

Commission on Act 250: The Next 50 Years

RFP for Facilitation, Education Materials and Public Engagement

Description

In 2017 the Vermont Legislature established the Commission on Act 250: the Next 50 Years. The purpose of the Commission is to review the vision for Act 250 adopted in 1970 and its implementation with the objective of ensuring that, over the next 50 years, Act 250 supports Vermont's economic, environmental, and land use planning goals.

Specifically, the Commission shall: (1) review the goals, history, and implementation of Act 250; (2) engage Vermonters on their priorities for the future of the Vermont landscape, including how to maintain Vermont's environment and sense of place, and address relevant issues that have emerged since 1970; and (3) after performing the tasks and review outlined in statute, submit a report with recommended changes to Act 250 to achieve the goals stated in the findings made in the 1970 legislation and the Capability and Development Plan adopted in 1973.

This RFP is focused on task #2, public engagement. The full act creating the Commission may be found [here](#).

Tasks

The following list of tasks is suggested to educate and engage as many Vermonters as possible in updating the goals of Act 250 for the 50th anniversary of the Act. It is hoped that the process will be a model of public engagement, utilizing established in-person techniques as well as new approaches. We are open to creative approaches that meet these outcomes and deliverables.

1. Create an outreach plan

Work with Commission members to create an outreach plan that is fun and engaging, has a clear purpose, and is accessible to all Vermonters. Establishing what we are asking of the public and how we will use the information will be the foundation of a valid public process. Multiple avenues for input, including public meetings, portable meetings (i.e. "Meeting in a Box") and an on line survey will be part of the plan.

Deliverable: Outreach plan

Date: April 15th

2. Develop education materials

Consistent information across all platforms will be the underpinning of the successful public input phase. A graphic presentation (Power Point and/or video) will be created that will be viewed by all participants to build a shared base of knowledge about how Act 250 works and to frame the broad issues that the Commission is charged with addressing (climate change, forest fragmentation, agricultural exemption etc.). Questions that help the public provide meaningful input to the Commission will be developed and used for all input formats.

Deliverable: Power Point and/or video

Date: May 30th

3. Train Commission members to assist with public engagement

Provide one or more trainings for the Commission members on how to facilitate break-out groups.

Deliverable: Trained Commission members

Date: May 30th

4. Facilitate 6 public meetings geographically distributed throughout the state

Develop the format for the public meetings including presentation of education materials and public interaction. Hold six public meetings across the State.

Deliverable: Six public meetings with public input

Date: June 30th

5. Collate and summarize public input

Deliverable: public input collated and summarized by subject area/question.

Date: Public input from meetings will be delivered within two weeks of completion. All other data/information will be collated and summarized by September 15th.