

# Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission

## Guidelines and Standards for Confirmation of Municipal Planning Processes, Approval of Municipal Plans and Granting Determinations of Energy Compliance

Adopted September 23, 2002;

Amended January 13, 2003, November 28, 2005, May 22, 2013, October 19, 2016 & September 19, 2018

### Introduction

A municipality adopts a plan in order to define the kind of community that it desires to be. The approval of a municipal plan by the Regional Planning Commission supports this vision. In Vermont, a municipality is under no obligation to

- ◆ adopt a plan,
- ◆ have its plan be approved by a Regional Planning Commission, or
- ◆ have its municipal planning process be confirmed by a Regional Planning Commission.

However, a municipality that elects to have its planning process be confirmed obtains these benefits (24 VSA 4350(e)):

- ◆ Eligibility to charge impact fees, to apply for municipal planning grants, and to participate in State Designation Programs;
- ◆ 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.

A municipality may write an enhanced energy plan to make progress towards Vermont's energy goals. A municipality is under no obligation to adopt an enhanced energy plan, as defined by 24 VSA §4352. However, a municipality that receives a Determination of Energy Compliance gains benefits, as described in 30 VSA §248 (b)(1)(C).

“With respect to an in-state electric generation facility, the Commission shall give substantial deference to the land conservation measures and specific policies contained in a duly adopted regional and municipal plan that has received an affirmative determination of energy compliance under 24 V.S.A. § 4352. In this subdivision (C), "substantial deference" means that a land conservation measure or specific policy shall be applied in accordance with its terms unless there is a clear and convincing demonstration that other factors affecting the general good of the State outweigh the application of the measure or policy. The term shall not include consideration of whether the determination of energy compliance should or should not have been affirmative under 24 V.S.A. § 4352.”

### Role of the Regional Planning Commission

Vermont law [24 VSA §4350(a)] requires each Regional Planning Commission to review the planning process of each of its member municipalities at least twice during an eight-year period (or more frequently at the request of a municipality). This “Guidelines” document identifies the procedures and standards that the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) will use for approving the plans and confirming the planning processes of CCRPC's member municipalities.

Section 4350(a) establishes that CCRPC must confirm a municipal planning process that meets all of the following criteria:

- 1) The municipality is engaged in a continuing planning process that, within a reasonable time, will result in a plan that is consistent with the goals of Chapter 117 [see 24 VSA 4302];
- 2) The municipality is engaged in a process to implement its municipal plan, consistent with

the program for implementation required under 24 VSA §4382; and

- 3) The municipality is maintaining its efforts to provide local funds for municipal and regional planning.

Section 4350(b) additionally requires that a municipality must have its plan be approved by the Regional Planning Commission in order to obtain or retain confirmation of its planning process. CCRPC shall approve a municipal plan if CCRPC finds that the plan meets all of these criteria:

- 1) The municipal plan is consistent with the goals established in 24 VSA §4302 [CCRPC may consider if a municipality has a valid explanation for why its plan does not advance a State goal];
- 2) The municipal plan is compatible with CCRPC's current *Regional Plan*;
- 3) The municipal plan is compatible with the approved plans of other municipalities in the region; and
- 4) The municipal plan contains all the elements required by state law in [24 VSA §4382\(a\)](#). At the time of the adoption of these guidelines, there are 12 required elements. However, the number of required elements may change based on future legislation.

[24 VSA §4352 \(b\)-\(c\)](#) states that a municipality that wishes to seek a Determination of Energy Compliance submits its plan to the Regional Planning Commission, if the regional plan has an affirmative determination of energy compliance. CCRPC's regional energy plan received this determination on August 9, 2018. CCRPC shall issue an affirmative Determination of Energy Compliance if the plan:

- 1) is consistent with the regional plan,
- 2) includes an energy element,
- 3) is consistent with Vermont's energy goals and policies:
  - a. greenhouse gas reduction goals, 25 by 25 goal for renewable energy and Vermont's building efficiency goals,
  - b. State energy policy,
  - c. the distributed renewable generation and energy transformation categories of resources to meet the requirements of the Renewable Energy Standard, and
- 4) meets the standards for issuing a determination of energy compliance included in the State energy plans, as described by the Vermont Department of Public Service in their [Energy Planning Standards for Municipal Plans](#).

The Department of Public Service standards, described in Part 4 and included as Appendix C, have been written to ensure that compliance with those standards demonstrates that a municipal plan has met requirements 1-3 above.

## Definitions

For the purposes of administering this policy, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

**Adopted Plan:** A municipal plan that

- 1) has been legally adopted by the local legislative body or voters, having followed the procedures of 24 VSA 4385,
- 2) includes the required elements set out in 24 VSA §4382, and
- 3) is consistent with the goals set out in 24 VSA §4302.

**Amended Plan:** A municipal plan that has been previously adopted and approved may be amended to change a limited portion of the plan. CCRPC has reviewed the plan to ensure that the section(s) continue to meet the required elements and goals related to the amended section(s), and consistency with the Regional Plan. An amended plan does not necessarily incorporate changes made to planning requirements since its adoption and approval, and the expiration date of the plan does not change based on the amendment.

**Approved Plan:** An adopted plan that has been approved by CCRPC because CCRPC has found that the plan meets all of the requirements of 24 VSA §4350 (b) [the four criteria listed at the end of the preceding section of these "Guidelines"].

CCRPC: Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission.

Compatible with: A plan is compatible with a second plan when the first plan

- 1) will not significantly reduce the desired effect of the implementation of the second plan or
- 2) includes a statement that identifies
  - a) the ways that the first plan will significantly reduce the desired effect of the second plan,
  - b) an explanation of why any incompatible portion of the first plan is essential to the desired effect of the plan as a whole,
  - c) an explanation of why there is no reasonable alternative way to achieve the desired effect of the plan, and
  - d) an explanation of how the first plan has been structured to mitigate its detrimental effects on the implementation of the second plan.

Consistent with: A plan is consistent with the goals of 24 VSA §4302 if

- 1) the plan is making substantial progress toward attainment of those goals, or
- 2) the planning body determines that a particular goal is not relevant or attainable (subject to review), in which case the planning body shall identify the goal in the plan and describe the situation, explain why the goal is not relevant or attainable, and indicate what measures should be taken to mitigate any adverse effects of not making substantial progress toward that goal.

#### Confirmed

Planning Process: A municipal planning process that has been confirmed by CCRPC because CCRPC has found that the planning process meets the requirements of 24 VSA §4350 (a).

Municipality: A town, city, incorporated village, or unorganized town or gore. An incorporated village shall be deemed to be within the jurisdiction of a town, except to the extent that a village adopts its own plan and one or more bylaws either before, concurrently with, or subsequent to such action by the town.

Program: A schedule of sequenced actions that identifies information such as who is to undertake each action, anticipated costs, possible financing, and expected or desired outcomes.

Readoption: In accordance with 24 VSA §4385 and §4387 an expired plan or plan that is about to expire may be readopted. A readopted plan is one that is brought into full compliance with statute.

## Guidelines for Evaluating the Municipal Plans

Appendix A includes the goals as specified in 24 VSA §4302 with which the municipal plans must be consistent, and the elements as specified in 24 VSA §4382(a) which must be contained within the municipal plans. There are many ways to satisfy each goal and element and a municipality should tailor the approaches it uses to local considerations. CCRPC encourages each municipality to confer with CCRPC staff early in the planning process to review how the municipality proposes to meet the goals and elements as well as to request assistance from CCRPC in developing its plan.

### Confirmation of a Municipal Planning Process & Approving Readoption of a Municipal Plan

Materials to Submit:

A municipality requesting CCRPC to confirm its municipal planning process and to approve the municipal plan

needs to provide the following materials to CCRPC:

- ◆ A letter signed by the appropriate municipal authority requesting CCRPC to consider confirmation of its planning process and approval of its plan (a sample letter is available from CCRPC staff);
- ◆ A summary of the municipality's funding over the prior five years dedicated to municipal and regional planning purposes;
- ◆ A concise summary, in the format provided in Appendix A (CCRPC will make Appendix A available electronically), referencing the locations of statements within the municipal plan relating to how the plan:
  - ◇ Is consistent with the goals of 24 VSA §4302,
  - ◇ Is compatible with the most recent version of the Chittenden County Regional Plan,
  - ◇ Is compatible with the approved plans of adjacent municipalities (including those outside of Chittenden County),
  - ◇ Contains the required elements of 24 VSA §4382(a); and
- ◆ Documentation of the municipality's process to implement the adopted plan, as described in 24 VSA §4350(c). Documentation can take two forms:
  - ◇ If the previously adopted plan includes an implementation table or spreadsheet, add a column indicating what progress has been made on actions from the previous plan (for example, "completed in 2017," "ongoing," or "no progress.>").
  - ◇ If the previously adopted plan does not include an implementation table or spreadsheet, fill out the Municipal Plan Implementation Assessment provided in Appendix B (CCRPC will make Appendix B available electronically).
  - ◇ Examples of implementation tables will be provided by CCRPC upon request.
- ◆ One pdf version of the plan (including maps) submitted for approval.

A municipality requesting a Determination of Energy Compliance must submit

- ◆ A summary of how the plan meets the Energy Planning Standards for Municipal Plans. A checklist containing the standards is included as Appendix C of this document and can be downloaded from the Department of Public Service Website: <http://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/act-174-recommendations-and-determination-standards> .

CCRPC Review Process for Confirming a Municipality's Planning Process & Approving a Municipal Plan

The general process is as follows:

1. Initial Staff Review – Staff will initiate informal plan reviews approximately 18-24 months prior to the expiration of each municipal plan. Staff will share these reviews with Municipal Staff, Municipal Planning Commissions and the PAC. This review shall also function as one of the two required consultations within an 8-year period (§4350(a)), and will include a review of progress made on the existing plan's implementation program. When initial reviews are completed, CCRPC staff will provide the reviews to the CCRPC Board representatives and alternates from the municipality being reviewed, as well as its adjoining municipalities. This will ensure that municipalities are aware that their neighbors are beginning a plan update and provide an opportunity for neighboring municipalities to become involved early in the process.

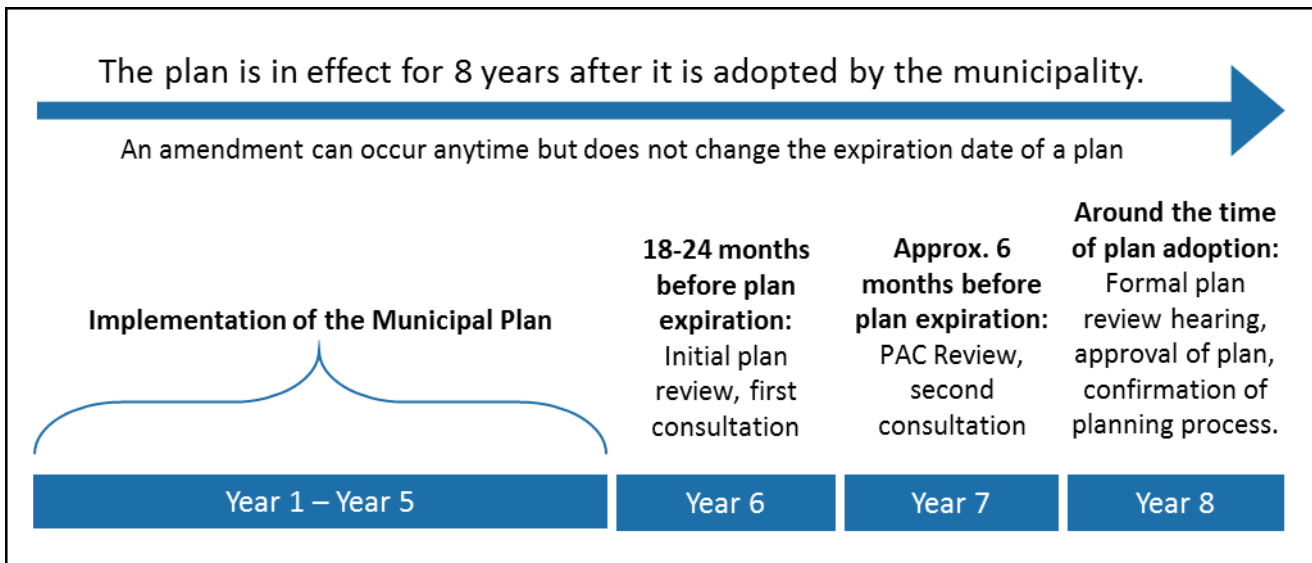
The municipality may also request staff and/or PAC review of their draft Plan at any point in the Plan development process prior to the formal review described below. This allows the municipality to gain detailed feedback and suggestions from staff and the PAC while there is still time to incorporate it.

CCRPC receives 30-day Planning Commission public hearing notice for Town Plan amendments. If not concurrent with the municipal request for approval as described in Step 2 below, CCRPC staff will review the draft plan and provide an informal Staff recommendation to both the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) and the municipal Planning Commission in time for their public hearing. The CCRPC Board will be cc'd on the informal Staff recommendation.

2. Planning Advisory Committee Review of Draft Plan – In accordance with 24 VSA §4385(c) the municipal request for approval from the RPC may be before or after adoption of the plan by the municipality, at the option of the municipality. However, CCRPC would prefer if the formal request is made 120 days before the current municipal plan expires to aid with CCRPC review scheduling. Upon receipt of the formal review request, Staff will review the plan.

Staff will schedule the formal plan review for the next available PAC meeting (and hold the required public hearing at this meeting if there is adequate time to warn the hearing). The CCRPC Commissioner and Alternate Commissioner from the municipality and Commissioners/Alternate Commissioners from the municipality’s neighboring municipalities will be invited to participate in this formal PAC Review.

The PAC will provide its written recommendation to CCRPC and the municipality. If the PAC recommends that the plan not be approved because of deficiencies, the municipality may address that recommendation at the full CCRPC Board or agree to rectify the deficiencies and resubmit its plan for PAC review. The PAC review will serve as the second of the two consultations required every eight years by 24 VSA §4350(a).



3. CCRPC Review and Action CCRPC will hold a public hearing (if not held under Step 2) and consider the recommendation of the PAC at a regularly scheduled meeting. Scheduling of this meeting will occur in consultation with the municipality. The municipality may attend the CCRPC meeting and voice its positions related to the PAC’s recommendation.
  - a. The CCRPC may approve or not approve the municipal plan. CCRPC must approve or disapprove a municipal plan or amendment within two months of CCRPC’s receipt of the plan following a final hearing held by the municipality to adopt the municipal plan pursuant to 24 VSA 4385.
  - b. Pursuant to 24 VSA 4350 (f) CCRPC’s decisions to confirm a municipal planning process and to approve a municipal plan must be made by a majority vote of the Commissioners representing municipalities in accordance with CCRPC’s bylaws.

If CCRPC disapproves a plan or plan amendment, it must state its reasons in writing and, if appropriate, suggest modifications that would be acceptable to CCRPC. If the municipality requests approval of a resubmitted plan with modifications, CCRPC must give its approval or disapproval within 45 days.

The CCRPC forwards a copy of its resolution of approval to the Department of Economic, Housing and Community Development and the municipal clerk.

Expiration - The CCRPC's approval of the plan will remain in effect until the plan expires, which will occur eight years after the plan is adopted by the municipality.

#### CCRPC Review Process for Granting an Affirmative Determination of Energy Compliance

- 1) Once a readopted or amended municipal plan with an enhanced energy element has been adopted, a municipality shall request CCRPC to issue a Determination of Energy Compliance. The municipality shall submit a summary of how the plan meets the Energy Planning Standards for Municipal Plans in the form of the Department of Public Service's checklist, which can be downloaded from the Department of Public Service Website: <http://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/act-174-recommendations-and-determination-standards>
- 2) Staff will review the plan against the Energy Planning Standards for Municipal Plans and make a recommendation to the PAC.
  - a. If a municipality is seeking a Determination of Energy Compliance at the same time as it is seeking CCRPC approval of the plan and confirmation of the planning process, compliance with the Energy Planning Standards will be reviewed during the PAC review as described in Step 2, and the public hearing will be held following the public hearing on the full plan. If the energy element of the plan meets the requirements of 24 VSA §4348a(a)(3) but does not meet the more stringent Energy Planning Standards, the PAC may recommend approval and confirmation of the plan, but not recommend granting an affirmative Determination of Energy Compliance.
  - b. A municipality may seek a Determination of Energy Compliance based on plan amendments without readopting its plan. If a previously approved plan with a confirmed planning process has been amended to meet the Energy Planning Standards but has not otherwise been changed to meet any revisions to planning statute, the PAC will review the energy section(s) of the plan. The CCRPC may grant an affirmative Determination of Energy Compliance to the amended plan without re-approving the plan or confirming the planning process. This will grant the municipality the benefits of having an enhanced energy plan, but will not change the expiration date of the plan.
- 3) CCRPC will hold a public hearing (if not held during PAC review) and consider the recommendation of the PAC at a regularly scheduled meeting. Scheduling of this meeting will occur in consultation with the municipality. The municipality may attend the CCRPC meeting and voice its positions related to the PAC's recommendation. If the municipality is seeking confirmation and approval of the plan at the same time, CCRPC will review both issues during the same meeting.
  - a. Per 24 VSA §4352, the CCRPC may grant an affirmative determination of energy compliance. CCRPC must grant or not grant an affirmative determination of energy compliance within two months of CCRPC's receipt of the adopted plan pursuant to 24 VSA 4385. Pursuant to 24 VSA 4350 (f), CCRPC's decisions to grant an affirmative Determination of Energy Compliance must be made by a majority vote of the Commissioners representing municipalities in accordance with CCRPC's bylaws.

If CCRPC does not grant an affirmative determination of energy compliance, it must state its reasons in writing and, if appropriate, suggest modifications that would be acceptable to CCRPC. If the municipality requests approval of a resubmitted plan with modifications, CCRPC must give its approval or disapproval within 45 days of the request.

The CCRPC forwards a copy of its resolution of approval to the Department of Public Service and the Municipal Clerk.

Expiration - The CCRPC's determination of energy compliance will remain in effect until the plan expires, which will occur eight years after the plan is adopted by the municipality.

### Amending an Un-Expired Plan

With the clarification in Act 90 that an amendment to a plan does not affect or extend the plan's expiration date (24 VSA §4385(d)), CCRPC has a simplified review process for plan amendments. Upon request, CCRPC will review plan amendments to ensure that the amendment would not alter or risk the municipality's standing plan approval and confirmation status.

### Materials to Submit

A municipality requesting CCRPC to review an amendment to a municipal plan needs to provide the following materials to CCRPC:

- ◆ A letter from the municipality requesting CCRPC to review its plan amendment and briefly describing the amendment and the reason for amending (a sample letter is available from CCRPC staff);
- ◆ An electronic copy of the amended section/chapter in its entirety with the changes clearly indicated. It is not necessary to send a copy of the full plan.

### CCRPC Review Process for Reviewing an Amended Municipal Plan

1. The municipality will contact CCRPC staff to inform staff of the intent to amend an unexpired plan that has been previously approved and for which the planning process has been confirmed.
2. Upon receipt of the amendment review request, Staff will review the amended section(s) of the plan to determine whether the section(s) continue to meet the required elements and goals related to the amended section(s), and consistency with the Regional Plan.
  - a. If staff determines that the proposed amendments do not need to be formally reviewed by the PAC and the CCRPC, following staff review, staff will provide a letter stating that the plan amendment does or does not impact the municipality's standing plan approval and planning process confirmation. If not, Staff will provide recommendations to address the issues of concern. Staff will distribute the proposed amendments and the letter to the PAC for information.
  - b. If staff are concerned that the amendments may impact the municipality's standing plan approval and planning process confirmation, or have any other concerns, Staff will ask the PAC to review the amendment.
  - c. If the municipality would prefer formal CCRPC approval of the plan amendment, CCRPC will conduct a formal review upon request and follow the full process for readoption of a plan described above.
3. The CCRPC will forward a copy of this letter to the Department of Economic, Housing and Community Development, the PAC, and the municipal clerk.

# Appendix A – Municipal Plan Review Tool

## Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission

### Guidelines and Standards for Confirmation of Municipal Planning Processes and Approval of Municipal Plans

This form addresses the statutory requirements of the State of Vermont for town plans, as cited in the Vermont Municipal and Regional Planning and Development Act, Title 24 V.S.A Chapter 117 (the Act). It includes the 12 required elements found in § 4382 of the Act; the four planning process goals found in § 4302(b), the 14 specific goals found in § 4302(c); and the standard of review found in § 4302(f), which covers consistency with goals and compatibility standards.

During the Regional approval and confirmation process, specified in § 4350 of the Act, the regional planning commission is required to assess town plans and the process whereby they are developed according to the criteria of the Act. Sections of relevant statute are quoted at each question.

<b>Required Elements § 4382</b>		Met	Not Met
1	Statement of Objectives, Policies, Programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Land Use Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Transportation Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Utility and Facility Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Rare Natural Resources/Historic Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Educational Facilities Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Implementation Program	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Development Trends	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Energy Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Housing Element	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Economic Development Element	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Flood Resiliency Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>State Planning Goals § 4302</b>		Met	Not Met
1	Development Pattern	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Economy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Natural and Historic Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Quality of Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Agriculture and Forest Industries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Use of Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Public Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Child Care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Flood Resiliency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



## TOWN PLAN REQUIRED ELEMENTS

Title 24 Chapter 117: Municipal and Regional Planning and Development

### **24 V.S.A. § 4382. The plan for a municipality**

(a) A plan for a municipality may be consistent with the goals established in section 4302 of this title and compatible with approved plans of other municipalities in the region and with the regional plan and shall include the following:

**(1) A statement of objectives, policies and programs of the municipality to guide the future growth and development of land, public services and facilities, and to protect the environment.**

Comments:

Choose an item. Pages:
---------------------------

**(2) A land use plan, consisting of a map and statement of present and prospective land uses, that indicates those areas proposed for forests, recreation, agriculture (using the agricultural lands identification process established in 6 V.S.A. § 8), residence, commerce, industry, public and semi-public uses and open spaces, areas reserved reserved for flood plain, and areas identified by the State, the regional planning commission, or the municipality that require special consideration for aquifer protection; for wetland protection, for the maintenance of forest blocks, wildlife habitat, and habitat connectors; or for other conservation purposes; sets forth the present and prospective location, amount, intensity and character of such land uses and the appropriate timing or sequence of land development activities in relation to the provision of necessary community facilities and service; identifies those areas, if any, proposed for designation under chapter 76A of this title, together with, for each area proposed for designation, an explanation of how the designation would further the plan's goals and the goals of § 4302 of this title, and how the area meets the requirements for the type of designation to be sought; and indicates those areas that are important as forest blocks and habitat connectors and plans for land development in those areas to minimize forest fragmentation and promote the health, viability, and ecological function of forests.**

Comments:

Choose an item. Pages:
---------------------------

MAPS Present Land Use Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Prospective Land Use Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
--

**(3) A transportation plan, consisting of a map and statement of present and prospective transportation and circulation facilities showing existing and proposed highways and streets by type and character of improvement, and where pertinent, parking facilities, transit routes, terminals, bicycle paths and trails, scenic roads, airports, railroads and port facilities, and other similar facilities or uses, with indications of priority of need;**

Comments:

Choose an item. Pages:
---------------------------

MAP Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>
--

(4) A utility and facility plan, consisting of a map and statement of present and prospective community facilities and public utilities showing existing and proposed educational, recreational and other public sites, buildings and facilities, including hospitals, libraries, power generating plants and transmission lines, water supply, sewage disposal, refuse disposal, storm drainage and other similar facilities and activities, and recommendations to meet future needs for community facilities and services, with indications of priority of need, costs and method of financing;

Comments:

Choose an item. Pages:
MAP Utility and Facility <input type="checkbox"/>

(5) A statement of policies on the preservation of rare and irreplaceable natural areas, scenic and historic features and resources;

Comments:

Choose an item. Pages:
---------------------------

(6) An educational facilities plan consisting of a map and statement of present and projected uses and the local public school system;

Comments:

Choose an item. Pages:
MAP Educational Facility <input type="checkbox"/>

(7) A recommended program for the implementation of the objectives of the development plan;

Comments:

Choose an item. Pages:
---------------------------

(8) A statement indicating how the plan relates to development trends and plans of adjacent municipalities, areas and the region developed under this title;

Comments:

Choose an item. Pages:
---------------------------

(9) An energy plan, including an analysis of energy resources, needs, scarcities, costs and problems within the municipality, a statement of policy on the conservation of energy, including programs, such as thermal integrity standards for buildings, to implement that policy, a statement of policy on the development of renewable energy resources, a statement of policy on patterns and densities of land use likely to result in conservation of energy;

Comments:

Choose an item. Pages:
---------------------------

(10) A housing element that shall include a recommended program for addressing low and moderate income persons' housing needs as identified by the regional planning commission pursuant to subdivision 4348a(a)(9) of this title. The program should account for permitted

Choose an item. Pages:
---------------------------

accessory dwelling units, as defined in subdivision 4412(1)(E) of this title, which provide affordable housing.

Comments:

(11) An economic development element that describes present economic conditions and the location, type, and scale of desired economic development, and identifies policies, projects, and programs necessary to foster economic growth.

Comments:

Choose an item. Pages:
---------------------------

(12)(A) A flood resilience plan that:  
(i) identifies flood hazard and fluvial erosion hazard areas, based on river corridor maps provided by the Secretary of Natural Resources pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 1428(a) or maps recommended by the Secretary, and designates those areas to be protected, including floodplains, river corridors, land adjacent to streams, wetlands, and upland forests, to reduce the risk of flood damage to infrastructure and improved property; and  
(ii) recommends policies and strategies to protect the areas identified and designated under subdivision (12)(A)(i) of this subsection and to mitigate risks to public safety, critical infrastructure, historic structures, and municipal investments.  
(B) A flood resilience plan may reference an existing local hazard mitigation plan approved under 44 C.F.R. § 201.6.

Comments:

Choose an item. Pages:
---------------------------

§4382(c) Data:

Where appropriate, and to further the purposes of subsection 4302(b) of this title, a municipal plan shall be based upon inventories, studies, and analyses of current trends and shall consider the probable social and economic consequences of the proposed plan. Such studies may consider or contain, but not be limited to:

- (1) population characteristics and distribution, including income and employment;
- (2) the existing and projected housing needs by amount, type, and location for all economic groups within the municipality and the region;
- (3) existing and estimated patterns and rates of growth in the various land use classifications, and desired patterns and rates of growth in terms of the community's ability to finance and provide public facilities and services.

Comments:

Choose an item. Pages:
---------------------------

---

---

# GOALS AND STANDARDS OF REVIEW

## GOALS

### 24 VSA § 4302

(a) General purposes . . .

(b) It is also the intent of the legislature that municipalities, regional planning commissions and state agencies shall engage in a continuing planning process that will further the following goals:

(1) To establish a coordinated, comprehensive planning process and policy framework to guide decisions by municipalities, regional planning commissions, and state agencies.

(2) To encourage citizen participation at all levels of the planning process, and to assure that decisions shall be made at the most local level possible commensurate with their impact.

(3) To consider the use of resources and the consequences of growth and development for the region and the state, as well as the community in which it takes place.

(4) To encourage and assist municipalities to work creatively together to develop and implement plans.

(c) In addition, this chapter shall be used to further the following specific goals:

#### Goal 1:

To plan development so as to maintain the historic settlement pattern of compact village and urban centers separated by rural countryside.

(A) Intensive residential development should be encouraged primarily in areas related to community centers, and strip development along highways should be discouraged.

(B) Economic growth should be encouraged in locally designated growth areas, or employed to revitalize existing village and urban centers, or both.

(C) Public investments, including construction or expansion of infrastructure, should reinforce the general character and planned growth patterns of the area.

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal:

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Choose an item.

Pages:

#### Goal 2:

To provide a strong and diverse economy that provides satisfying and rewarding job opportunities and that maintains high environmental standards, and to expand economic opportunities in areas with high unemployment or low per capita incomes.

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal:

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Choose an item.

Pages:

**Goal 3:**

To broaden access to educational and vocational training opportunities sufficient to ensure the full realization of the abilities of all Vermonters.

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal:

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Choose an item. Pages:
---------------------------

**Goal 4:**

To provide for safe, convenient, economic and energy efficient transportation systems that respect the integrity of the natural environment, including public transit options and paths for pedestrians and bicyclers.

- (A) Highways, air, rail and other means of transportation should be mutually supportive, balanced and integrated.

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal:

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Choose an item. Pages:
---------------------------

**Goal 5:**

To identify, protect and preserve important natural and historic features of the Vermont landscape including:

- (A) significant natural and fragile areas;
- (B) outstanding water resources, including lakes, rivers, aquifers, shorelands and wetlands;
- (C) significant scenic roads, waterways and views;
- (D) important historic structures, sites, or districts, archaeological sites and archaeologically sensitive areas

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal:

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Choose an item. Pages:
---------------------------

**Goal 6:**

To maintain and improve the quality of air, water, wildlife, forests and other land resources.

Choose an item.  
Pages:

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal:

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

**Goal 7:**

To encourage the efficient use of energy and the development of renewable energy resources.

Choose an item.  
Pages:

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal:

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

**Goal 8:**

To maintain and enhance recreational opportunities for Vermont residents and visitors.

Choose an item.  
Pages:

(A) Growth should not significantly diminish the value and availability of outdoor recreational activities.

(B) Public access to noncommercial outdoor recreational opportunities, such as lakes and hiking trails, should be identified, provided, and protected wherever appropriate.

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal:

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

**Goal 9:**

To encourage and strengthen agricultural and forest industries.

Choose an item.  
Pages:

(A) Strategies to protect long-term viability of agricultural and forestlands should be encouraged and should include maintaining low overall density.

(B) The manufacture and marketing of value added agricultural and forest products should be encouraged.

(C) The use of locally-grown food products should be encouraged.

(D) Sound forest and agricultural management practices should be encouraged.

(E) Public investment should be planned so as to minimize development pressure on agricultural and forest land.

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal:

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

**Goal 10:**

To provide for the wise and efficient use of Vermont's natural resources and to facilitate the appropriate extraction of earth resources and the proper restoration and preservation of the aesthetic qualities of the area.

Choose an item.  
Pages:

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal:

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

**Goal 11:**

To ensure the availability of safe and affordable housing for all Vermonters.

Choose an item.  
Pages:

(A) Housing should be encouraged to meet the needs of a diversity of social and income groups in each Vermont community, particularly for those citizens of low and moderate income.

(B) New and rehabilitated housing should be safe, sanitary, located conveniently to employment and commercial centers, and coordinated with the provision of necessary public facilities and utilities.

(C) Sites for multi-family and manufactured housing should readily available in locations similar to those generally used for single-family conventional dwellings.

(D) Accessory apartments within or attached to single family residences which provide affordable housing in close proximity to cost-effective care and supervision for relatives or disabled or elderly persons should be allowed.

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal:

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

**Goal 12:**

To plan for, finance and provide an efficient system of public facilities and services to meet future needs.

Choose an item.  
Pages:

(A) Public facilities and services should include fire and police protection, emergency medical services, schools, water supply and sewage and solid waste disposal.

(B) The rate of growth should not exceed the ability of the community and the area to provide facilities and services.

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal:

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

**Goal 13:**

To ensure the availability of safe and affordable child care and to integrate child care issues into the planning process, including child care financing, infrastructure, business assistance for child care providers, and child care work force development.

Choose an item.  
Pages:

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal:

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

**Goal 14:**

To encourage flood resilient communities.

(A) New development in identified flood hazard, fluvial erosion, and river corridor protection areas should be avoided. If new development is to be built in such areas, it should not exacerbate flooding and fluvial erosion.

(B) The protection and restoration of floodplains and upland forested areas that attenuate and moderate flooding and fluvial erosion should be encouraged.

(C) Flood emergency preparedness and response planning should be encouraged.

Choose an item. Pages:
---------------------------

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal:

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:



---

## STANDARD OF REVIEW

### 24 V.S.A. § 4302(f)

(1) As used in this chapter, "consistent with the goals" requires substantial progress toward attainment of the goals established in this section, unless the planning body determines that a particular goal is not relevant or attainable. If such a determination is made, the planning body shall identify the goal in the plan and describe the situation, explain why the goal is not relevant or attainable, and indicate what measures should be taken to mitigate any adverse effects of not making substantial progress toward that goal. The determination of relevance or attainability shall be subject to review as part of a consistency determination under this chapter.

(2) As used in this chapter, for one plan to be "compatible with" another, the plan in question, as implemented, will not significantly reduce the desired effect of the implementation of the other plan. If a plan, as implemented, will significantly reduce the desired effect of the other plan, the plan may be considered compatible if it includes the following:

- (A) a statement that identifies the ways that it will significantly reduce the desired effect of the other plan;
- (B) an explanation of why any incompatible portion of the plan in question is essential to the desired effect of the plan as a whole;
- (C) an explanation of why, with respect to any incompatible portion of the plan in question, there is no reasonable alternative way to achieve the desired effect of the plan, and
- (D) an explanation of how any incompatible portion of the plan in question has been structured to mitigate its detrimental effects on the implementation of the other plan.

**Details of CCRPC's review process can be found in "Guidelines and Standards for Confirmation of Municipal Planning Processes, Approval of Municipal Plans and Granting Determinations of Energy Compliance," as amended on September 19, 2018.**

# Appendix B – Municipal Plan Implementation Assessment Guidelines and Standards for Confirmation of Municipal Planning Processes and Approval of Municipal Plans

Municipality: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Municipal Plan Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_

Planning Process Currently Confirmed?:  Yes  No

Activity	Progress? (select all that may apply)	Explanation of Progress
Preparation or adoption of bylaws or amendments:	<input type="checkbox"/> Activity Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Currently Implementing <input type="checkbox"/> Not a Priority During Time Period <input type="checkbox"/> Not a Priority in Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Hindered or Delayed <input type="checkbox"/> No Activity	
Capital budgets and programs:	<input type="checkbox"/> Activity Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Currently Implementing <input type="checkbox"/> Not a Priority During Time Period <input type="checkbox"/> Not a Priority in Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Hindered or Delayed <input type="checkbox"/> No Activity	

<p>Supplemental plans: [list one or more identified in the plan, but not necessarily all]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Activity Completed</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Currently Implementing</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Not a Priority During Time Period</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Not a Priority in Plan</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Hindered or Delayed</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No Activity</li> </ul>	
<p>Other actions, programs, or measures undertaken or scheduled to implement the adopted plan:  [list one or more identified in the plan, but not necessarily all]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Activity Completed</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Currently Implementing</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Not a Priority During Time Period</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Not a Priority in Plan</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Hindered or Delayed</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No Activity</li> </ul>	

**24 V.S.A. 4350(c):** *In order to retain confirmation or the planning process, a municipality shall document that it has reviewed and is actively engaged in a process to implement its adopted plan.*

- (1) When assessing whether a municipality has been actively engaged in a process to implement its adopted plan, the regional planning commission shall consider the activities of the local boards and commissions with regard to the preparation or adoption of bylaws and amendments; capital budgets and programs; supplemental plan; or other actions, programs, or measures undertaken or scheduled to implement the adopted plan. The regional planning commission shall consider factors that may have hindered or delayed municipal implementation efforts.*
  
- (2) The consultation may include guidance by the regional planning commission with regard to resources and technical support available to the municipality its adopted plan and recommendations by the regional planning commission for plan amendments and for updating the plan prior to readoption under section 4387 of this title.*

In order to obtain or retain confirmation, a municipality must be actively engaged in a process to implement its adopted plan. Actively engaged is defined as making progress in all of the four implementation categories above or a determination that the plan does not call for any implementation actions in a category.

# Energy Planning Standards for Municipal Plans

## Instructions

Before proceeding, please review the requirements of Parts I and II below, as well as the Overview document. Submitting a Municipal Plan for review under the standards below is entirely voluntary, as enabled under [Act 174](#), the Energy Development Improvement Act of 2016. If a Municipal Plan meets the standards, it will be given an affirmative “determination of energy compliance,” and will be given “substantial deference” in the Public Service Board’s review of whether an energy project meets the orderly development criterion in the Section 248 process. Specifically, with respect to an in-state electric generation facility, the Board:

*[S]hall give substantial deference to the land conservation measures and specific policies contained in a duly adopted regional and municipal plan that has received an affirmative determination of energy compliance under 24 V.S.A. § 4352. In this subdivision (C), “substantial deference” means that a land conservation measure or specific policy shall be applied in accordance with its terms unless there is a clear and convincing demonstration that other factors affecting the general good of the State outweigh the application of the measure or policy. The term shall not include consideration of whether the determination of energy compliance should or should not have been affirmative under 24 V.S.A. § 4352.*

Municipal Plans should be submitted by the municipality’s legislative body to the Regional Planning Commission (RPC) if the Regional Plan has received an affirmative determination of energy compliance. If a Regional Plan has not received such a determination, until July 1, 2018<sup>1</sup>, a municipality may submit its adopted and approved Municipal Plan to the Department of Public Service (DPS) for a determination of energy compliance (determination), along with the completed checklist below. After a Municipal Plan and completed checklist have been submitted to the RPC (or DPS), the RPC or DPS will schedule a public hearing noticed at least 15 days in advance by direct mail to the requesting municipal legislative body, on the RPC or DPS website, and in a newspaper of general publication in the municipality. The RPC or DPS shall issue a determination in writing within two months of the receipt of a request. If the determination is negative, the RPC or DPS shall state the reasons for the denial in writing and, if appropriate, suggest acceptable modifications. Submissions for a new determination following a negative determination shall receive a new determination within 45 days.

The plans that Municipalities submit must:

- Be adopted
- Be confirmed under 24 V.S.A. § 4350
- Include an energy element that has the same components as described in 24 V.S.A. § 4348a(a)(3)
- Be consistent with state energy policy (described below), in the manner described in 24 V.S.A. § 4302(f)(1)
- Meet all standards for issuing a determination of energy compliance (see below)

---

<sup>1</sup> These standards will be revised after July 1, 2018 to reflect that Municipal Plans should be submitted only to the Regional Planning Commissions – which will all have had an opportunity to seek a determination of energy compliance – from that point forward.

Municipalities are encouraged to consult with their reviewer (either their RPC or DPS) before undertaking the process of plan adoption, which may help in identifying any deficiencies or inconsistencies with the standards or other requirements that would be more difficult to remedy after a plan has gone through the formal adoption process.

The state’s Comprehensive Energy Plan (CEP) is revised on a 6-year basis. When the next CEP is published in 2022, it will include a revised set of standards, as well as Recommendations that are customized to regions and municipalities. The Recommendations that accompany this initial set of Standards represent a subset of recommendations from the 2016 CEP, which were not written with regions and municipalities specifically in mind. A Guidance document – which is expected to evolve as best practices from regions and municipalities emerge – will be published shortly after the Standards are issued. It will serve as the warehouse for relevant recommendations from the 2016 CEP, links to data sources, instructions on conducting analysis and mapping, and sample language/best practices. Once issued and until the 2022 CEP is published, this Guidance document will supplant the Recommendations document.

Affirmative determinations last for the life cycle of a revision of the Municipal Plan, and Municipal Plans that are submitted after the 2022 CEP is issued will be expected to meet the Standards that are issued at that time. Municipalities are encouraged to consult with their RPC or DPS regarding interim amendments that might affect any of the standards below, to discuss whether a new review is triggered.

If you wish to submit your Municipal Plan to your RPC or to DPS for a determination, please read closely the specific instructions at the start of each section below, and attach your Municipal Plan to this checklist.

Determination requests to an RPC (and any other questions) should be submitted to your RPC’s designated contact. Determination requests to DPS until July 1, 2018 – and only for municipalities whose Regions’ plans have not received an affirmative determination – should be submitted to:

[PSD.PlanningStandards@vermont.gov](mailto:PSD.PlanningStandards@vermont.gov).

<b>Part I: Applicant Information</b>		
<b>The plan being submitted for review is a:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Plan in a region whose regional plan has received an affirmative determination of energy compliance from the Commissioner of Public Service  <b>Please submit these plans to your RPC</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Plan in a region whose regional plan has <u>not</u> received a determination of energy compliance  <b>Until July 1, 2018, please submit these to the DPS. After July 1, 2018, this option ceases to exist.</b>
<b>Applicant:</b>	Click here to enter text.	
<b>Contact person:</b>	Click here to enter text.	
<b>Contact information:</b>	Click here to enter text.	
<b>Received by:</b> Click here to enter text.	<b>Date:</b> Click here to enter text.	

## Part II: Determination Standards Checklist

The checklist below will be used to evaluate your plan’s consistency with statutory requirements under Act 174, including the requirement to be adopted and approved, contain an enhanced energy element, be consistent with state energy policy, and meet a set of standards designed to ensure consistency with state energy goals and policies.

Please review and attach your plan (or adopted energy element/plan, along with supporting documentation) and self-evaluate whether it contains the following components. Use the Notes column to briefly describe how your plan is consistent with the standard, including relevant page references (you may include additional pages to expand upon Notes). If you feel a standard is not relevant or attainable, please check N/A where it is available and use the Notes column to describe the situation, explaining why the standard is not relevant or attainable, and indicate what measures your municipality is taking instead to mitigate any adverse effects of not making substantial progress toward this standard. If N/A is not made available, the standard must be met (unless the instructions for that standard indicate otherwise) and checked “Yes” in order to receive an affirmative determination. There is no penalty for checking (or limit on the number of times you may check) N/A where it is available, as long as a reasonable justification is provided in the Notes column.

### Plan Adoption Requirement

[Act 174](#) requires that municipal plans be adopted and approved in order to qualify for a determination of energy compliance. In the near term, it is likely municipalities will revise and submit isolated energy plans or elements, particularly due to long planning cycles. Therefore, the plan adoption requirement can be met through an amendment to an existing plan in the form of an energy element or energy plan, as long as the amendment or plan itself is duly adopted as part of the municipal plan and incorporated by reference or appended to the underlying, full plan (i.e., is officially “in” the municipal plan), as well as approved for confirmation with the region. If this route is chosen, the municipality should also attach the planning commission report required for plan amendments under 24 V.S.A. § 4384, which should address the internal consistency of the energy plan/element with other related elements of the underlying plan (particularly Transportation and Land Use), and/or whether the energy plan/element supersedes language in those other elements. Standards 1 and 2 below must be answered in the affirmative in order for a plan to receive an affirmative determination of energy compliance.

1. Has your plan been duly adopted and approved for confirmation according to <a href="#">24 V.S.A. § 4350</a> ?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Adoption date: Click here to enter text. Confirmation date: Click here to enter text.	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Click here to enter text.
2. Is a copy of the plan (or adopted energy element/plan, along with underlying plan and planning commission report addressing consistency of energy element/plan with other elements of underlying plan) attached to this checklist?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Notes: Click here to enter text.

### Energy Element Requirement

To obtain a determination of energy compliance, Act 174 requires municipalities to include an “energy element” that contains the same components

described in 24 V.S.A. § 4348a(a)(3), which was revised through Act 174 to explicitly address energy across all sectors and to identify potential and unsuitable areas for siting renewable energy resources:

*An energy element, which may include an analysis of resources, needs, scarcities, costs, and problems within the region across all energy sectors, including electric, thermal, and transportation; a statement of policy on the conservation and efficient use of energy and the development and siting of renewable energy resources; a statement of policy on patterns and densities of land use likely to result in conservation of energy; and an identification of potential areas for the development and siting of renewable energy resources and areas that are unsuitable for siting those resources or particular categories or sizes of those resources.*

The standards below are generally organized to integrate each component of the enhanced energy element with related determination standards that evaluate the plan’s consistency with state goals and policies. **Energy element components are identified in bolded text.**

While municipalities may choose to primarily address energy used for heating, transportation, and electricity in the required energy element, they may also choose to address some of these components in related plan elements (e.g., Transportation and Land Use) and should indicate as much in the Notes column. To the extent an energy element is designed to comprehensively address energy, it should be complementary to and reference other relevant plan elements.

<p><b>3. Does the plan contain an energy element, that contains the same components described in 24 V.S.A. § 4348a(a)(3)?</b>  <i>Individual components of the energy element will be evaluated through the standards below.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>Page: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>          Notes: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a></p>
--	------------------------------	-----------------------------	--

**Consistency with State Goals and Policies Requirement**

Act 174 states that regional and municipal plans must be consistent with the following state goals and policies:

- Greenhouse gas reduction goals under [10 V.S.A. § 578\(a\)](#) (50% from 1990 levels by 2028; 75% by 2050)
- The 25 x 25 goal for renewable energy under [10 V.S.A. § 580](#) (25% in-state renewables supply for all energy uses by 2025)
- Building efficiency goals under [10 V.S.A. § 581](#) (25% of homes – or 80,000 units – made efficient by 2020)
- State energy policy under [30 V.S.A. § 202a](#) and the recommendations for regional and municipal 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](#)
- 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](#)

The standards in the checklist below will be used to determine whether a plan is consistent with these goals and policies. The standards are broken out by category. *Analysis and Targets* standards address how energy analyses are done within plans, and whether targets are established for energy conservation, efficiency, fuel switching, and use of renewable energy across sectors. *Pathways (Implementation Actions)* standards address the identification of actions to achieve the targets. *Mapping* standards address the identification of suitable and unsuitable areas for the development of renewable energy.

Municipalities may choose to incorporate the information necessary to meet the standards in their energy elements, and/or in other sections of their plans



(many transportation items may fit best in the Transportation chapters of plans, for instance). However, plans must be internally consistent, and applicants should cross-reference wherever possible.

### Analysis and Targets Standards

For the *Analysis & Targets* determination standards below, municipalities will be provided with analyses and targets derived from regional analyses and targets no later than April 30, 2017 (and likely much sooner). Municipalities may choose to rely on these “municipalized” analyses and targets to meet the standards in this section. Municipalities which elect to use the analysis and targets provided by a region will be presumed to have met the standards in this section. Alternatively, municipalities may develop their own custom analyses and targets or supplement the analyses and targets provided by the regions with specific local data; if this option is chosen, the analysis and targets must include all of the same components and meet the standards required of regions, as described below.

For municipalities that choose to undertake their own analysis and target-setting (and for regions), DPS is providing a guidance document to explain the expected level of detail in and data sources and methodologies available for meeting the standards (including areas where it is understood data at the municipal level is unavailable, and therefore not expected). Note that standards 5A-4E are all derived directly from requirements in Act 174 (with minor modifications to make them feasible) and must be met affirmatively in order for a municipal plan to receive an affirmative determination of energy compliance.

Targets set by regions and municipalities should be aligned with state energy policy (see the goals and policies listed above). Where targets (and efforts to reach them) depart significantly from state energy goals and policies, an explanation for how the plan otherwise achieves the intent of the state goal or policy should be provided. The guidance document also offers additional clarification on alignment with state goals and policies.

The analysis items below are intended to provide regions and municipalities with an overview of their current energy use, and with a sense of the trajectories and pace of change needed to meet targets, which can be translated into concrete actions in the *Pathways* standards below. Targets provide regions and municipalities with milestones or checkpoints along the way toward a path of meeting 90% of their total energy needs with renewable energy, and can be compared with the potential renewable energy generation from areas identified as potentially suitable in the *Mapping* standards exercise below to give regions and municipalities a sense of their ability to accommodate renewable energy that would meet their needs.

<p><b>4. Does your plan’s energy element contain an analysis of resources, needs, scarcities, costs, and problems within the municipality across all energy sectors (electric, thermal, transportation)?</b></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>Page: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a> Notes: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a></p>
<p>5. Does your plan contain an analysis that addresses A-E below, either as provided by your Regional Planning Commission or as developed by your municipality? <i>Municipalities may meet this standard by using the analysis and targets provided by their regions, or by developing their own analyses and targets. If using the analysis &amp; targets provided by your region, please answer “Yes-Region” and skip ahead to #6. If developing a custom analysis, please answer “Yes-Custom” and address 5A-5E separately, below.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes-Region <input type="checkbox"/> Yes-Custom	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>Page: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a> Paragraph #: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a> Notes: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a></p>

A. Does the plan estimate current energy use across transportation, heating, and electric sectors?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Page: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a> Paragraph #: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a> Notes: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>
B. Does the plan establish 2025, 2035, and 2050 targets for thermal and electric efficiency improvements, and use of renewable energy for transportation, heating, and electricity?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Page: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a> Paragraph #: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a> Notes: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>
C. Does the plan evaluate the amount of thermal-sector conservation, efficiency, and conversion to alternative heating fuels needed to achieve these targets?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Page: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a> Paragraph #: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a> Notes: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>
D. Does the plan evaluate transportation system changes and land use strategies needed to achieve these targets?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Page: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a> Paragraph #: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a> Notes: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>
E. Does the plan evaluate electric-sector conservation and efficiency needed to achieve these targets?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Page: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a> Paragraph #: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a> Notes: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>

### Pathways (Implementation Actions) Standards

This section examines whether plans meet the Act 174 expectation that they include pathways and recommended actions to achieve the targets identified through the *Analysis and Targets* section of the Standards (above). Plans are expected to include or otherwise address all of the pathways (implementation actions) below; some actions may not be applicable or equally relevant to all applicants (small vs. large municipalities, for instance), in which case N/A may be checked (if available) and the justification provided in the Notes column. There is no penalty for choosing N/A one or more times, as long as a reasonable justification is provided in the Notes column, preferably including an explanation of how the plan alternatively achieves attainment of the targets should be included. If N/A is not provided as an option, the standard must be met, and “Yes” must be checked, in order for the plan to meet the requirements for a determination (unless the instructions particular to that standard indicate otherwise).

DPS will be issuing a guidance document in the near term providing potential implementation actions derived from the Comprehensive Energy Plan (relevant formal Recommendations as well as opportunities not specifically called out as Recommendations), from recent regional and municipal plans, and from other sources. The guidance document will be revised after the regions have compiled best practices from early municipalities pursuing energy planning to seek a determination of energy compliance, in the summer of 2017.

For the time being, we offer potential implementation action options for consideration as italicized text under each standard. Plans are encouraged to promote as diverse a portfolio of approaches as possible in each sector, or if not, to explain why they take a more targeted approach. Implementation actions may fit best in a holistic discussion contained within a plan’s energy element, though cross-referencing to other relevant plan elements is also acceptable.

Municipalities must demonstrate a commitment to achieving each standard in both policies and implementation measures in clear, action-oriented language.

6. <b>Does your plan’s energy element contain a statement of policy on the</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Page: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>
--	------------------------------	-----------------------------	---

<b>conservation and efficient use of energy?</b>			Paragraph #: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a> Notes: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>
A. Does the plan encourage conservation by individuals and organizations? <i>(Actions could include educational activities and events such as convening or sponsoring weatherization workshops, establishing local energy committees, encouraging the use of existing utility and other efficiency and conservation programs and funding sources, etc.)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Page: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a> Paragraph #: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a> Notes: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>
B. Does the plan promote efficient buildings? <i>(Actions could include promoting compliance with residential and commercial building energy standards for new construction and existing buildings, including additions, alterations, renovations and repairs; promoting the implementation of residential and commercial building efficiency ratings and labeling; considering adoption of stretch codes, etc.)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Page: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a> Paragraph #: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a> Notes: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>
C. Does the plan promote decreased use of fossil fuels for heating? <i>(Actions and policies could promote switching to wood, liquid biofuels, biogas, geothermal, and/or electricity. Suitable devices include advanced wood heating systems and cold-climate heat pumps, as well as use of more energy efficient heating systems; and identifying potential locations for, and barriers to, deployment of biomass district heating and/or thermal-led combined heat and power systems in the municipality)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Page: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a> Paragraph #: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a> Notes: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>
D. Does the plan demonstrate the municipality's leadership by example with respect to the efficiency of municipal buildings? <i>(Actions could include building audits and weatherization projects in schools and town offices, etc.)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Page: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a> Paragraph #: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a> Notes: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>
E. Other (please use the notes section to describe additional approaches that your municipality is taking)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Page: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a> Paragraph #: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a> Notes: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>
7. Does your plan's energy element contain a statement of policy on reducing transportation energy demand and single-occupancy vehicle use, and encouraging use of renewable or lower-emission energy sources for transportation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Page: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a> Paragraph #: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a> Notes: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>
A. Does the plan encourage increased use of public transit? <i>(Actions could include participation in efforts to identify and develop new public transit routes, promote full utilization of existing routes, integrate park-and-rides with transit routes, etc.)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Page: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a> Paragraph #: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a> Notes: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>
B. Does the plan promote a shift away from single-occupancy vehicle trips, through strategies appropriate to the municipality? <i>(Actions could include rideshare, vanpool, car-sharing initiatives; efforts to</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Page: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a> Paragraph #: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a> Notes: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>

<i>develop or increase park-and-rides; enhancement of options such as rail and telecommuting; education; intergovernmental cooperation; etc.)</i>			
C. Does the plan promote a shift away from gas/diesel vehicles to electric or other non-fossil fuel transportation options through strategies appropriate to the municipality? <i>(Actions could include promoting the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, providing education and outreach to potential users, supporting non-fossil fuel vehicle availability through outreach to vehicle dealers, etc.)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Page: Click here to enter text. Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: Click here to enter text.
D. Does the plan facilitate the development of walking and biking infrastructure through strategies appropriate to the municipality? <i>(Actions could include studying, planning for, seeking funding for, or implementing improvements that encourage safe and convenient walking and biking; adopting a "Complete Streets" policy, etc.)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Page: Click here to enter text. Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: Click here to enter text.
E. Does the plan demonstrate the municipality's leadership by example with respect to the efficiency of municipal transportation? <i>(Actions could include purchasing energy efficient municipal and fleet vehicles when practicable, installing electric vehicle charging infrastructure, etc.)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Page: Click here to enter text. Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: Click here to enter text.
F. Other (please use the notes section to describe additional approaches that your municipality is taking)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Page: Click here to enter text. Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: Click here to enter text.
<b>8. Does your plan's energy element contain a statement of policy on patterns and densities of land use likely to result in conservation of energy?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Page: Click here to enter text. Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: Click here to enter text.
A. Does the plan include land use policies (and descriptions of current and future land use categories) that demonstrate a commitment to reducing sprawl and minimizing low-density development? <i>(Actions could include adopting limited sewer service areas, maximum building sizes along highways, policies or zoning that require design features that minimize the characteristics of strip development [multiple stories, parking lot to the side or back of the store], and requirements that development in those areas be connected by means other than roads and cars; adopting a capital budget and program that furthers land use and transportation policies; etc.)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Page: Click here to enter text. Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: Click here to enter text.
B. Does the plan strongly prioritize development in compact, mixed-use centers when physically feasible and appropriate to the use of the development, or	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Page: Click here to enter text. Paragraph #: Click here to enter text.

<p>identify steps to make such compact development more feasible?  <i>(Actions could include participating in the state designation program, such as obtaining state designated village centers, downtowns, neighborhoods, new town centers, or growth centers; exploration of water or sewage solutions that enable compact development; etc.)</i></p>			Notes: Click here to enter text.
<p>C. Other (please use the notes section to describe additional approaches that your municipality is taking)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Page: Click here to enter text. Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: Click here to enter text.
<p><b>9. Does your plan’s energy element contain a statement of policy on the development and siting of renewable energy resources?</b></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Notes: Click here to enter text.
<p>A. Does the plan evaluate (estimates of or actual) generation from existing renewable energy generation in the municipality?  <i>Municipalities should be able to obtain this information from their regions.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Page: Click here to enter text. Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: Click here to enter text.
<p>B. Does the plan analyze generation potential, through the mapping exercise (see <i>Mapping</i> standards, below), to determine potential from preferred and potentially suitable areas in the municipality?  <i>Municipalities should be able to obtain this information from their regions.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Page: Click here to enter text. Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: Click here to enter text.
<p>C. Does the plan identify sufficient land in the municipality for renewable energy development to reasonably reach 2050 targets for renewable electric generation, based on population and energy resource potential (from potential resources identified in the <i>Mapping</i> exercise, below), accounting for the fact that land may not be available due to private property constraints, site-specific constraints, or grid-related constraints?  <i>If N/A, please describe how you are working with your regional planning commission to ensure overall regional objectives are achieved.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Page: Click here to enter text. Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: Click here to enter text.
<p>D. Does the plan ensure that any local constraints (locally designated resources or critical resources, from 12B and 12C under <i>Mapping</i>, below) do not prohibit or have the effect of prohibiting the provision of sufficient renewable energy to meet state, regional, or municipal targets?  <i>If N/A, please describe how you are working with your regional planning commission to ensure overall regional objectives are achieved.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Page: Click here to enter text. Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: Click here to enter text.
<p>E. Does the plan include statements of policy to accompany maps (could include general siting guidelines), including statements of policy to accompany any preferred, potential, and unsuitable areas for siting generation (see 12 and 13 under <i>Mapping</i>, below)?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Page: Click here to enter text. Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: Click here to enter text.
<p>F. Does the plan maximize the potential for renewable generation on preferred locations (such as the categories outlined under 12E in the <i>Mapping</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Page: Click here to enter text. Paragraph #: Click here to enter text.

standards, below)?			Notes: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>
G. Does the plan demonstrate the municipality’s leadership by example with respect to the deployment of renewable energy? <i>(Actions could include deploying renewable energy to offset municipal electric use, etc.)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Page: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a> Paragraph #: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a> Notes: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>
H. Other (please use the notes section to describe additional approaches that your municipality is taking)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Page: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a> Paragraph #: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a> Notes: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>

## Mapping Standards

Act 174 requires plans to identify potential areas for the development and siting of renewable energy resources and areas that are unsuitable for siting those resources or particular categories or sizes of those resources. It furthermore requires that the standards address the potential generation from the potential siting areas.

The *Mapping* standards lay out a sequence of steps for planners to examine existing renewable resources and to identify potential (and preferred) areas for renewable energy development, and to identify likely unsuitable areas for development, by layering constraint map layers on to raw energy resource potential map layers. The maps should help municipalities visualize and calculate the potential generation from potential areas, and compare it with the 2025, 2035, and 2050 targets from the *Analysis and Targets* standards to get a sense of the scale and scope of generation that could be produced within the region to meet the municipality’s needs. DPS will provide additional guidance to accompany the standards that fleshes out the steps, layers, and standards more fully.

Plans must include maps that address all of the standards below, unless N/A is provided as an option, in which case a compelling reason why the standard is not applicable or relevant should be provided in the Notes column. Regions must develop their own maps (already underway through support being provided to regions by DPS), and to then break out the maps for their municipalities, who can use their region-provided maps to meet the municipal *Mapping* standards (such “municipalization” work is being supported through a training & technical assistance contract between DPS and regions, and all regions must supply completed maps to their municipalities by April 30, 2017, though many are expected to do so much sooner).

Municipalities may choose to rely on the maps provided by the regions to meet the standards in this section. Those maps should be somewhat familiar to municipalities, who are expected to be consulted as regions develop their maps. Alternatively, municipalities may choose to undertake their own mapping, according to the same set of standards as regions. Additionally, municipalities are expected to work collaboratively with their regions and with neighboring municipalities to ensure compatibility between the final products.

The map and the text describing the policies or rules used to construct the map, as well as the text describing specific policies applicable to map features, should be complementary. That should help ensure that any “land conservation measures and specific policies” that might be given substantial deference in the context of a particular project review under 30 V.S.A. § 248 are clearly identifiable in the text, should a map lack sufficient clarity or granularity regarding the area in which a project is proposed.

10. Does your plan contain one or more maps that address 11-13 below, as	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes-	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Page: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>
--	-------------------------------	-----------------------------	---

<p>provided by your Regional Planning Commission or as developed by your municipality?  <i>Municipalities may meet this standard by using the maps provided by their regions, or by developing their own maps. If using the maps provided by your region, please answer “Yes-Region” and skip ahead to #14. If developing custom maps, please answer “Yes-Custom” and address 11-13 separately, below.</i></p>	<p>Region  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes-  Custom</p>		<p>Paragraph #: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>  Notes: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a></p>
<p>11. Does the plan identify and map existing electric generation sources?  <i>Maps may depict generators of all sizes or just those larger than 15 kW, as long as information on generators smaller than 15 kW is summarized and provided or referenced elsewhere. It is expected that the best available information at the time of plan creation will be used. This information is available from the DPS.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<p>Page: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>  Paragraph #: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>  Notes: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a></p>
<p>12. Does the plan identify potential areas for the development and siting of renewable energy resources and the potential generation from such generators in the identified areas, taking into account factors including resource availability, environmental constraints, and the location and capacity of electric grid infrastructure?  <i>Maps should include the following (available from VCGI and ANR), and the resulting Prime and Secondary Resource Maps will together comprise “potential areas”:</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>Page: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>  Paragraph #: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>  Notes: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a></p>
<p>A. Raw renewable energy potential analysis (wind and solar), using best available data layers (including LiDAR as appropriate)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>Page: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>  Paragraph #: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>  Notes: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a></p>
<p>B. Known constraints (signals likely, though not absolute, unsuitability for development based on statewide or local regulations or designated critical resources) to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vernal Pools (confirmed and unconfirmed layers)</li> <li>• DEC River Corridors</li> <li>• FEMA Floodways</li> <li>• State-significant Natural Communities and Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species</li> <li>• National Wilderness Areas</li> <li>• Class 1 and Class 2 Wetlands (VSWI and advisory layers)</li> <li>• Regionally or Locally Identified Critical Resources</li> </ul> <p><i>If areas are constrained for the development of renewable energy due to the desire to protect a locally designated</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>Page: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>  Paragraph #: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>  Notes: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a></p>

<p><i>critical resource (whether a natural resource or a community-identified resource), then the land use policies applicable to other forms of development in this area must be similarly restrictive; for this category, policies must prohibit all permanent development (and should be listed in the Notes column).</i></p> <p><i>These areas should be subtracted from raw renewable energy resource potential maps to form Secondary Resource Maps</i></p>			
<p>C. Possible constraints (signals conditions that would likely require mitigation, and which may prove a site unsuitable after site-specific study, based on statewide or regional/local policies that are currently adopted or in effect), including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agricultural Soils</li> <li>• FEMA Special Flood Hazard Areas</li> <li>• Protected Lands (State fee lands and private conservation lands)</li> <li>• Act 250 Agricultural Soil Mitigation areas</li> <li>• Deer Wintering Areas</li> <li>• ANR’s Vermont Conservation Design Highest Priority Forest Blocks (or Habitat Blocks 9 &amp; 10, for plans using regional maps in regions whose plans will be submitted for adoption at the regional level by March 1, 2017)</li> <li>• Hydric Soils</li> <li>• Regionally or Locally Identified Resources</li> </ul> <p><i>If locations are constrained for the development of renewable energy due to the desire to protect a locally designated resource (whether a natural resource or community-identified resource, like a view), then the land use policies applicable to other forms of development must be similarly restrictive (and should be listed in the Notes column).</i></p> <p><i>These areas should be subtracted from Secondary Resource Maps to form Prime Resource Maps.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>Page: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a></p> <p>Paragraph #: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a></p> <p>Notes: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a></p>
<p>D. Transmission and distribution resources and constraints, as well as transportation infrastructure.</p> <p><i>(Including three-phase distribution lines, known constraints from</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>Page: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a></p> <p>Paragraph #: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a></p> <p>Notes: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a></p>



<i>resources such as Green Mountain Power’s solar map, known areas of high electric load, etc.)</i>			
<p>E. Preferred locations (specific areas or parcels) for siting a generator or a specific size or type of generator, accompanied by any specific siting criteria for these locations</p> <p><i>Narrative descriptions of the types of preferred areas in accompanying plan text are acceptable, though mapping of areas and especially specific parcels (to the extent they are known) is highly encouraged, to signal preferences to developers, particularly for locally preferred areas and specific parcels that do not qualify as a statewide preferred location under i. below.</i></p> <p><i>The locations identified as preferred must not be impractical for developing a technology with regard to the presence of the renewable resource and access to transmission/distribution infrastructure.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<p>Page: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a></p> <p>Paragraph #: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a></p> <p>Notes: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a></p>
<p>i. Statewide preferred locations such as rooftops (and other structures), parking lots, previously developed sites, brownfields, gravel pits, quarries, and Superfund sites</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<p>Page: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a></p> <p>Paragraph #: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a></p> <p>Notes: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a></p>
<p>ii. Other potential locally preferred locations</p> <p><i>For example, customer on- or near-site generation, economic development areas, unranked and not currently farmed agricultural soils, unused land near already developed infrastructure, locations suitable for large-scale biomass district heat or thermal-led cogeneration, potential locations for biogas heating and digesters, etc.</i></p> <p><i>These are particularly important to map if possible, as “a specific location in a duly adopted municipal plan” is one way for a net metering project to qualify as being on a preferred site.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<p>Page: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a></p> <p>Paragraph #: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a></p> <p>Notes: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a></p>
<p><b>13. Does the plan identify areas that are unsuitable for siting renewable energy resources or particular categories or sizes of those resources? Either Yes or No (“No” if the plan chooses not to designate any areas as unsuitable) is an acceptable answer here. “Resources” is synonymous with “generators.”</b></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (“Yes” for A and B must also be selected below)	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>Page: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a></p> <p>Paragraph #: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a></p> <p>Notes: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a></p>
<p>A. Are areas identified as unsuitable for particular categories or sizes of generators consistent with resource availability and/or land use</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<p>Page: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a></p> <p>Paragraph #: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a></p>

<p>policies in the regional or municipal plan applicable to other types of land development (answer only required if “Yes” selected above, indicating unsuitable areas have been identified)?</p> <p><i>If areas are considered unsuitable for energy generation, then the land use policies applicable to other forms of development in this area should similarly prohibit other types of development. Please note these policies in the Notes column.</i></p>		<p>(if no unsuitable areas are identified)</p>	<p>Notes: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a></p>
<p>B. Does the plan ensure that any regional or local constraints (regionally or locally designated resources or critical resources, from 12b-12c above) identified are supported through data or studies, are consistent with the remainder of the plan, and do not include an arbitrary prohibition or interference with the intended function of any particular renewable resource size or type?</p> <p><i>Please explain in the Notes column.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>Page: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>  Paragraph #: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>  Notes: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a></p>
<p><b>14. Municipalities seeking a determination of energy compliance from the Department and not using their region’s maps only:</b> Does the plan ensure that its approach, if applied regionally, would not have the effect of prohibiting any type of renewable generation technology in all locations?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes (also check Yes if seeking determination from region, or from DPS but using region-provided maps)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>Page: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>  Paragraph #: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>  Notes: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a></p>