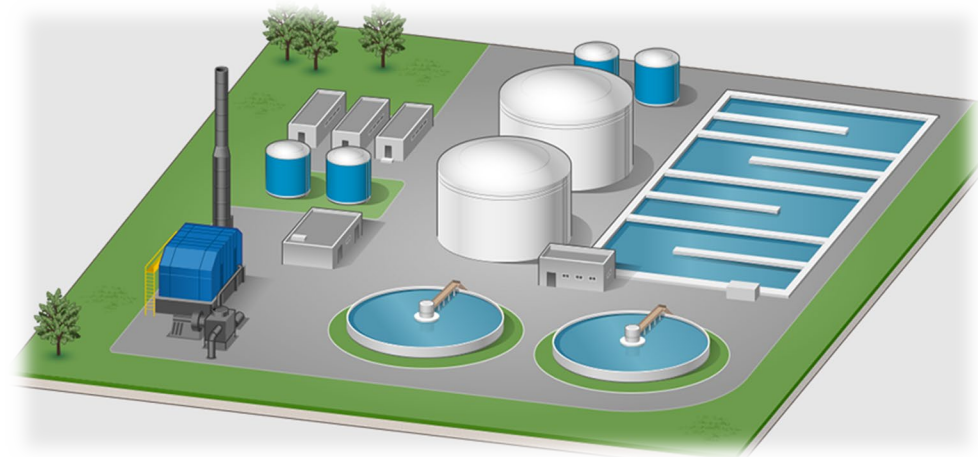


# Utilities, Facilities and Services Chapter

Decision Points

CVRPC Board of Commissioners

January 2025



# Decision Points of Utilities, Facilities and Services Chapter

- Title changed from Infrastructure to Utilities, Facilities and Services (same as in current plan)
- Whether to keep the Services (or Social Infrastructure) section in the same chapter as Utilities, Facilities, and Services (or Infrastructure) or to have it be a standalone chapter.
- Combined water/wastewater because of redundancy in goals and strategies.
- Added a new section for Cultural Resources (didn't really have in last plan). These include libraries, museums and theaters we do support letters for these facilities. We added new goals and strategies were pertinent. An ex. Is for Fire Departments and emergency services.

# Decision Points of Utilities, Facilities and Services Chapter

- Recommended removal of strategies that CVRPC has no pathway to influence (funding or power). See crosswalk.
- Changed language so goal or strategy did align with what CVRPC does
- Move to other chapter goals and strategies that were better suited to those chapters. See crosswalk.
- Shoulds were considered to become Shalls where CVRPC policy and authority allows or dictates. See crosswalk.
- Significantly updated the data, maps are still being produced to align with statutory requirements

Example: Standalone Healthy Populations vs. Services in Utilities, Facilities and Services chapter

*Aspiration: Stimulate a healthy, active and connected population in communities that work for all residents.*

State Requirements	Other Chapters;
<b>24 V.S.A. §4302(c)(4):</b> To provide for safe, convenient, economic, and energy efficient transportation systems that respect the integrity of the natural environment, including public transit options and paths for pedestrians and bicyclers.	Transportation
<b>24 V.S.A. §4302(c)(8):</b> To maintain and enhance recreational opportunities for Vermont residents and visitors.	Natural Systems; Recreation part of economy
<b>24 V.S.A. §4302(c)(8)(A):</b> Growth should not significantly diminish the value and availability of outdoor recreational activities.	Land Use, Natural Systems; Recreation part of economy
<b>24 V.S.A. §4302(c)(8)(B):</b> Public access to noncommercial outdoor recreational opportunities, such as lakes and hiking trails, should be identified, provided, and protected wherever appropriate.	Natural Systems; Recreation part of economy

Everything else was shaping up to be the services side of the healthcare and community facilities we have in the infrastructure chapter and all the goals, strategies and content was proving to be duplicative. For example; if we were discussing health equity, we were quickly talking about healthcare access which was the healthcare facilities and services that was best suited for the Utilities, Facilities, and Services Chapter.

Example: Removal of strategy because it does not fit definition of a strategy in Utilities, Facilities and Services chapter

From current plan;

WASTEWATER TREATMENT GOAL: Improvement and expansion of wastewater treatment facilities and options so as to protect public health, maximize public investment, and reinforce desired patterns of growth.

4. Support efforts to upgrade components of aging wastewater systems to address depreciation, improve energy efficiency and increase flood resilience of the Region's systems.

A. Encourage coordination of upgrades to coincide with other municipal infrastructure projects (i.e. roads).

Staff recommends removal of 4A as this is not a strategy (keep the goal and strategy 4)

## **WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITIES GOAL: To promote Effective and efficient communication systems.**

- Question points
- Strategy 4. Permits for towers should require a financial mechanism to ensure their removal by service providers should they be abandoned or rendered obsolete by advances in technology. Processes for establishing bonds should take inflation into account as many years can elapse between construction and removal.-line 97
- *Does the RPC want to be this specific with this goal. If so, then we would request a language adjustment that states CVRPC will provide support to towns in contracting for tower facilities.*
- **Crime and Safety Goals** –quick review
- **Energy**
- Strategy 4. CVRPC encourages utilities and the Public Service Board to give greater consideration to making service territories more flexible by allowing for inter-utility connections and deregulation where there will be beneficial impact to the consumer and the environment. Such flexibility will help promote the Region's goals regarding settlement patterns, and save money as well.-line 42

## Solid Waste Goal

Strategy 9. Support projects that involve the distribution of Class A Biosolids from municipal wastewater treatment facilities only when only when Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District, Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District, Lamoille Solid Waste Management District or the Mad River Resource Management Alliance has worked with municipalities to ensure that said biosolids are safe and that municipal officials and other decision makers have been educated about the issue. -line 166

Staff needs support in understanding and clarifying intent and if we would still want to include in the final draft.