

Goal 1: 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.

Action			
1.1		Capacity Building	
	1.1.a	CCRPC Leadership.	Establish, support, and empower CCRPC leadership to organize and oversee organizational equity work, including allocating staff time and resources and the establishment and support of an Equity Advisory Committee.
	1.1.b	Education.	Increase education among CCRPC representatives on the relationship between planning and systemic inequity, with historical and present-day context both in Vermont and nationally.
	1.1.c	Organizational Policies & Procedures.	Create and update relevant organizational policies and procedures to establish internal expectations and a strategic plan for action.
	1.1.d	Representation.	Establish and support diverse community representation within the organization through updating HR policies, strengthening relationships, supporting community education, and increasing accessibility of committee and board participation.
1.2		Community Engagement	
	1.2.a	Connect.	Increase meaningful engagement and mutually beneficial relationships with marginalized and underrepresented communities.
	1.2.b	Track.	Develop method for tracking how many people, and the diversity of those people, that participate in CCRPC public engagement efforts.
	1.2.c	Increase Accountability.	Increase the transparency and accountability of planning work through establishing effective communication channels to keep community members informed about projects and opportunities for involvement.
	1.2.d	Build Relationships.	Build and sustain mutually beneficial relationships with marginalized community groups and members through partnerships, organizing and supporting community events and programs, and creating, protecting and enhancing public spaces.
	1.2.e	Update Engagement Processes.	Update methods and processes for community engagement in CCRPC projects to ensure meaningful and inclusive engagement from the beginning of the project.
1.3		Project and Regional Planning Processes	
	1.3.a	Equity Assessment.	Formalize an equity assessment process to guide decision-making at the policy, program, and budget level.
	1.3.b	Targeted Projects.	Target and prioritize positive programs and investments in low opportunity places.
1.4		Leadership and Collaboration	
	1.4.a	Leadership.	Leverage CCRPC's authority, expertise, and resources to become a regional equity leader.
	1.4.b	Resources.	Encourage the propagation and dissemination of improved procedures by joining the national dialogue on equity, through online availability, workshops, and peer exchange, and sharing these resources with Chittenden County municipalities.
	1.4.c	County Coordination and Alignment.	Coordinate and align investments and actions to advance the ECOS Plan.

1.5		Financing and Plan Implementation	
	1.5.a.i	Community Development	Financing Tools. Expand and improve how municipalities implement available financing tools, with particular emphasis on options that level the playing field between greenfield and infill development, and that help direct new investment dollars to strengthen existing neighborhoods. This would include tax increment financing (TIF), local option sales taxes, impact fees, special assessment districts, capital planning and budgeting, and fiscal impact analysis. Explore and develop other financing mechanisms for maintaining and improving infrastructure.
	1.5.a.ii		Tax Credits. Support downtown tax credits, and additional incentives as part of State Designated Growth Centers, Downtowns, Villages, New Town Centers, and Neighborhoods.
	1.5.a.iii		Revolving Loan Funds. Develop revolving loan funds for business to improve access to capital.
	1.5.b.i	Monitor State and municipal tax burdens	Efficiency and Cost Management. Identify opportunities for restructuring, streamlining or eliminating programs to increase efficiency, reduce costs and enhance accountability.
	1.5.b.ii		Tax Policy. Monitor proposed changes to state tax policy.
Goal 2: Ecological Systems - Conserve, protect and improve air quality, water quality and quantity, and the health of native species and habitats.			
Action			
	2.1	Habitat Preservation	Protect forest blocks, wildlife connectivity resources and crossings, surface waters, riparian areas and other significant habitats (e.g. wetlands) from development and fragmentation; and promote vegetative landscaping in urban areas to maintain natural habitats, natural stormwater management, water quality, air quality, carbon sequestration and cultural heritage. This work should focus on the broader concept of the pattern of forest cover, rather than core forest areas. Reason being, forest blocks in Chittenden County are getting smaller and more isolated from other forest blocks, surface waters, and riparian areas. Leaving isolated forest blocks contributes to losses in biodiversity.
2.2		Inventory and Planing	
	2.2.a	Inventories and Mapping	Assist with surveys, inventories, and mapping of forest blocks, wildlife crossings, natural communities (i.e. special features within forest blocks, surface waters, and riparian areas), and other significant habitats (e.g. wetlands), scenic resources, and locations of invasive species.
	2.2.b	Municipal and Regional Plans	Incorporate this data into municipal and regional plan text and maps, and establishing specific policies that address and protect these resources.
	2.2.c	Maps	Aggregate locally important forest blocks, wildlife habitats, and associated resources into a regionally significant map in order to see these resources across municipal boundaries, and work with local, state, and federal partners to protect them.
	2.3	Municipal Development Review Regulations.	Help municipalities create clear development regulations and definitions to protect ecological and habitat resources. Example measures may involve limiting intrusions to interior forest and connectivity blocks, or maintaining vegetative cover and larger culverts around wildlife road crossings.
	2.4	Education.	Educate engineers, developers, real estate professionals, planners, and the public regarding resources and methods for restoration and protection.
	2.5	Non-regulatory Protection.	Support non-regulatory conservation and/or preservation efforts conducted through public and land trust investments in alignment with guidance of conservation targets and plans established under the Community Resilience and Biodiversity Protection Act of 2023.

2.6	Invasive Species.	Help municipalities establish and implement invasive plant removal management plans, and monitor their long-term effectiveness. In addition, help municipalities plan for and manage invasive tree diseases and pests, such as emerald ash borer, that threaten urban and rural forests.
2.7	Development Constraints.	To protect significant habitats, development should be located to avoid field-verified state and local known constraints, and to minimize impacts to field-verified state and local possible constraints.
2.8	Climate Action.	Collaborate with the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources' Climate Action Office to help implement strategies and actions in the Vermont Climate Action Plan, related to natural and working landscapes.
2.9	Air Quality.	Support efforts to improve, maintain, and respond to the overall air quality within the region to protect public health, reduce environmental impact, and comply with national standards.
Goal 3: Watershed Health - Improve the safety, water quality, and habitat of rivers, streams, wetlands and lakes in each Chittenden County watershed.		
Action		
3.1	River Hazard Protection.	Develop and implement adaptation strategies to reduce flooding and fluvial erosion hazards. While supporting planned growth, evaluate growth in terms of preparedness for a changing climate. Chittenden County and its municipalities will: continue efforts to avoid development in particularly vulnerable areas, including floodplains, river corridors, wetlands, lakeshores and steep slopes; protect people, buildings, and facilities in vulnerable areas where development already exists, in order to reduce future flooding and erosion risks; plan for and encourage new development in areas that are less vulnerable to future flood and erosion events; and implement stormwater management techniques to slow, spread and sink floodwater (see the Non-point Source Pollution section below).
3.1.a	Mapping and Data.	Use mapping and data tools to prioritize and address road erosion issues, including the VTrans Transportation Resilience Planning, VT Culverts, and the Reducing Repeat Damage tools.
3.1.b	Revise bridge/culvert designs.	Help revise municipal public works standards and zoning ordinances with culvert and bridge design specifications that allow for wildlife passage and movement of floodwater and debris during high intensity events. Implement culvert and bridge designs that produce stable structure in river channels (i.e. fluvial geomorphology).
3.1.c	Continue non-regulatory protection of river corridors.	Work with partners to conserve and/or preserve vulnerable areas through public and land trust investments, stream re-buffering, river corridor easements on agricultural lands, river corridor restoration and culvert and bridge improvements.
3.1.d	Protect river corridors through regulation.	Work with municipalities and ANR to improve bylaws to protect river corridor areas not currently protected and assess the need for a state-administered river corridor permitting and/or floodplain permitting to improve consistency and enforcement of river corridor and floodplain development standards statewide.
3.1.e	Increase flood resilience.	Support non-regulatory efforts to reduce damage from future floods. This includes: identifying repetitively damaged structures; providing technical and financial assistance to elevate, relocate, or buy out structures; and identifying where flood storage capacity may be restored and conserved.
3.1.f	Tactical Basin Planning.	Participate in developing and implementing the Lamoille (Basin 7), Winooski (Basin 8), and Northern Lake Champlain Direct Drainages (Basin 5) Tactical Basin Plans. CCRPC will work with the state, municipalities, and other partners to address river hazard protection, flood resiliency, and water quality through these plans, including prioritizing projects for funding.
3.1.g	Avoid Development Constraints.	Participate in developing and implementing the Lamoille (Basin 7), Winooski (Basin 8), and Northern Lake Champlain Direct Drainages (Basin 5) Tactical Basin Plans. CCRPC will work with the state, municipalities, and other partners to address river hazard protection, flood resiliency, and water quality through these plans, including prioritizing projects for funding.

3.2	Non Point Source Pollution	
3.2.a	Assemble data.	Work from existing data, and continue to identify locations that contribute to water pollution via flow, sediment, pathogens, and nutrients. Where needed, conduct on-the-ground inventories of water quality and biological assessments (in-stream), wetlands, sub-watersheds, river corridors (buffered or not), and geomorphology. Map existing and new data on one regional map.
3.2.b	Revise and Enforce Plans and Bylaws.	Incorporate the above data into municipal plans; establish specific statements that protect these resources; develop clear standards for how to protect these resources within development regulations; and initiate ongoing enforcement of regulations. Encourage Low Impact Development (LID) policies, Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) techniques, and shared storm water control programs to maximize land development in areas planned for growth. Incentivize best management practices for agricultural uses. Encourage the Agency of Agriculture to better enforce required agricultural practices.
3.2.c	Implement watershed restoration and non-regulatory approaches.	Identify and implement non-regulatory approaches to nutrient, pathogen and sediment pollution management especially projects implemented through the Clean Water Services Provider framework authorized under Act 76. Support the work of watershed organizations.
3.2.d	Implement permits.	Work with the municipalities and other partners to implement the Municipal Roads General Permit, Stormwater General Permit 3-9050 for Developed Lands (with 3 or more acres of impervious surface), and integrate phosphorus reduction into the existing MS4 permit. See Chittenden County's Work Plan and the 2022 Chittenden County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazards Mitigation Plan for more detail on these actions. CCRPC will also advocate for better coordination of municipal and state regulatory oversight of individual stormwater permits for private development projects.
3.2.e	PFAS and emerging pollutants.	Monitor and support efforts to develop emerging science on the presence and risks associated with contamination from PFAS and other substances in the region.
3.3	Clean Water Financing	
3.3.a	Areas Planned for Growth	Ensure that stormwater regulation and requirements do not financially burden or penalize dense and compact development in the areas planned for growth.
3.3.b	State Financing Reform	Monitor and participate in state financing reform, which the Agency of Natural Resources is leading to make recommendations on how to implement and fund the remediation or improvement of water quality.
3.4	Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades.	Work with municipalities to upgrade wastewater treatment plants to comply with Lake Champlain Phosphorus TMDL Phase I Implementation Plan.
Goal 4: Working Lands - Support the growth and vitality of working farms and managed forests by increasing investments these industries and decreasing subdivisions. Minimize and mitigate environmental impacts of industry.		
Action		
4.1	Working Lands Implementation	Increase investment in and decrease subdivision of working lands and significant wildlife habitats protect the farmland and forestland and support existing and new operations.
4.1.a	Farm to Plate.	Cooperate with stakeholders to implement projects identified in the 2021-2030 Vermont Agricultural and Food Systems Strategic Plan (Vermont Farm to Plate) that will support continued growth of the local farm, food, and forestry economy within the region.
4.1.b	Regenerative Farming.	Support efforts to implement regenerative farming and widespread small-scale food production in urban and small-lot rural residential areas, to help make our local food systems more resilient to climate change.

4.1.c	Forest Economy.	Cooperate with stakeholders to implement projects and actions intended to strengthen the forest economy as identified in the 2017 Vermont Forest Action Plan and the Vermont Forest Sector Systems Analysis.
4.1.d	Municipal Development Regulations.	Help municipalities develop clear development regulations and definitions of working lands to be protected. Maintain access to and scale of working lands to ensure viability after subdivision in the rural landscape This may include protection of log landings of previously logged forested parcels, zoning techniques such as fixed area ratios which separate lot size from residential density, and conservation zoning and homeowners association bylaws that allow for farming on the open space lots and in urban spaces.
4.1.e	Farmland Access.	Work with the Vermont Housing Conservation Board, Vermont Land Trust, and other similar organizations to increase access to farmland for black, indigenous, and people of color. At the same time, promote urban agriculture in areas planned for growth to cultivate a land ethic, improve resilience of our food systems, and increase food access particularly in areas of high poverty and food insecurity.
4.1.f	Biomass Energy Potential.	Support the continued sustainable harvesting of biomass in Chittenden County for uses including wood heating and electricity production, which will support the viability of the forestry industry and move the region towards the energy goals discussed in the Enhanced Energy Plan.
4.1.g	Development Constraints.	To preserve working lands, development should be located to avoid state and local known constraints that have been field-verified, and to minimize impacts to state and local possible constraints that have been field-verified.
4.2	Earth Resources Extraction	Mineral extraction and processing facilities, including smaller private extraction operations existing to support agricultural operations, should be planned, constructed, and managed, in accordance with State and local regulations, to:
4.2.a	Minimize Transportation Impacts.	Avoid placing an excessive or uneconomic burden on local and state highways and bridges, including but not limited to the function and safety of existing roads and bridges serving the project site; strain from heavy loads on roadbeds and bridges; conflicts with pedestrians or bicyclists; and increased heavy traffic in dense residential areas.
4.2.b	Minimize Land Impacts	Minimize adverse effects on water quality, fish and wildlife habitats, and adjacent land uses.
4.2.c	Reclamation	Plan for their eventual rehabilitation so that slopes are stable, and the surface is revegetated with a variety of native species to support a wide range of biodiversity. Topsoil should not be removed from sites and excavations should stop early enough so that stable slopes can be established on the property.
4.2.d	Screening	Screen extraction sites to the extent practical if topography and vegetation allow.
4.3	Outdoor Recreation – See Chapter 17: Scenic, Recreational, and Historic Resources.	
Goal 5: 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.		
Action		
5.1	Strive for 90% of new development in areas planned for growth, which amounts to 15% of County land area.	

5.2	Invest in Areas Planned for Growth	
5.2.a	Existing Settlements.	Invest in wastewater, water and stormwater infrastructure, energy systems (e.g. transmission, distribution, storage, and generation), urban forestry, brownfields assessment and remediation, and transportation infrastructure (prioritizing bicycles, pedestrians and public transit) in areas currently developed and/or planned for growth. See Chapter 3: Planning Practices.
5.2.b	Retrofit Existing Buildings.	Retrofit existing buildings to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, and adaptively reuse historic buildings for housing, economic development, community gathering spaces, or other locally and culturally significant purposes.
5.2.c	Improve Walkability and Streetscape Design	Improve walkability and streetscape design in high density areas through a complete streets approach.
5.3	Municipal Planning and Zoning	Strengthen and direct development toward areas planned for growth through infill development, and adaptively reuse existing buildings through municipal plan and bylaw revisions and state designation programs.
5.3.a	Municipal Regulatory Reform.	Work with municipalities to revise development regulations to develop places with affordable housing, a mix of land uses, opportunities for shared parking, and access to a variety of services (restaurants, grocery stores, parks, entertainment, etc.) via public transit and active transportation modes.
5.3.b	Infrastructure Planning.	Integrate capital planning and budgeting in municipal planning efforts to provide the right mix of infrastructure over time. Work with municipalities to develop official maps and other tools to drive infrastructure improvements in the areas planned for growth.
5.3.c	Education.	Empower local officials through trainings and education on strategies to achieve the above through municipal plan and development regulation amendments and implementation. This could include how to effectively analyze development costs and benefits, and how to select appropriate multi-modal congestion mitigation measures.
5.4	State/Local Permitting Coordination & Improvement	Support changes to local and state permitting processes to make them more coordinated and effective at addressing state, regional, and local land use goals.
5.4.a	Act 250 Reform.	Collaborate with legislators, state agencies, municipalities, and partner organization to improve Act 250 and the state's development review process. Specifically, ensure that development occurs in areas planned for growth, and prevent it from happening outside of those areas. This could include integrated or expedited state and local permitting processes for projects in areas that are: a) designated for growth; and b) where a community has a robust plan, regulations and staff capacity. In conjunction with a reduction of permit review redundancies in areas planned for growth, it may be appropriate to develop more stringent standards and thresholds for development review in rural areas.
5.4.b	Vermont Zoning Atlas	Collaborate with stakeholders, including the Vermont Zoning Atlas project, to ensure local and state regulations, bylaws and plans encourage transparency, predictability, equity, and timely review of development applications.
5.4.c	Permit Navigators	Support the establishment of a state position to help entrepreneurs and business owners understand and navigate the state's permitting process.
5.4.d	Transportation Options Assessment.	Develop a transportation assessment process that supports existing and planned land use densities and patterns in Center, Metro, Suburban, Village, and Enterprise Planning Areas. This will promote improved congestion and greater mode choice than the current standards allow. Collaborate with the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTTrans), the Natural Resources Board, and other state and local stakeholders to develop this process.
5.4.e	Permit Review.	Policies and planning studies that are adopted as part of this ECOS Plan and subsequent amendments will guide CCRPC's position in permit proceedings.

Goal 6: 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.

Action		
6.1	Municipal Technical Assistance	
6.1.a	Energy Planning Assistance.	Provide technical assistance to municipalities when requested to enhance comprehensive plans consistent with Act 174 standards, and thereby enable municipalities to gain substantial deference in the Certificate of Public Good Section 248 process. This assistance will include working with municipalities to identify natural, cultural, historic, or scenic resources to be protected from all development, and to identify preferred locations for renewable energy generation facilities.
6.1.b	Energy Implementation Assistance	Provide technical assistance to municipalities to implement energy plans, including securing grant funding, and encourage municipalities to lead by example with respect to energy efficiency for buildings, transportation, and deploying renewable energy.
6.1.c	Off-Road Equipment	Provide technical assistance to municipalities that wish to require fuel switching for off-road equipment, such as lawnmowers, to clean and non-fossil fuels.
6.1.d	Land Use and Energy	Provide municipalities with guidance from the CCRPC Climate Change & Land Use guide on how to amend their land use regulations to limit low density sprawl, enable compact walkable neighborhoods, and protect the working and natural landscape to ensure climate change resilience and mitigation.
6.1.e	Just Transitions	Support partner initiatives that ensure state, regional, and local programs and policies intended to build climate resilience, and to decarbonize, do not have an unfair burden on any group, community, or economic sector.
6.2	Thermal Sector Partnerships	
6.2.a	Weatherization.	Continue partnerships with VGS, Burlington Electric Department, Efficiency Vermont and the Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity Weatherization Assistance Program to promote weatherization and energy efficiency programs and incentives for homes and businesses.
6.2.b	Thermal Fuel Switching.	Transition the thermal sector away from fossil fuels by working with partners such as Green Mountain Power, VGS, Efficiency Vermont, Burlington Electric Department, and other energy service providers to educate developers, businesses, and homeowners about cold climate heat pumps, heat pump hot water heaters, wood heating, biofuels, and geothermal systems.
6.2.c	Weatherization Workforce Development.	Advocate for the state, utilities, and workforce/business development organizations to address weatherization workforce challenges identified in the 2021 Weatherization Workforce Report. Promote the expansion of current workforce training programs that are effective, such as ReSOURCE's Weatherization and HVAC 101 training programs.
6.2.d	Energy Codes.	Coordinate with state and local stakeholders on building energy code requirements and compliance to encourage consistency and accelerate net-zero building practices and electric vehicle charging infrastructure. The state must ensure that energy efficient construction is accessible to and does not unfairly burden communities of color and lower income households.
6.2.e	Network Geothermal.	Support VGS and other organizations efforts to install networked geothermal in Chittenden County.
6.3	Transportation Sector Partnerships	
6.3.a	Transportation Fuel Switching.	Promote a shift away from gas/diesel vehicles to vehicles powered by lower/no carbon renewable fuel sources.

6.3.b	Municipal Fleet Electrification.	Work with the Clean Cities Coalition and municipalities to encourage municipal fleets to switch to lower emission heavy-duty vehicles and install charging for electric vehicles.
6.3.c	Transportation Fuel Infrastructure Planning.	Work with municipalities and relevant stakeholders to plan for local renewable transportation refueling networks and infrastructure, such as Level 2 and Level 3 electric vehicle recharging and hydrogen refueling. Ensure that these networks support commuting and regional destinations (e.g., downtowns, villages, resorts, tourist sites, transportation hubs, major employers, and multi-unit housing) and are planned along major regional transportation routes per the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Plan.
6.3.d	Electric Vehicle Parking Incentives.	Work with local employers, municipalities, and other energy advocates to encourage broader adoption of electric vehicles by providing free or reduced parking costs for EVs and fuel-efficient vehicle owners, and preferential access to parking spaces limited in supply.
6.3.e	Drive Electric Vermont and Electric Vehicle Use.	Promote the Drive Electric Vermont webpage, which connects users to financial incentives, types of available electric vehicles, and charging stations for EVs. Increase awareness of the benefits of and access to EVs and lower emission vehicles, in partnership with Drive Electric Vermont, Vermont Clean Cities Coalitions and other entities. Collaborate with electric utilities to educate and promote incentives to increase EV and hybrid adoption, and build awareness of charging opportunities as part of their strategy for complying with the state's Renewable Energy Standard.
6.3.f	National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan and DC Fast Charging Infrastructure Funding.	Seek grants to fund the installation of DC fast-charging infrastructure at strategic locations along major travel corridors, in transit hubs, and along the Interstate 89 Alternative Fuels Corridor (I-89 from New Hampshire to the Canadian border). Collaborate with VTRANS and Drive Electric Vermont to implement the Vermont 2022 State National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan (NEVI).
6.3.g	Local Public EV Charging.	Provide technical assistance to municipalities implementing the VT Department of Housing and Community Development Local Electric Vehicle Charging Station Regulation Guide, especially at multi-unit housing properties, businesses, and key public locations.
6.4	Renewable and Resilient Electricity	
6.4.a	Diversify Electricity Sources.	Support a wide variety of renewable energy generation types, including storage, sustainable uses of biomass for heating, passive solar building design, bio-digesters for electricity generation, photovoltaic solar, wind turbines, and optimize the energy potential for existing hydro electric dams.
6.4.b	Grid Constraints.	Coordinate with transmission and distribution utilities to resolve electric grid constraints to enable the region to achieve Chittenden County's renewable energy generation target needed for the electrification of the heating and transportation sector.
6.4.c	Transmission Upgrade Funding.	Support in-place upgrades of existing facilities, including renewable energy generation, storage, transmission lines, distribution lines, substations, microgrids, and energy storage as needed to reliably serve municipalities and the region with a resilient and low-carbon electric grid that supports a growing renewable electricity economy and low electricity costs. The existing law (30 V.S.A. 218c and PUC Docket 7081) does not sufficiently enable VELCO with the authority needed to effectively plan for grid modernization that meets the state's energy and climate goals. To plan for the transmission constraints our state and our region face, the state must enable VELCO to design and fund a transmission system to address grid constraints in an equitable and proactive manner.
6.5	Statewide Renewable Electricity Generation Regulation	

6.5.a	Renewable Electricity Policy Refroms.	Support changes in federal, state, and local policies to achieve the State of Vermont Comprehensive Energy Plan, Climate Action Plan goals, and to shift burdens away from impacted communities while increasing participation by those communities in the renewable energy industry.
6.5.b	In-State Generation.	Support changes to the Renewable Energy Standard to prioritize in-state generation over electricity imports to avoid externalizing environmental and societal costs and benefits.
6.5.c	Expand Net-Metering Eligibility.	Increase the maximum size of net-metered projects, and establish a tiered system for net-metering rates in which utilities pay a lower rate to facilities over a certain size (such as 500kW), in order to increase net-metering participation and reduce the energy burden for public and non-profit entities. Increase the maximum size of net-metered projects (currently 500kW) for public, non-profit, and community ownership entities, to encourage them to maximize development of renewable energy sources.
6.5.d	Wind Generation Sound Rules.	Request that the Public Utility Commission to open the rule making process on Rule 5.700, Sound Levels from Wind Generation Facilities, to reassess existing sound standards with the intent of allowing all sizes and scales of wind energy generation possible in Chittenden County.
6.6	Renewable Energy Generation Siting and Suitability Policies	
6.6.a	Renewable Energy Generation Goal	CCRPC supports generating new renewable energy in the county to meet Vermont's Global Warming Solutions Act requirements, and the Comprehensive Energy Plan's goal of using 90% renewable energy by 2050, in a manner that is cost effective, respects the natural environment, and does not unfairly burden low-income communities with the impact of development. Specifically, Chittenden County currently generates 606,554 megawatt-hours (MWh) of renewable energy annually. The 2050 target of 954,833 MWh of energy generated annually is a 348,279 MWh, or 57%, increase from 2022. The target is technology neutral, and can be met with any mix of technologies.
6.6.b	Siting and Suitability Policies	The siting and suitability policies below are the land conservation measures that should be considered in the PUC's section 248 review. Ground mounted renewable energy generation is constrained in certain areas due to state and local restrictions on development. Additionally, different levels of suitability exist for different scales and types of renewable energy generation, depending on location within the county. The following statements, which are CCRPC's renewable energy generation facility siting policies, will inform CCRPC's preferred sites policy. CCRPC recommends the location of renewable energy generation facilities in accordance with the relevant guidelines below. Inability to meet these guidelines does not necessarily preclude the ability to develop renewable energy generation development:
6.6.b.i	Avoid Constraints	Site renewable energy generation to avoid state and local known constraints, and to minimize impacts to state and local possible constraints, as defined in Strategy 6, Action 1. F, and Strategy 7, Action 1. F, and Action 2. E. Renewable energy generation sited on existing structures or parking lots complies with this policy.
6.6.b.ii	Setbacks and screening.	Site ground-mounted solar development in accordance with setback standards as defined in 30 V.S.A. §248(s) and municipal screening requirements adopted in accordance with 30 V.S.A. §248(b)(B).
6.6.b.iii	Cgrid Capacity.	Locate energy generation proximate to existing distribution and transmission infrastructure with adequate capacity and near areas with high electric load. (See Green Mountain Power's Solar Map, and Burlington Electric Department's Distributed Generation Map.)
6.6.b.iv	Municipal Preferred Sites.	Locate renewable energy generation in areas designated by a municipality in an adopted plan for such use, including specific preferred sites for net-metering, in accordance with PUC rule 5.1, rule pertaining to construction and operating of net-metering systems. State preferred sites are mapped on Map 5.

6.6.b.v	State Preferred Sites.	Locate solar generation (including but not limited to net metering) on previously impacted areas (such as, parking lots, previously developed sites, brownfields, State regulated landfills with post-closure certification, gravel pits/quarries, or on or near existing structures).
6.6.b.vi	Designated Centers and Historic Districts.	Locate ground-mounted solar larger than 15 kW AC (except for parking lot canopy solar installations) and wind turbines with a hub height larger than 30 meters (98 ft.) outside of state designated village centers, growth centers, downtowns, new town centers, neighborhood development areas, and historic districts on the State or National register.
6.6.b.vii	Infill Development Design.	To mitigate load growth, integrate renewable energy generation facilities in a manner that allows infill to be the priority within areas planned for growth, but outside designated area mentioned above.
6.6.b.viii	Prioritize Prime Locations.	Locate wind generation in areas with high wind potential, such as the prime and base wind potential areas shown on Map 7.
Goal 7: Transportation - Provide a transportation system that is safe, efficient, reliable, and resilient; provides for 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.		
Action		
7.1	Maintain & Improve.	Adequately maintain and improve existing transportation system, including roads, bridges, culverts, rail, transit, walking/biking, park-and-ride facilities, and transportation demand management (TDM) programs.
7.2	Invest.	Invest in the transportation system by addressing safety and localized congestion issues on roadways.
7.3	Collaborate.	Work with federal, state, and local partners to find new sources for transportation funding; shift from gas tax to more sustainable sources such as a mileage-based fee.
7.4	Expand the deployment of Intelligent	Expand the deployment of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) to facilitate efficient flow of traffic on the roadway system, which will improve safety, reduce delays and congestion, decrease transportation energy use, and minimize the need for major roadway expansion projects.
7.5	MTP and TIP Projects.	Implement the identified MTP and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) projects.
7.6	Future transportation investments.	Future transportation investments will support areas planned for growth and reduce fossil fuel consumption. This will help mitigate climate changing emissions by facilitating a shift away from single occupancy vehicle (SOV) trips by focusing on the following areas and programs:
7.6.a	Triple transit use by 2050	A FY24 study will explore the feasibility of this strategy.
7.6.a.i	GMT.	Increase investment in GMT transit services, and explore micro-transit opportunities in the county.
7.6.a.ii	Transit Funding.	Identify new, sustainable, and stable sources to finance public transit.
7.6.a.iii	Expand transit options.	Work with GMT to identify opportunities for transit expansion. Integrate park-and-ride facilities with transit routes.
7.6.a.iv	Signal Priority Technology.	Invest in transit signal priority technology in partnership with GMT, VTrans, and municipalities.
7.6.a.v	Maximize Ridership.	Maximize ridership for public school buses ,and minimize use of private vehicles for student transport.
7.6.b	Active Transportation.	Expand walking and biking infrastructure to support active transportation, and improve interconnection with the region's transit system.

7.6.b.ii	Active Transportation Plan.	Implement strategies, projects, and priorities identified in the 2022 Chittenden County Active Transportation Plan to provide safe and efficient facilities to connect common origins and destinations.
7.6.b.iii	Update Municipal Standards.	Work with municipalities to update municipal road standards to reflect complete streets principles.
	Public Projects.	Review state and municipal transportation projects to ensure that complete streets principles are implemented.
7.6.b.iv	Permitting.	Ensure that site plans include adequate bike and pedestrian infrastructure and safety measures, through participation in the Act 250 hearing process.
7.6.b.v	Scoping Studies.	Assist municipalities with scoping future bike and pedestrian facilities to improve safety, accessibility, and continuity of the system. Municipalities could use the outcomes of scoping studies to apply for VTrans implementation grants.
7.6.c	Promote Transportation Demand Management and Car Sharing programs	Promote Transportation Demand Management and Car Sharing programs
7.6.c.i		Promote and support the Go! Vermont program that links travelers to a variety of transportation resources and choices.
7.6.c.ii		Support the continued development and expansion of Chittenden County park-and-ride facilities as recommended in the 2022 Regional Park-and-Ride Plan.
7.6.c.iii		Work with the Chittenden Area Transportation Management Association (CATMA) to support employer programs to encourage telecommuting, carpooling, vanpooling, walking, and biking for employee commute trips.
7.6.c.iv		Support CarShare Vermont's programs.
7.6.d	Electric Vehicles	See Chapter 8 - Energy
7.7	Rail Infrastructure.	Support and enhance regional rail infrastructure for passenger and freight, and promote the upgrade of the Essex Junction to Burlington line (Winooski branch). Where needed, provide additional rail infrastructure to support safer, more efficient movement, handling, and storage of goods.
7.8	Transportation financing and funding.	Encourage municipalities to implement local transportation financing and funding programs, such as TIF, Local Option Sales Taxes, Impact Fees, or Special Assessment Districts as appropriate. Monitor and participate in state and federal transportation financing reform efforts, such as the 2023 Vermont Legislature's Act 62 study (Statewide Public Transit System), and the Natural Resources Board/VTrans Fair Share Cost Study, to help address declining revenue from the gas tax.
Goal 8: Housing - Ensure that all households in Chittenden County have access to affordable, safe, energy efficient, accessible, and fair housing in all neighborhoods.		
Action		
8.1	Policy and Regulatory Changes	Support policies that encourage growth and investment in the housing sector, and remove barriers to constructing affordable housing.
8.1.a	Reduce regulatory redundancies	End duplication of review between Act 250, state agencies, and municipalities in areas planned for growth.
8.1.b	Regulatory Reform	Improve the process to increase certainty for well-planned projects in areas planned for growth. Increase housing choice and density in areas planned for growth, considering community character and design. Eliminate the ability to deny applications for housing development at the municipal level based on the "character of the area" criterion in 24 V.S.A. §4414. Encourage rehabilitation and maintenance of existing housing stock.
8.1.c	Reduce Permit Fees	At the state and municipal levels, consider fee waivers or other development review process incentives for projects that include affordable housing.
8.1.d	Infrastructure Investment	Target government funding to infrastructure that will support housing development in areas planned for growth. Revise infrastructure requirements with a goal of reducing costs for developers.

8.1.e	Inclusive Communities	Integrate a variety of housing types for all income levels for new/infill housing projects throughout the county, to provide for different incomes and access to jobs and services. Adopt inclusionary zoning requirements, or other incentive programs, to serve all needs.
8.1.f	Climate	Target policies to support lower-income households, including rentals, for weatherization and installation of cold climate heat pumps. Also, work towards electric vehicle charging station equipment especially for multi-family housing.
8.1.g	Rental Registry	Support a statewide rental housing safety inspection process and rental registry; while retaining existing municipal rental registry programs as is.
8.1.h	Student Housing	Continue to work with the University of Vermont and Champlain College to develop specific plans to increase the percentage of students who reside in dedicated student housing on-campus.
8.2	Increase Capital for Affordable Housing	Maintain or increase local and state resources that fund additional affordable housing, maintain existing affordable housing, and make housing more affordable. These actions include:
8.2.a	Federal Funding for Housing.	By 2026, utilize current state and local American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for housing. Secure new federal financial resources, such as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and the Build Back Better Bill, to support, convert, and construct new housing.
8.2.b	State Funding for Housing.	The state should fully fund the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, with funds supporting an increase in Chittenden County's stock of permanently affordable housing. Sustain state bonding investment for capital and infrastructure investments in service of more housing. Work with institutions, businesses, and philanthropy to invest in housing for working families. Finally, create avenues for social investment financing.
8.2.c	Planning Funding.	The state should fully fund the Regional Planning Commissions, Municipal Planning Grants, and the Vermont Center for Geographic Information, applying property transfer tax revenue to levels outlined in existing state statute 24 V.S.A. § 4306(2). This can assist toward reaching housing goals, as well as other state planning goals.
8.2.d	BIPoC Homeownership.	Advocate for BIPOC-specific financing for homeownership, and/or the creation of a state program to support this type of financing.
8.2.e	Housing Trust Funds.	Support the creation and use of municipal housing trust funds to assist in the financing of affordable housing.
8.2.f	First-Time Homebuyers.	Support financial programs that assist first-time homebuyers.
8.2.g	Housing Preservation.	Take steps to preserve existing affordable housing from being converted to market rate housing, and continue to encourage shared equity for new-owner homes.
8.3	Education and Collaboration	Work together to move toward a regional housing market that serves people of all backgrounds and incomes, increases the persistent low rate of homeownership among Black Vermonters, supports business needs and economic growth, helps people retain their homes, and reduces homelessness. These actions include:
8.3.a	Building Homes Together.	Work with partners to facilitate new home construction (1,000 homes per year), with 25% being affordable (250 homes per year). New homes should be primarily located in areas planned for growth (see strategy #2).
8.3.b	Housing Data.	Provide the public with the most accurate and up-to-date data to explain the region's critical needs and the measurable benefits behind new sustainable development.
8.3.c	Housing for BIPOC	Provide educational resources for municipalities, employers, and other stakeholders to assist with increasing housing access to the BIPOC community.
8.3.d	Improve Development Outcomes.	Train municipal officials and staff, the public, developers, banks, and real estate agents to promote better development practices that achieve a higher level of density with quality design.
8.3.e	Tenant Support.	Increase capacity for essential tenant supports, such as the CVOEO Vermont Tenants hotline, and educational programs for renters.

	8.3.f	Media Coverage.	Engage the media to ensure continued coverage of the housing crisis.
	8.3.g	Homelessness.	Work with partners to reduce homelessness in the region and investigate best practices for addressing the social, emotional, and health needs of those experiencing and transitioning out of homelessness into stable housing.
	8.4	Living Conditions	See Chapter 11: Health .
	8.5	Fair Housing	Increase compliance with fair housing requirements to better address housing equity in the County, as described in the Vermont Fair Housing Action Plan from 2017 (or as amended) and the Burlington Assessment of Fair Housing.
	8.5.a	Fair Rental Housing Education.	Increase fair housing education and outreach for landlords, property managers, real estate professionals, and anyone involved in the sale, rental, or finance of housing. Work with the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program, the Association of Africans Living in Vermont, Opportunities Credit Union, and other organizations to develop strategies for new Americans to quickly develop credit history. Create educational materials that encourage landlords to use alternative criteria for new Americans and other groups traditionally excluded from housing opportunities that don't penalize them for a lack of credit or rental history.
	8.5.b	Fair Housing and Land Use Planning	Provide fair housing and land use planning training for land use professionals and municipal officials throughout the county.
	8.5.c	Disability Laws.	Identify gaps in municipal implementation of State Fair Housing laws and ADA compliance. One known gap (among many) is to ensure that municipal bylaws include language that explicitly permits officials to make reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities without delay or public input.
	8.5.d	Enforcement.	Increase enforcement and testing capacity of fair housing organizations, such as Vermont Legal Aid, particularly for classes protected only under Vermont law: marital status, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, receipt of public assistance, and victims of abuse.
Goal 9: Health - Promote preventative care, healthy lifestyles, and community wellness, and improve access to healthcare services, while reducing healthcare disparities for a			
Action			
	9.1	Invest in living conditions	Plan to provide the basic needs of all people through access to healthy food, safe shelter, education, jobs, affordable housing, livable communities, and public transportation. Ensure that resources such as healthcare and affordable food exist in places that are easily accessible for everyone. Focus investment in communities that have been historically excluded from community power and resources.
	9.1.a	Built Environment	Develop and support projects that combat the urban heat island effect, such as urban tree plantings.
	9.2	Health in All Policies	Support and prioritize projects that use the Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach (a collaborative approach to improving the health of all people by including health considerations in all decision-making processes).
	9.3	Conduct Health Impact Assessments	Work with Vermont Department of Health to conduct Health Impact Assessments (HIA). A HIA is a process that helps evaluate the potential health effects of a plan, project, or policy before it is built or implemented.[ii] A HIA could identify potential positive and negative public health impacts of new transportation and land use projects. An HIA also identifies whether any populations will be more impacted by a project than others. A HIA provides practical recommendations to increase positive health effects and minimize negative health effects.
	9.4	Create policies that protect against addiction and substance misuse	Reduce youth access and exposure to adult-only products (tobacco, alcohol, cannabis) by passing evidenced-based policies such as restricting retail promotion, preventing retail locations near schools, and designating substance-free outdoor public spaces. Support people in recovery and youth by normalizing and promoting substance-free events. Promote upstream approaches by working with communities to impact risk and protective factors and prevent substance use disorder.

9.5		Create policies and environmental supports that increase access to active transportation, active recreation, and healthy foods. The physical design of a community affects residents' health every time they step out their door. Through Healthy Community Design, communities can be planned and developed in a way that increases access to sidewalks, parks, and healthy, affordable food. Improving air and water quality, and minimizing the effects of climate change, further support population health. Communities can develop in ways that make fitness easy to access, which also supports mental health by providing an outlet to reduce stress and encourage socialization and human connection.
9.6	Promote community wellness	See Chapter 19 - Social Connectedness.
Goal 10: Economy - Retain and support existing employers, grow living wage and high wage employment, and work to attract and sustain a greater diversity of businesses and		
Action		
10.1	Attract New Workers and Expand Labor Force	Attract new workers of all skills sets, training, and expertise to the region, and remove existing barriers to workforce participation for existing residents, to combat the state-wide labor shortage due to the impacts of COVID-19, an aging population, and other structural barriers to labor participation. This includes improving the availability of housing as addressed in Strategy 3.
10.1.a	Child Care	See Household Finance [Action #3]
10.1.b	Marketing and Support	Seek grant funding to support on-going marketing efforts by project partners and local employers to attract new workers to Chittenden County. Work collaboratively with the Stay to Stay network and other partners to better understand how to specifically market to BIPOC workers.
10.1.c	Returnship Programs	Work with the Vermont Returnship Program to strengthen and expand programs that help experienced workers transition to new careers that maximize their existing knowledge, transferable skills, and job goals.
10.2	Rules and Practices Restricting Access to Capital	CCRPC will advocate on behalf of underserved populations with federal and state funders to provide flexibility when financing and making grants to underserved business and individuals in the regional community, based on insight gained as a part of the Community Navigator Pilot Program (CNPP). Similarly, CCRPC will advocate for change among financial institutions and equity investor lending and investment to better serve socially and economically disadvantaged individuals (SEDI) and businesses.
10.3	BIPOC Business Basics and Support	developing their business. Work with CEDS and state partners to develop and make available a step-by-step guide and a directory of programs, services, and technical assistance.
10.4	Hiring, Workforce Development and Retention	Work with partners to create and/or support trainings to help employers better understand the needs of immigrant and refugee communities and BIPOC workers. Build relationships with employees from underrepresented communities to better understand how to develop ways to meet workforce development needs and retention strategies. Determine ways to remove language barriers to workforce entry.
10.5	Women-Owned Business	Collaborate with the Vermont Women's Fund and other partners to implement projects that address the specific needs of women-owned businesses as identified in the This Way Up! campaign.
10.6	Just Transitions	Work with the Vermont Climate Council to develop public policy and business actions that will ensure the impacts of Vermont's transition into a low or zero greenhouse gas emitting economy will benefit and support all residents of the state fairly and equitably.
10.7	Data	Ensure that all data collection conducted by a future WCVT EDD and CCRPC includes information about race and gender to more accurately understand and report on economic development efforts and populations served/impacted. Seek funding to assist with partners' efforts to track identified CEDS indicators. Advocate for all state and federal economic data to include information about race.

10.8	Funding	Prioritize seeking economic development-related grant funding and technical assistance to support the needs of BIPOC and women-owned businesses.
10.9	Job Creation and Business Development	Support job retention and growth at existing high wage employers, expand economic diversification, and create a supportive ecosystem for entrepreneurs to create and grow businesses in the region.
10.9.a	High wage employers	Add high wage employment, attract businesses, and encourage the growth of those already here, including businesses in the following fields: information technology, communications and media (including information technology, e-commerce, and digital media); advanced manufacturing; higher education; clean tech/green tech; and health care and wellness.
10.9.b	Economic Gardening	Practice economic gardening (growing the local economy from within, rather than attracting employers from outside the area) as the primary method of economic development. Create jobs by supporting local entrepreneurs and existing companies, especially those with local ownership, including employee ownership, and other connections to the community.
10.9.c	Access to Capital	Work with partners to develop and administer programs that provide low-barrier access to capital for start-up small businesses, particularly BIPOC and women-owned small businesses. This may include grants with low match, or no match, requirements. This may also include exploration of a shared-equity program for commercial properties similar to existing residential shared-equity programs in the region.
10.9.d	Innovation and Entrepreneurial Development	Work with GBIC to promote and expand support systems for entrepreneurs from every sector, and create a system of resources that is easily navigable at all stages of the innovation and entrepreneurial continuum.
10.10.	Workforce Development and Employee Retention	Assist partner organizations (regional development corporations, educational institutions, and nonprofits), implement goals of the CEDS related to employee recruitment and retention, workforce training, and professional development opportunities for career advancement.
10.11	Brownfields	Seek funding from the EPA to continue funding assessment and site planning, and to establish a Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) to
10.12	Underutilized Sites	Support partner efforts to develop master redevelopment plans for currently underutilized sites within the region, particularly closed college
10.13	Tourism	See Chapter 17 - Scenic Recreational and Historic Resources.
10.14	Creative Economy and the Arts.	See Chapter 16 - Arts and Culture.
10.15	Economic Development Coordination	Work with the state to implement the 2020 Vermont Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. Coordinate with West Central Vermont CEDS partner organizations and pursue creation of an Economic Development District (EDD). Cooperate with Northwest Regional Planning Commission on their economic development efforts (due to the proximity and economic ties between regions). Support municipalities in local economic development efforts.
10.16	Industrial Site Locations	There is a limited supply of existing buildings or permitted sites left for high wage industrial or manufacturing businesses in the region. Additional sites need to be identified and carefully planned to meet employers' needs for expansion or relocation in Chittenden County. The best opportunities for these sites are on vacant portions of land owned by major employers, within close proximity to, or already connected to, existing infrastructure services for long-term efficiency.
10.16.a	Industrial Park Designations.	CCRPC and GBIC will work with ACCD to have business/industrial parks recognized as benefit locations in state designation programs.
10.16.b	Use Existing Industrial Lands.	Prioritize industrial development on land that is already zoned for industrial uses, or has been used for industrial processes in the past. This will help concentrate industrial development in areas planned for growth. To advance this, CCRPC will continue the strategies discussed in Strategy 2 of this plan.

10.16.c	Industrial Land Needs Analysis.	Prepare a longevity analysis to project when to add fully serviced and permitted land to the regional inventory.
Goal 11: Household Finance - Ensure all households in Chittenden County are able to financially meet their basic activities of daily living.		
Action		
11.1	High Wage Employers	See Chapter 12 - Economy.
11.2	Access to Capital	See Chapter 12 - Economy.
11.3	Childcare	Support working families by ensuring that their children ages 0 – 5 have adequate access to high quality, affordable early learning and education programs. Work with stakeholders in the childcare field (e.g. Building Bright Futures, existing childcare providers, school districts, etc.) and potential funders (e.g. VCDP, NBRC, and EDA) to identify existing sites that could support childcare facilities (particularly for infant care), and assist with accessing grant/loan funds for costs associated with business start-up, workforce development, and construction. Improve access and funding for pre-kindergarten programs so that children are ready to learn by the time they begin kindergarten. Support early care and education providers as they develop skills and knowledge to care for and educate children. Support increased public investment in childcare and programs designed to provide childcare for students enrolled in post-secondary education (e.g. Child Care Access Means Parents in School Program).
11.4	New American / Refugee Programs	Aid municipalities, and associated non-profits, seeking to establish designated refugee resettlement community programs within the region. These programs provide refugees with direct assistance with securing housing, employment, education/training, and other essential support, like translation, to overcome social, cultural, and economic barriers.
Goal 12: Emergency Management - Protect Chittenden County communities from natural, technological, and societal hazards through prevention, preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation.		
Action		
12.1	Preparedness	Assure all municipalities and social service organizations have well-developed emergency preparedness plans.
12.1.a	Coordination.	Encourage collaboration and coordination between local, regional, and statewide organizations in preparedness and response.
12.1.b	Health Equity.	Promote health equity by identifying the most vulnerable communities, assessing their needs, and incorporating them into emergency plans.
12.1.c	Take an all-hazards approach.	Take an all-hazards approach that can be used in weather, biological, chemical, radiological, and terrorist emergencies. In addition, municipalities and organizations should develop systems that monitor for impacts of climate change that affect human health or safety and build climate resiliency into all systems.
12.1.d	LEMPs	Assist with annual updates to municipal Local Emergency Management Plan.
12.2	Mitigation and Hazard Mitigation Plans	Update the Chittenden County All Hazards Mitigation Plan, and related municipal hazard mitigation plans, as needed.
12.3	Response	Continue to support the efforts of our municipal partners to provide high quality and efficient emergency services to Chittenden County.
12.4	Recovery	Continue to assist with staffing State Emergency Operations Center and conducting local liaison reporting during major disasters.
Goal 13: Infrastructure and Facilities - Ensure adequate infrastructure and facilities to support areas planned for growth while protecting ecological systems.		
Action		
13.1	Infrastructure and Resilience	Actively participate in the planning, funding, and construction of infrastructure projects needed to strengthen the regional economy. Projects should support equity, smart growth principals, and economic resilience in response to climate change and other disasters.

13.1.a	Regional Development Corporation (RDC) Priority Project List	Annually update Regional Priority Project Lists, and seek funding to plan and implement projects.
13.1.b	Tax-Increment Financing	Support the creation of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Districts within the region, along with legislation that will enable the development of project-specific TIFs.
13.1.c	Infrastructure Planning and Construction	Implement regional infrastructure planning and construction projects that support economic development and housing in areas planned for growth, as outlined in Goal 5 of the WCV CEDS, including the following: Municipal Water and Wastewater; Broadband, Transportation, Electric Vehicle Charging; Electric Transmission and Distribution.
13.2	Solid Waste	Support the efforts of Chittenden Solid Waste District, and statewide partners, to study, identify, and permit an additional solid waste disposal site(s) that can serve northern Vermont.
13.3	Underutilized Sites	Support partner efforts to develop master redevelopment plans for currently underutilized sites within the region, particularly closed college campuses and public schools, that could support housing, commercial development, or municipal/community uses.
13.4	Broadband	Coordinate with the VT Community Broadband Board, municipalities, and the Chittenden County Communications Union District to ensure all unserved and underserved locations have access to high-speed internet.
13.5	Multi-jurisdictional services	Examine and advance appropriate, efficient, and effective governance structures to deliver improved services, including: Supervisory Unions, Chittenden Solid Waste District, Champlain Water District, Winooski Park District, Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, Green Mountain Transit, Chittenden County Sheriff, Chittenden Unit for Special Investigations, and 911 dispatch.
Goal 14: Arts and Culture - Increase and support access and participation in arts and cultural opportunities.		
Action		
14.1	Public Art Programs	Work with partners to implement public art programs that integrate artistic installations into public spaces, such as parks, streetscapes, and buildings. This can enhance the visual appeal of the region, create opportunities for local artists, and engage the community.
14.2	Creative Economy and the Art	Support the creative economy by helping implement projects identified in the 2021 CreateVT Action Plan for Vermont's Creative Sector.
Goal 15: Scenic, Recreation and Historic Resources - Conserve and protect valued scenic, recreational, and historic areas and resources.		
Action		
15.1	Tourism	Cooperate with partners, including the Vermont Convention Bureau, local chambers of commerce and downtown organizations, the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative, and Lake Champlain Byway to support growth of the tourism industry.
15.2	Outdoor Recreation	Collaborate with the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative, Vermont Trails and Greenways Council, and regional recreation collaboratives led by the regional planning commissions to further the economic interests of the outdoor recreation economy.
15.3	Historic Resources.	Work with partners to identify funding to update municipal Historic Sites and Structures Surveys originally completed in the 1970s and 1980s.
15.4	Collaborate with working landscapes	See Chapter 6 - Working Lands.
Goal 16: Civic Engagement - All Chittenden County community members trust their local and regional government, and have influence in political and non-political decisions that affect their lives, neighborhoods, and communities.		
Action		

16.1	Civics Training.	Provide accessible and equity-oriented leadership development training for all civic leaders, to increase knowledge about, and encourage service on boards and commissions.
16.2	Decrease barriers.	Decrease barriers that members of marginalized communities face when joining committees, boards, and commissions: hold meetings at accessible times and locations; provide organized, easy-to-understand onboarding tools; compensate people for their time; provide childcare, transportation assistance, interpretation and translation, and accounting for other accommodations that may make participation more accessible.
16.3	Cultural Humility Education.	Support boards and commissions by increasing their knowledge and understanding about diverse populations, and the importance of inclusion and representation.
16.4	Voting.	Support increased access to local voting processes.
16.5	Education.	Invest in partner organizations that provide civics classes and create connection with civic opportunities, in order to engage more people in local and regional governance.
16.6	Accessibilty.	Improve accessibility of municipal and regional government key documents, websites, and materials by avoiding the use of technical terms or jargon, providing translations, and communicating information through brief summaries and infographics whenever possible.
Goal 17: Social Connectedness - Ensure that all people in Chittenden County are socially connected and supported in their communities.		
Action		
17.1	Provide Care	Assure that older adults and people with disabilities are well cared for. Support organizations and programs that enable aging in place, and provide support to family members who are caregivers (or provide care). Ensure that older adults and people with disabilities who need formal care in their daily living have access, including transportation, to appropriate services.
17.2	Create New Opportunities	Increase opportunities for residents to come together, interact, and network. Support organizations and businesses that bring diverse people together around myriad themes: arts and cultural events; recreational and leisure activities; civic engagement initiatives; educational workshops; family events; or any other activity that brings people together with a common interest. Encourage organizations offer and/or support free arts and leisure opportunities.