

Recommendations	Status
<b>Pathway 25: Support compact settlement patterns that contribute to the reduction of GHG emissions, enhance community and built environment resilience, and help conserve natural and working lands.</b>	
<b>Strategy 25a: Increase investment in the infrastructure (sewer, water, stormwater, transportation, mixed-use development, housing, sidewalks, bike lanes, EV charging, broadband, energy supply) needed to support resilient, compact, walkable development.</b>	
Expand the eligibility of the existing downtown and village center tax credit programs to revitalize neighborhood housing in and around state designated centers.	Advancing (Action Modified)
Support public private partnerships to fund the design and construction of new infill housing in existing neighborhoods.	Advancing
Increase Municipal Planning Grant (MPG) funds to support physical planning and design, zoning modernization and bylaw adoption that creates housing growth opportunities and more housing choices.	Completed
Expand the existing downtown and village tax credit program eligibility to offset the cost to elevate or flood proof existing buildings located in areas with increased flood risks. Strengthen coordination with existing programs such as VEM.	No Action Taken
Increase investment in municipalities to improve, expand and build new drinking water and wastewater, stormwater, infrastructure to support compact development, including asset management tools to support long-term operation and maintenance.	More Information Needed
Establish a rolling planning grant for communities in need of consulting assistance to prepare Neighborhood Development Area (NDAs) applications. This designation works to align state and local regulations to increase housing options within compact centers.	Advancing
Increase capacity for multimodal transportation planning and implementation in downtown and designated areas, such as making village centers permanently eligible for the downtown transportation fund that builds infrastructure needed to increase walking, biking and transit.	More Information Needed
<b>25B: Update state and local land-use policies, regulations, and practices to remove barriers to compact settlement and improve coordination on land use and development planning and implementation across agencies, departments, municipalities, boards, commissions, and authorities.</b>	
Prioritize public funding for mixed-use developments near transit hubs in regional and rural centers.	Completed
Align development regulations and remove financial barriers to compact development in and around downtowns and village centers (i.e., Act 250, local zoning, aging infrastructure, etc.). Provide statewide guidance and incentivize housing in built up areas to encourage development away from open fields and forests, and river corridors.	Completed
If a statewide land use planning policy and implementation plan is authorized, explore creation of a State Planning Office and/or other potential structures within the executive branch to implement the Plan at the state level.	No Action Taken
Create an office of Strategic Investment and Coordination that supports achievement of land use planning goals by aligning and resolving conflicts in state and local regulations and funding and provides a permitting platform from both the customer and policy objective perspective.	No Action Taken
Continue to implement Act 181 and monitor for progress. Increase investment in compact settlements as needed.	Being Implemented
Hire a consultant to review and assess the state designation programs that recognize and support Vermont's compact settlement areas.	Completed
Encourage the Legislature to authorize the creation a multi-stakeholder committee process with funding to support the development of a statewide land use planning policy and implementation plan that guides development to growth areas, town centers, and appropriate rural locations, and limits the development within ecologically sensitive/risk-prone areas. The Legislature should clarify how and if this plan informs or directs land use planning, policy and regulation at the local, regional, and state level.	Completed
Connect existing programs with new and safe development across rural communities. Create a State-wide redevelopment authority to bank land, underwrite acceptable risk, address vacancy, and brownfields, improve building flood resilience in settled areas, and plan for new neighborhood development and infrastructure.	No Action Taken
Provide enhanced technical assistance and support to municipalities and regions, including outreach and education for landowners and community members, to develop and implement town plans intended to maintain forest blocks and connecting habitat as authorized by Act 171, and effective zoning and subdivision bylaws to maintain forest blocks and connecting habitat. Because forest and habitat blocks do not end at state and national boundaries, support engagement in interstate and bi-national forest block and habitat connectivity efforts such as the Staying Connected Initiative at both the state and regional levels.	Advancing
Update Act 250 to promote compact settlement by: i.waiving the mitigation fees for prime agricultural soils for alternative or community wastewater systems that will serve a state designated center. ii.removing the population-based caps on the Act 250 exemption for priority housing projects iii.including criteria that better address climate change, forest fragmentation and forest loss, to incentivize growth in the state's designated centers and better address the specific challenges to working lands enterprises; iv.updating its governance, staffing, public engagement, and the role of State Agency permits in the Act 250 process to create the enterprise capacity necessary to implement new climate related criteria and respond to future land use pressure from climate change and in-migration of climate refugees. v.removing Act 250 jurisdictional thresholds for housing development within and immediately adjacent to certain state designated centers to incentivize compact, dense settlement in areas with adequate local land use laws and existing infrastructure, reducing development pressures on open spaces such as greenfields and forested locations. These centers should grow in a manner by which walking and biking are preferred means of mobility, and mobility infrastructure should be designed for universal accessibility.	Completed
Amend Neighborhood Development Area (NDA) enabling statute to allow the inclusion of river corridors upon local adoption of River Corridor bylaws.	Completed
<b>Strategy 25c: Fund research, data collection and digital maps to provide insights on land use decisions in Vermont and the impact it can have on climate and resilience goals and outcomes.</b>	
Fund a study that quantifies the vehicle miles traveled and GHGs for both compact and dispersed areas of development as well as the co-benefits of compact centers.	Completed