

Appendix #: Implementation Matrix

Task	Responsibility	Timeline
Land Use		
<p>Within five years of adoption, the Regional Commission will, in consultation with member municipalities, neighboring regional commissions, the State of Vermont, public interest groups and property owners, re-evaluate the Land Use section of this Plan. The Regional Commission should give consideration to existing land use settlement patterns, municipal plan goals and policies, agency plans, and projected trends and needs for the region's citizens and businesses. Following completion of the study, the Regional Commission should offer amendments to this section for adoption.</p>	TRORC	Mid-term
<p>The Regional Commission should continue its efforts to provide professional planning services to its member municipalities and advise public officials on the various options available to manage growth and development at the local level.</p>	TRORC	Ongoing
<p>The Regional Commission will work with member towns to determine appropriate location and size for growth centers within the region.</p>	TRORC	Mid-term
Natural Resources		
<p>The Regional Commission should work with the Agency of Natural Resources and with towns to identify and map aquifers and aquifer protection areas.</p>	TRORC/ANR	Mid-term
<p>Towns are encouraged to develop Source Protection Plans for public water supplies or aquifers that have been identified. Such programs may include limiting or prohibiting development and other land uses within Wellhead or Aquifer Protection Areas.</p>	Towns	Mid-term
<p>The Legislature must keep the Petroleum Cleanup Fund at a level sufficient to meet all cleanup needs.</p>	Legislature	Ongoing
<p>The Regional Commission should work with the Agency of Natural Resources, town officials, and others on educational outreach about the proper use of floor drains, local spill response capacity, and proper administration of septic regulations. The Regional Commission will coordinate with the Agency of Natural Resources, other state agencies, and local officials in the assessment, cleanup and redevelopment of contaminated (brownfield) sites.</p>	TRORC/ANR	Ongoing

Municipalities should review existing and proposed water quality classifications of surface waters within town boundaries, or within basins, to determine if classifications meet the uses and needs. Both the Regional Commission and the Agency of Natural Resources are available to provide support.	Towns	Ongoing
Municipalities are encouraged to play an active role in the basin planning process and to prepare water resources elements in municipal plans that are in compliance with state and federal laws.	Towns	Ongoing
The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's listing of threatened and impaired waters should be targeted for immediate attention.	ANR	ASAP
Towns in the region are encouraged to cooperate on a watershed-wide basis when planning for surface water quality and use.	Towns	ASAP
The Regional Commission, in cooperation with the Agency of Natural Resources - Water Quality Division, Vermont Local Roads Program, and Agency of Transportation, should advise town officials on cost-effective backroad erosion and sediment control.	TRORC/ANR	Ongoing
The Regional Commission should be involved in watershed and basin planning efforts and encourage municipal involvement.	TRORC	Ongoing
Unless there are overriding concerns in the local and Regional Plans, the Agency of Natural Resources shall adopt the highest possible classification and type for water bodies based on their actual condition and use.	TRORC	ASAP
Public and private sectors should refrain from activities that spread invasive plants such as: ill-timed roadside mowing, transporting invasive plants in ditch spoil, and the cleaning of mowing and earthmoving equipment after working in an infested area. Road maintenance personnel should be trained to recognize the invasive plants on the Vermont Noxious Weed Quarantine List and Watchlist.	Towns/Vtrans	ASAP
The Agency of Natural Resources and local groups are encouraged to monitor water quality, and when monitoring indicates a water quality violation, to promptly locate the source of degradation when possible.	ANR	Ongoing
In preparation for writing any basin plans, the Agency of Natural Resources should conduct a comprehensive assessment of water quality in such basins and identify the source of any known water quality problems.	ANR	Ongoing

The State of Vermont should identify and map significant wetland areas not currently classified as Class 1 or 2 wetlands and petition the Water Resources Panel of the Natural Resources Board (formerly Water Resources Board) to have such areas reclassified at a higher level.	State	Mid-term
Encourage municipalities in the region to enhance zoning bylaws to protect wetlands that may not be protected under state or federal law.	TRORC	Ongoing
Work with towns to establish a priority list of wetlands for protection and/or acquisition.	TRORC	Ongoing
Encourage more accurate and thorough identification of wetlands areas through the use of best available data and the adoption of local wetlands regulations and updated maps by the municipalities in the region.	TRORC	Ongoing
Encourage property tax relief to provide an incentive for the protection of designated wetlands.	Towns	Ongoing
With the help of specialists from the Department of Fish and Wildlife or the Vermont Institute of Natural Science, towns in the region should work to inventory wildlife species; sensitive areas including wetland, vernal pools, bogs and fens, mature oak trees; and critical habitats for birds, deer, bear, bobcat, heron, and threatened or endangered plant species.	Towns	Mid-term
Towns are encouraged to use mechanisms such as cluster zoning, conservation districts, transferring or purchasing of development rights, or purchasing of land containing critical habitat areas in order to maintain the integrity of large forest blocks and preserve critical habitat.	Towns	Ongoing
Towns should work cooperatively and seek assistance from land trusts to maintain large tracts of undeveloped habitat that cross political boundaries.	Towns	Ongoing
Town plans and zoning regulations should protect significant natural features and sensitive habitat areas by using setbacks and buffers, particularly for wetlands and vernal pools, before threats to these areas develop. Local officials are encouraged to work with staff from regional offices of the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife and wildlife biologists from VINS to assist in identifying and creating inventories of the critical habitat areas and significant natural communities in their municipalities.	Towns	Ongoing
Towns should attempt to identify critical bear habitat areas within the broader areas identified on Vermont bear habitat maps.	Towns	Mid-term

Towns should adopt zoning regulations that would discourage development near wetlands and vernal pools, and prevent development within 300 feet in conservation districts, in order to protect their functions and native biological diversity and to prevent additional loss of habitat.	Towns	Mid-term
Protection of wetlands, riparian areas, vernal pools, the most critical deer wintering areas, and natural grasslands should be considered in revisions to local subdivision regulations.	Towns	Ongoing
To protect high-quality forested riparian (river bank, stream bank or lake shore) habitat, towns should prohibit development near these areas and regulate the disturbance of vegetation in riparian zones through general, conditional use, and/or site plan standards.	Towns	ASAP
Air quality should be monitored in the region as part of broader statewide effort so as to determine current and potential threats to air quality. Potential impact areas include village centers or other areas of traffic congestion and high elevations, where pollutants and acidic levels are potentially greater and more harmful to fragile vegetation.	ANR	ASAP
Municipalities and state agencies should educate communities about the impacts of trash burning and develop more effective mechanisms to enforce laws prohibiting backyard burning of trash, including the adoption of civil ordinances.	TRORC	Ongoing
The Regional Commission should be prepared to comment upon projects outside the region which may potentially impact upon air quality within the region.	TRORC	Ongoing

Historic, Cultural, Archeological

The Regional Commission should continue to support efforts to designate National Historic Register Districts and Sites. In so doing, the Regional Commission should coordinate with the State and affected municipalities. In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Regional Commission must review all federally funded projects in the region which affect register properties or places to assure that such publicly assisted projects are planned with due consideration to the resource.	TRORC	Ongoing
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<p>The Regional Commission, as part of its Transportation Planning Program, should continue its work with the Agency of Transportation, town officials, its Transportation Advisory Committee and other groups and organizations to ensure that design standards and plans for proposed transportation projects are reasonably compatible with historic resource needs and values. (See Transportation chapter.)</p>	TRORC	Ongoing
<p>Towns are encouraged to clearly outline in their plans those resources deemed worthy of protection. Town officials can participate in the Act 250 process, thus influencing decisions affecting historic sites in their community.</p>	Towns	ASAP
<p>To increase public awareness of archeological resources, the Regional Commission encourages archeologists, local and regional groups, towns, and landowners to organize educational programs focused on Vermont. Such a program could be made a part of an overall cultural heritage program through public schools.</p>	TRORC	Mid-term
<p>Local planning commissions, conservation commissions, historical societies, and other interest groups are encouraged to develop an archeological plan for their community as part of the overall master planning program. Such a plan could contribute to an important step in planning for future development in identified areas or areas most likely to contain sites. Assistance and guidance are available from the State Archeologist within the Division for Historic Preservation.</p>	Towns	Ongoing
<p>Public interest in outdoor lighting issues and opportunities is growing. The Regional Commission should assist local and state policymakers in evaluating lighting options. The Regional Commission should consider sponsorship of educational workshops for planning commissions, design professionals, and others to acquaint them to the principles of good lighting design.</p>	TRORC	Mid-term
<p>Towns interested in planning for outdoor lighting in their communities should consider using their Municipal Plans to establish goals and objectives for lighting. Additionally, consideration should be given to incorporating a lighting section into a town's Zoning Ordinance to cover lighting installations in all or parts of the Town.</p>	Towns	Ongoing
<p>Regional Commission staff should continue to work with the Vermont's public utilities and design professionals to evaluate lighting technologies and efficiencies.</p>	TRORC	Ongoing

<h1>Housing</h1>		
The Regional Commission will continue to assist non-profit housing organizations in the development of affordable housing projects when such efforts are consistent with the policies of the Regional Plan.	TRORC	Ongoing
The Regional Commission will continue to provide professional assistance to member municipalities in the identification of need and implementation of local housing assistance programs.	TRORC	Ongoing
Community leaders within the region will work with state housing agencies, non-profit organizations, and lending institutions to ensure the availability of loan or grant funds for Vermonters to purchase, acquire, or improve their primary homes.	TRORC/Others	Short-term
Towns within the region should actively cooperate with local and regional non-profit housing trusts to develop and preserve new and existing housing, with mechanisms to assure the perpetual affordability of that housing.	TRORC/Others	Ongoing
Community leaders, housing advocates and the Regional Commission must work to retain Vermont's innovative publicly financed home mortgage lending and housing assistance programs. The region's low and moderate income families, disabled individuals, and the elderly are enabled to secure affordable housing through these programs.	TRORC	Ongoing
The Regional Commission will assist towns in writing strong housing components in town plans that are based on current data that address proven needs as opposed to only updating highlighted topics from years past to better address highest current needs.	TRORC	Short-term
The Regional Commission will actively help identify land that is suitable for development so that towns may work with developers and existing property owners to promote mutually beneficial partnership opportunities.	TRORC	Mid-term
The Regional Commission will educate communities on density allowances in towns, encourage communities to allow for ADU approval at the municipal staff level, and enhance local awareness of the need for workforce housing in the region through community forums.	TRORC	Short-term
The Regional Commission will facilitate discussions with local land developers, bankers, and community leaders to better understand the structural and institutional impediments to providing new housing throughout the region.	TRORC	Short-term

Utilities and Facilities

Municipal plans shall identify and prioritize future capital improvements/repairs and estimate costs and means of financing.	Towns	ASAP
TRORC shall offer capital budgeting workshops throughout the region.	TRORC	Ongoing
Water efficiency programs and codes should be adopted at the state or local level to reduce demand on municipal water systems.	State/Town	ASAP
TRORC shall seek grant opportunities to map water and wastewater systems throughout the region.	TRORC	Mid-term
When funding is available, municipal plans shall inventory sewer and wastewater systems to identify current and projected capacity gaps.	Towns	Ongoing
Municipalities shall conduct periodic auditing of all water and wastewater distribution systems for calculation of infiltration and losses.	Towns	Ongoing
TRORC shall continue to assist member towns, alliances, and the Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District solid waste management districts in the update and implementation of municipal and regional solid waste plans.	TRORC	Ongoing
TRORC shall support and participate in any future discussions regarding the development of regional waste management services.	TRORC	Ongoing
parallel solid waste collection services through outreach and education with assistance from the Agency of Natural Resources.	TRORC	Short-term
To identify areas of the region where medical or elderly care facilities would be beneficial.	TRORC	Short-term
Support efforts to create regional services and infrastructure that enable residents to age in place.	TRORC	Ongoing
To review local zoning and subdivision regulations to ensure that they do not have the effect of prohibiting health or elderly care facilities from appropriate areas and to assist with revisions as needed.	TRORC	Ongoing
To work with state partners to clarify or revise Act 250 rules to allow permitting flexibility when a proposed development is consistent with this plan and has a clearly defined public good.	TRORC	Short-term
Continue to participate actively in the Section 248a permitting process.	TRORC	Ongoing

Seek out funding for our communities to implement new or sustain existing Wi-Fi Zones in villages and downtowns.	TRORC	Short-term
established Conservation Commissions to do so. According to state law, a conservation commission can assist the planning commission with natural resources issues, inventory the town's natural, historic, and cultural resources; receive gifts of land for conservation	TRORC	Ongoing
The Regional Commission should help towns develop highway policies that address recreation needs, and encourage the adoption of a walkable communities programs within the Region.	TRORC	Mid-term

Hazard Mitigation

State and Federal government must continue funding and operation of warning systems, including the National Weather Service's Emergency Alert System, NOAA weather radio and USGS river and precipitation gages.	State/Federal	Ongoing
TRORC should work with all communities to annually update Local Emergency Operations Plans and keep these on file with DEMHS.	TRORC/Towns	Ongoing
TRORC will continue to work cooperatively with local emergency response organizations, DEMHS, LEPC #12 and others to help improve emergency planning, response and recovery.	TRORC	Ongoing
The federal and state governments should increase funding for preparedness and mitigation planning and actions at the local level in order to reduce escalating response and recovery costs.	State/Federal	ASAP
FEMA should modernize flood maps, especially in Orange County, and incorporate newer flood frequency predictions into new maps.	FEMA	ASAP
Communities should work to ensure that important local facilities that provide emergency services, water, food, gas or act as an emergency shelter are able to function in power outages.	Towns	Ongoing
TRORC should assist towns in response and recovery stages through damage documentation assistance and navigating federal and state grants.	TRORC	Ongoing

Energy

The Regional Planning Commission should contribute to the creation of a statewide inventory of areas that would be suitable for renewable energy generation.	TRORC	Mid-term
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<p>The Regional Commission should work with state legislators to craft new language in Act 250 that will require Act 250 to consider greenhouse gas emissions as a waste that must be minimized, that private utility services be required to make reasonable efforts to incorporate onsite generation from renewable resources and that the location of development must also be determined to minimize transportation energy use through location adjacent to employment or housing, downtowns or village centers or along transit lines.</p>	<p>TRORC</p>	<p>Mid-term</p>
<p>The Regional Commission should continue to provide support and outreach to municipal energy committees.</p>	<p>TRORC</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Local planning commissions, Selectboards, citizens, and members of the energy industry should work cooperatively to identify ways to reduce the cost of energy to consumers, and to promote efficiency in energy use and conservation.</p>	<p>Towns</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Local planning commissions should employ, as part of the review and approval process, all practical energy conservation measures to maximize energy efficiency in siting, design, and construction. Standards recommended by the Department of Public Service may serve as a basis for the development of such conservation measures.</p>	<p>Towns</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Continuing support should be given to wind and solar energy research and development in the region, as sustainable and emission-free sources of energy.</p>	<p>TRORC/Towns</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Flood Resilience

<p>The Regional Commission should work with towns to strengthen their Flood Hazard Bylaws in order to mitigate risks to public safety, critical infrastructure, historic structures and municipal investments from inundation and erosion.</p>	<p>TRORC</p>	<p>ASAP</p>
<p>TRORC should work with VTrans on advocating for and improving the flood capabilities of state or town-owned transportation infrastructure.</p>	<p>TRORC</p>	<p>ASAP</p>
<p>TRORC should continue working with the Emergency Coordinators and Selectboards from each town to develop mitigation plans, and emergency preparedness and recovery procedures from flooding.</p>	<p>TRORC/Towns</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Existing homes and businesses at serious risk of flood damage should be identified and prioritized by towns in concert with the ANR River Management Section and the Regional Commission for mitigation actions such as elevation/relocation or purchase and demolition.</p>	<p>Towns/ANR</p>	<p>ASAP</p>

Areas not designated in either FEMA’s maps or in VT ANR’s maps, but which are flooded during a weather event should be added to local flood regulations.	Towns	Mid-term
Watershed-level planning should be done by towns with assistance from the Regional Commission to evaluate natural and constructed flood storage options upstream of existing areas of concentrated development that are at risk of flooding.	TRORC/Towns	Mid-term
TRORC will work with the Granville, Stockbridge, Hancock, Rochester, and the U.S. Forest Service to address flooding on a watershed basis for the Hancock Branch, Upper White, West Branch and Tweed River.	TRORC	Mid-term
TRORC will work with ANR, towns and landowners to lessen flood risk by restoring natural channel functions through berm or dam removal or intentional lowering of streambanks.	TRORC	Ongoing
TRORC will work with towns to understand the impact stormwater runoff has on the region and on specific towns, and then work to address impacts from impervious surfaces through increased retention and infiltration.	TRORC	Ongoing
TRORC encourages more consistent, accurate and thorough identification of wetlands areas through the use of best available data and the adoption of local wetlands regulations and updated maps by the municipalities in the region.	TRORC	Ongoing

Education

Support local efforts to assess capacity issues in our Region’s schools, and, conversely, that explore opportunities to consolidate where appropriate.	TRORC	Ongoing
In assisting towns with capital plan and budget formulation, ensure that member towns anticipate and plan for improvements to public school facilities.	TRORC	Ongoing
Work with local communities to determine which locations are most desirable for and best suited to the growth of new or relocated educational facilities throughout the region.	TRORC	Ongoing
Encourage the development of school-business partnerships to promote valuable and sustainable employment opportunities in the Region.	TRORC	Ongoing

Transportation

