

## Chapter 5: Goals, Policies and Implementation



This chapter comprises the actual Stowe Town Plan. Chapters one through four provide important background information and a framework for determining planning policies. The following goals, policies and implementation tasks form the basis of the plan.

For the purpose of the Stowe Town Plan:

**Goals** express broad, long-range community aspirations relative to one or more category of topics. They should be considered aspirational statements for the community.

**Policies** are statements of the town's intent, or position, with regard to specific issues or topics. In certain settings, such as Act 250 proceedings, policy statements will serve as the basis for determining a project's conformance with the Stowe Town Plan.

**Implementation Tasks** are specific actions that may be taken by identified entities to support one or more policy and achieve the community's goals. This implementation program is aspirational in nature and it is not anticipated that all of the suggested tasks will necessarily be undertaken during the five-year duration of this plan. Tasks that require an expenditure of Town funds will be vetted through the Town's normal budgeting process. Priorities for implementing the tasks are identified as ongoing, short-term (to be completed within one year of plan adoption), mid-term (2-5 years of adoption) and long-term (5+ years from adoption). The groups and/or individuals responsible for each task are identified. **Suggested partners that are not within town government are identified by an asterisk (\*).**

## Local Planning Process

Goal: To ensure the widespread involvement of Stowe citizens and property owners at all levels of the local planning and decision-making process.

### Policies

1. Opportunities for citizen input will be provided, and participation encouraged, at every stage of the planning and decision-making process and decision-making shall only occur in an open, public environment.
2. Statutory hearing requirements will be recognized as an absolute minimum level of public involvement, and will be exceeded in all instances where public interest is evident.
3. Public opinion will be solicited through the use of surveys and questionnaires on a regular basis.
4. Public forums, direct mailings, the Town's web page, electronic surveying and other Internet resources, and the Stowe Reporter will be used to inform the public of governmental activities on a regular basis.
5. The attitudes and opinions of Stowe's non-voting vacation homeowners will be solicited, to the extent practical, on matters of broad community concern.
6. Local land use regulations and related planning programs will be administered in a fair and consistent manner, and the Town Plan will be used as the key resource document regarding questions of interpretation or intent.
7. The Town Plan and related planning documents will be reviewed on an ongoing basis and amended as appropriate to address changing circumstances.

Local Planning Process Tasks	Responsibility	Priority
1. Maintain a database system to track key growth indicators on an annual basis, including but not limited to population, housing, employment, permit, grand list, energy consumption and seasonal occupancy data.	Planning Director	Ongoing
2. Evaluate growth projections for incorporation in the town's planning process and related policies and programs.	Planning Director Planning Commission	Ongoing
3. Update town ordinances and programs as appropriate, including but not limited to, zoning and subdivision regulations, public facility ordinances and policies, and the special events ordinance.	Planning Commission Planning Director Town Manager Selectboard	Ongoing

4. Annually revise and maintain a capital budget and program that schedules capital improvements in relation to anticipated growth, local development objectives, and available financing and considers the cost/benefit of energy-efficient projects.	Town Manager Selectboard Public Works Director Planning Director	Ongoing
5. Maintain active membership on the board of the Lamoille County Planning Commission to represent Stowe's interests in local and regional development and growth management initiatives, including the Lamoille County Regional Plan.	Selectboard Planning Commission Planning Director	Ongoing
6. Participate in Act 250 and other state regulatory proceedings as appropriate to ensure that town growth and development needs and limitations are adequately addressed, in conformance with the Stowe Town Plan.	Selectboard Planning Commission Planning Director	Ongoing
7. Appoint ad hoc committees as appropriate to advise the Selectboard on specific planning-related issues and projects.	Planning Commission Selectboard	Ongoing
8. Update the Stowe Town Plan at a minimum of every five years as required by state statute, or more often as circumstances dictate.	Planning Commission Planning Director Selectboard	Ongoing

## Economic Development

Goal: To support well-planned and orderly growth and diversification of Stowe's economy in a manner that is compatible with Stowe's identity as a four-season resort community and recreation destination with a traditional New England village.

### Policies

1. Compatible economic development, including the expansion of existing businesses, will be encouraged within Stowe Village and in other locally designated growth centers [Lower Village, Mountain Road Village (MRV), Mountain Road Crossroads (MRC), and Ski-PUD (Stowe Mountain Resort and Trapp Family Lodge)] through the town's development regulations and the provision of infrastructure.
2. The role of Stowe Village as a focal point for commercial activity will be reinforced through an integrated program of land use regulations, marketing, infrastructure improvements and community development projects in and around the village.
3. Stowe's continued development as a four season resort should be actively supported by the Town through public-private partnerships to the extent that such development enhances Stowe's economy, tax base, and the quality of life for all town residents, and does not adversely impact facilities and services, community character, or environmental quality.

4. The Stowe Mountain Resort expansion will continue to be supported to the extent that the development enhances Stowe's economy, tax base, and the quality of life for all town residents, and does not adversely impact facilities and services, community character, or environmental quality.
5. A balance between development at Stowe Mountain Resort and other existing commercial centers (Stowe Village, Lower Village, HT, MRV and MRC) will be maintained by:
  - a. Supporting Stowe Village as the civic, cultural, commercial and residential center of the community; and
  - b. Improving physical links (e.g., recreation path, public transit service) connecting Stowe Mountain Resort with Stowe Village, and other designated growth centers along the Mountain Road and Route 100.
6. Stowe's existing and future economic base should be strengthened and diversified through:
  - a. The enhancement of telecommunications and energy infrastructure to encourage the creation and relocation of businesses and professionals engaged in information-dependent technologies;
  - b. Ensuring the continued viability of businesses;
  - c. Support for home occupations, and compatible home-based businesses in appropriate locations;
  - d. The strengthening of resource-based enterprises (farming and forestry) through the protection of the resource base, the manufacture and marketing of value-added products, and the use of locally grown and manufactured products; and
  - e. The enhancement of renewable energy infrastructure.
  - f. Supporting the establishment of new businesses in appropriate locations.
7. Private initiatives to expand cultural events, and to create additional meeting, exhibit, performance and convention facilities, should be supported in Stowe Village and other locally designated growth centers (Lower Village, MRV, MRC, and Ski-PUD).
8. The Town will continue to make public facilities available for performance and exhibit space, and special events that benefit the Stowe community.
9. The Community Events Field on the Town-owned Mayo Farm will be maintained, and improved as needed, to serve as a venue for special events consistent with the Mayo Farm Management Plan and conservation easement.
10. Stowe will continue to serve as an economic and employment center for the region. Economic development initiatives will be coordinated with the efforts of the Stowe Area Association, the Lamoille Economic Development Corporation, the Lamoille County Chamber of Commerce, the Lamoille County Planning Commission, and other appropriate agencies and organizations.

11. The Town will encourage energy conservation, renewable energy development and environmental stewardship as economic development strategies.

<b>Economic Development Tasks</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Priority</b>
1. Maintain and improve the Town's infrastructure, including roads, town buildings, sidewalks, recreation paths and streetscape to attract visitors and businesses.	Selectboard Town Manager Public Works Director	Ongoing
2. Work with Stowe Vibrancy to continue to prioritize and implement the recommendations of the 2007 Stowe Village Vibrancy Report for the purpose of implementation.	Planning Commission Selectboard Town Manager Planning Director *Stowe Vibrancy	Ongoing
3. Apply for Downtown Designation under the state's Downtown Program once a permanent downtown organization is established.	Planning Director Planning Commission Selectboard	Short-term
4. Develop, in association with the Stowe Area Association and local businesses and nonprofits, a strategic plan for the accommodation and coordination of special events, and the provision of related facilities and services.	Planning Commission Conservation Commission Selectboard	Mid-term
5. Upgrade the Mayo Farm Community Events Field, as necessary, to be a viable location for special events.	Selectboard Public Works Director Conservation Commission	Mid-term
6. Update the special events ordinance as needed to manage peak demands for infrastructure and services.	Selectboard Town Manager	Ongoing
7. Support the expansion, improvement and more efficient use of existing town facilities by visitors and residents (e.g., the ice rink, recreation path, a possible community center in the village, other town lands).	Selectboard Recreation Commission Conservation Commission *Stowe Area Association	Ongoing
8. Identify and implement strategies for strengthening and promoting Stowe's resource-based industries, including farming, forestry and related activities as important components of the local economy.	Planning Commission Planning Director Conservation Commission	Mid-term
9. Consider revisions to the zoning regulations to support the redevelopment of existing properties with lodging facilities that are no longer economically viable.	Planning Commission Planning Director	Mid-term
10. Continue to create and maintain high quality promotional materials, including the municipal website, to attract visitors and businesses.	Town Manager Selectboard *Stowe Area Association	Ongoing
11. Work with the Town of Waterbury to enhance and promote the Green Mountain Byway (Route 100) for the traveling public.	Planning Commission Planning Director Conservation Commission *Town of Waterbury	Ongoing

## Housing

**Goal:** To ensure the availability of housing for all Stowe residents and vacation homeowners that is of high quality design, is energy efficient, and is compatible with the character of the community.

### **Policies**

1. The development of livable, affordable and energy efficient housing that meets the needs of diverse social and income groups, including elderly, low, and moderate income residents, will be supported under local development regulations.
2. A range of housing options, including owner-occupied, rental, seasonal, year-round, affordable and manufactured units will be accommodated to meet the needs of Stowe residents.
3. The development of higher density, multi-family housing, upper story residential development, and other affordable housing options in designated growth centers and other appropriate locations will be supported under local development regulations.
4. The Town will support financial incentives for the development of affordable housing in Stowe Village, Lower Village and other designated growth centers.
5. Residential development in and around Stowe Village, Lower Village and Moscow Village shall be developed at a scale, character and density consistent with existing neighborhoods and historic patterns of development.
6. Historic residential structures should be preserved and enhanced as feasible.
7. The conversion of residential dwellings to non-residential commercial uses in existing residential neighborhoods in the Village Residential and Rural Residential zoning districts will be discouraged.
8. The Town will work with developers and regional and state agencies to provide new affordable housing and senior housing opportunities in Stowe.
9. The Town will promote energy conservation technologies in new housing construction and in the renovation of existing housing.
10. The Town will partner with local energy committees to provide educational opportunities for homeowners to make their homes more energy efficient.

<b>Housing Tasks</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Priority</b>
1. Work with appropriate agencies and affected property owners to maintain the Town's existing subsidized housing units as affordable housing.	Selectboard	Ongoing
2. Incorporate in all updates of the town's wastewater allocation ordinance a fixed percentage of available capacity to be allocated to affordable housing projects.	Selectboard Town Manager Public Works Director	Ongoing
3. Update, as needed, existing land use regulations that support the creation of affordable housing, particularly in the Town's locally designated growth centers.	Planning Commission Planning Director	Ongoing
4. Identify financial incentives to encourage housing affordable to low and moderate income groups.	Town Manager Planning Director	Ongoing
5. Study the feasibility of converting municipal land in Stowe for housing.	Planning Director Planning Commission Selectboard	Mid-term
6. Review zoning regulations for opportunities to promote energy conservation in residential development.	Planning Commission Planning Director	Mid-term
7. Review zoning regulations for opportunities to promote the use of residential renewable energy resources.	Planning Commission Planning Director	Mid-term
8. Consider revisions to the zoning regulations to promote the construction of workforce housing.	Planning Commission Planning Director	Mid-term
9. Consider revisions to the zoning regulations to promote the construction of senior housing.	Planning Commission Planning Director	Mid-term
10. Work with land conservation organizations to consider conservation projects with an affordable housing component.	Planning Director Planning Commission Conservation Commission	Mid-term
11. Encourage the use of renewable energy systems for residential development, such as solar, wind and geothermal.	Planning Director Planning Commission Conservation Commission	Mid-term

## **Environmental Quality**

Goal: To preserve and enhance Stowe's natural resources, scenic landscape and environmental quality for the benefit of current and future residents and visitors.

### **Policies**

1. The Town will continue to support the efforts of land conservation organizations, including Stowe Land Trust, Vermont Land Trust and the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board, to identify and conserve lands of ecological, recreational, agricultural and scenic significance.
2. Water quality in local streams and rivers shall be protected and enhanced through:

- a. Maintenance and/or the establishment of vegetated buffers sufficient to protect water quality and fish habitat in rivers and streams;
  - b. Requiring that runoff and erosion are adequately controlled during all stages of development through the town's zoning and subdivision regulations;
  - c. Adopting Accepted Agricultural Practices (AAP's) for all farming activities on town-owned land, including the Mayo Farm;
  - d. Adopting "Acceptable Management Practices for Maintaining Water Quality on Logging Jobs in Vermont" (AMP's) for all forestry activities on town-owned land, including Sterling Forest.
  - e. Restricting development in the Flood Hazard and Fluvial Erosion Hazard districts primarily to recreation and agricultural land uses, with the exception of those activities related to the maintenance and continued use of existing structures;
  - f. Continuing to support the Lamoille County Planning Commission, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the Agency of Natural Resources, Stowe Land Trust and other organizations in their efforts to improve riparian areas, restore water quality and improve fishery habitat in Stowe's rivers and streams;
  - g. Continued administration of the Town's flood hazard regulations, to be updated as needed to maintain eligibility in the National Flood Insurance Program; and
  - h. Continued administration of the town's Fluvial Erosion Hazard Overlay District to limit development in erosion-prone areas.
3. Development within water supply source protection areas shall be carefully designed to prevent adverse impacts to groundwater resources.
  4. Development should be designed to prevent the destruction of important natural resources (including wetlands, floodplains, unique geologic features, prime agricultural soils and slopes in excess of 25%).
  5. Critical wildlife habitat, including but not limited to deer wintering areas, rare and/or endangered species habitat, local fisheries, critical bear habitat and identified travel corridors, should be protected from inappropriate development and land management activities.
  6. Development on steep slopes, hillsides and ridgelines should be carefully controlled to avoid adverse impacts on scenic resources, water quality and public safety.
  7. Publicly owned natural areas should be retained in public ownership and managed for the long-term health and well being of the relevant ecological resources.
  8. The Town will work in partnership with neighboring communities to preserve and enhance shared natural and scenic resources.
  9. The extraction of earth resources, including sand, gravel and stone, shall be conducted in a manner that minimizes potential conflicts with properties in the vicinity, avoids adverse impacts to ground and surface water quality, and shall include plans for the restoration of extraction sites.

<b>Environmental Quality Tasks</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Priority</b>
1. Continue to prioritize and implement the recommendations of the 2007 West Branch Corridor Management Plan.	Planning Director Conservation Commission	Ongoing
2. Assist in the development of a Corridor Management Plan for the main stem of the Little River.	Planning Director Conservation Commission *ANR *LCPC	Short-term
3. Participate in the preparation of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Winooski Basin Watershed Plan.	Conservation Commission Planning Director	Mid-term
4. Evaluate existing stormwater management facilities in Stowe Village and identify structural improvements that would enhance water quality through better stormwater collection and treatment.	Public Works Director Sewer Commission	Mid-term
5. Work with private landowners to protect and enhance vegetated stream buffers along the town's watercourses.	Conservation Commission, Planning Commission, Planning Director	Ongoing
6. Maintain a critical wildlife habitat inventory to anticipate and avoid possible conflicts between development and/or land management activities and wildlife habitat.	Planning Director Planning Commission Conservation Commission *Stowe Land Trust	Short-term
7. Continue to review proposed subdivisions to determine the potential impact on natural resources and wildlife habitat.	Zoning Director Development Review Board	Ongoing
8. Continue to maintain, and update as appropriate, a wetlands inventory for the town.	Planning Director, Conservation Commission	Ongoing
9. Update source protection plans for municipal groundwater supplies every three years.	Public Works Director Planning Director Water Commission	Ongoing
10. Consider the adoption of a Source Protection Overlay District within the zoning regulations to control inappropriate development within the municipal source protection areas.	Planning Commission Planning Director Selectboard	Mid-term
11. Participate in the preparation and update of management plans for the Mansfield and Putnam State Forests as appropriate.	Conservation Commission Planning Director	Ongoing
12. Update management plans for Sterling Forest, Mayo Farm, Sunset Rock and other town-owned properties at least every five years.	Planning Director, Conservation Commission *Stowe Land Trust	Ongoing
13. Prepare management plans for other town-owned properties including the Moscow Recreation Fields and the Macutchan Forest.	Planning Director Conservation Commission, *Stowe Land Trust	Mid-term
14. Continue to administer the Ridgeline & Hillside Overlay District (RHOD), and review its administration and effectiveness to consider the need for improvement.	Director of Planning Zoning Director Development Review Board	Ongoing

15. Implement street tree planting and maintenance programs for Stowe Village, Lower Village, Moscow and along the Mountain Road, and support the preparation of similar programs for other designated growth centers and highway corridors as appropriate.	Conservation Commission Planning Director Tree Warden	Ongoing
16. Continue to explore methods for controlling invasive species, with particular emphasis on knotweed, and prioritize areas for invasive species eradication.	Conservation Commission Planning Director *Stowe Land Trust	Short-term
17. Continue to support Stowe school programs that provide environmental education opportunities to students.	Conservation Commission Planning Director	Ongoing
18. Participate with the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife with local implementation of the agency's Wildlife Action Plan.	Conservation Commission Planning Director *Stowe Land Trust	Ongoing

## Working Landscape

Goal: To preserve Stowe's rural character, cultural heritage, scenic landscape and historic working farms, managed forestlands and maple sugaring operations.

### Policies

1. The economic viability of agriculture and forestry in Stowe will be maintained by:
  - a. Maintaining tax stabilization agreements for working farms;
  - b. Encouraging local participation in the Vermont Current Use Program to support the viability and maintenance of farm and forest land;
  - c. Encouraging the creation of local businesses that provide a market for locally produced agricultural and forestry products; and
  - d. Promoting opportunities for the public to purchase local agricultural and forest products through farmers markets, community gardens, farm stands and community supported agriculture.
  
2. An adequate land base to support present and future forestry and agricultural activities will be maintained through:
  - a. The transfer of development rights from designated sending areas to appropriate receiving areas inside growth centers;
  - b. Encouraging the clustering of residential development, related to the subdivision of existing farm, forest land and open space, to facilitate the preservation of open space and keep productive land without reducing allowable density; and,
  - c. Supporting a viable commercial recreation industry to encourage seasonal diversification and multiple uses of farm and forestland.

3. Sterling Forest and other Town-owned forests will be managed for sustainable timber harvesting operations in accordance with approved forest management plans.

<b>Working Landscape Tasks</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Priority</b>
1. Provide educational opportunities for landowners regarding the tools, techniques and resources to produce their own food and manage their forest resources.	Conservation Commission Planning Director *Stowe Land Trust	Mid-term
2. Consider, in consultation with affected landowners, expanding the Meadowland Overlay District and associated Transfer of Development Rights program to include lands not currently designated as meadowland, including farmland located in the Route 100 corridor.	Planning Director Planning Commission	Mid-term
3. Work with Stowe Land Trust and other conservation organizations to conserve productive farm and forestland.	Planning Director Conservation Commission *Stowe Land Trust	Ongoing
4. Consider revisions to subdivision and zoning regulations to require the preparation and implementation of forest and/or farm management plans when large lots are set aside as open space or otherwise created as part of a local subdivision or zoning approval.	Planning Director Planning Commission Conservation Commission	Mid-term
5. Support the continued operation of a seasonal farmers market.	Planning Commission Conservation Commission *Stowe Area Association	Ongoing
6. Explore the possibility of operating a year-round farmers market in Stowe.	Conservation Commission *Stowe Area Association	Mid-term
7. Support the continued use of the Community Gardens at Mayo Farm.	Conservation Commission Recreation Commission	Ongoing
8. Revenues from timber harvesting, leasing of agricultural lands and related management activities on town-owned land will be used for expenses associated with the stewardship of those properties.	Selectboard Conservation Commission	Ongoing
9. Consider options for providing firewood to low income households from timber harvested from town forests.	Selectboard Conservation Commission	Mid-term

## Settlement Pattern

Goal: To preserve Stowe's historic settlement pattern and scenic resources, defined by compact villages surrounded by rural countryside.

### Policies

1. Stowe Village, Lower Village, Mountain Road Village (MRV), Mountain Road Crossroads (MRC) and designated Ski-PUDs (Stowe Mountain Resort and Trapp Family Lodge) are designated as municipal growth centers for the purposes of all planning, land use regulations and associated programs.
2. Stowe Village will be maintained and enhanced as the civic, cultural, commercial and residential center of the community through:
  - a. Encouraging high density, mixed-use development, including in-fill development that reflects the village's historic scale and pattern and protects the residential character of existing residential neighborhoods;
  - b. Supporting the Centre Village Master Plan concept, provided that residential development is designed to reflect a traditional village neighborhood pattern and scale, and is well integrated with the historic village;
  - c. Encouraging the location of civic, educational, recreational and cultural facilities in the Stowe Village;
  - d. Ensuring that new construction and the renovation of existing structures is designed in a manner that is compatible and harmonious with historic building styles, patterns and scale;
  - e. Maintaining public facilities and services, including public buildings, roads, sidewalks, streetscape, parking, public restrooms, recreation paths and utilities.
3. The village character and economic vitality of the Lower Village will be maintained and enhanced through:
  - a. Encouraging high density, mixed-use development in a traditional village pattern, while preventing site design characteristic of strip development (as defined in the Town's zoning regulations);
  - b. Ensuring that new construction and the renovation of existing structures is designed in a manner that is compatible and harmonious with historic building styles, patterns and scale;
  - c. Strengthening physical connections to Stowe Village, including road and sidewalk connections;
  - d. Encouraging the continued use of small lots and buildings consistent with the historic development patterns.
4. The economic vitality of the Mountain Road Village and Mountain Road Crossroads will be maintained in a manner that supports village-scale development and high standards for site design through:

- a. Encouraging high density, mixed-use development that reflects a traditional village pattern and scale with individual sites that are well integrated into adjacent parcels;
  - b. Providing public facilities, including streetscape improvements, sidewalks and infrastructure improvements to support the desired density and pattern of development.
5. The rural character of the Upper Mountain Road zoning district will be maintained by:
  - a. Allowing residential development and limited commercial uses along the majority of the corridor;
  - b. Discouraging new development from being sited in remaining open fields and meadowlands within the corridor; and
  - c. Preventing site design characteristic of strip development.
6. The historic character and small scale of Moscow Village will be maintained by ensuring that new development is compatible with Moscow's residential setting, scale, and unique character as a traditional New England mill village.
7. Stowe's scenic landscape and rural character will be protected by:
  - a. The careful siting of residential development to avoid placement in highly visible locations on hillsides and ridgelines, or on open meadows and productive farmland;
  - b. Ensuring that commercial and mixed-use development is designed in a manner that is compatible with the historic context of the setting;
  - c. Requiring that development be adequately landscaped and screened, and that street trees be established along well-traveled village roads; and
  - d. Encouraging the clustering of buildings in residential developments, to conserve open spaces and scenic areas, through the Town's Planned Unit Development regulations.
8. The economic vitality of existing year-round resort facilities associated with Stowe Mountain Resort and Trapp Family Lodge (Ski-PUDs) will be supported, while protecting significant tracts of open space, by:
  - a. Allowing for the expansion of existing resort facilities and associated tourist and recreation amenities to support the ongoing operation of four-season resorts; and
  - b. Requiring the designation of specific "growth nodes" within the Ski-PUD, and the associated preservation of open space.
9. The Town will support and encourage efforts to maintain and renovate historic structures, as defined by the Stowe Zoning Regulations.
10. A high quality of development and site design will be maintained throughout the town through:
  - a. Strict application of landscaping and site design guidelines;

- b. Requiring that development is compatible with the context and setting in which it occurs (e.g. development in village should reflect traditional village scale and pattern); and
  - c. Avoiding excessive outdoor displays and the proliferation of oversized signs.
11. The establishment and continued vitality of moderate density residential neighborhoods in appropriate locations within the town’s Rural Residential Districts (RR-1 and RR-2) will be supported through:
- a. Encouraging concentrated residential development in appropriate locations, where the capacity of the land and public facilities and services can accommodate higher densities; and
  - b. Requiring that residential neighborhoods be integrated with adjacent development and existing designated growth centers through road and pedestrian pathway connections where practical.
12. The rural character of Stowe’s residential countryside, designated as RR-3 and RR-5, will be maintained by:
- a. Ensuring that land subdivision is carefully designed to avoid, to the extent practical, adverse impacts to natural resources, productive farmland and other features which help define the town’s rural character and working landscape;
  - b. The careful siting and landscaping of development on steep slopes, hillsides and ridgelines; and
  - c. Limiting land uses to moderate to low density residential development, farming and forestry, outdoor recreation and home occupations.
13. The extension of roads, sidewalks/pathways, utilities and associated infrastructure will be configured in a manner that promotes the purpose of the district within which they are located, supports the integration of contiguous parcels and the logical extension of such facilities beyond parcel boundaries.
14. The Town will continue to preserve the rural qualities of the Route 100 corridor north and south of Stowe Village as scenic gateways into the Town.
15. The Town will work cooperatively with other neighboring communities to support traditional compact settlement patterns, rural landscapes and open spaces and to prevent the negative impact of sprawl and strip development along major corridors in and around Stowe, especially along Route 100 from Waterbury to Morristown.

<b>Settlement Pattern Tasks</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Priority</b>
1. Work with Stowe Vibrancy to prioritize and evaluate the recommendations of the 2007 Stowe Village Vibrancy Report for the purpose of implementation.	Planning Commission Selectboard Town Manager *Stowe Vibrancy	Ongoing
2. Participate in Act 250 proceedings in support of locally approved development projects in the town’s designated growth centers (Stowe Village, Lower Village, the MRV, MRC, and Ski-PUD’s) provided that those projects are in	Planning Commission Planning Director Selectboard	Ongoing

compliance with the goals and policies of the Stowe Town Plan.		
3. Continue to review development standards and densities for the towns designated growth centers to ensure that the Town's goals for these growth centers are being met.	Planning Commission Planning Director	Ongoing
4. Continue to review and update the town's zoning and subdivision regulations to ensure compliance with the Stowe Town Plan and revisions to state statutes concerning planning and zoning.	Planning Commission Planning Director	Ongoing
5. Continue to administer and amend as appropriate, zoning regulations pertaining to the Stowe Historic Overlay District and alterations to historic buildings.	Planning Commission Planning Director Historic Preservation Com. DRB	Ongoing
6 Consider rezoning certain areas within the RR-5 zoning district to larger lot zoning.	Planning Commission Planning Director	Mid-term
7. Continue to update as appropriate, the Stowe Village Historic District, the Moscow Village Historic District and the State Historic Sites Survey for the Town of Stowe.	Planning Commission Planning Director Historic Preservation Com.	Ongoing
8. Consider nominating the Lower Village State Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places.	Historic Preservation Com. Planning Director Selectboard	Mid-term
9. Consider density reductions in PUD's for land that could not be developed to the maximum allowed density in a traditional subdivision because of environmental constraints such as wetlands, flood hazard areas and steep slopes.	Planning Commission Planning Director	Mid-term

## Education

Goal: To provide a comprehensive educational experience for all students through a variety of academic, athletic, social, cultural and community activities so that they learn to communicate effectively, to value themselves and others, to make informed choices and to contribute to society.

### Policies

1. Opportunities for quality education will be provided for all Stowe students in relation to anticipated enrollment, associated costs, required standards, and available funding for education.
2. The Town will continue to support the efforts of the Stowe School Board to identify and evaluate local education financing options.
3. The Town will plan for anticipated future demand on educational services and facilities to accommodate future growth in population.
4. The Town will support broadened access to educational, vocational and distant learning opportunities, including educational programs and initiatives of local organizations, to the extent feasible.
5. Town educational facilities will continue to be made available for public meetings, recreation, entertainment and special events to the extent that these do not interfere with educational programs.

Education Tasks	Responsibility	Priority
1. Develop enrollment projections, and annually monitor school enrollments in relation to facility and program capacities.	School Board	Ongoing
2. Conduct a capacity analysis of school facilities in order to accommodate projected enrollments and maximize staff efficiencies.	School Board	Ongoing
3. Review new housing development for its potential impact on the school system.	Development Review Board	Ongoing
4. Consider, in association with the Stowe School Board, municipal options for education financing and/or restructuring, including but not limited to joint purchasing programs, the transfer or privatization of some services and facilities and impact fees as authorized by statute.	Selectboard	Ongoing
5. Inventory educational capital needs for inclusion in a comprehensive capital budget and program.	School Board	Ongoing

6. Develop interactive distance-learning programs in partnership with other organizations.	School Board	Ongoing
7. Explore options for conversion to biomass energy systems and other alternative energy sources in public school buildings, using local fuel sources where economically feasible.	School Board	Mid-term
8. Continue to support Stowe school programs that provide environmental education opportunities to students.	Conservation Commission Planning Director	Ongoing
9. Continue to support and enhance educational opportunities for all Stowe students through fundraising activities to supplement the school budget.	*Stowe Education Fund	Ongoing

## Health and Human Services

Goal: To ensure access to high quality health and human services for all Stowe residents.

### A. Policies

1. Health and human services should be delivered locally to those in need to the extent feasible.
2. Affordable public transportation should be provided as appropriate to ensure access to services located in other communities for Stowe's elderly and low-income populations.
3. Assisted living services and facilities should be permitted locally as needed to allow Stowe's elderly and disabled populations to remain independent, in their own homes, and in the community.
4. The development of day care facilities, group homes, and other facilities and services will be supported in appropriate locations under local regulations and ordinances.
5. Health and social services open to the general public should be centrally located in Stowe Village and/or other designated growth centers, on public transit routes.
6. The Town will continue to support, through annual appropriations, the efforts of regional health and human service providers in relation to local demand and the availability of funds.

<b>Health and Human Service Tasks</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Priority</b>
1. Work with service providers to promote and sustain the local delivery of services, including, but not limited to, the West Branch Meal Site, Lamoille County Food Share and the Morrisville Shopper Shuttle.	Selectboard Town Manager Planning Director *Service Providers	Ongoing
2. Re-evaluate community service appropriations annually in relation to local demand, the local delivery of services, and program cost effectiveness.	Selectboard Town Manager	Ongoing

## **Public Safety**

Goal: To ensure the public's safety and quality of life by providing a high level of police, fire and rescue services in an efficient and cost effective manner.

### **Policies**

1. Emergency services will be provided at appropriate levels of service, as determined by locally defined needs and generally accepted standards for communities comparable to Stowe.
2. The Town will plan for anticipated future demand for services and facilities to accommodate future population growth.
3. Efficiencies will be maximized through greater coordination and integration of local emergency services, and ongoing coordination with regional service providers.

<b>Public Safety Tasks</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Priority</b>
1. Continue to participate in cooperative dispatch services with the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department.	Police Department Selectboard	Ongoing
2. Continue to provide mutual aid service with the Morristown and Waterbury fire departments.	Fire Department	Ongoing
3. Maintain a replacement schedule for emergency response vehicles and equipment.	Selectboard Town Manager	Ongoing
4. Continue to replace undersized water mains when possible to improve firefighting capabilities.	Fire Department Public Works Director	Ongoing
5. Monitor staffing and volunteer levels for both the fire department and rescue service to identify possible shortages of volunteers in future years.	Fire Department Emergency Medical Services	Ongoing

6. Review existing emergency service and emergency response standards included in local land use and development regulations (e.g. subdivision regulations) and make revisions as appropriate to ensure that adequate fire protection facilities (hydrants, water supplies) and provision for emergency vehicle access are required for new development.	Planning Director Planning Commission Public Works Director Fire Department Emergency Medical Services	Ongoing
7. Work with the Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC) to coordinate emergency planning with neighboring communities.	Planning Commission Planning Director Public Works Director Fire Department Police Department Emergency Medical Services LCPC*	Ongoing
8. Adopt road and driveway standards, as well as water supply standards, in the town’s zoning and subdivision regulations to ensure the fire department’s ability to provide fire protection for all new development.	Planning Commission Planning Director Fire Department	Mid-term

## Recreation

Goal: To provide a diversity of quality recreational activities, facilities and programs for Stowe’s residents and visitors.

### Policies

1. The Town will plan for anticipated future demand on recreational services and facilities to accommodate future growth in population and visitors.
2. The Town will seek to expand current levels of service and types of facilities, including the following:
  - a. Additional trails and trail-related facilities;
  - b. Upgraded recreation facilities and ballfields;
  - c. Recreation programs; and
  - d. Extensions of the Stowe Recreation Path.
3. Recreation facilities will be maintained and improved in accordance with facility management plans (e.g. Mayo Farm Management Plan; Moscow Recreation Field Management Plan, Sterling Forest Management Plan) as prepared by the Conservation Commission and/or Recreation Commission.
4. The Mayo Farm Community Events Field will be maintained, and upgraded as necessary, for special events and will be used for recreation during non-event periods.

5. The Town will continue to allow snowmobile access to town properties and town roads in appropriate locations.
6. Recreation facilities, including trails, pathways, playgrounds, conservation areas, water access, etc., should be incorporated as features of new development projects and remain open to the public.
7. Memorial Park and its associated facilities will serve as the focus of recreational activities in Stowe Village.
8. The Town will work to increase awareness of the recreational resources within the community.
9. The Town of Stowe will continue to serve as the region's premier outdoor sports destination.
10. The Town will retain ownership of its Class 4 roads as important recreational resources.

<b>Recreation Tasks</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Priority</b>
1. Explore possible extensions of the Recreation Path, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Extending the path from Chase Park to the High School;</li> <li>b. Extending the path to the Polo Fields;</li> <li>c. Extending the path from its start to the Lower Village and River Road;</li> <li>d. The extension of the path from the Lower Village to the Moscow Recreation Field, and</li> <li>e. In partnership with the Mount Mansfield Company, extending the path from Spruce Peak to the existing terminus.</li> </ol>	Planning Commission Planning Director Recreation Commission Parks & Rec Director Conservation Commission Public Works Director *Stowe Mt. Resort	Mid-term to Long-term
2. Explore options for the creation of future additional ball fields.	Recreation Commission Parks & Rec Director Conservation Commission Public Works Director	
3. Construct a shelter at the Mayo Farm recreation fields for the safety of participating users of the area.	Recreation Commission Parks & Rec Director Public Works Director	Mid-term
4. Develop a comprehensive map and brochure of the recreational resources within the town.	Conservation Commission Planning Director Recreation Commission Parks & Rec Director	Short-term

<p>5. Enhance and expand recreation programs with an emphasis on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Teen centered activities including space for non-programmed use;</li> <li>b. Seniors centered activities including space for non-programmed use;</li> <li>c. Adult centered activities;</li> <li>d. Pre-school centered activities;</li> <li>e. Continued Elementary aged programming;</li> <li>f. Attention to increased public awareness through planned public relations and printed brochures and flyers for distribution;</li> <li>g. Plan and execute seasonal community events (e.g. A” Summer Family Night Out in the Park”)</li> </ul>	<p>Recreation Commission Parks &amp; Rec Director</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>6. Renovate or replace the Jackson Ice Arena to serve as a high quality venue for ice-skating and hockey.</p>	<p>Public Works Director Parks &amp; Rec Director *Friends of Jackson Arena</p>	<p>Mid-term</p>
<p>7. Complete the Memorial Park Master Plan.</p>	<p>Public Works Director Parks &amp; Rec Director Planning Director</p>	<p>Short-term</p>
<p>8. Decide whether to sell, respectfully salvage or otherwise dispose of the so-called “Rotary Barn” (1839 former Second Congregational Church) or to rehabilitate it for a specific use.</p>	<p>Selectboard</p>	<p>Short-term</p>
<p>9. Enhance in-town hiking trails (including Mayo Farm and Sunset Rock) to include signage, grooming, and maintenance.</p>	<p>Conservation Commission Planning Director Recreation Commission Parks &amp; Rec Director</p>	<p>Mid-term</p>
<p>10. Enhance the Recreation Path for year-round use including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Developing groomed XC ski trails on some sections where possible;</li> <li>b. Providing for delineated snowshoe areas</li> <li>c. Creating adequate signage to delineate use and directions; and</li> <li>d. Exploring the installation of low impact subtle ground lighting for evening usage.</li> </ul>	<p>Recreation Commission Parks &amp; Rec Director, Public Works Director</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>11. Support the efforts of local public and private organizations working to enhance the recreational assets within the community, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Working with VAST and the Stowe Snowmobile Club to re-establish the Route 100 corridor through the Town; and</li> <li>b. Supporting the Stowe Mountain Bike Club in their efforts regarding the Stowe Bike Park and maintaining and building recreational trails.</li> </ul>	<p>Recreation Commission Parks &amp; Rec Director Planning Commission Planning Director Public Works Director</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

12. Explore the possibility of building restrooms at Tobe Reed Park.	Recreation Commission Public Works Director Parks & Rec Director Planning Director	Mid-term
13. Explore possible enhancements to the Moscow Recreation Field including: a. Improvement of the ball fields; b. Providing access to the Little River by an enhanced walking path with signage; c. Building a picnic shelter with fireplaces; d. Installing playground equipment; e. Installing enclosed portable or composting toilets as restroom facilities; and f. Eradicating knotweed along the bank of the Little River and planting a vegetated buffer.	Conservation Commission Recreation Commission Parks & Rec Director Planning Director	Mid-term to Long-term
14. Explore possible uses and enhancements for Palisades Park.	Conservation Commission Recreation Commission Parks & Rec Director Planning Director	Mid-term
15. Explore the possibility of reclassifying the Town's Class 4 roads as Town Trails where appropriate.	Selectboard Planning Director	Short-term
16. Conduct an analysis of town highways for possible designation as local scenic highways.	Planning Director Planning Commission Conservation Commission Public Works Director	Mid-term
17. Explore the feasibility of constructing a town pond or lake for boating, fishing and swimming.	Selectboard Town Manager Planning Director	Mid-term
18. Review and update, on a regular basis, management plans for public recreation facilities and properties.	Parks & Rec Director Planning Director	Ongoing

## Arts and Culture

Goal: To actively promote local arts and culture, to the benefit of Stowe area residents, visitors, and businesses; and to continue to serve as a regional center for the arts.

### Policies

1. Private initiatives to expand cultural events and facilities, and to create additional meeting, exhibit and performance space in designated growth centers, including Stowe Village, will be supported by the town through its development regulations.
2. Municipal facilities will be made available for special events, exhibits, and use by area arts organizations as appropriate, based on availability, capacity, and associated costs.

3. New space or facilities for the performing arts and special events should be developed as feasible, in relation to existing and projected demand, within designated growth centers.
4. The town will continue to support the Stowe Free Library, the Stowe Theater Guild, Stowe Performing Arts and the Stowe Historical Society.
5. The construction or substantial renovation of public buildings, parks and public spaces, should incorporate as part of the overall budget expenditure for public art.
6. Stowe’s cultural resources, including its historic sites, buildings, monuments, and resources, should be preserved and maintained for present and future Stowe residents; adaptive reuse of historic structures will be encouraged as appropriate under local regulations
7. New public buildings should be sited, designed and built to reflect their monumental place within, and long-term importance to the community.

<b>Arts and Culture Tasks</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Priority</b>
1. Create a Stowe Arts and Cultural Council to promote investment in local arts organizations.	Selectboard *Arts and Culture community	Short-term
2. Evaluate the capacity and improvement needs of municipal facilities, as part of the development of facility plans, for their use by area arts associations for special events and programs.	Selectboard	Short-term
3. Evaluate, in association with the local arts and business communities, the feasibility of developing a center for the performing arts, to be located in Stowe Village, or another designated growth center.	Stowe Arts and Cultural Council Planning Commission	Mid-term
4. Support the Stowe Free Library’s long-range plan, including improved access to the collections, an increase in the number of books and other media available for lending, improved lighting, and increased financing through fund-raising and grants.	Stowe Free Library Selectboard	Ongoing
5. Work with the Recreation Department and Stowe School District to provide after school programs at the Stowe Free Library.	Stowe Free Library	Ongoing

## Cemeteries

Goal: To provide adequate, well maintained cemetery space to accommodate future demand.

### Policies

1. The Cemetery Commission will provide a well-maintained setting for the interment and commemoration of the dead and for the comfort and inspiration of the bereaved and the general public.
2. Stowe's cemeteries will be enhanced and maintained in accordance with any management plans prepared by the Stowe Cemetery Commission and approved by the Stowe Selectboard.

<b>Cemetery Tasks</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Priority</b>
1. Review and/or prepare management plans for each of Stowe's town-owned cemeteries.	Selectboard Cemetery Commission	Ongoing
2. Review applications for Private Residential Cemeteries and make recommendations to the DRB.	Cemetery Commission	Ongoing
3. Prepare and maintain a plot map for the Riverbank Cemetery.	Cemetery Commission	Short-term
4. Continue to administer, and update as appropriate, Cemetery Rules and Regulations	Cemetery Commission	Ongoing
5. Prepare a brochure of Stowe cemeteries as a resource for residents and visitors.	Cemetery Commission Planning Director SHPC	Mid-term
6. Explore options and possible funding sources for renovating the "Hearse House" at the Old Yard Cemetery or another suitable facility for displaying historic objects.	Cemetery Commission Planning Director SHPC	Long-term
7. Expand the Riverbank Cemetery to accommodate future demand.	Cemetery Commission	Long-term

## **Transportation**

Goal: To provide an efficient, cost effective, multi-modal transportation network that provides for the needs of Stowe's residents and visitors.

### **Policies**

1. The Town will provide a range of transportation options, including roads, public transit and bicycle and pedestrian facilities, to accommodate Stowe's current and anticipated effective population.
2. The Town will plan for anticipated future demand on transportation services and facilities to accommodate future population growth.
3. Class 1 and 2 roads will be maintained and upgraded, as needed, to promote the efficient movement of traffic within and through town, without undermining the historic character and pedestrian safety in designated growth centers.
4. Class 3 roads will be maintained and upgraded, as needed, to accommodate current and anticipated traffic volumes, while maintaining the unique character of the town's residential neighborhoods and rural areas.
5. The Town will retain ownership of its Class 4 roads as important recreational resources.
6. The Vermont State Standards for the Design of Transportation Construction, Reconstruction and Rehabilitation on Freeways, Roads and Streets, dated October 1997 and prepared by the Agency of Transportation, shall serve as the town's standards for maintenance and upgrade of public roads.
7. Stowe Village will serve as the multi-modal transportation hub of the community.
8. A level of service "F" at peak periods has been determined by the town to be an acceptable level of service at the Route 100/108 intersection in Stowe Village.
9. Outside of the VC-10 zoning district, adequate parking shall be provided to meet the parking demand generated by new development.
10. Within the VC-10 zoning district, the Town will seek to provide adequate public parking to avoid the inefficient use of private property associated with on-site parking.
11. Traffic calming improvements should be incorporated, as appropriate, along major roads in existing village centers, including along Route 100, Route 108 and Moscow Road.

12. The creation of excessively long dead-end roads should be avoided.
13. New roads within and adjacent to village centers should be incorporated into an interconnected network of roads.
14. Regional solutions to traffic management and transportation issues should be coordinated through active local participation on the LCPC Transportation Advisory Committee and the Vermont Agency of Transportation.
15. Historic and scenic features located within the rights-of-way of Stowe’s scenic roads, should be protected.
16. Landscaping and islands should be incorporated in the design of parking lots and the location of parking lots at the rear of buildings should be encouraged, where possible.
17. The Town will continue to support extensions of the Stowe Recreation Path.
18. The Town will continue to financially support local public transportation through its operational budget and continually work towards improving service and increasing ridership.
19. The Mountain Road Shuttle should be extended to provide summertime service.
20. The use of public transportation and non-motorized forms of transportation will be encouraged in an effort to reduce pollution and greenhouse gasses.

<b>Transportation Tasks</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Priority</b>
1. Continue to evaluate traffic conditions at the following intersections for potential intersection improvements: a. Route 100/108 b. Mountain Rd./Luce Hill Rd. c. Route 100/Weeks Hill Rd. d. Route 100/Moscow Rd. e. Route 100/Stagecoach Rd. f. Route 100/Randolph Rd.	Public Works Director Planning Commission Planning Director Selectboard Police Chief	Ongoing
2. Continue to identify and prioritize roadways for study and improvement.	Public Works Director Planning Commission Selectboard	Ongoing
3. Through the town’s development regulations and driveway (curb-cut) policy, continue to carefully control access to public roads in accordance with appropriate standards.	Public Works Director Planning Director Planning Commission	Ongoing
4. Continue to use the MicroPAVER road pavement maintenance management system, or equivalent, to better manage road maintenance activities.	Public Works Director *VTrans	Ongoing

5. Through the town's subdivision regulations, consider opportunities for proposed development roads to connect to contiguous existing or planned roads.	Planning Commission Director of Planning	Ongoing
6. Continue to administer and enforce the Stowe Scenic Road Ordinance, and maintain designated scenic roads in accordance with approved scenic road maintenance plans.	Public Works Director	Ongoing
7. Create a Class 4 road policy.	Public Works Director Selectboard	Mid-term
9. Continue to prioritize and implement the recommendations of the Route 100 Corridor Management Plan and the Route 100 Access Management Plan.	Planning Commission Planning Director Public Works Director Selectboard	Ongoing
10. Continue to prioritize and implement the recommendations of the 2003 Parking Study.	Planning Commission Planning Director Public Works Director Selectboard	Ongoing
11. Support the continued implementation of the Smugglers' Notch Scenic Corridor Management Plan and the Green Mountain Byway Corridor Management Plan.	Planning Commission Planning Director Conservation Commission	Ongoing
12. Continue to prioritize and implement the recommendations of the 2006 Bicycle/Pedestrian Improvement Plan	Planning Commission Planning Director Public Works Director Selectboard	Ongoing
13. Consider the installation of low impact ground lighting on the Stowe Recreation Path between the Rusty Nail and the Gables bridge for use as a four-season sidewalk.	Public Works Director	Mid-term
13. Promote the Green Mountain Transit Agency's Rideshare Program.	Planning Director *Green Mt. Transit	Ongoing
14. Maintain active membership on the Green Mountain Transit Agency Board of Directors.	Selectboard Planning Director	Ongoing
15. Conduct an analysis of town highways for possible designation as local scenic highways.	Planning Director Planning Commission Conservation Commission Public Works Director	Mid-term
16. Explore options for the construction of commuter parking lots in appropriate locations.	Planning Director Public Works Director	Mid-term
17. Consider the construction of multi-level public parking facility in Stowe Village.	Selectboard	Long-term

## Sewage Disposal

Goal: To dispose of sewage and associated waste in a clean, environmentally sound manner.

### Policies

1. Stowe’s municipal wastewater treatment plant and associated allocation of plant capacity will be operated, and expanded as appropriate, in a manner that reinforces the land use, economic development, housing and natural resource protection goals and policies of this plan.
2. The allocation of wastewater treatment capacity shall be limited to properties located within the sewer service area.
3. The disposal of sewage outside of the sewer service area shall, at a minimum, meet Vermont’s Small Scale Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Rules, as amended.
4. The purpose of any future expansions of the sewer service district will be to remedy failing on-site septic systems or to support any approved future expansions of the Town’s locally designated growth areas (Ski-PUD, Stowe Village, Lower Village, Mountain Road Village and Mountain Road Crossroads).
5. The Town will not enter into bond agreements for future municipal sewer expansions unless it has confidence that anticipated connection fees and other sewer service revenues will be sufficient to service the bonded indebtedness.

<b>Sewage Disposal Tasks</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Priority</b>
1. Maintenance and replacement of new and existing sewer lines, as necessary, should continue.	Public Works Director Wastewater Superintendent	Ongoing
2. Continue to provide cross training of sewer department personnel.	Public Works Director Wastewater Superintendent	Short-term
3. Obtain information to identify failed septic systems and require repair or connection of such systems located within the sewer district to the expanded facility.	Health Officer Planning Director Public Works Director Wastewater Superintendent	Ongoing
4. Consider the upgrading and reclassification of the town’s wastewater treatment plant to a higher capacity if necessary.	Selectboard	Long-term
5. Continue to generate “Class A” sludge from the town’s wastewater treatment plan and explore options for its use.	Public Works Director Wastewater Superintendent	Ongoing
6. Consider the adoption of a Municipal Sewer Expansion Policy.	Selectboard Town Manager Planning Commission	Mid-term

## Water Systems

Goal: To provide and maintain a high quality public water supply to areas of concentrated development, and the protection of public and private groundwater quality throughout town.

### Policies

1. Land use and development activity within water supply Source Protection Areas (SPAs) will not result in the pollution or degradation of groundwater quality.
2. The municipal water system will be operated, and expanded as appropriate, in a manner that reinforces the land use, economic development, housing and natural resource protection goals and policies of this plan.

<b>Water Systems Tasks</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Priority</b>
1. Update, every three years, source protection plans for municipal water supplies.	Public Works Director	Ongoing
2. Continue line replacement work in and around the village core service area as needed.	Public Works Director	Ongoing
3. Continue to provide cross training of water department personnel	Public Works Director	Short-term
4. Develop a policy, plan, and schedule for consolidating existing fire districts and private water supply service areas with the municipal water department.	Public Works Director	Mid-term
5. Study the expansion of water service to developed areas of the town.	Selectboard Public Works Director	Ongoing
6. The Town will continue its practice to not use lawn chemicals, weed killer, and fertilizers on land surrounding municipal wells.	Parks & Rec Director	Ongoing
7. Consider the adoption of a Source Protection Overlay District within the zoning regulations to control inappropriate development within the municipal source protection areas.	Planning Commission Planning Director Selectboard	Mid-term

## Solid Waste

Goal: The collection and disposal of Stowe’s solid waste in a clean, efficient and environmentally sound manner.

### Policies

1. The Town will work towards eliminating the generation of as much waste as practical, and reduce that amount which cannot be feasibly eliminated, while minimizing the amount of waste entering and leaving the Lamoille Solid Waste Management District.
2. The recycling program should continue to be supported and expanded in order to reduce the need for landfills.
3. Regional solutions to solid waste issues should be pursued through continued membership and active participation in Lamoille County Solid Waste District.
4. All sectors of the community should be involved in the development of environmentally sound and fiscally responsible solid waste solutions.

Solid Waste Tasks	Responsibility	Priority
1. In conjunction with the Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District ( <i>LRSWMD</i> ), inform and educate the public on solid waste issues.	Selectboard *LRSWMD	Ongoing
2. Maintain active membership on the LRSWMD board of directors.	Selectboard	Ongoing
3. Provide opportunities for recycling at all municipal buildings and parks, as well as in Stowe Village.	Selectboard Public Works Director	Short-term
4. Explore opportunities to encourage the participation of local restaurants and lodges in local and regional food composting programs.	Conservation Commission Planning Director	Mid-term
5. Explore opportunities for the collection and use of food waste in anaerobic digesters for the production of methane to produce electricity.	Conservation Commission Planning Director *LRSWMD	Mid-term

## **Energy**

Goal: To encourage the availability, affordability, and efficient use of energy resources, including the development and use of renewable energy resources in a manner that protects public health and safety, reduces carbon emissions and costs, and minimizes adverse environmental and aesthetic impacts.

### **Policies**

1. The town will continue to ensure, to the extent of its abilities, the availability of electric energy at reasonable cost to local customers through active involvement in the state's formulation of electric utility policy, including utility restructuring.
2. Municipal energy expenditures will be reduced to the extent feasible through energy efficiency and conservation and the use of renewable energy resources.
3. Energy efficiency and conservation and the use of renewable energy resources will be considerations in new municipal construction projects, equipment purchases and operations.
4. The Town will use life cycle costing in evaluating energy-related capital expenditures, as appropriate.
5. The use of available, cost-effective renewable energy resources will be considered for use in town buildings and operations as appropriate.
6. The Town, through the Stowe Electric Department, will continue to promote and support energy efficiency and conservation among its local customer base.
7. Future energy transmission lines should use existing rights-of way, when possible.
8. Building construction and/or rehabilitation will, to the extent feasible, incorporate energy efficient design and conservation technologies. All new development shall meet applicable state energy efficiency and conservation requirements.
9. Energy efficient building and site design which reduce energy requirements for power, lighting, heating, cooling and transportation, including but not limited to, the clustering and siting of buildings, and the use of landscaping and screening will be encouraged as applicable under local regulations and ordinances.
10. The Town will continue to plan for, and support to the extent feasible, the development of pedestrian and recreation paths, park and ride lots, public transit services and/or ridesharing programs that reduce transportation energy costs.

11. Wood energy should be developed as appropriate through the protection and sustainable management of the town’s forest resources.
12. The Town will support the work of local energy committees as partners in education and outreach to the community.
13. Commercial construction shall comply with the 2005 Vermont Guidelines for Energy Efficient Commercial Construction.

<b>Energy Tasks</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Priority</b>
1. Conduct periodic energy audits of all municipal buildings and implement the recommendations as appropriate.	Public Works Director Electric Department	Ongoing
2. Review and update as needed existing town policies, bylaws and ordinances to promote energy efficiency and conservation; to protect renewable energy resources and access for their sustainable use.	Public Works Director Planning Commission	Mid-term
3. Investigate participation with other towns or organizations in bulk-purchasing agreements for municipal fuel supplies.	Public Works Director Selectboard Town Manager	Short-term
4. Continue to pursue sidewalk, recreation path, public parking and transit projects in part to reduce local transportation energy use.	Public Works Director Planning Commission Director of Planning Recreation Commission Selectboard	Ongoing
5. Explore possibilities for community-based, renewable energy resources such as wind, solar, anaerobic digesters and small-scale hydroelectric.	Conservation Commission	Mid-term
6. Review zoning regulations for opportunities to promote energy conservation and the development of renewable energy resources.	Planning Commission Director of Planning	Mid-term
7. Explore opportunities for using alternative fuels in town-owned vehicles.	Public Works Director Highway Superintendent	Mid-term
8. Explore options for conversion to biomass energy systems and other alternative energy sources in public school buildings, using local fuel sources where economically feasible.	Selectboard School Board	Mid-term
9. Work with local energy committees to create benchmarks for achieving increased energy efficiency and reducing the production of greenhouse gasses in town operations.	Conservation Commission Public Works Director Planning Director	Mid-term
10. Consider opportunities for “load shedding” including developing an off-peak rate to lower use during peak periods and encouraging the use of private generators to provide energy to Stowe Electric during peak use periods and adopting “smart-metering” technology.	Selectboard *Stowe Electric Company	Mid-term

11. Explore opportunities for the collection and use of food waste in anaerobic digesters for the production of methane to produce electricity.	Conservation Commission Planning Director *LRSWMD *Stowe Electric Company	
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## Communications

Goal: To promote access to modern telecommunications infrastructure and services for all Stowe residents and businesses.

### Policies

1. Support the extension of state of the art communications infrastructure throughout Stowe, especially within Stowe Village and along the Mountain Road.
2. The development of new telecommunications towers shall meet the standards set forth in Stowe’s zoning regulations, including the Ridgeline & Hillside Overlay District.

Communications Tasks	Responsibility	Priority
1. Conduct a local telecommunications assessment to identify existing access to telecommunications infrastructure, and opportunities and strategies for expanding access.	Selectboard	Ongoing
2. Continue to support the efforts of the Mount Mansfield Collocation Corporation to develop a long-range plan for the maintenance and, to the extent practical without disrupting telecommunications and broadcast service, the reduction of towers on the summit of Mount Mansfield.	Selectboard	Ongoing
3. Continue to support efforts to provide high-speed broadband internet service to all households and businesses in Stowe.	Selectboard	Ongoing
4. Continue to support efforts to provide cell phone coverage throughout the town of Stowe.	Selectboard	Ongoing