

Vermont Environmental Justice Law

Community Engagement Plan

Technical Assistance for Covered Agencies, 2026

Technical Assistance Phase 1

- **Purpose:** Provide covered agencies with the building blocks necessary to develop their Community Engagement Plans
- **Topics:**
 - Foundational values of community engagement
 - Statutory requirements for the Community Engagement Plan
 - Strategy and building buy-in
 - Developing a task group
 - Preparation for completing an agency-wide community engagement assessment
- **Timeline:** August – October
- **Dependency for next step:** Development of Community Engagement Plans must be underway at each agency

Technical Assistance Phase 2

- **Purpose:** Create environment for problem-solving and exploration of discrete obstacles
- **Topics:** To be identified based on the obstacles covered agencies face as they are beginning the development of their Community Engagement Plans. Examples could be:
 - Compensation
 - Rulemaking
 - Permitting
 - Grantmaking
- **Timeline:** November – January
- **Dependency for next step:** At least one strong and complete Community Engagement Plan draft has been developed at each agency

Consultation

- **Purpose:** To ensure that the Advisory Council has adequate opportunity to provide consultation and feedback on agency Community Engagement Plans, as per the VT EJ Law
- **Timeline:** February – June
- **Dependency for next step:** N/A – These steps will overlap

Coordinated Public Comment

- **Purpose:** To ensure that Vermonters have adequate opportunity to provide feedback on agency Community Engagement Plans – arranged in a way that mitigates burden and engagement fatigue
- **Timeline:** April - May
- **Dependency for next step:** Receive and apply public feedback
- **Note:** Responsiveness summary should be developed and released. This can happen after the release of the Community Engagement Plans depending on capacity

Community Engagement Plan Finalization

- **Purpose:** To publicly publish Community Engagement Plans from all covered agencies and ensure that agency staff are adequately informed of the completion of the Plans
- **Timeline:** July 1, 2027
- **Dependency for next step:** Completion

Technical Assistance Phase 3

- **Purpose:** To support covered agencies in the staff training and operationalization necessary to implement the Community Engagement Plans
- **Timeline:** July – perpetuity as needed
- **Dependency for next step:** N/A