

Staff Review of the 2018 Richmond Town Plan (Enhanced Energy Plan Review)
Emily Nosse-Leirer, Senior Planner
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The Town of Richmond 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 Richmond Town Plan. The 2018 Richmond Town Plan was adopted on November 6, 2018. The Planning Advisory Committee reviewed the draft plan on June 13, 2018 and recommended it to the CCRPC board for confirmation and approval. The Planning Advisory Committee did not review the plan against the enhanced energy planning standards at that time. This review does not affect the PAC motion from June 13, 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 2018 plan to determine whether:

1. The 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 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 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 – CCRPC approval and confirmation planned in January

Standard	Met	Not Met	N/A Yet
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		

Proposed Motion & Next Steps:

PROPOSED MOTION: The PAC finds that the 2018 Richmond Town Plan meets 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.