

CHITTENDEN COUNTY REGIONAL

ECOS PLAN UPDATE



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Environment Community Opportunity Sustainability

The Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) is currently updating the Regional Plan for Chittenden County and is **seeking community input on many topics** like housing, climate, energy, land use, and more to inform our goals and priorities for the next eight years.

WHAT IS THE CHITTENDEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION?

The CCRPC is one of 11 regional planning commissions (RPCs) in Vermont. RPCs play a crucial role in connecting communities and State government.




WHAT IS THE ECOS REGIONAL PLAN?

The ECOS Plan is the Regional Plan for Chittenden County that was first published in 2013. Regional plans:

- ✓ guide development in a manner that is consistent with the State's planning goals;
- ✓ set goals to meet community needs based on maps, data, and community involvement;
- ✓ consider social and economic benefits and consequences of policies.

Regional Plans must also define what "substantial regional impact" means in development review.

WHY IS THE ECOS REGIONAL PLAN IMPORTANT?

-  Addresses regional topics that have impact on a local level.
-  Ensures coordination between municipalities (cities and towns) and State agencies.
-  Is required to secure funding (for CCRPC, municipalities, and partners) to implement the plan's goals.



ECOS PLAN VISION:

Chittenden County is a healthy, inclusive, and prosperous community.

WHAT'S IN THE ECOS PLAN?

The current ECOS plan draft is an update to the original 2013 ECOS plan. The 2025 version will:



Incorporate new data



Account for shifting priorities

The plan includes **20 chapters** with **17 goals**. Each goal includes multiple **actions** to be carried out by the CCRPC and partners.



The CCRPC is seeking input and guidance on the draft 2025 ECOS plan so it can incorporate the voices and needs of the Chittenden County community into the Plan's goals and actions.

ECOS GOALS

The following draft **17 goals** frame the strategies and projects that set a course for achieving Chittenden County's vision for the future. The goals have associated key issues and indicators throughout the plan.

PLANNING PRACTICES

Develop, support, and execute collaborative planning systems that are equitable, accessible, and inclusive, and that effectively and efficiently use taxpayer dollars for the benefit of the public.

WORKING LANDS

Support the growth and vitality of working farms and managed forests by increasing investments and decreasing subdivisions. Minimize and mitigate environmental impacts of industry.



TRANSPORTATION

Provide a safe, efficient, reliable, and resilient transportation system that ensures interconnected and sustainable mobility choices for livable, equitable, and healthy communities, supports regional and municipal land use goals, addresses the climate crisis, and strengthens the economy of the region.

ECONOMY

Retain and support existing employers and job growth, grow living wage and high wage employment, and work to attract and sustain a greater diversity of businesses and people in the economy.



INFRASTRUCTURE

Ensure adequate infrastructure and facilities to support areas planned for growth while protecting ecological systems.



ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS

Conserve, protect, and improve air quality, water quality and quantity, and the health of native species and habitats.

LAND USE

Focus future development in areas planned for growth in order to maintain Vermont's historic settlement pattern, and respect working and natural landscapes.



HOUSING

Ensure that all households in Chittenden County have access to affordable, safe, energy efficient, accessible, and fair housing in all neighborhoods.



HOUSEHOLD FINANCIAL SECURITY

Ensure all households in Chittenden County are able to financially meet their basic activities of daily living.

ARTS + CULTURE

Increase and support access and participation in arts and cultural opportunities.



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Foster trust in local and regional government and ensure that community members have influence in decisions that affect them.



For more information about the ECOS Plan, scan the code or visit: ccrpcvt.org/ecos-regional-plan

WATERSHED HEALTH

Improve the safety, water quality, and habitat of rivers, streams, wetlands, and lakes in each Chittenden County watershed.



ENERGY

Transform the region's energy system to meet Vermont's energy and greenhouse gas reduction goals. In the process, avoid unfair impacts on marginalized groups, and maintain ecological health, economic vitality, and equitable access to affordable energy.



HEALTH

Promote preventative care, healthy lifestyles, and community wellness, and improve access to healthcare services while reducing healthcare disparities for all community members.



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Protect Chittenden County communities from natural, technological, and societal hazards through prevention, preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation.

SCENIC, RECREATIONAL + HISTORIC RESOURCES

Conserve and protect valued scenic, recreational, and historic areas and resources.

SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS

Ensure that all people in Chittenden County are socially connected and supported in their communities.