

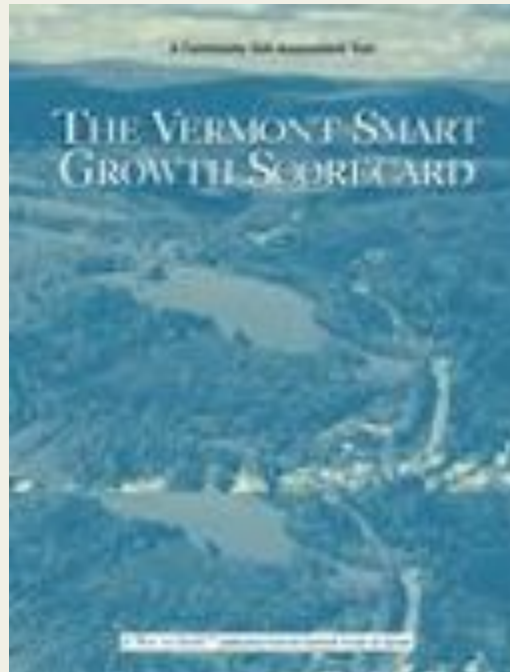
Resilient Communities Scorecard

A Tool for Assessing Your Community



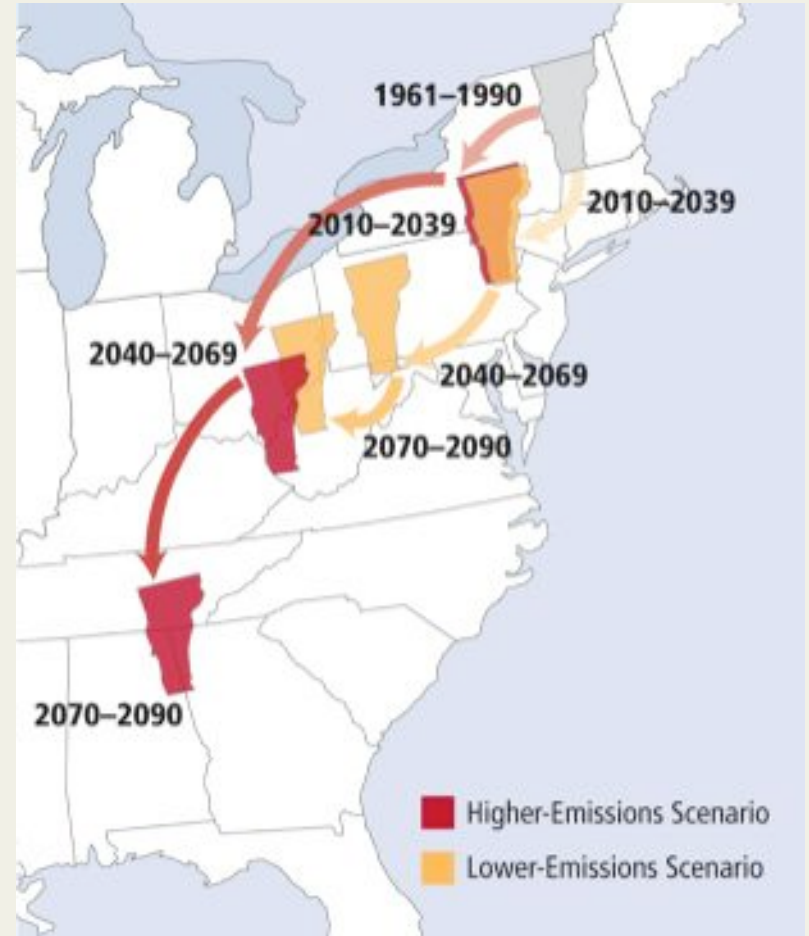
Background

- Smart Growth Scorecard (2000): growth, sprawl, compact settlement
- New challenges: continuing scattered development, energy costs, forest and habitat fragmentation, climate change



The New Normal

- Greater frequency and intensity of storms
- Earlier spring melt
- More summer droughts
- Less snow, more winter rain
- Higher average temperatures



A Vision for Vermont

- Compact, walkable communities
- Diverse transportation options
- Energy security and clean, local generation
- Historic resources & open spaces
- Thriving farms and forests
- Affordable housing
- An engaged public



What is the Scorecard?

- A framework for assessing resilience
- A checklist of specific, strategic questions
- A first step
- A way to *assess* and then *take action*
- A collection of resources



The 12 Checklists

- Vibrant/compact downtowns
- Transportation
- Natural resources
- Open spaces/historic areas
- Healthy communities
- Farming and forestry
- Diverse housing options
- Diverse businesses
- Energy planning and climate action
- Energy efficiency
- Renewable energy
- Public participation

Renewable Energy

Has your town identified areas where it would like to see more community-based renewable energy development?

- Yes, we have mapped areas where we would like to see community-based renewable development, and these maps are included in the town plan 3
- We have identified these areas, but have not comprehensively mapped them or made the information readily accessible..... 2
- We have not identified or mapped these areas..... 1

Vibrant Town Centers

Does your town plan include specific language that describes a desired pattern of development? If so, what does this language say?

- Yes. The town plan describes a desired pattern of development that includes one or more town centers, with clustered development adjacent to the town center, and very low average densities beyond..... 3
- The town plan is not specific on the desired pattern of development..... 2
- The plan calls for growth distributed throughout town; or there is no town plan. 1

Diverse Transportation Options

How has your town planned for future streets, paths, or sidewalks?

- We have a plan, such as a town plan transportation map, or an official map, that includes future streets, bike paths, and/or and pedestrian paths..... 3
- We have begun working on a plan for future roads and/or paths..... 2
- We have no plan for future roads and/or paths. 1



Who will use the Scorecard?

- Local and regional planners, selectboards, community members - any section
- Energy committees - planning, efficiency and renewables
- Conservation commissions - natural resources, open space and historic resources



Ways to Use the Scorecard

<i>If you are working on...</i>	<i>The Scorecard can be used for...</i>	<i>Partners could include...</i>	<i>Outcomes of using the Scorecard could include...</i>
Town planning and community vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community visioning meeting • Assessment of what the town plan does and does not include 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community members • Planning Commissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strong, integrated community vision and town plan • New town plan sections • New town plan policies
Developing/updating zoning or subdivision bylaws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding how bylaws do/do not promote resilience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selectboards • Energy Committees • Conservation Commissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More efficient use of land • Infrastructure policies that save the town money • A more integrated approach to resilience
Open space planning, conservation, land acquisition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveying agricultural and forest land, open space, conserved land, floodplains 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local and regional economic development groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open space plan • Community investment in open spaces • Policies that support agriculture and forestry

Getting Involved: Planning

- Education and generating public interest
- Gathering and developing data
- Helping interpret current energy policy, options
- Helping people make connections for resilience
- Writing plan chapters

Getting Involved: Implementation

- Be a resource to the planning commission on the variety of tools available
- Take responsibility for implementation actions
 - Education & outreach
 - Establishing an energy fund, writing grants
 - Inventories
 - Assisting with project management

How Can You Be Most Effective?

- Invest in relationship building
 - Planning Commissions
 - Selectboards
 - School boards
 - Homeowners
- Plan chapters: short and sweet
- Plan policies: clear and unambiguous
- Defining your role as an energy committee