

Windham Regional Plan Appendix F: Implementation Matrix

Land Use			
Action	Lead/ Partners	Priority	Potential Funding/Resources
Provide towns with technical assistance on planning, zoning and subdivision bylaws, and ordinances to support compact settlements and protect important forest and agricultural lands	WRC	High	State Funds, Municipal Planning Grants, Town Funds
Provide trainings for town officials on topics related to land use planning	WRC	High	State Funds
Conduct consultations with member towns and provide recommendations on necessary updates to Town Plan to ensure compliance with statute requirements	WRC	High	State Funds
Review and comments on applications submitted under Act 250 based on conformance with the Regional Plan.	WRC Project Review Committee	High	State Funds
Work with towns to strengthen Flood Hazard and Fluvial Erosion Hazard Bylaws to mitigate risks to public safety, critical infrastructure, historic structures, and municipal facilities from inundation and erosion.	WRC/ANR	High	ANR/VEM
Assist member towns with inter-municipal coordination to address regional issues and to combine resources for municipal services	WRC/Municipalities	High	State Funds, Town Funds
Work with towns, state and federal agencies, and conservation organizations to identify and conserve important agricultural and forest land	WRC/ANR/Dept of Ag/Municipalities/ NGOs	High	Various
Work with adjacent Regional Planning Commissions in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts on land use-related issues that span regional boundaries	WRC	Medium	State Funds

Educational, Cultural, and Recreational Resources

Action	Lead/ Partners	Priority	Potential Funding/Resources
Work with towns to review zoning bylaws to ensure regulations allow for childcare providers to be located in the community	Municipalities/WRC	Medium	State Funds, Municipal Planning Grants, Town Funds
Provide town and school officials with assistance on grant applications that support students walking and bicycling to schools	Municipalities/ School Districts/WRC	Medium	VTrans, Town Funds
Support the development of an arts and cultural plan for the Windham Region	Municipalities/ NGOs/WRC	Medium	Grants
Participate in efforts to design and install consistent wayfinding signage for regional recreational trails	Municipalities/ NGOs/WRC	Medium	State Funds, Grants
Participate in efforts involving federal and state land acquisition in the region for outdoor recreation and conservation purposes	Municipalities/ State/ Dept of Ag/WRC	Medium	Various
Provide technical support to town Conservation Commissions and Recreation Committees working on improving local recreational opportunities	Municipalities/WRC	High	State Funds
Develop a Regional Recreational Plan	WRC	High	Grants
Work with the State, Connecticut River Conservancy, and towns to increase river access	WRC/ANR/ Municipalities/CRC	Medium	State Funds, Town Funds, Grants
Work with the Vermont Arts Council and the Agent for the Southern Vermont Creative Zone to support the arts and cultural sectors	WRC/NGOs/ Municipalities	Medium	State Funds

Community Utilities, Facilities, and Services

Action	Lead/ Partners	Priority	Potential Funding/Resources
Work with towns to develop capital improvement plans to budget for the development, maintenance, and expansion of water and wastewater systems	WRC/Municipalities	High	Municipal Planning Grant, Town Funds
Work with towns to develop shared services and supplies agreements to reduce municipal costs	WRC/Municipalities	High	Town Funds
Complete a regional municipal wastewater and water assessment	WRC/Municipalities	High	Grants
Assist towns with identifying and applying for grants for municipal water and wastewater improvement projects	WRC/Municipalities	High	State Funds
Assist towns with maintaining and updating solid waste implementation plans	WRC/Municipalities	Medium	
Review and comments on applications submitted under Section 248 based on conformance with the Regional Plan.	WRC Project Review Committee	High	State Funds
Work with towns to annually update Local Emergency Operations Plans	WRC/Municipalities	High	State Funds
Work with towns on hazard mitigation efforts, including updating hazard mitigation plans and assisting with grant applications for road, bridge, and culvert improvements	WRC/Municipalities	High	FEMA, State Funds
Hold regular meetings and trainings for town EMDs and Fire Chiefs to cover emergency management issues impacting the region	WRC/Municipalities	High	State Funds
Support towns in updating zoning bylaws to ensure that nursing homes and residential care facilities can be developed in village and town centers to take advantage of existing infrastructure, services, and facilities	WRC/Municipalities	Medium	State Funds, Municipal Planning Grants, Town Funds

Economic Development

Action	Lead/ Partners	Priority	Potential Funding/Resources
Assist towns with grant applications for community facility and public infrastructure improvements that will support and enhance economic development opportunities	WRC/Municipalities	High	State and Federal Grants
Work with towns and property owners to utilize the Windham Region Brownfields Reuse Initiative to facilitate the redevelopment of former industrial and commercial sites	WRC/Municipalities/Property Owners	High	WRC/EPA/State
Participate in regional planning efforts and partner with organizations addressing economic development, including BDCC, the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, and SeVEDS	WRC	High	State Funds
Assist towns with completing applications for downtown and village center designations with the Department of Housing and Community Development	WRC/Municipalities	High	State Funds
Work with towns to update zoning bylaws to support growth and investment in village centers and downtowns, including infill development, adaptive reuse of buildings, and height/density bonuses	WRC/Municipalities	High	State Funds, Municipal Planning Grants, Town Funds

Housing

Action	Lead/ Partners	Priority	Potential Funding/Resources
Provide towns with assistance updating town plans and bylaws to promote and allow more housing that meets the needs of all residents.	WRC/Municipalities	High	Municipal Planning Grants, Town Funds
Support housing development and rehabilitation in centers, especially where infrastructure is in place and there is minimal impact to natural resources.	WRC	High	VT Housing and Conservation Board, ACCD & Windham Windsor Housing Trust
Work with towns to ensure that new housing is not built in flood plains, fluvial hazard areas or other areas of concern. Update bylaws accordingly.	WRC/Municipalities	High	Municipal Planning Grants & Local Hazard Mitigation Plans
Promote alternative housing opportunities such as condominiums, homesharing, co-housing, housing cooperatives and Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) .	WRC/Housing nonprofits	Medium	Windham Windsor Housing Trust & Sharing Housing Inc.
Provide technical assistance to towns pursuing infrastructure (water and wastewater) development that supports housing needs.	WRC/Municipalities	High	VT Village Wastewater Program & Northern Borders Regional Commission
Through the Windham Region Brownfields Reuse Initiative, provide funding to assess and cleanup contaminated sites to be redeveloped for housing.	WRC Brownfields Committee/ Property owners	High	WRC/EPA/State
Provide towns with information about innovative planning, design, and construction techniques that minimize long term costs and energy consumption of housing.	WRC	Medium	State Funds
Participate in the Housing Coalition of Southeastern Vermont, who addresses housing needs and homelessness throughout the region.	WRC	High	State Funds
Investigate the impacts of Short Term Rentals on the local housing market and support town management of STR's.	WRC	Medium	State Funds, Grants

Natural Resources			
Action	Lead/ Partners	Priority	Potential Funding/Resources
Provide education materials and sponsorship of workshops on invasive species and best management practices.	WRC/ SE VT CISMA	High	VT Urban & Community Forestry Program
Partner with regional and State organizations to identify and manage invasive species	WRC/SE VT CISMA/State Agencies	Medium	NRCS/VT Urban & Community Forestry Program
Develop conservation plans at the regional level to support regional forest and wildlife connectivity.	WRC/Land Trusts	High	Private Foundations
Develop a steering committee of representatives from various stakeholder groups to maintain important forest vitality and resources across town boundaries.	WRC/Municipalities/Land Trusts	Medium	State Funds
Assist Towns in identifying and mapping local and regional forest blocks and connectors, and in developing policies and actions which will protect them from fragmentation.	WRC/Municipalities	High	State Funds
In support of the state initiative and values of the 30x30 and 50x50 conservation of land targets, work with State and regional organizations to identify potential priority conservation parcels in the region.	WRC/ State Agencies/ Land Trusts	High	Private Foundations
Support municipalities with FEMA buyouts in special flood hazard areas and provide information and resources on how to manage the land for flood resiliency.	WRC/Municipalities	High	State Funds
Work with municipalities, other organizations and the State of Vermont in identifying and supporting residential and commercial customers to improve leaking septic systems.	WRC/State Agencies/ Municipalities	Medium	State Funds
Work with municipalities, the State, and regional non-profit partners to identify potential floodplain access projects.	WRC/State Agencies/ Municipalities/NGOs	High	State Funds
Send Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) updated regional plans, town plans, and flood hazard by-laws when they are updated	WRC	Medium	State Funds

Natural Resources (Cont.)

Action	Lead/ Partners	Priority	Potential Funding/Resources
Work with municipalities and other organizations to identify and reclassify qualifying waters to more protected classification levels.	WRC/Municipalities	High	Tactical Basin Funding/ 604b Funds
Work with municipalities and other organizations to identify and protect surface waters that qualify for Outstanding Resource Waters.	WRC/Municipalities	High	Tactical Basin Funding/ 604b Funds
Assist municipalities in developing and adopting Floodplain By-laws.	WRC/Municipalities	High	Tactical Basin Funding/ VEM
Work with Municipalities and FEMA to update the FEMA floodplain maps for the WRC region.	WRC/Municipalities/FE MA	High	VEM Funding
Assist towns in developing regulations related to development on steep slopes so that streams and wetlands are adequately protected from runoff and sedimentation.	WRC/Municipalities	Medium	State Funds
Support towns in implementing the procedures contained in the Vermont Better Backroads Manual and encourage them to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) on hydrologically connected road segments to comply with the Municipal Roads General Permit.	WRC/Municipalities/VT rans	High	ANR
Encourage municipalities to have road crew staff attend the River and Roads Training offered through Vermont DEC and Vtrans.	WRC	High	ANR
Work with solid waste districts to educate households in the proper disposal of hazardous wastes.	WRC/Solid Waste Districts	Medium	State Funds
Coordinate with the Agency of Natural Resources, other state agencies, and local officials in the assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment of contaminated (brownfield) sites.	WRC/Municipalities/Pr operty Owners	High	WRC/EPA/State
Assist municipalities in developing municipal water supplies to better allocate resources and reduce the likelihood of individual well contamination from the surface.	WRC/Municipalities/St ate Agencies	Medium	State Funds
Assist municipalities in adopting zoning or ordinances to limit development on steep slopes.	WRC/Municipalities	High	State Funds, Municipal Planning Grants, Town Funds

Natural Resources (Cont.)

Action	Lead/ Partners	Priority	Potential Funding/Resources
Work with municipalities and other organizations to identify unique habitats of local significance, rare, threatened and endangered species and fragile areas.	WRC/Municipalities/ NGOs	High	State Funds
Work with Town Conservation Commissions to ground-truth local habitats of importance.	WRC/Municipalities	Medium	State Funds
Assist municipalities in identifying important wildlife corridors in their communities.	WRC/Municipalities	Medium	State Funds
Develop a regional map identifying regionally significant wildlife corridors and wildlife crossings on regionally important roads.	WRC	High	State Funds
Coordinate multi-town scenic resources for towns to consider.	WRC/Municipalities	Medium	State Funds
Provide suggestions to municipalities to consider higher elevation ridgelines, historic structures and areas, ponds, lakes and wetlands, and town level scenic roads as scenic resources.	WRC/Municipalities	Medium	State Funds
Provide information to municipalities on how to assess and mitigate human/beaver interactions.	WRC/BEEC	High	VT DEC Grants
Promote awareness and regular use of available wetland site screening tools to help people who are planning to develop a parcel of land.	WRC/VT DEC Wetlands	High	Tactical Basin Funding
Work with conservation groups in the region to develop a collaborative group, such as a Regional Conservation Partnership, that addresses connectivity on the regional level.	WRC/Conservation Groups	High	Private Foundations
Work with municipalities to update language and actions in town plans to promote forest connectivity	WRC/VT Fish & Wildlife Community Wildlife Program	High	Private Foundations

Energy			
Action	Lead/ Partners	Priority	Potential Funding/Resources
Work with organizations on the state and regional level to connect and educate municipalities, businesses and individuals to energy conservation and efficiency practices.	WRC/VECAN/VEIC/ Efficiency Vermont	High	State Funds
Promote the activities of organizations such as SEVCA, NeighborWorks and Heat Squad that provide technical support for weatherization.	WRC	High	State Funds
Support the establishment of Municipal Energy Committees and work with existing committees to advance energy programs in their communities	WRC/Municipalities	High	State Funds
Work with utilities and municipalities to identify and install energy resiliency measures	WRC/ Green Mountain Power/ Municipalities	High	Energy Resiliency Program
Support utilities in their advancement of smart grid technologies to allow energy consumers to make informed choices about their energy usage and expenditures by monitoring when they are using energy, how much they are using, and how much it costs.	WRC/Green Mountain Power	Medium	State Funds
Support requirements that utilities improve the efficiency of procedures and infrastructure and assist customers to conserve energy and reduce costs.	WRC/Public Service Department	Medium	State Funds
Promote programs which support a regional push to perform energy audits for all public buildings.	WRC/VT Building and General Services	High	MERP
Provide educational materials and workshops to inform towns, businesses, and residents on energy conservation practices and programs. These efforts can include tours of efficient buildings, hand-on conservation projects, and workshops on Vermont's Energy Building Codes.	WRC	High	State Funds

Energy (Cont.)

Action	Lead/ Partners	Priority	Potential Funding/Resources
Organize regular regional-wide knowledge sharing forums where organizations, towns, and individuals can bring strategies, innovations, and information about conservation and efficiency.	WRC	Medium	State Funds
Organize gatherings of Energy Committees in the region to promote sharing, collaboration and inspiration.	WRC	High	State Funds
Distribute educational information on: Energy conservation techniques; Energy-efficient products and weatherization programs; Available energy options and their respective impacts and costs; and Opportunities for energy diversification and locally based energy sources.	WRC/Efficiency Vermont	Medium	State Funds
Provide education to municipalities on state incentives for switching from fossil fuel to renewable, resilient and stable energy heating systems	WRC/Efficiency Vermont	High	State Funds
Work with BDCC to promote the benefits of energy conversion to renewable energy sources for businesses	WRC/BDCC	Medium	State Funds
Work with utility companies to harden existing utility lines, develop micro-grids and install battery back-up systems.	WRC/Green Mountain Power	High	Resiliency Zones Project
Encourage the State and Municipalities to enforce the State of Vermont Energy Building Codes for new construction.	WRC	Medium	State Funds
Work with municipalities to adopt language in Town Plans requiring new construction to adhere to Vermont Energy Building Codes.	WRC	High	State Funds
Encourage new development and the repurposing of existing structures to utilize strategies to increase energy efficiency, including consideration of transportation energy use, on-site generation and heating systems, and reuse/repurposing of existing structures.	WRC	Medium	State Funds

Energy (Cont.)

Action	Lead/ Partners	Priority	Potential Funding/Resources
Bring together government leaders at the local and state level as well as business leaders to discuss how to decrease the reliance on single-occupancy vehicle trips on the local level.	WRC/Vtrans	High	VTrans
Encourage the increased use of public transit and ride sharing/carpooling.	WRC/MOOver/ VTrans	High	VTrans
Facilitate the development of walking and biking infrastructure	WRC/VTrans	High	VTrans
Assist municipalities in amending zoning by-laws to include EV charging stations as an acceptable use.	WRC	High	Municipal Planning Grants/State Funds
Give developers an incentive for installing EV Chargers by scoring a project more favorably in the WRC Project Review process.	WRC	Medium	State Funds
WRC will assist Town Energy Committees in identifying potential solar sites within their community.	WRC	High	State Funds
Bring together stakeholders (such as Town Energy Committees, PUC, Solar Developers) to discuss how to encourage more renewable energy generation in the region.	WRC	High	State Funds
Work with the State, utility companies, and other energy suppliers to create a regional energy profile as a foundation for planning to meet future regional energy needs and to provide guidance on energy development in our member towns.	WRC	High	State Funds
Facilitate inter-town conversations about appropriately scaled and sited generation sources, which include consideration of the wishes of residents regarding the meaning of “appropriate” as expressed in their town plans. The WRC recognizes that host towns and abutting towns may have different goals in this area, and will use its best efforts to gain consensus and/or cooperation among them	WRC/Municipalities	Medium	State Funds

Energy (Cont.)

Action	Lead/ Partners	Priority	Potential Funding/Resources
Suggest to the State to create an At-the-Ready process for energy contractors.	WRC/State	Medium	State Funds
With regard to all energy generation, transmission, and distribution projects that come before WRC: Ask developers to conduct thorough and proper studies and analyses of all anticipated socioeconomic and environmental impacts, both positive and negative; Adequately address all areas of concern regarding proposed developments; effectively and adequately address all issues related to facility operation and reliability; and adhere to a high environmental standard that includes avoiding negative environmental impacts to the extent possible and adequately minimizing and mitigating those that cannot be avoided.	WRC	High	State Funds
Facilitate public participation as an integral part of the decision-making process for siting, evaluating, and relicensing energy generation, transmission, and distribution facilities and for electric utility deregulation.	WRC	High	State Funds
Pursue staff training opportunities in diversity, equity, and inclusion to enhance capacity to understand, analyze, and integrate equity considerations in all policies and programs.	WRC	High	State Funds
WRC will work towards creating a framework for consistently addressing issues of equity and justice across Regional and Municipal energy policies and plans	WRC	High	State Funds
Work with the State to collect the robust and reliable data required to better understand baseline and historical inequities, and to measure progress towards remediating them.	WRC/Public Service Department	Medium	State Funds

Transportation

Action	Lead/ Partners	Priority	Potential Funding/Resources
Assist towns with compliance and administration of the Municipal Roads General Permit to minimize stormwater runoff and road erosion	WRC/Municipalities	High	State Funds
Provide assistance to towns considering reclassification of state highways to Class 1 in downtowns and village centers	WRC/Municipalities	Medium	State Funds
Host Windham Region Road Formeans meetings or trainings on local areas of concern on a regular basis	WRC	High	State Funds
Assist towns to develop capital improvement plans that address maintenance needs for paved and gravel roads, bridges, and culverts and to identify potential funding sources	WRC/Municipalities	High	State Funds
Advocate for a more equitable distribution of bridge funding for small, rural towns in the region	WRC/Municipalities	High	State Funds
Provide technical assistance to towns to identify pedestrian and bicycle improvement projects and potential funding sources	WRC/Municipalities	High	State Funds
Advocate for the continued operation and expansion, where appropriate, of sand and gravel resources in the region to support town road infrastructure needs	WRC	Medium	State Funds
Assist Southeast Vermont Transit with developing strategies to increase ridership and advocate for the expansion of bus routes where feasible	WRC/SEVT	Medium	State Funds
Coordinate with regional planning agencies in adjacent states on transportation issues that span the state boundaries, including the Southwest Region Planning Commission in New Hampshire and Franklin Regional Council of Governments in Massachusetts	WRC	Medium	State Funds
Support the WRC Transportation Advisory Committee and hold regular meetings	WRC	High	State Funds
Support transportation planning studies and the completion of construction projects in member towns by serving in a Municipal Project Management, as requested	WRC/Municipalities	High	VTrans/Federal Grants, Town Funds
Complete traffic and speed counts for member towns to support local transportation planning	WRC/Municipalities	High	State Funds

Transportation (Cont.)

Action	Lead/ Partners	Priority	Potential Funding/Resources
Maintain and updated town highway maps and culvert inventories for member towns	WRC	High	State Funds
Coordinate with local officials, regional partners, and local, state, and federal agencies on transportation projects and initiatives	WRC	High	State Funds
Assist towns with addressing transportation management issues in local bylaws and ordinances, including access management and Class 4 road policies	WRC/Municipalities	High	State Funds, Town Funds
Collect data on the levels of bicycling and walking in downtowns and villages, shared use paths, and on-road locations to support local planning efforts	WRC/Municipalities	High	State Funds
Provide technical assistance to town to plan and implement temporary demonstration project to evaluate improvements such as walking, bicycling, transit access, and traffic flow	WRC/Municipalities	Medium	State Funds
Support efforts to incorporate electric vehicle charging infrastructure into park and ride lots, public parking lots, and other appropriate locations	WRC	Medium	State Funds