lands.

ECOS Plan Strategies (cont.)

5. **Public Health:** Increase the opportunity for every person in our community to achieve optimal health and personal safety
6. **Education:** Equip our residents with the education and skills that they need to thrive
7. **Finance:** Develop financing and governance systems to make the most efficient use of taxpayer dollars and reduce costs.
8. **Equity:** Ensure that the projects and actions in all ECOS strategies assess equity impacts, and that the design and development of programs are inclusive of all and engage under-represented populations.

Confirm Municipal Plan and Planning Process Duties (§ 4345a(8 & 9))

- (8) Confirm municipal planning efforts, where warranted, as required under section 4350 of this title (§ 4350: review the **planning process** of its member municipalities **at least twice during an eight-year period**, or more frequently on request of the municipality).
- (9) **At least every eight years**, review the compatibility of **municipal plans**.

Also, § 4350(b) requires that municipalities must have their plans approved by the RPC in order to retain confirmation of its planning process. **Municipal plans shall expire every five years** unless they are readopted (§ 4387).

Confirm Municipal Plan and Planning Process Benefits

A municipality that elects to have its planning process be confirmed obtains these benefits:

- Eligibility to charge impact fees and to apply for municipal planning grants;
- Greater certainty that the municipality's plan will be recognized as an "adopted plan" [such as in Act 250 proceedings];
- Immunity from review by the Department of Housing and Community Affairs of the municipality's plan for compliance with affordable housing criteria established under 24 VSA 4351; and
- State agency plans adopted under 3 VSA Chapter 67 must be compatible with the municipality's approved plan.

Act 250 & Section 248

- Review in Consultation with Municipalities, Vtrans and other transportation partners as needed
- Review for consistency with our Planning Areas as defined in the ECOS Plan
- Review for transportation issues and opportunities
- Executive Committee reviews draft letters and the final letters are included in the full Board packet each month

ACCD Contract

- Update Regional Plans
- Provide municipal plan assistance
- Municipal Training and Education
- Act 250/Section 248 Participation
- Regional and State Issues
- Core Functions and Implementation Assistance

Resources

- State Statute: Title 24, Chapter 117: Municipal and Regional Planning and Development
- CCRPC Bylaws
 - Long Range Planning Committee
 - Planning Advisory Committee
- CCRPC Policies
 - Guidelines and Standards for Confirmation of Municipal Planning Processes and Approval of Municipal Plans
 - Guidelines and Standards for Reviewing Act 250 and Section 248 Applications

**For copies or more information please email me:
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