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## **Chittenden County ECOS Partnership Releases 2020 Annual Report: *The State of Chittenden County***

*Winooski, VT* – The Chittenden County ECOS Partnership has released its **2020 ECOS Annual Report** and online data **Scorecard**.

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*.

The **2020 ECOS Annual Report** is the seventh edition. In addition to some of the data we report on annually, this year's ECOS Annual Report includes indicators of disparities that have resulted from systemic racism in our nation and community, as well as indicators associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. This intentional focus on **race, equity, and the COVID-19 pandemic** marks the commitment of the ECOS leadership team to address these challenges.

A few notable highlights from the 2020 ECOS Annual Report include:

- **Demographics** | 83% of the population growth in Chittenden County over the last 10 years has been Hispanic (of any race), Black or African American, and/or American Indian and Alaska Native. This equates to 5,901 of the 7,069 people from 2010-2019.
- **Annual Median Household Income** | Black and African American households earn less than half of White households.
- **COVID-19 Among BIPOC Vermonters** | In Chittenden County, BIPOC residents contracted COVID-19 at 2.7 times the rate of White residents.

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](http://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 Chamber, 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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