

Municipal Plan Review Tool

Town & Village of Enosburgh

This form addresses the statutory requirements of the State of Vermont for town plans, as cited in the Vermont Municipal and Regional Planning and Development Act, Title 24 V.S.A Chapter 117 (the Act). It includes the 12 required elements found in § 4382 of the Act; the four planning process goals found in § 4302(b), the 14 specific goals found in § 4302(c); and the standard of review found in § 4302(f), which covers consistency with goals and compatibility standards.

During the Regional approval and confirmation process, specified in § 4350 of the Act, the regional planning commission is required to assess town plans and the process whereby they are developed according to the criteria of the Act. Sections of relevant statute are quoted at each question.

Required Elements § 4382		Met	Not Met
1	Statement of Objectives, Policies, Programs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Land Use Plan and Map	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Transportation Plan and Map	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Utility and Facility Plan and Map	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Rare Natural Resources/Historic Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Educational Facilities Plan and Map	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Implementation Program	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Compatibility Statement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Energy Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Housing Element	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Economic Development Element	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Flood Resiliency Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 State Planning Goals § 4302		 Met	 Not Met
1	Compact village centers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Economy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Natural and Historic Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Quality of air, water, wildlife, forests, and other land resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Efficient use of Energy and Renewable Energy Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Recreation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Agriculture and Forest Industries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Use of Resources and Earth Extraction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Safe and Affordable Housing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Public Facilities and Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Child Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Flood Resiliency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

TOWN PLAN REQUIRED ELEMENTS

Title 24 Chapter 117: Municipal and Regional Planning and Development

24 V.S.A. § 4382. The plan for a municipality

(a) A plan for a municipality may be consistent with the goals established in section 4302 of this title and compatible with approved plans of other municipalities in the region and with the regional plan and shall include the following:

(1) A statement of objectives, policies and programs of the municipality to guide the future growth and development of land, public services and facilities, and to protect the environment.

Met Pages: 1

Comments: *At the beginning of the plan there is a series of vision statements that outline aims for the Plan. Each chapter of the Plan includes objectives, policies and programs. Specifically, chapters 4, 7, and 12 address natural resources, utilities, services, and land use, respectively.*

(2) A land use plan, consisting of a map and statement of present and prospective land uses, that:

Met Pages: 93-100, 33-34

(A) Indicates those areas proposed for forests, recreation, agriculture (using the agricultural lands identification process established in 6 V.S.A. § 8), residence, commerce, industry, public and semi-public uses and open spaces, areas reserved for flood plain, and areas identified by the State, the regional planning commission, or the municipality that require special consideration for aquifer protection; for wetland protection, for the maintenance of forest blocks, wildlife habitat, and habitat connectors; or for other conservation purposes.

MAPS
Present Land Use Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Prospective Land Use Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

(B) Sets forth the present and prospective location, amount, intensity and character of such land uses and the appropriate timing or sequence of land development activities in relation to the provision of necessary community facilities and service.

(C) Identifies those areas, if any, proposed for designation under chapter 76A of this title, together with, for each area proposed for designation, an explanation of how the designation would further the plan's goals and the goals of § 4302 of this title, and how the area meets the requirements for the type of designation to be sought.

(D) Indicates those areas that are important as forest blocks and habitat connectors and plans for land development in those areas to minimize forest fragmentation and promote the health, viability, and ecological function of forests.

Comments: *Chapter 12 sufficiently summarizes development trends and proposed patterns for the future. The information on forest blocks and identification of key areas is provided in Chapter 4: Natural Resources.*

(3) A transportation plan, consisting of a map and statement of present and prospective transportation and circulation facilities showing existing and proposed highways and streets by type and character of improvement, and where pertinent, parking facilities, transit routes, terminals, bicycle paths and trails, scenic roads, airports, railroads and port facilities, and other similar facilities or uses, with indications of priority of need;

Met

Pages: 57-67

MAP

Transportation

Comments: The plan adequately addresses issues of transportation including road maintenance and construction, and alternative transportation options. Terminals and port facilities are not mentioned because they are not applicable to the community.

(4) A utility and facility plan, consisting of a map and statement of present and prospective community facilities and public utilities showing existing and proposed educational, recreational and other public sites, buildings and facilities, including hospitals, libraries, power generating plants and transmission lines, water supply, sewage disposal, refuse disposal, storm drainage and other similar facilities and activities, and recommendations to meet future needs for community facilities and services, with indications of priority of need, costs and method of financing;

Met

Pages: 46-56

MAP

Utility and Facility

Comments: Educational facilities are described in Chapter 6, while other municipal facilities and services, including recreation, fire, and police are in Chapter 7. The Equipment Inventory (Table 7.3) could provide more information about the level of priority for replacement of each item. Water supply, wastewater, and stormwater are addressed in this Chapter. In general, the plan adequate captures the major municipal facilities and services, identifies the current capacity and makes recommendations for improvements and upgrades as necessary.

(5) A statement of policies on the preservation of rare and irreplaceable natural areas, scenic and historic features and resources;

Met

Pages: 21-22, 35

Comments: Chapter 3 summarizes the history of the community and provides a context for understanding the historical resources that exist. The Chapter also addresses scenic resource, and their important contribution to the local sense of place. Chapter 4 includes a summary of special natural resources including wetlands, waterways and wildlife habitat connectivity areas.

(6) An educational facilities plan consisting of a map and statement of present and projected uses and the local public school system;

Met

Pages: 42-45, 50

MAP

Educational Facility

Comments: Educational Facilities are included in Map 7.1. Chapter 6 provides a thorough description of school facilities and summarizes the capacity issues at the schools. Coordination with other communities to understand future needs of tuition students is an important factor and tied to facility/service planning.

(7) A recommended program for the implementation of the objectives of the development plan;

Met

Pages: 105-110

Comments: *There is an extensive table found at the end of the plan that makes clear what actions are planned to implement the plan, who is involved in the process, and the status of implementation of each specific topic.*

(8) A statement indicating how the plan relates to development trends and plans of adjacent municipalities, areas and the region developed under this title;

Met

Pages: 102-104

Comments: *Considerations for all surrounding communities are provided in Chapter 13. Careful development near the Sheldon border is advised due to the abutment of Sheldon's Rural districts and Enosburgh's Commercial district. This is acknowledged by both towns and should continue to be monitored.*

(9) An energy plan, including an analysis of energy resources, needs, scarcities, costs and problems within the municipality, a statement of policy on the conservation of energy, including programs, such as thermal integrity standards for buildings, to implement that policy, a statement of policy on the development of renewable energy resources, a statement of policy on patterns and densities of land use likely to result in conservation of energy;

Met

Pages: 78-86, Appendix D

Comments: *The Plan incorporates an Enhanced Energy Plan in order to obtain "substantial deference" status in the Section 248 process, however with this updated chapter information on the prior energy actions taken by the communities was dropped. For instance, statements that the village recently switched to more energy efficient streetlight fixtures, performed energy audits on several municipal buildings, weatherized the Town Clerk's Office and the Village pump houses. I would recommend that information on the actions the community has recently taken be incorporated back into future plan updates or amendments. The plan provides policies to address energy conservation and efficiency with the incorporation of renewable sources.*

(10) A housing element that shall include a recommended program for addressing low and moderate income persons' housing needs as identified by the regional planning commission pursuant to subdivision 4348a(a)(9) of this title. The program should account for permitted accessory dwelling units, as defined in subdivision 4412(1)(E) of this title, which provide affordable housing.

Met

Pages: 36-41

Comments: *Two affordable housing developments exist in Enosburgh. One assisted living facility and one apartment complex exist specifically for elderly and disabled. Chapter 5 summarizes the issues surrounding affordable housing in Enosburgh Falls. The plan includes goals and policies to ensure safe, healthy and affordable housing for all segments of the population. Recent affordable housing developments are evidence of the community's commitment to affordable housing. According to Table 2.4, 13% of Enosburgh residents have a disability. This is a significant percentage of the population and should be taken into consideration in all aspects of community planning, particularly housing.*

(11) An economic development element that describes present economic conditions and the location, type, and scale of desired economic development, and identifies policies, projects, and programs necessary to foster economic growth.

Met

Pages: 87-92

Comments: Chapter 11 provides a summary of the industry sectors/employers in the community and notes the strong tie of the economy to dairy and agricultural businesses as well as tourism. The plan also provides narrative on current struggles and recent efforts to improve the local economy such as the Vital Village project.

(12)(A) A flood resilience plan that:

(i) identifies flood hazard and fluvial erosion hazard areas, based on river corridor maps provided by the Secretary of Natural Resources pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 1428(a) or maps recommended by the Secretary, and designates those areas to be protected, including floodplains, river corridors, land adjacent to streams, wetlands, and upland forests, to reduce the risk of flood damage to infrastructure and improved property; and

(ii) recommends policies and strategies to protect the areas identified and designated under subdivision (12)(A)(i) of this subsection and to mitigate risks to public safety, critical infrastructure, historic structures, and municipal investments.

(B) A flood resilience plan may reference an existing local hazard mitigation plan approved under 44 C.F.R. § 201.6.

Met

Pages: 68-74, 76-77

Comments: Flood resilience is addressed in the hazard mitigation chapter (Chapter 9. Planning for Hazard Resiliency). This chapter provides required information on flood hazards, fluvial erosion/river corridor as well as a map of risk (page 73).

GOALS AND STANDARDS OF REVIEW

GOALS

24 VSA § 4302

- (a) General purposes . . .
- (b) It is also the intent of the legislature that municipalities, regional planning commissions and state agencies shall engage in a continuing planning process that will further the following goals:
- (1) To establish a coordinated, comprehensive planning process and policy framework to guide decisions by municipalities, regional planning commissions, and state agencies.
 - (2) To encourage citizen participation at all levels of the planning process, and to assure that decisions shall be made at the most local level possible commensurate with their impact.
 - (3) To consider the use of resources and the consequences of growth and development for the region and the state, as well as the community in which it takes place.
 - (4) To encourage and assist municipalities to work creatively together to develop and implement plans.
- (c) In addition, this chapter shall be used to further the following specific goals:

Goal 1:

To plan development so as to maintain the historic settlement pattern of compact village and urban centers separated by rural countryside.

(A) Intensive residential development should be encouraged primarily in areas related to community centers, and strip development along highways should be discouraged.

(B) Economic growth should be encouraged in locally designated growth areas, or employed to revitalize existing village and urban centers, or both.

(C) Public investments, including construction or expansion of infrastructure, should reinforce the general character and planned growth patterns of the area.

Consistent

Pages: 93-101

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal: *As noted in the plan, Enosburgh exemplifies the traditional village surrounded by countryside and they are clearly working to maintain that pattern.*

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Goal 2:

To provide a strong and diverse economy that provides satisfying and rewarding job opportunities and that maintains high environmental standards, and to expand economic opportunities in areas with high unemployment or low per capita incomes.

Consistent

Pages: 87-92

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal: *Chapter 11 provides a summary of economic challenges and opportunities and provides goals and policies to strengthen the local economy.*

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Goal 3:

To broaden access to educational and vocational training opportunities sufficient to ensure the full realization of the abilities of all Vermonters.

Consistent

Pages: 44-45

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal: *Chapter 6 includes the broad goal of expanding and enhancing educational services and facilities to meet and serve the current and future needs and requirements of the community. There is some discussion of the facilities available at Cold Hollow and higher education opportunities outside of the community.*

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Goal 4:

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.

Consistent

Pages: 57-67, 91

(A) Highways, air, rail and other means of transportation should be mutually supportive, balanced and integrated.

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal: *Chapter 7 summarizes the existing transportation system including roads, sidewalks and parking. It also includes a discussion of alternative transportation options and use of park and ride lot as well as transit. The Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail is discussed as an important asset for cyclists and pedestrians as well as explored improvements to this network through recent planning efforts associated with the Vital Village project.*

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Goal 5:

To identify, protect and preserve important natural and historic features including:

Consistent

Pages: 15-22, 26-35

- (A) significant natural and fragile areas;**
- (B) outstanding water resources, including lakes, rivers, aquifers, shorelands and wetlands;**
- (C) significant scenic roads, waterways and views;**
- (D) important historic structures, sites, or districts, archaeological sites and archaeologically sensitive areas**

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal: *Chapter 3 summarizes historic and scenic resources and Chapter 11 summarizes valuable natural resources including soils, water, wetlands, and forest resources as a proxy for wildlife habitat.*

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Goal 6:

To maintain and improve the quality of air, water, wildlife, forests and other land resources.

Consistent

Pages: 23-35

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal: *Chapter 4 includes specific goals and policies for the protection of natural resources. Consideration of these resources is also evidenced in other areas of*

the plan including transportation, hazard mitigation and land use. The value of the Missisquoi River as a community resource is particularly apparent.

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Goal 7:

To encourage the efficient use of energy and the development of renewable energy resources.

Consistent

Pages: 78-86

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal: *Chapter 10 includes an Enhanced Energy Plan and discussion of energy conservation and targets for renewable energy. The goals of the plan clearly reflect a desire to be more efficient and to utilize renewable energy resources as appropriate.*

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Goal 8:

To maintain and enhance recreational opportunities for Vermont residents and visitors.

Consistent

Pages: 53-54, 56

(A) Growth should not significantly diminish the value and availability of outdoor recreational activities.

(B) Public access to noncommercial outdoor recreational opportunities, such as lakes and hiking trails, should be identified, provided, and protected wherever appropriate.

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal: *Chapter 7 provides an inventory of important recreational resources in Enosburgh. Town policies include promoting and encouraging recreational opportunities for the young and old.*

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Goal 9:

To encourage and strengthen agricultural and forest industries.

(A) Strategies to protect long-term viability of agricultural and forest lands should be encouraged and should include maintaining low overall density.

(B) The manufacture and marketing of value added agricultural and forest products should be encouraged.

(C) The use of locally-grown food products should be encouraged.

(D) Sound forest and agricultural management practices should be encouraged.

(E) Public investment should be planned so as to minimize development pressure on agricultural and forest land.

Consistent

Pages: 88-89, 92, 99, 101

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal: *Chapter 11 describes the important role that agriculture has played in the local economy and identifies the role that forests play in the economy with the maple industry. These areas are further supported with policies to support agriculture and forestry businesses and their land bases in Chapter 11: Economy and Chapter 12: Land Use. The Agricultural zoning district also demonstrates a commitment to maintaining viable farms in the community.*

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Goal 10:

To provide for the wise and efficient use of Vermont's natural resources and to facilitate the appropriate extraction of earth resources and the proper restoration and preservation of the aesthetic qualities of the area.

Consistent

Pages: 27

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal: *Chapter 4 discusses the issues surrounding sand and gravel extraction, and notes that extraction operations should be appropriately sited and should include adequate erosion control, phasing and proper site reclamation.*

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Goal 11:

To ensure the availability of safe and affordable housing for all Vermonters.

Consistent

Pages: 36-41

(A) Housing should be encouraged to meet the needs of a diversity of social and income groups in each Vermont community, particularly for those citizens of low and moderate income.

(B) New and rehabilitated housing should be safe, sanitary, located conveniently to employment and commercial centers, and coordinated with the provision of necessary public facilities and utilities.

(C) Sites for multi-family and manufactured housing should readily available in locations similar to those generally used for single-family conventional dwellings.

(D) Accessory apartments within or attached to single family residences which provide affordable housing in close proximity to cost-effective care and supervision for relatives or disabled or elderly persons should be allowed.

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal: *Chapter 5 summarizes the work that has been done in the village to ensure safe and affordable housing.*

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Goal 12:

To plan for, finance and provide an efficient system of public facilities and services to meet future needs.

Consistent

Pages: Chapter 7

(A) Public facilities and services should include fire and police protection, emergency medical services, schools, water supply and sewage and solid waste disposal.

(B) The rate of growth should not exceed the ability of the community and the area to provide facilities and services.

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal: *Chapter 7 includes an inventory of facilities that is very helpful to the planning process, however there is no information or discussion about how to finance necessary upgrades. The capital budget could be noted as an important planning tool for this purpose*

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Goal 13:

To ensure the availability of safe and affordable child care and to integrate child care issues into the planning process, including child care financing, infrastructure, business assistance for child care providers, and child care work force development.

Consistent

Pages: 55-56

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal: *Chapter 7 summarizes the existing data on childcare, which is limited to census data and the state's database of existing providers.*

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Goal 14:

To encourage flood resilient communities.

(A) New development in identified flood hazard, fluvial erosion, and river corridor protection areas should be avoided. If new development is to be built in such areas, it should not exacerbate flooding and fluvial erosion.

(B) The protection and restoration of floodplains and upland forested areas that attenuate and moderate flooding and fluvial erosion should be encouraged.

(C) Flood emergency preparedness and response planning should be encouraged.

Consistent

Pages: 69-74

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal: *This goal is addressed in the Planning for Hazard Resiliency*

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

STANDARD OF REVIEW

24 V.S.A. § 4302(f)

(1) As used in this chapter, "consistent with the goals" requires substantial progress toward attainment of the goals established in this section, unless the planning body determines that a particular goal is not relevant or attainable. If such a determination is made, the planning body shall identify the goal in the plan and describe the situation, explain why the goal is not relevant or attainable, and indicate what measures should be taken to mitigate any adverse effects of not making substantial progress toward that goal. The determination of relevance or attainability shall be subject to review as part of a consistency determination under this chapter.

(2) As used in this chapter, for one plan to be "compatible with" another, the plan in question, as implemented, will not significantly reduce the desired effect of the implementation of the other plan. If a plan, as implemented, will significantly reduce the desired effect of the other plan, the plan may be considered compatible if it includes the following:

(A) a statement that identifies the ways that it will significantly reduce the desired effect of the other plan;

(B) an explanation of why any incompatible portion of the plan in question is essential to the desired effect of the plan as a whole;

(C) an explanation of why, with respect to any incompatible portion of the plan in question, there is no reasonable alternative way to achieve the desired effect of the plan, and

(D) an explanation of how any incompatible portion of the plan in question has been structured to mitigate its detrimental effects on the implementation of the other plan.

24 V.S.A. § 4350. Review and consultation regarding municipal planning effort

(a) A regional planning commission shall consult with its municipalities with respect to the municipalities' planning efforts, ascertaining the municipalities' needs as individual municipalities and as neighbors in a region, and identifying the assistance that ought to be provided by the regional planning commission. As a part of this consultation, the regional planning commission, after public notice, shall review the planning process of its member municipalities at least twice during an eight-year period, or more frequently on request of the municipality, and shall so confirm when a municipality:

(1) is engaged in a continuing planning process that, within a reasonable time, will result in a plan which is consistent with the goals contained in section 4302 of this title; and

(2) is maintaining its efforts to provide local funds for municipal and regional planning purposes.

(b)(1) As part of the consultation process, the commission shall consider whether a municipality has adopted a plan. In order to obtain or retain confirmation of the planning process after January 1, 1996, a municipality must have an approved plan. A regional planning commission shall review and approve plans

of its member municipalities, when approval is requested and warranted. Each review shall include a public hearing which is noticed at least 15 days in advance by posting in the office of the municipal clerk and at least one public place within the municipality and by publication in a newspaper or newspapers of general publication in the region affected. The commission shall approve a plan if it finds that the plan:

- (A) is consistent with the goals established in section 4302 of this title;
- (B) is compatible with its regional plan;
- (C) is compatible with approved plans of other municipalities in the region; and
- (D) contains all the elements included in subdivisions 4382(a)(1)-(10) of this title.

The following are procedures for Regional Planning Commission review of town plans. The first procedure pertains to review of town plan re-adoptions and town plan amendments. The second is a procedure for review of town plan amendments.

Town Plan Review & Approval Process

1. The regional planning commission (RPC) receives a request for town plan approval.
2. If the staff review reveals a flaw that would preclude RPC approval, the town will be notified. It is the town's option as to whether they want a final decision on the plan or if the plan should be withdrawn from the approval process.
3. Staff comments, including draft findings and recommendations, will be provided to the Municipal Plan Review Committee.
4. The RPC's public hearing will be held before the RPC makes its final decision on the plan.
5. In all cases the RPC will take final action on the plan approval request within 60 days of its receipt.

Town Plan Amendment Review Process

1. The regional planning commission (RPC) receives a request to review an amendment to the town plan.
2. Staff comments, including draft findings and recommendations, will be provided to the Municipal Plan Review Committee.
3. The town will be notified whether or not the amendment may be approved within the context of the current regional approval of the town plan, or if the amendment constitutes a material change to the plan that is beyond the scope of the current regional approval.
4. If the amendment constitutes a change to the plan that is beyond the scope of the current regional approval, the town will be given the option of submitting the amended plan for regional approval.

Municipal Plan Review Committee

The Chair of NRPC will appoint a five member Municipal Plan Review Committee following the annual meeting each year. The Municipal Plan Review Committee will be responsible for reviewing all plans submitted for approval during that year. Upon receipt of a plan or amendment submitted by a municipal legislative body for approval, the Executive Director or his/her designee will notify the Committee members. Board members representing the municipality whose plan or amendment is under review must temporarily recuse themselves as a member of the Committee. They may, however, act on behalf of the municipality during the review process, and provide testimony at the public hearing.

The Committee, at its first meeting in each fiscal year, will elect a Chair to run meetings, the public hearing(s), and to present the Panel's recommendations to the Board and a Vice-Chair to assume the duties of the Chair as needed.

It is the responsibility of the Committee to consider staff recommendations and any comments from the municipality, neighboring municipalities, and other interested parties; and to make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners in the form of written findings and conclusions.

NRPC staff shall organize and warn the required public hearing. Committee members shall attend the public hearing or review the record of the hearing. The Committee will prepare written findings and recommendations. The Committee's findings and recommendations will be presented to the Board of Commissioners for action.

Staff Responsibilities

After submission of a request for regional approval by the local legislative body, one or more staff members, appointed by the Executive Director, will conduct a review of a proposed plan or plan amendment. Staff will review the plan using the attached checklists. Under direction of the Committee, staff will complete all required public notifications, prepare written findings and otherwise assist the Committee.

Energy Planning Standards for Municipal Plans

Instructions

Before proceeding, please review the requirements of Parts I and II below, as well as the Overview document. Submitting a Municipal Plan for review under the standards below is entirely voluntary, as enabled under [Act 174](#), the Energy Development Improvement Act of 2016. If a Municipal Plan meets the standards, it will be given an affirmative “determination of energy compliance,” and will be given “substantial deference” in the Public Service Board’s review of whether an energy project meets the orderly development criterion in the Section 248 process. Specifically, with respect to an in-state electric generation facility, the Board:

[S]hall give substantial deference to the land conservation measures and specific policies contained in a duly adopted regional and municipal plan that has received an affirmative determination of energy compliance under 24 V.S.A. § 4352. In this subdivision (C), “substantial deference” means that a land conservation measure or specific policy shall be applied in accordance with its terms unless there is a clear and convincing demonstration that other factors affecting the general good of the State outweigh the application of the measure or policy. The term shall not include consideration of whether the determination of energy compliance should or should not have been affirmative under 24 V.S.A. § 4352.

Municipal Plans should be submitted by the municipality’s legislative body to the Regional Planning Commission (RPC) if the Regional Plan has received an affirmative determination of energy compliance. If a Regional Plan has not received such a determination, until July 1, 2018¹, a municipality may submit its adopted and approved Municipal Plan to the Department of Public Service (DPS) for a determination of energy compliance (determination), along with the completed checklist below. After a Municipal Plan and completed checklist have been submitted to the RPC (or DPS), the RPC or DPS will schedule a public hearing noticed at least 15 days in advance by direct mail to the requesting municipal legislative body, on the RPC or DPS website, and in a newspaper of general publication in the municipality. The RPC or DPS shall issue a determination in writing within two months of the receipt of a request. If the determination is negative, the RPC or DPS shall state the reasons for the denial in writing and, if appropriate, suggest acceptable modifications. Submissions for a new determination following a negative determination shall receive a new determination within 45 days.

The plans that Municipalities submit must:

- Be adopted
- Be confirmed under 24 V.S.A. § 4350
- Include an energy element that has the same components as described in 24 V.S.A. § 4348a(a)(3)
- Be consistent with state energy policy (described below), in the manner described in 24 V.S.A. § 4302(f)(1)
- Meet all standards for issuing a determination of energy compliance (see below)

¹ These standards will be revised after July 1, 2018 to reflect that Municipal Plans should be submitted only to the Regional Planning Commissions – which will all have had an opportunity to seek a determination of energy compliance – from that point forward.

Municipalities are encouraged to consult with their reviewer (either their RPC or DPS) before undertaking the process of plan adoption, which may help in identifying any deficiencies or inconsistencies with the standards or other requirements that would be more difficult to remedy after a plan has gone through the formal adoption process.

The state’s Comprehensive Energy Plan (CEP) is revised on a 6-year basis. When the next CEP is published in 2022, it will include a revised set of standards, as well as Recommendations that are customized to regions and municipalities. The Recommendations that accompany this initial set of Standards represent a subset of recommendations from the 2016 CEP, which were not written with regions and municipalities specifically in mind. A Guidance document – which is expected to evolve as best practices from regions and municipalities emerge – will be published shortly after the Standards are issued. It will serve as the warehouse for relevant recommendations from the 2016 CEP, links to data sources, instructions on conducting analysis and mapping, and sample language/best practices. Once issued and until the 2022 CEP is published, this Guidance document will supplant the Recommendations document.

Affirmative determinations last for the life cycle of a revision of the Municipal Plan, and Municipal Plans that are submitted after the 2022 CEP is issued will be expected to meet the Standards that are issued at that time. Municipalities are encouraged to consult with their RPC or DPS regarding interim amendments that might affect any of the standards below, to discuss whether a new review is triggered.

If you wish to submit your Municipal Plan to your RPC or to DPS for a determination, please read closely the specific instructions at the start of each section below, and attach your Municipal Plan to this checklist.

Determination requests to an RPC (and any other questions) should be submitted to your RPC’s designated contact. Determination requests to DPS until July 1, 2018 – and only for municipalities whose Regions’ plans have not received an affirmative determination – should be submitted to:

PSD.PlanningStandards@vermont.gov.

Part I: Applicant Information		
The plan being submitted for review is a:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Municipal Plan in a region whose regional plan has received an affirmative determination of energy compliance from the Commissioner of Public Service Please submit these plans to your RPC	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Plan in a region whose regional plan has <u>not</u> received a determination of energy compliance Until July 1, 2018, please submit these to the DPS. After July 1, 2018, this option ceases to exist.
Applicant:	Town & Village of Enosburgh	
Contact person:	Billie Jo Draper	
Contact information:	(802) 933-4421	
Received by: Northwest Regional Planning Commission	Date: 04/20/2020	

Part II: Determination Standards Checklist

The checklist below will be used to evaluate your plan's consistency with statutory requirements under Act 174, including the requirement to be adopted and approved, contain an enhanced energy element, be consistent with state energy policy, and meet a set of standards designed to ensure consistency with state energy goals and policies.

Please review and attach your plan (or adopted energy element/plan, along with supporting documentation) and self-evaluate whether it contains the following components. Use the Notes column to briefly describe how your plan is consistent with the standard, including relevant page references (you may include additional pages to expand upon Notes). If you feel a standard is not relevant or attainable, please check N/A where it is available and use the Notes column to describe the situation, explaining why the standard is not relevant or attainable, and indicate what measures your municipality is taking instead to mitigate any adverse effects of not making substantial progress toward this standard. If N/A is not made available, the standard must be met (unless the instructions for that standard indicate otherwise) and checked "Yes" in order to receive an affirmative determination. There is no penalty for checking (or limit on the number of times you may check) N/A where it is available, as long as a reasonable justification is provided in the Notes column.

Plan Adoption Requirement

[Act 174](#) requires that municipal plans be adopted and approved in order to qualify for a determination of energy compliance. In the near term, it is likely municipalities will revise and submit isolated energy plans or elements, particularly due to long planning cycles. Therefore, the plan adoption requirement can be met through an amendment to an existing plan in the form of an energy element or energy plan, as long as the amendment or plan itself is duly adopted as part of the municipal plan and incorporated by reference or appended to the underlying, full plan (i.e., is officially "in" the municipal plan), as well as approved for confirmation with the region. If this route is chosen, the municipality should also attach the planning commission report required for plan amendments under 24 V.S.A. § 4384, which should address the internal consistency of the energy plan/element with other related elements of the underlying plan (particularly Transportation and Land Use), and/or whether the energy plan/element supersedes language in those other elements. Standards 1 and 2 below must be answered in the affirmative in order for a plan to receive an affirmative determination of energy compliance.

1. Has your plan been duly adopted and approved for confirmation according to 24 V.S.A. § 4350 ?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Adoption date: 04/20/2020 Confirmation date: 05/27/2015	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Click here to enter text.
2. Is a copy of the plan (or adopted energy element/plan, along with underlying plan and planning commission report addressing consistency of energy element/plan with other elements of underlying plan) attached to this checklist?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Notes: Click here to enter text.

Energy Element Requirement

To obtain a determination of energy compliance, Act 174 requires municipalities to include an “energy element” that contains the same components described in 24 V.S.A. § 4348a(a)(3), which was revised through Act 174 to explicitly address energy across all sectors and to identify potential and unsuitable areas for siting renewable energy resources:

An energy element, which may include an analysis of resources, needs, scarcities, costs, and problems within the region across all energy sectors, including electric, thermal, and transportation; a statement of policy on the conservation and efficient use of energy and the development and siting of renewable energy resources; a statement of policy on patterns and densities of land use likely to result in conservation of energy; and an identification of potential areas for the development and siting of renewable energy resources and areas that are unsuitable for siting those resources or particular categories or sizes of those resources.

The standards below are generally organized to integrate each component of the enhanced energy element with related determination standards that evaluate the plan’s consistency with state goals and policies. **Energy element components are identified in bolded text.**

While municipalities may choose to primarily address energy used for heating, transportation, and electricity in the required energy element, they may also choose to address some of these components in related plan elements (e.g., Transportation and Land Use) and should indicate as much in the Notes column. To the extent an energy element is designed to comprehensively address energy, it should be complementary to and reference other relevant plan elements.

<p>3. Does the plan contain an energy element, that contains the same components described in 24 V.S.A. § 4348a(a)(3)? <i>Individual components of the energy element will be evaluated through the standards below.</i></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>Page: 78-86, 108 Notes: Click here to enter text.</p>
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Consistency with State Goals and Policies Requirement

Act 174 states that regional and municipal plans must be consistent with the following state goals and policies:

- Greenhouse gas reduction goals under [10 V.S.A. § 578\(a\)](#) (50% from 1990 levels by 2028; 75% by 2050)
- The 25 x 25 goal for renewable energy under [10 V.S.A. § 580](#) (25% in-state renewables supply for all energy uses by 2025)
- Building efficiency goals under [10 V.S.A. § 581](#) (25% of homes – or 80,000 units – made efficient by 2020)
- State energy policy under [30 V.S.A. § 202a](#) and the recommendations for regional and municipal planning pertaining to the efficient use of energy and the siting and development of renewable energy resources contained in the [State energy plans](#) adopted pursuant to [30 V.S.A. §§ 202](#) and [202b](#)
- The distributed renewable generation and energy transformation categories of resources to meet the requirements of the Renewable Energy Standard under [30 V.S.A. §§ 8004](#) and [8005](#)

The standards in the checklist below will be used to determine whether a plan is consistent with these goals and policies. The standards are broken out by category. *Analysis and Targets* standards address how energy analyses are done within plans, and whether targets are established for energy conservation, efficiency, fuel switching, and use of renewable energy across sectors. *Pathways (Implementation Actions)* standards address the identification of actions to achieve the targets. *Mapping* standards address the identification of suitable and unsuitable areas for the development of renewable energy.

Municipalities may choose to incorporate the information necessary to meet the standards in their energy elements, and/or in other sections of their plans (many transportation items may fit best in the Transportation chapters of plans, for instance). However, plans must be internally consistent, and applicants should cross-reference wherever possible.

Analysis and Targets Standards

For the *Analysis & Targets* determination standards below, municipalities will be provided with analyses and targets derived from regional analyses and targets no later than April 30, 2017 (and likely much sooner). Municipalities may choose to rely on these “municipalized” analyses and targets to meet the standards in this section. Municipalities which elect to use the analysis and targets provided by a region will be presumed to have met the standards in this section. Alternatively, municipalities may develop their own custom analyses and targets or supplement the analyses and targets provided by the regions with specific local data; if this option is chosen, the analysis and targets must include all of the same components and meet the standards required of regions, as described below.

For municipalities that choose to undertake their own analysis and target-setting (and for regions), DPS is providing a guidance document to explain the expected level of detail in and data sources and methodologies available for meeting the standards (including areas where it is understood data at the municipal level is unavailable, and therefore not expected). Note that standards 5A-4E are all derived directly from requirements in Act 174 (with minor modifications to make them feasible) and must be met affirmatively in order for a municipal plan to receive an affirmative determination of energy compliance.

Targets set by regions and municipalities should be aligned with state energy policy (see the goals and policies listed above). Where targets (and efforts to reach them) depart significantly from state energy goals and policies, an explanation for how the plan otherwise achieves the intent of the state goal or policy should be provided. The guidance document also offers additional clarification on alignment with state goals and policies.

The analysis items below are intended to provide regions and municipalities with an overview of their current energy use, and with a sense of the trajectories and pace of change needed to meet targets, which can be translated into concrete actions in the *Pathways* standards below. Targets provide regions and municipalities with milestones or checkpoints along the way toward a path of meeting 90% of their total energy needs with renewable energy, and can be compared with the potential renewable energy generation from areas identified as potentially suitable in the *Mapping* standards exercise below to give regions and municipalities a sense of their ability to accommodate renewable energy that would meet their needs.

<p>4. Does your plan’s energy element contain an analysis of resources, needs, scarcities, costs, and problems within the municipality across all energy sectors (electric, thermal, transportation)?</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>Page: 78-83 Notes: Click here to enter text.</p>
<p>5. Does your plan contain an analysis that addresses A-E below, either as provided by your Regional Planning Commission or as developed by your municipality? <i>Municipalities may meet this standard by using the analysis and targets provided by their regions, or by developing their own analyses and targets. If using the analysis & targets provided by your region, please answer “Yes-Region” and skip ahead to #6. If</i></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes-Region <input type="checkbox"/> Yes-Custom	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>Page: 78-83 Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: Click here to enter text.</p>

<i>developing a custom analysis, please answer “Yes-Custom” and address 5A-5E separately, below.</i>			
A. Does the plan estimate current energy use across transportation, heating, and electric sectors?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Page: Click here to enter text. Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: Click here to enter text.
B. Does the plan establish 2025, 2035, and 2050 targets for thermal and electric efficiency improvements, and use of renewable energy for transportation, heating, and electricity?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Page: Click here to enter text. Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: Click here to enter text.
C. Does the plan evaluate the amount of thermal-sector conservation, efficiency, and conversion to alternative heating fuels needed to achieve these targets?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Page: Click here to enter text. Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: Click here to enter text.
D. Does the plan evaluate transportation system changes and land use strategies needed to achieve these targets?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Page: Paragraph #: Notes:
E. Does the plan evaluate electric-sector conservation and efficiency needed to achieve these targets?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Page: Paragraph #: Notes:

Pathways (Implementation Actions) Standards

This section examines whether plans meet the Act 174 expectation that they include pathways and recommended actions to achieve the targets identified through the *Analysis and Targets* section of the Standards (above). Plans are expected to include or otherwise address all of the pathways (implementation actions) below; some actions may not be applicable or equally relevant to all applicants (small vs. large municipalities, for instance), in which case N/A may be checked (if available) and the justification provided in the Notes column. There is no penalty for choosing N/A one or more times, as long as a reasonable justification is provided in the Notes column, preferably including an explanation of how the plan alternatively achieves attainment of the targets should be included. If N/A is not provided as an option, the standard must be met, and “Yes” must be checked, in order for the plan to meet the requirements for a determination (unless the instructions particular to that standard indicate otherwise).

DPS will be issuing a guidance document in the near term providing potential implementation actions derived from the Comprehensive Energy Plan (relevant formal Recommendations as well as opportunities not specifically called out as Recommendations), from recent regional and municipal plans, and from other sources. The guidance document will be revised after the regions have compiled best practices from early municipalities pursuing energy planning to seek a determination of energy compliance, in the summer of 2017.

For the time being, we offer potential implementation action options for consideration as italicized text under each standard. Plans are encouraged to promote as diverse a portfolio of approaches as possible in each sector, or if not, to explain why they take a more targeted approach. Implementation actions may fit best in a holistic discussion contained within a plan’s energy element, though cross-referencing to other relevant plan elements is also acceptable.

Municipalities must demonstrate a commitment to achieving each standard in both policies and implementation measures in clear, action-oriented language.			
6. Does your plan's energy element contain a statement of policy on the conservation and efficient use of energy?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Page: 85 Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: Click here to enter text.
A. Does the plan encourage conservation by individuals and organizations? <i>(Actions could include educational activities and events such as convening or sponsoring weatherization workshops, establishing local energy committees, encouraging the use of existing utility and other efficiency and conservation programs and funding sources, etc.)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Page: 108 Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: Implementation action to provide education to residents on energy efficiency/conservation
B. Does the plan promote efficient buildings? <i>(Actions could include promoting compliance with residential and commercial building energy standards for new construction and existing buildings, including additions, alterations, renovations and repairs; promoting the implementation of residential and commercial building efficiency ratings and labeling; considering adoption of stretch codes, etc.)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Page: 108 Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: Implementation actions: energy audits on municipal buildings, modify development regulations to require or incentivize efficient buildings.
C. Does the plan promote decreased use of fossil fuels for heating? <i>(Actions and policies could promote switching to wood, liquid biofuels, biogas, geothermal, and/or electricity. Suitable devices include advanced wood heating systems and cold-climate heat pumps, as well as use of more energy efficient heating systems; and identifying potential locations for, and barriers to, deployment of biomass district heating and/or thermal-led combined heat and power systems in the municipality)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Page: 85-86 Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: Goals and policies support the conversion from fossil fuel heating to advanced wood heating systems or electric heat pumps.
D. Does the plan demonstrate the municipality's leadership by example with respect to the efficiency of municipal buildings? <i>(Actions could include building audits and weatherization projects in schools and town offices, etc.)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Page: 108 Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: Implementation action to develop energy standards and conduct energy audits for municipal facilities. Town & Village previously completed audits of several municipal buildings in 2012 and 2013.
E. Other (please use the notes section to describe additional approaches that your municipality is taking)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	Page: Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes:
7. Does your plan's energy element contain a statement of policy on reducing transportation energy demand and single-occupancy vehicle use, and encouraging use of renewable or lower-emission energy sources for transportation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Page: 85-86 Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: Encourages walking and biking

<p>A. Does the plan encourage increased use of public transit? <i>(Actions could include participation in efforts to identify and develop new public transit routes, promote full utilization of existing routes, integrate park-and-rides with transit routes, etc.)</i></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<p>Page: 67,85 Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: Transportation section contains policies to support public transit, energy section includes policy to consider transit in Act 250 applications, and supporting new public transit connections</p>
<p>B. Does the plan promote a shift away from single-occupancy vehicle trips, through strategies appropriate to the municipality? <i>(Actions could include rideshare, vanpool, car-sharing initiatives; efforts to develop or increase park-and-rides; enhancement of options such as rail and telecommuting; education; intergovernmental cooperation; etc.)</i></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>Page: 85 Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: Strategies include public transit and increasing bicycle and pedestrian transport</p>
<p>C. Does the plan promote a shift away from gas/diesel vehicles to electric or other non-fossil fuel transportation options through strategies appropriate to the municipality? <i>(Actions could include promoting the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, providing education and outreach to potential users, supporting non-fossil fuel vehicle availability through outreach to vehicle dealers, etc.)</i></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>Page: 85, 108 Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: Policy to support reduction of transportation energy demand and transition to renewable and lower-emission energy sources for transportation. Action to provide education and outreach to residents.</p>
<p>D. Does the plan facilitate the development of walking and biking infrastructure through strategies appropriate to the municipality? <i>(Actions could include studying, planning for, seeking funding for, or implementing improvements that encourage safe and convenient walking and biking; adopting a "Complete Streets" policy, etc.)</i></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<p>Page: 67,85 Paragraph #: Notes: Both transportation and energy sections of the plan encourage walking/biking infrastructure.</p>
<p>E. Does the plan demonstrate the municipality's leadership by example with respect to the efficiency of municipal transportation? <i>(Actions could include purchasing energy efficient municipal and fleet vehicles when practicable, installing electric vehicle charging infrastructure, etc.)</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<p>Page: Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: As two small municipalities, the Village and Town of Enosburgh do not have a municipal fleet, both municipalities lead by example by locating their offices in the walkable village center.</p>
<p>F. Other (please use the notes section to describe additional approaches that your municipality is taking)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<p>Page: Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes:</p>

<p>8. Does your plan’s energy element contain a statement of policy on patterns and densities of land use likely to result in conservation of energy?</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>Page: 85, 97-98 Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: Energy plan encourages dense and concentrated patterns of development, the land use section identifies these areas</p>
<p>A. Does the plan include land use policies (and descriptions of current and future land use categories) that demonstrate a commitment to reducing sprawl and minimizing low-density development? <i>(Actions could include adopting limited sewer service areas, maximum building sizes along highways, policies or zoning that require design features that minimize the characteristics of strip development [multiple stories, parking lot to the side or back of the store], and requirements that development in those areas be connected by means other than roads and cars; adopting a capital budget and program that furthers land use and transportation policies; etc.)</i></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>Page: 93-101, Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: Several policies not the encouragement of dense development in the village center and maintaining lower densities outside the village.</p>
<p>B. Does the plan strongly prioritize development in compact, mixed-use centers when physically feasible and appropriate to the use of the development, or identify steps to make such compact development more feasible? <i>(Actions could include participating in the state designation program, such as obtaining state designated village centers, downtowns, neighborhoods, new town centers, or growth centers; exploration of water or sewage solutions that enable compact development; etc.)</i></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<p>Page: 93-101 Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes:</p>
<p>C. Other (please use the notes section to describe additional approaches that your municipality is taking)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<p>Page: Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes:</p>
<p>9. Does your plan’s energy element contain a statement of policy on the development and siting of renewable energy resources?</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>Notes: Page 85</p>
<p>A. Does the plan evaluate (estimates of or actual) generation from existing renewable energy generation in the municipality? <i>Municipalities should be able to obtain this information from their regions.</i></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>Page: 81 Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes:</p>
<p>B. Does the plan analyze generation potential, through the mapping exercise (see <i>Mapping</i> standards, below), to determine potential from preferred and potentially suitable areas in the municipality? <i>Municipalities should be able to obtain this information from their regions.</i></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>Page: 83-85; Appendix D Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: Click here to enter text.</p>
<p>C. Does the plan identify sufficient land in the municipality for renewable energy development to reasonably reach 2050 targets for renewable electric</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<p>Page: 82-84; Appendix D Paragraph #: Click here to enter text.</p>

generation, based on population and energy resource potential (from potential resources identified in the <i>Mapping</i> exercise, below), accounting for the fact that land may not be available due to private property constraints, site-specific constraints, or grid-related constraints? <i>If N/A, please describe how you are working with your regional planning commission to ensure overall regional objectives are achieved.</i>			Notes: Click here to enter text.
D. Does the plan ensure that any local constraints (locally designated resources or critical resources, from 12B and 12C under <i>Mapping</i> , below) do not prohibit or have the effect of prohibiting the provision of sufficient renewable energy to meet state, regional, or municipal targets? <i>If N/A, please describe how you are working with your regional planning commission to ensure overall regional objectives are achieved.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Page: Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes:
E. Does the plan include statements of policy to accompany maps (could include general siting guidelines), including statements of policy to accompany any preferred, potential, and unsuitable areas for siting generation (see 12 and 13 under <i>Mapping</i> , below)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Page: 84-85 Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes:
F. Does the plan maximize the potential for renewable generation on preferred locations (such as the categories outlined under 12E in the <i>Mapping</i> standards, below)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Page: 84-85 Paragraph #: Notes: Click here to enter text.
G. Does the plan demonstrate the municipality's leadership by example with respect to the deployment of renewable energy? <i>(Actions could include deploying renewable energy to offset municipal electric use, etc.)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	Page: Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: The Village of Enosburg Falls owns the one existing dam on the Missisquoi River that currently generates electricity for the Village.
H. Other (please use the notes section to describe additional approaches that your municipality is taking)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Page: Click here to enter text. Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: Click here to enter text.

Mapping Standards

Act 174 requires plans to identify potential areas for the development and siting of renewable energy resources and areas that are unsuitable for siting those resources or particular categories or sizes of those resources. It furthermore requires that the standards address the potential generation from the potential siting areas.

The *Mapping* standards lay out a sequence of steps for planners to examine existing renewable resources and to identify potential (and preferred) areas for renewable energy development, and to identify likely unsuitable areas for development, by layering constraint map layers on to raw energy resource potential map layers. The maps should help municipalities visualize and calculate the potential generation from potential areas, and compare it with the 2025, 2035,

and 2050 targets from the *Analysis and Targets* standards to get a sense of the scale and scope of generation that could be produced within the region to meet the municipality’s needs. DPS will provide additional guidance to accompany the standards that fleshes out the steps, layers, and standards more fully.

Plans must include maps that address all of the standards below, unless N/A is provided as an option, in which case a compelling reason why the standard is not applicable or relevant should be provided in the Notes column. Regions must develop their own maps (already underway through support being provided to regions by DPS), and to then break out the maps for their municipalities, who can use their region-provided maps to meet the municipal *Mapping* standards (such “municipalization” work is being supported through a training & technical assistance contract between DPS and regions, and all regions must supply completed maps to their municipalities by April 30, 2017, though many are expected to do so much sooner).

Municipalities may choose to rely on the maps provided by the regions to meet the standards in this section. Those maps should be somewhat familiar to municipalities, who are expected to be consulted as regions develop their maps. Alternatively, municipalities may choose to undertake their own mapping, according to the same set of standards as regions. Additionally, municipalities are expected to work collaboratively with their regions and with neighboring municipalities to ensure compatibility between the final products.

The map and the text describing the policies or rules used to construct the map, as well as the text describing specific policies applicable to map features, should be complementary. That should help ensure that any “land conservation measures and specific policies” that might be given substantial deference in the context of a particular project review under 30 V.S.A. § 248 are clearly identifiable in the text, should a map lack sufficient clarity or granularity regarding the area in which a project is proposed.

<p>10. Does your plan contain one or more maps that address 11-13 below, as provided by your Regional Planning Commission or as developed by your municipality? <i>Municipalities may meet this standard by using the maps provided by their regions, or by developing their own maps. If using the maps provided by your region, please answer “Yes-Region” and skip ahead to #14. If developing custom maps, please answer “Yes-Custom” and address 11-13 separately, below.</i></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes-Region <input type="checkbox"/> Yes-Custom	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Page: Appendix D Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: Click here to enter text.
<p>11. Does the plan identify and map existing electric generation sources? <i>Maps may depict generators of all sizes or just those larger than 15 kW, as long as information on generators smaller than 15 kW is summarized and provided or referenced elsewhere. It is expected that the best available information at the time of plan creation will be used. This information is available from the DPS.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Page: Click here to enter text. Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: Click here to enter text.
<p>12. Does the plan identify potential areas for the development and siting of renewable energy resources and the potential generation from such generators in the identified areas, taking into account factors including resource availability, environmental constraints, and the location and capacity of electric grid infrastructure?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Page: Click here to enter text. Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: Click here to enter text.

<p>Maps should include the following (available from VCGI and ANR), and the resulting Prime and Secondary Resource Maps will together comprise “potential areas”:</p>			
<p>A. Raw renewable energy potential analysis (wind and solar), using best available data layers (including LiDAR as appropriate)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>Page: Click here to enter text. Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: Click here to enter text.</p>
<p>B. Known constraints (signals likely, though not absolute, unsuitability for development based on statewide or local regulations or designated critical resources) to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vernal Pools (confirmed and unconfirmed layers) • DEC River Corridors • FEMA Floodways • State-significant Natural Communities and Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species • National Wilderness Areas • Class 1 and Class 2 Wetlands (VSWI and advisory layers) • Regionally or Locally Identified Critical Resources <p><i>If areas are constrained for the development of renewable energy due to the desire to protect a locally designated critical resource (whether a natural resource or a community-identified resource), then the land use policies applicable to other forms of development in this area must be similarly restrictive; for this category, policies must prohibit all permanent development (and should be listed in the Notes column).</i></p> <p><i>These areas should be subtracted from raw renewable energy resource potential maps to form Secondary Resource Maps</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>Page: Click here to enter text. Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: Click here to enter text.</p>
<p>C. Possible constraints (signals conditions that would likely require mitigation, and which may prove a site unsuitable after site-specific study, based on statewide or regional/local policies that are currently adopted or in effect), including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural Soils • FEMA Special Flood Hazard Areas • Protected Lands (State fee lands and private conservation lands) • Act 250 Agricultural Soil Mitigation areas 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>Page: Click here to enter text. Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: Click here to enter text.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deer Wintering Areas • ANR’s Vermont Conservation Design Highest Priority Forest Blocks (or Habitat Blocks 9 & 10, for plans using regional maps in regions whose plans will be submitted for adoption at the regional level by March 1, 2017) • Hydric Soils • Regionally or Locally Identified Resources <i>If locations are constrained for the development of renewable energy due to the desire to protect a locally designated resource (whether a natural resource or community-identified resource, like a view), then the land use policies applicable to other forms of development must be similarly restrictive (and should be listed in the Notes column). These areas should be subtracted from Secondary Resource Maps to form Prime Resource Maps.</i> 			
<p>D. Transmission and distribution resources and constraints, as well as transportation infrastructure. <i>(Including three-phase distribution lines, known constraints from resources such as Green Mountain Power’s solar map, known areas of high electric load, etc.)</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Page: Click here to enter text. Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: Click here to enter text.
<p>E. Preferred locations (specific areas or parcels) for siting a generator or a specific size or type of generator, accompanied by any specific siting criteria for these locations <i>Narrative descriptions of the types of preferred areas in accompanying plan text are acceptable, though mapping of areas and especially specific parcels (to the extent they are known) is highly encouraged, to signal preferences to developers, particularly for locally preferred areas and specific parcels that do not qualify as a statewide preferred location under i. below. The locations identified as preferred must not be impractical for developing a technology with regard to the presence of the renewable resource and access to transmission/distribution infrastructure.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Page: Click here to enter text. Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: Click here to enter text.
<p>i. Statewide preferred locations such as rooftops (and other structures), parking lots, previously developed sites, brownfields, gravel pits, quarries, and Superfund sites</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Page: Click here to enter text. Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: Click here to enter text.

<p>ii. Other potential locally preferred locations <i>For example, customer on- or near-site generation, economic development areas, unranked and not currently farmed agricultural soils, unused land near already developed infrastructure, locations suitable for large-scale biomass district heat or thermal-led cogeneration, potential locations for biogas heating and digesters, etc.</i> <i>These are particularly important to map if possible, as “a specific location in a duly adopted municipal plan” is one way for a net metering project to qualify as being on a preferred site.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Page: Click here to enter text. Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: Click here to enter text.
<p>13. Does the plan identify areas that are unsuitable for siting renewable energy resources or particular categories or sizes of those resources? <i>Either Yes or No (“No” if the plan chooses not to designate any areas as unsuitable) is an acceptable answer here. “Resources” is synonymous with “generators.”</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (“Yes” for A and B must also be selected below)	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Page: Click here to enter text. Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: Click here to enter text.
<p>A. Are areas identified as unsuitable for particular categories or sizes of generators consistent with resource availability and/or land use policies in the regional or municipal plan applicable to other types of land development (answer only required if “Yes” selected above, indicating unsuitable areas have been identified)? <i>If areas are considered unsuitable for energy generation, then the land use policies applicable to other forms of development in this area should similarly prohibit other types of development. Please note these policies in the Notes column.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A (if no unsuitable areas are identified)	Page: Click here to enter text. Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: Click here to enter text.
<p>B. Does the plan ensure that any regional or local constraints (regionally or locally designated resources or critical resources, from 12b-12c above) identified are supported through data or studies, are consistent with the remainder of the plan, and do not include an arbitrary prohibition or interference with the intended function of any particular renewable resource size or type? <i>Please explain in the Notes column.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Page: Click here to enter text. Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: Click here to enter text.
<p>14. Municipalities seeking a determination of energy compliance from the Department and not using their region’s maps only: Does the plan ensure that its approach, if applied regionally, would not have the effect</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes (also check Yes if seeking	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Page: Click here to enter text. Paragraph #: Click here to enter text. Notes: Click here to enter text.

of prohibiting any type of renewable generation technology in all locations?	determination from region, or from DPS but using region-provided maps)		
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Municipal Plan – Implementation Assessment

Guidelines and Standards for Confirmation of Municipal Planning Processes

Municipality: Town of Enosburgh/Village of Enosburg Falls

Date: July 10, 2020

Municipal Plan Expiration: 4/20/2028

Planning Process Currently Confirmed? Yes No

Activity	Progress? (select all that may apply)	Explanation of Progress
Preparation or adoption of bylaws or amendments:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Activity Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Currently Implementing <input type="checkbox"/> Not a Priority During Time Period <input type="checkbox"/> Not a Priority in Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Hindered or Delayed <input type="checkbox"/> No Activity	Updates were made to both municipal bylaws in the last planning cycle. The Village regulations were amended on 11/28/2017 and supported with a municipal planning grant and the Town regulations were amended on 12/17/2018.
Capital budgets and programs:	<input type="checkbox"/> Activity Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Currently Implementing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not a Priority During Time Period <input type="checkbox"/> Not a Priority in Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hindered or Delayed <input type="checkbox"/> No Activity	No activity was made in the prior planning period but is anticipated as a priority in this coming planning cycle.

<p>Supplemental plans:</p> <p>(list one or more identified in the plan, but not necessarily all. Examples: Hazard Mitigation Plan, Sidewalk Plan, etc.)</p>	<p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Activity Completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Currently Implementing <input type="checkbox"/> Not a Priority During Time Period <input type="checkbox"/> Not a Priority in Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Hindered or Delayed <input type="checkbox"/> No Activity </p>	<p>The 2019 Vital Village master plan involved a robust community engagement program related to village revitalization, physical streetscape improvements, access to the Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail and economic development. Several activities have occurred upon the completion of this plan that include rail trail signage, bike racks in the village and a park project. This effort was supported by a state Better Connections Grant.</p> <p>In 2019 received a Municipal Planning Grant to complete a master plan to renovate the Enosburgh Recreation Fields and improve the offerings for all segments of the community.</p>
<p>Other actions, programs, or measures undertaken or scheduled to implement the adopted plan:</p> <p>(list one or more identified in the plan, but not necessarily all)</p>	<p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Activity Completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Currently Implementing <input type="checkbox"/> Not a Priority During Time Period <input type="checkbox"/> Not a Priority in Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Hindered or Delayed <input type="checkbox"/> No Activity </p>	<p>A story walk in the village to support literacy</p> <p>Town hired a first position for the Director of Economic Development</p> <p>Actions that support improving the pedestrian facilities and accessibility of community resources. The Village is in the process of securing the right-of-way necessary to construct sidewalks on the north side of Route 105 to provide safe pedestrian access the recreation fields, funded by a Vermont Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant.</p> <p>Actions that support the preservation and reuse of historic resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In 2018, the Diesel #1 Generator Building adjacent to the bridge's entrance was rehabilitated and converted to a history exhibit. This building is now open and staffed with volunteers during village events. - In 2019 the Village received grant funds from the Vermont Quick Build for Health program (Vermont Department of Health) to install a kiosk at the Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail intersection, which provides wayfinding to the Bridge of Flowers and Light. - Historical Society assisting with a project to install historical markers on buildings

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Several historic structures have been recently renovated such as the Spavin Cure building and Quincy Hotel among others.
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24 V.S.A. 4350(c): *In order to retain confirmation or the planning process, a municipality shall document that it has reviewed and is actively engaged in a process to implement its adopted plan.*

(1) When assessing whether a municipality has been actively engaged in a process to implement its adopted plan, the regional planning commission shall consider the activities of the local boards and commissions with regard to the preparation or adoption of bylaws and amendments; capital budgets and programs; supplemental plan; or other actions, programs, or measures undertaken or scheduled to implement the adopted plan. The regional planning commission shall consider factors that may have hindered or delayed municipal implementation efforts.

(2) The consultation may include guidance by the regional planning commission with regard to resources and technical support available to the municipality its adopted plan and recommendations by the regional planning commission for plan amendments and for updating the plan prior to readoption under section 4387 of this title.

In order to obtain or retain confirmation, a municipality must be actively engaged in a process to implement its adopted plan. Actively engaged is defined as making progress in all of the four implementation categories above or a determination that the plan does not call for any implementation actions in a category.

Notes: