

The **FY2025 VAPDA Annual Report Summary** is a 2-page overview of how Vermont's 11 Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) are responding effectively to a rapidly shifting planning and development environment, featuring a snapshot of key data points and project highlights for work completed across the state in fiscal year 2025. The complete FY2025 VAPDA Annual Report is available online at [vapda.org](http://vapda.org).

### QUICK RPC FACTS



Vermont has **11** RPCs with offices all over the state, and **135** staff serving **all** of Vermont's municipalities. RPCs **provide vital assistance** to towns that lack staff capacity.



RPCs leverage municipal dues and money from the state to bring in federal funds. In FY25, RPCs managed about **\$30M** of federal, state, and municipal funds.



RPCs are a **critical resource** for the State in policy deliberations and implementation.



In the absence of county government, **RPCs are a direct link between municipalities and state government**, and are often called upon to support policy development and implementation in the areas of housing, energy, transportation, water quality, and more.

### ACT 181

Throughout FY25, RPCs worked to educate municipalities and the public on Act 181 and its impacts, created many informational materials, and worked on updating their Future Land Use Maps by **engaging thousands of residents in over 750 events, focus groups, and meetings**. View a one-page summary [here](#).

 **All RPCs will update their regional plans to comply with Act 181 requirements by December 2026.**

### PLANNING + ZONING



In FY25, RPCs provided **195** municipalities with planning and bylaw assistance.

Maintaining clear and up-to-date plans and bylaws creates a **strong, guiding vision for communities**. This ensures smooth permitting at state and local levels and makes compact settlements possible.

#### ★ FY25 PROJECT FEATURE

**Chittenden County RPC** obtained federal funding to help 10 towns and cities develop master plans and update their zoning in Rutland, Addison, Washington, Franklin, and Chittenden Counties.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



**153** communities received economic development assistance from their RPCs in FY25, strengthening local economies.

Strong local economies arise from comprehensive land-use planning and united development efforts.

RPCs help build community infrastructure and guide development patterns in order to provide the foundation and public support for private economic development.

### HOUSING



In FY25, RPCs provided **140** municipalities with assistance to increase housing.

Assistance includes updating zoning to support increased densities in our centers and providing guidance to property owners on ADUs and other infill housing.

### BROWNFIELDS



**75** communities were able to assess or remediate polluted land with the support of RPCs in FY25.

By assessing, remediating, and reinvesting in these properties with the help of RPCs, communities can achieve a variety of benefits.

#### ★ FY25 PROJECT FEATURE

**Northeastern Vermont Development Association** was awarded another EPA Brownfields Coalition Assessment Grant of \$1.2M, augmenting an active \$1M Revolving Loan Fund Grant capitalized in 2023. The 2023 grant and newly awarded 2025 grant have funded assessment activities at over 40 sites across the Northeast Kingdom, prioritizing projects that involve housing and the redevelopment of key sites in the region's downtowns.

## TRANSPORTATION PLANNING



RPCs provided **215** municipalities with technical assistance in transportation, including:



RPCs help coordinate the Transportation Planning Initiative (TPI) with VTrans, a statewide initiative for public involvement in improvements to Vermont's transportation system and for the development of region-wide plans.

### ★ FY25 PROJECT FEATURE

**Rutland Regional Planning Commission** helped Marble Valley Transit streamline Rutland's fixed-route system from five routes to four, saving \$150,000 while cutting stops with under 2% of ridership.

Read the FY25 TPI Selected Performance Indicators [here](#).

## CLEAN WATER & INFRASTRUCTURE



**173** communities took steps to improve their water quality in FY25 with assistance from RPCs.

Many of these improvements resulted from RPC assistance in the Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid Program through VTrans.

## MAPPING



**208** communities received mapping services from RPCs in FY25, assisting in a variety of municipal operations and plans.

Mapping and data analysis **provides key information to decision-makers** in planning and project development.

## PARTNERSHIPS

RPCs support many collaborative efforts:

- RPCs work with RDCs on Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy & Economic Development Districts.
- RPCs provided initial start-up and continuing support for Communication Union Districts.
- RPCs manage construction funds in their role as Clean Water Service Providers in the Lake Champlain basin.
- RPCs support other collaboratives around public safety, energy, and other issues as needed with our municipalities.
- RPCs are one of the few entities that stay engaged for the months and years it takes to move a project from concept to implementation. Towns rely on us for this continuity.

## MORE INFORMATION & CONTACT

The [FY25 VAPDA Annual Report](#) underscores that achieving Vermont's housing, clean water, climate resilience and growth goals will require robust partnerships, expanded technical assistance, and strategic investment. Vermont's 11 RPCs continue to serve as the bridge between state policy and local needs.

For more information about VAPDA and how it serves Vermont's communities, visit [vapda.org](http://vapda.org), read the full [FY25 VAPDA Annual Report](#), or contact: Devon Neary, Chair | [devon@rutlandrpc.org](mailto:devon@rutlandrpc.org) | (802) 775-0871

## EMERGENCY PLANNING & RESPONSE



With technical assistance from RPCs, **237** municipalities were able to improve their emergency preparedness and work to mitigate damage from disasters.

### ★ FY25 PROJECT FEATURE



The **North Wolcott Recreation Fields Floodplain Restoration Project** was completed in FY25, and provides multiple benefits: flood hazard mitigation, storm water mitigation, nutrient retention, reduction in runoff velocity. Read the full story [here](#).

*This project was managed by the **Lamoille County Planning Commission** and funded by Vermont Emergency Management through the Flood Resilient Communities Fund. The Preliminary Design phase was funded by a Clean Water Block Grant through Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation.*

## ENERGY PLANNING & IMPLEMENTATION



In FY25, RPCs assisted **195** communities with energy planning and implementation.

With a focus on sustainability and affordability, Vermont communities face significant roadblocks and opportunities in the clean energy transition.

RPCs assist communities by managing energy efficiency projects in municipal buildings and developing energy plans that integrate land use, transportation, natural resources, and energy project implementation.