



CVRPC REGIONAL PLAN READOPTION

1st Public Hearing – May 14, 2024

Purpose

- First of two public hearings on the CVRPC Regional Plan readoption.
- Second hearing scheduled for July 9, 2024
- The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony from all interested parties – including the general public – on the regional plan readoption
 - Please state your name for the record if you choose to speak at this hearing.
- Comments received as part of the public hearing or as part of the public comment period will be reviewed and responses will be included in an appendix to the Plan Assessment Report.

Why Readopt?

- CVRPC must readopt its existing Regional Plan or adopt a new Regional Plan every 8 years.
- CVRPC staff and the Regional Planning Committee agree on the value of developing a new guiding document for the Region.
 - The Region has evolved over the last 8 years
 - Statute has evolved in the last 8 years
- Staff began this process in 2022, but substantial staffing changes slowed the process
 - Staff will use 12-18 months to work with the Regional Plan Committee, Board of Directors and member communities to development a new plan.
- Readopting the current plan ensures continuity in regional planning efforts while providing the needed time to complete the job

Regional Plan Assessment Report

Per 24 V.S.A. § 4348b, as part of the readoption process, CVRPC has developed the Regional Plan Assessment Report to address the following five criteria:

- The extent to which the plan has been implemented since adoption;
- An evaluation of the goals and policies and any amendments necessary due to changing conditions of the region;
- An evaluation of the land use element and any amendments necessary to reflect changes in land use within the region or changes to regional goals and policies;
- Priorities for implementation in the next five years; and
- Updates to information and data necessary to support goals and policies.

The extent to which the plan has been implemented since adoption (1)

Regulatory implementation

- Act 250 and Section 248 (Section 1111 permits to a lesser extent)
- Project Review Committee
- Significant Regional Impact
- Enhanced Energy Plan and Substantial Deference (Determination of Energy Compliance)
- Preferred site status

The extent to which the plan has been implemented since adoption (2)

Non-Regulatory implementation

- Community Development
 - Brownfields
 - Housing
 - Economic Development
 - Health Equity
- Emergency Planning
- Town Planning
- Natural Resources
- Transportation
- GIS
- Energy

An evaluation of the goals and policies and any amendments necessary due to changing conditions of the region

- Largely unchanged from the 2016 Central Vermont Regional Plan
- **Updated** Regional housing targets per Act 47 of 2023
- **Updated** Enhanced Energy Plan to meet current standards

Broader updates to goals and policies are expected to come out of the process of developing of a new plan.

An evaluation of the land use element and any amendments necessary to reflect changes in land use within the region or changes to regional goals and policies

Currently

- Protect natural resources and fragile environments
- Planning for compact village centers with surrounding rural countryside
- Protect flood plains to reduce inundation risk

Planned

- 2023 VAPDA led Regional Planning Study
- New requirements on the regional future land use map
- Possible changes to State designation program and Act 250

Updated energy element

Updated (based on new state modeling and data)

- Estimates of Current Energy Use:
 - Heating, Electricity, Transportation
- Targets:
 - Thermal and electric conservation and efficiency measures including weatherization and fuel switching
 - Use of renewable energy for transportation, heating, and electricity
 - Renewable Energy generation
- Evaluation
 - Storage
 - Transportation/land use to lower GHG emissions (energy use)
 - Key infrastructure challenges and reliability issues

Updated energy element

“New” (based on region and new standards)

- Discussion of wood heat and target for converting cord wood stoves to higher efficiency cord wood stoves (combo with heat pumps; standalone)
- Mapping
 - Data updates (known and possible constraints; resource potential maps)
 - Rooftop solar
 - Preferred Siting
- Key consideration discussions:
 - electric infrastructure reliability,
 - equity and access,
 - land use (growth areas, infrastructure barriers, comprehensive integration with other landuse priorities, etc.)
 - Impacts of future climate change, changing needs (demand)

Updated energy element

Highlights Planned/In Progress 2025 Update:

- Summary municipal building and facilities current use, priorities, & projects
- Expanded mapping products and tools
 - Support 248 project review
 - Integrate local preferred sites and constraints into mapping; support project development in line with regional and municipal visioning
 - Siting guidelines based on project type and size
- Regional GHG emissions inventory

Housing Targets

Per 24 V.S.A. § 4348^a(a)9:

Regional planning commission's assessment shall...disaggregate regional housing targets or ranges by municipality

Estimated based on:

- # housing units needed to accommodate new households
- # of housing units needed to replace deteriorated housing units
- # of housing units needed to elevate the vacancy rate to 5%
- # of Central Vermonters experiencing homelessness

Weighted based on capacity and utilities and a recognition of market trends

Thank you.

In addition to this hearing, comments
can be sent via email to
cvrpc@cvregion.com