

Vermont Cybersecurity Advisory Council

For the Joint Information Technology Oversight Committee
September 30, 2025



Vermont Cybersecurity Advisory Council

Mission - State Statute

- To evaluate the cyber readiness of CI operators
- To develop a strategic plan that improves the cyber readiness of CI operators
- To review cyber standards and protocols as they relate to CI
- To build relationships among all organizations that have an interest in CI cybersecurity including Federal, Colleges, and Universities

Federal Executive Order

- Expanded with Presidential Executive Order from March 19, 2025 – Achieving Efficiency Through State and Local Preparedness
- Using the Council to inventory services and resources received by Vermont organizations provided by Federal partners



Vermont Cybersecurity Advisory Council

Members

Burlington Electric

ADS - CIO

Champlain Water District

ADS - CISO

UVM Health Network

DPS - VEM Director

Vermont Gas

DPS – HSA Designee

Vermont Information Technology Leaders

Vermont Adjutant General

Vermont Attorney General



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Accomplishments

- Submitted 2024 Annual Report
 - Council had just formed
 - Reviewed definition of 'Essential Supply Chain' and had no recommended changes
- Critical Infrastructure Survey
 - Developed and administered survey to all Critical Infrastructure Sectors in Vermont
 - Survey was administered anonymously to assess the cyber maturity of the responding organizations
 - 119 partial and 77 complete responses
- Key takeaways are that most organization fall into one of the following categories
 - No active efforts or plans for attention to cyber security
 - Recognize need for cybersecurity, may have started but do not have an active program
 - A cybersecurity program that is a part of the business



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Accomplishments

- Submitted 2025 Annual Report
 - Included the first Strategic Plan
 - Also included a Legislative Recommendation related to Council Membership
- Strategic Plan
 - Goals and Objectives
 - to increase awareness of cybersecurity risk to Critical Infrastructure operators and municipalities;
 - to improve Critical Infrastructure operators and municipalities cyber preparedness;
 - to build relationships and establish a Vermont Community of organizations working cooperatively for better cyber information sharing;
 - to develop a recommended Universal Incident Response Plan template and;
 - to establish a program that promotes continuous improvement



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Accomplishments

- **Strategic Plan Strategies**
 - Strategy 1 – Outreach and Awareness
 - Strategy 2 – Building Strong Partnerships
 - Strategy 3 – Multiple Tiers of Support
 - Strategy 4 – Universal Incident Response Plan Template
 - Strategy 5 – Build a Community of Vermont Organizations sharing Cyber Information
 - Phased Implementation
- **Budget Request Letter of Support for State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program matching funds.**



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Next Steps

- Develop Sector specific plans that addresses the 3 Rs, Resilience, Response, and Recovery
- Based on industry standards or utilize the Center for Internet Security (CIS) Controls as basis for those industries without a mature standard
- Roadmaps that reflect local experience, sector risk profile, level of effort, and Vermont specific requirements
- Develop services outlined in the Strategic Plan

Response and Recovery

- Expand State contracts for IT services for use by local government
- Review, update, and exercise the State's Cyber Annex for the Vermont Emergency Management Plan



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Education and Planning Project

- This is the Tier 1 offering, entry level service
- Provides basic education and planning based on the Cyber Readiness Institute
- Delivery planned to be provided by Vermont Higher-Education organizations and VLCT
- Delivery partners are engaged to provide coaching

Risk Management Project

- This is the Tier 2 offering, mid-level service
- Provides risk assessment and mitigation assistance
- Delivery also planned to be provided by Vermont Higher-Education organizations and VLCT
- Delivery partners stay engaged for a year to assist with mitigation of priorities



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Information Sharing and Collaboration Project

- This is the Tier 3 offering, more advanced service
- It is a collaboration environment and cyber range
- Planning to have a Vermont Cybersecurity contractor provide the service(s)
- Establish cross-sector information sharing and joint exercises

Infrastructure Modernization Project

- Provide local government with the ability to use state contracts
- Utilized for the procurement of hardware and cloud collaboration services (email and file storage) when existing technology is deemed a security risk
- Will provide vendor migration services
- May require commitment to maintain investments for 5 years



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Additional Information

- Membership information, Annual Reports, Meeting schedule, Meeting recaps, and Meeting recordings are available at <https://digitalservices.vermont.gov/cybersecurity/cybersecurity-advisory-council>

