



REGIONAL PLANNING ACT 181 SUMMARY and CCRPC'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN



More information available at: ccrpcvt.org/ecos-plan • Last updated: 11/18/24

REGIONAL PLANNING ACT 181 SUMMARY

Act 181, passed into law June 2024, overhauls Vermont's planning framework for coordinating state, regional, and municipal land use. This document provides a summary of Act 181 related to regional planning and a Community Engagement Plan specific to the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC).

Goals of New Future Land Use Map & Housing Targets

The new **Future Land Use (FLU) map** will guide development in Chittenden County by designating areas for growth, conservation, and other purposes based on **environmental, infrastructure, and community** factors.



The FLU map will be used to determine Act 250 location-based jurisdiction and State Designations. It will be adopted by the Regional Planning Commission (RPC) and approved by the State Land Use Review Board (LURB) based upon statutory definitions.



Additionally, The Department of Housing and Community Development will set regional housing targets. CCRPC will disaggregate the regional housing targets to municipalities and work with each municipality to develop a regional FLU map that can meet these housing targets.

Location-Based Jurisdiction & Designated Centers



Act 181 modernizes how Vermont maps and directs public investments to designated centers and speeds up Act 250's transition to location-based jurisdiction with a bottom up approach with municipal input into the RPC maps.

This change is intended to recognize that some areas of Vermont are:



PLANNED FOR GROWTH



CONTAIN NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURE (E.G. WATER, WASTEWATER)



HAVE SUFFICIENT MUNICIPAL ZONING REGULATIONS IN PLACE TO ADEQUATELY REGULATE DEVELOPMENT

Who Makes What Decisions?



When updating the FLU map, CCRPC will attempt to build community consensus between all Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs) in each municipality. Each Selectboard or City Council must vote to decide if they want to "opt in" for Act 250 exemptions.

Ultimately, the CCRPC Board must ensure the FLU map complies with legal requirements (24 V.S.A. 4348a) in order to be approved by the State's Land Use Review Board (LURB).

Meaningful Participation & Environmental Justice



Act 181 revises the adoption process that regional plans undergo to provide the opportunity for a more robust and comprehensive public participation process, with a specific focus on environmental justice (EJ) focus populations as defined in 3 V.S.A. 6002.

It necessitates that RPCs evaluate the distribution of environmental benefits and burdens of regional plans, including the FLU map.

Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs) include:



MUNICIPAL SELECTBOARDS, PLANNING COMMISSIONS & OTHER COMMITTEES



MUNICIPAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND INTEREST GROUPS REPRESENTING EJ FOCUS POPULATIONS



REGIONAL AND STATEWIDE INTEREST GROUPS



OVERVIEW OF CCRPC'S ACT 181 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Goals of Engagement



Ensure all 19 municipalities are fully informed about the Act 181 requirements.



Collect detailed input from each municipality and IAPs to help inform the new regional Future Land Use (FLU) map through multiple forms of engagement.



Foster a collaborative environment to attempt to build community consensus on the regional FLU map, including with marginalized communities.



Provide clear, accessible information and resources to all participants throughout the process.



Develop a draft regional FLU map with housing targets by **June 2025**.

Engagement Activities & Timeline

PHASE 1 | CCRPC Internal Planning & Coordination (August 2024 - Ongoing)



Develop initial draft FLU maps and housing target disaggregation methodology.



Create educational materials, including summaries and municipality-specific two-pagers.



Develop municipal engagement templates and materials.

PHASE 2 | Inform & Educate about Act 181 & Engagement Process (Fall 2024):



Hold educational meetings with selectboards and city councils to introduce the project, explain Act 181, and outline the engagement process.



Distribute informational materials to municipalities, relevant regional and state agencies, and planning commissions.



Develop customized engagement plans for each municipality based on their input.

PHASE 3 | Assess Environmental Benefits & Burdens (Fall - Spring 2025; Ongoing):



Map environmental justice focus populations within Chittenden County.



Define and visualize environmental benefits and burdens.



Assess how the proposed map changes affect environmental justice populations.

PHASE 4 | Engagement to Review Draft FLU Map (Winter 2025):



Conduct municipal and regional meetings to review and amend the draft FLU map.



Hold discussion groups and community meetings as per the municipal engagement plans.



Distribute an interactive map to gather public feedback.

PHASE 5 | Review Final FLU Map Draft & Discuss Housing Targets (Spring 2025):



Conduct review meetings with all interested and affected parties to reflect their input and reach consensus.



Discuss housing target methodology and implications.



Hold selectboard and planning commission meetings to review the final draft and housing targets.

PHASE 6 | Finalize Map & Housing Targets, Prepare for Formal Approval (Summer 2025):



Present final map and housing targets to CCRPC's Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC), CCRPC Board, and the State Land Use Review Board for approval.

CONTACT

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