

ACT 200 PLAN

Act 200, the Growth Management Act of 1988, requires all state agencies having programs or taking actions affecting land use to adopt a plan consistent with the Act's 12 Vermont Planning Goals. In addition, compatibility must be sought with plans of other state agencies and with approved plans of regional planning commissions and municipalities. As part of VHFA's continual planning process, this Plan has been developed in accordance with Act 200 requirements.

The Planning Goals:

- (1) To plan development so as to maintain the historic settlement pattern of compact village and urban centers separated by rural countryside.
- (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.
- (3) To broaden access to educational and vocational training opportunities sufficient to ensure the full realization of abilities of all Vermonters.
- (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 bicyclists.
- (5) To identify, protect and preserve important natural and historic features of the Vermont landscape.
- (6) To maintain and improve the quality of air, water, wildlife and land resources.
- (7) To encourage the efficient use of energy and the development of renewable energy resources.
- (8) To maintain and enhance recreational opportunities for Vermont residents and visitors.
- (9) To encourage and strengthen agricultural and forest industries.
- (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 preservation of the aesthetic qualities of the area.
- (11) To ensure the affordability of safe and affordable housing for all Vermonters.
- (12) To plan for, finance, and provide an efficient system of public facilities and services to meet future needs.

The Process 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.