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Chittenden County ECOS Partnership Releases 2018 Annual Report: *The State of Chittenden County*

Winooski, VT – The Chittenden County ECOS Partnership has released its **2018 ECOS Annual Report** and online data **Scorecard**. For the fourth year in a row, the Annual Report is an infographic that visually displays some of the most interesting trends and notable accomplishments relating to people, place, and prosperity in Chittenden County.

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

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

A few notable highlights from the 2018 ECOS Annual Report include:

- **Opioid Crisis** | In September 2017, the waitlist reached zero and has remained virtually at zero since. In 2018, there were 17 accidental opioid overdose fatalities, which is a 50% decrease from 2017. Learn more at the [Chittenden County Opioid Alliance website](#).
- **Building Homes Together** | The **BHT campaign** seeks to build 3,500 new homes by 2021, 700 of which are affordable. In the first two years of the campaign (2016-2017), 191 affordable houses were added (falling short of the goal for 140/year), and 1,613 total homes were added (exceeding the goal for 700/year). Though not included in these numbers, UVM demolished two dormitories (391 beds) and replaced them with a new dormitory (695 beds), creating a net gain of 304 beds for 2017. This is an important component of the overall housing picture.
- **Clean Water** | We continue to work toward the goal of reducing excess phosphorus in Lake Champlain by 34%. Stormwater runoff from roads is a notable phosphorus input to the lake. In FY18, Chittenden County municipalities received \$1.5M in water quality grant funding from state agencies. The CCRPC completed **Road Erosion Inventories** for all municipalities in Chittenden County and assisted with grant applications.

All data informing the Annual Report is found in the **ECOS Scorecard**, an interactive online platform that promotes easy access to the indicators that measure how Chittenden County is doing. To access the online platform and track how Chittenden County is doing year to year on a wide variety of topic

areas, visit ecosproject.com.

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

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