

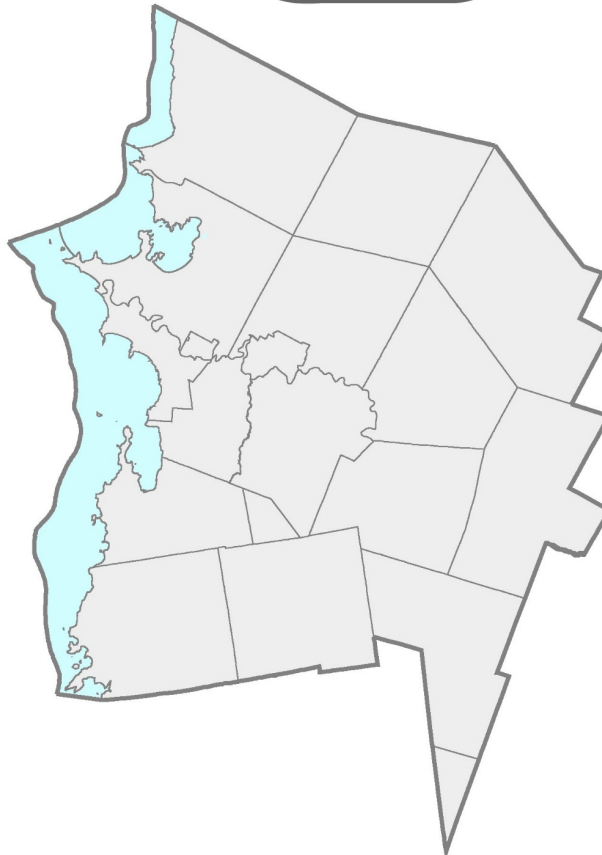
# 2015 **ecos** Annual Report

The State of Chittenden County

**POPULATION**  
160,531

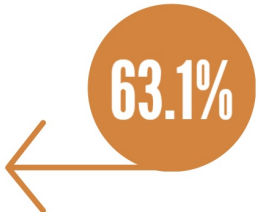


**RESIDENTS UNDER 18**



**RESIDENTS OVER 65**

**RESIDENTS 20-64**



**PEOPLE OF COLOR**

Source: American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates

Prepared by the  
ECOS Partnership



United Way of  
Chittenden County



The University of Vermont



GBIC

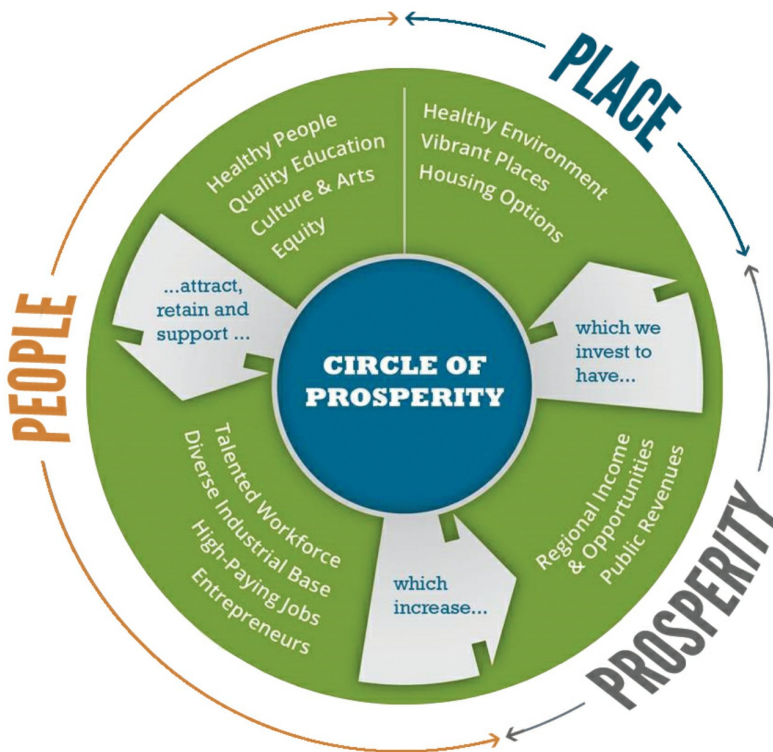
THE  
University of Vermont  
MEDICAL CENTER



VERMONT  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

# INTRODUCTION & PARTNERSHIP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Three years since the adoption of the ECOS Plan, the ECOS Partners remain invested in making progress toward accomplishing the plan's vision for a healthy, prosperous, and inclusive Chittenden County. The challenges we face are multi-faceted and often interrelated. We keep working to break down silos and keep in mind that our efforts are mutually supportive in achieving our goals. This interdependence is reflected in the Circle of Prosperity below.



Elements of the ECOS Plan are integrated into each partner organization's work plans, and the partners approach work differently as a result of implementing the principles of collective impact.

In an effort to monitor and build on successes, bring new information to the legislature and community leaders, and continue to work on areas that need improvement, the ECOS Partnership prepares this Annual Report and an online Scorecard each year. These data-driven resources provide insight into current and future needs in Chittenden County, and allow us to focus on long-term solutions rather than just treating short-term symptoms.

**"ECOS is embedded in the culture of our community. This partnership is unique; the way we deal with challenges in the community is through cross-sector collaboration, which transcends changes in leadership."**

*-Martha Maksym, Executive Director  
United Way of Chittenden County*

In 2015, the ECOS Partners report the following **accomplishments** as a result of their cross-sector relationships and the principles of collective impact. Watch for the check marks ✓ throughout this report for more accomplishments.

✓ **Collective Impact Conference**  
Promoting the use of collective impact by multiple organizations.  
By: *United Way of Chittenden County & Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission*

✓ **Passed the VT Clean Water Act**  
"All in" effort to improve water quality.  
By: *State Legislature, Agency of Natural Resources, VTrans, Agency of Agriculture, Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce, GBIC, CCRPC, & many others*

✓ **Form-Based Codes**  
Drafted zoning updates to better achieve denser, mixed use, and walkable centers in their communities.  
By: *Westford, Shelburne, Burlington, Winooski, South Burlington, & CCRPC*

✓ **Passed the ASSIST loan program**  
Helping first-time home buyers with down payment and closing costs.  
By: *State Legislature, Vermont Housing Finance Agency, Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce, & GBIC*

✓ **Food Insecurity Messaging**  
Developed effective messaging about the reality of food insecurity within the County.  
By: *United Way of CC, Health Dept, UVM Medical Center, Hunger Free VT, & CCRPC*

✓ **Preserved tax deductions for Vermont's non-profit sector and business community**  
By: *State Legislature, Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce, GBIC, & United Way*

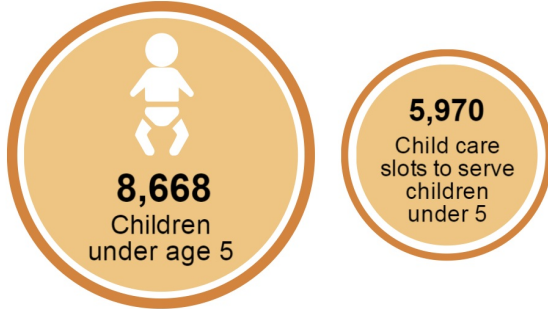


# PEOPLE

Education | Health | Shelter

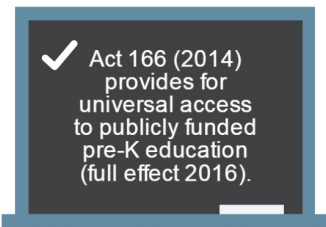


## ACCESS TO CHILDCARE



Source: American Community Survey, 2014 1-Year Estimate; Child Care Resources

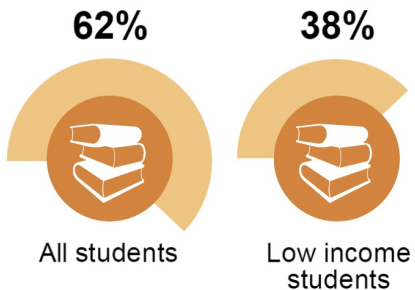
**\$** Middle income Vermont families with two parents and two young children are spending up to 40% of their income on child care.



Act 166 (2014) provides for universal access to publicly funded pre-K education (full effect 2016).

## READING PROFICIENCY

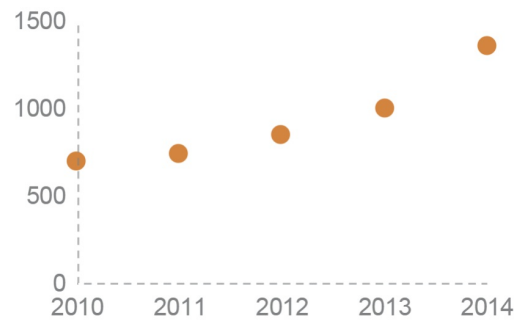
Third grade reading proficiency rates are lower for low income students.



Source: Agency of Education, School Year 2014-2015

## OPIOID TREATMENT

Although treatment is increasing, the waitlist remains steady due to staffing capacity at the Chittenden Clinic. The UVM-MC is working on a robust plan for physician's practices and health centers to offer medication-assisted treatment.



Source: Vermont Department of Health, Burlington District Office, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs

✓ The Medication Assisted Therapy program helped 466 suboxone patients (14% increase) in Chittenden County, with funding from Medicaid.

## ADULT SMOKING

Overall adult smoking remains at 14% while over 27% of low-income adults are current smokers.

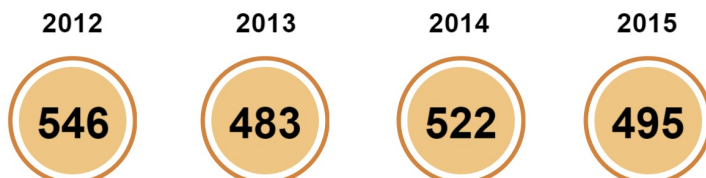


Source: Vermont Department of Health, Burlington District Office, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs

✓ Church Street Marketplace has been tobacco-free since December 2014.

✓ The University of Vermont began enforcing a tobacco-free campus, including the UVM Medical Center, in August 2015.

## NUMBER OF HOMELESS PEOPLE



Source: Point-in-Time Count - Burlington Continuum of Care Report & UW Chittenden County

✓ The "Housing First" approach to address homelessness resulted in securing permanent supportive housing for 42 of the 96 (out of 495) most vulnerable people in 2015.



# PLACE

Housing | Transportation | Energy | Environment

## RENTAL HOUSING VACANCY RATE



**3%** County-wide  
**3.7%** Urban  
**2.3%** Suburban  
*A healthy vacancy rate is between 3% and 5%.*

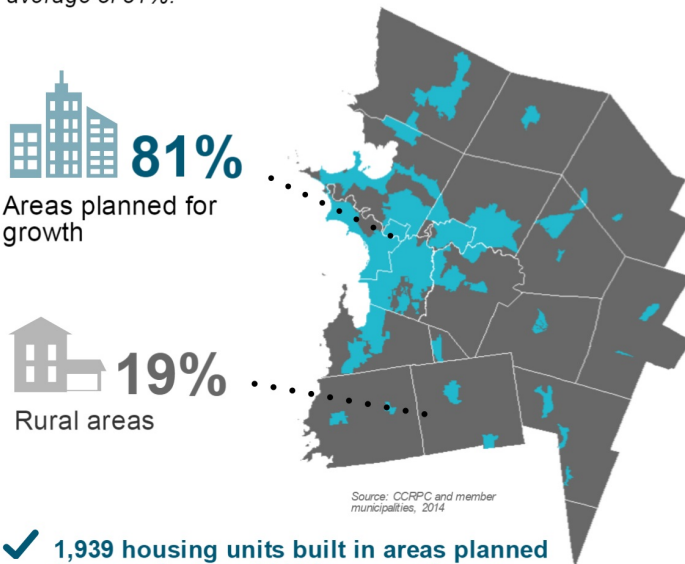
Source: Allen & Brooks, 2015

- ✓ For the first time in 15 years, the county-wide vacancy rate has reached 3%. This is largely a result of 534 units built and available for lease in 2015 in Burlington and Winooski.

*NOTE: The data is collected at two points within the year and could be skewed if new units were open for lease but not yet filled at that time; therefore, the data does not reflect that new units fill very quickly, an indication that we are still not meeting the market needs. The long-term average vacancy county-wide is still extremely low at 1.5%.*

## RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

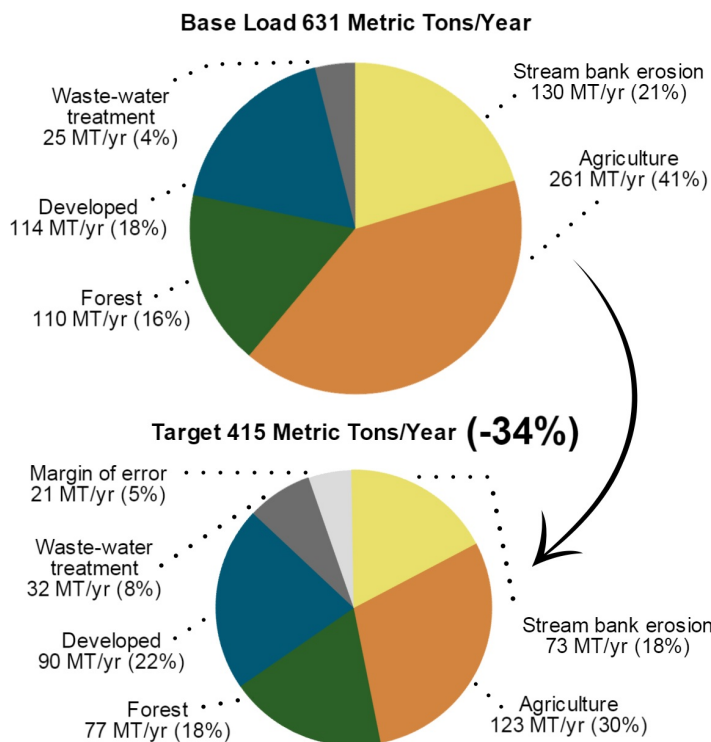
The ECOS goal to focus 80% of new residential development in areas planned for growth has been achieved since 2010 with an average of 81%.



- ✓ 1,939 housing units built in areas planned for growth since 2010 in comparison to 390 housing units built in rural areas.
- ✓ Westford, Shelburne, Burlington, Winooski and South Burlington drafted zoning updates to better achieve denser, mixed use, and walkable centers in their communities.

## WATER POLLUTION

Phosphorus concentration is currently 631 metric tons (MT/year), which does not meet EPA water quality standards.



Source: Phosphorus TMDLs for Vermont Segments of Lake Champlain, August 14, 2015, Environmental Protection Agency

- ✓ The Vermont Clean Water Act was passed in June 2014, and the Clean Water Fund was established to support a continual process of planning, prioritizing, developing, implementing and evaluating strategies for improvement.

## TRANSPORTATION



Vehicle miles traveled decreased by 0.4% in 2014, while the population increased by 2.4% between 2010 and 2014.

- ✓ 3.8% more miles of designated bike lanes, sidewalks, and shared-use paths have been built since 2010 to support people choosing active transportation modes.

Source: Agency of Transportation, 2014; American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

## RENEWABLE ENERGY

In 2015, Vermont generated 16% of total energy from renewable sources.

**Within Chittenden County:**

- ✓ 1,300 renewable energy generating sites
- ✓ 48% increase in renewable energy since 2011
- ✓ 362 electric vehicles registered & 38 public charging stations available

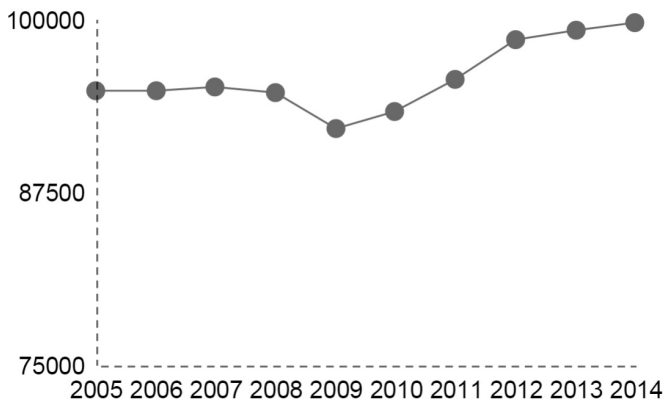
Source: 2015 Update State of Vermont Comprehensive Energy Plan, Sustainable Jobs Fund, Drive Electric VT

# PROSPERITY

Employment | Income | Housing

## TOTAL EMPLOYMENT

The number of employees has been increasing since 2009.

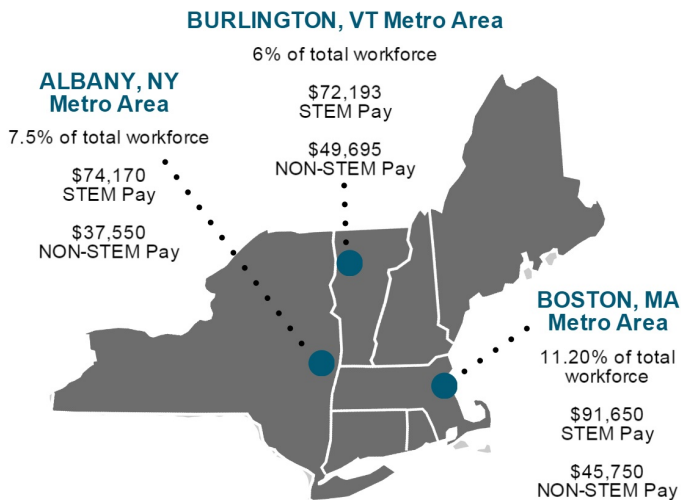


Source: Vermont Department of Labor, Economic, and Labor Market Information

- ✓ Chittenden County high schools participated in the Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce's "Learn to Earn" program, giving students exposure to a variety of career paths and college readiness through mentoring, internship, and job shadowing.

## EMPLOYMENT & PAY FOR STEM JOBS

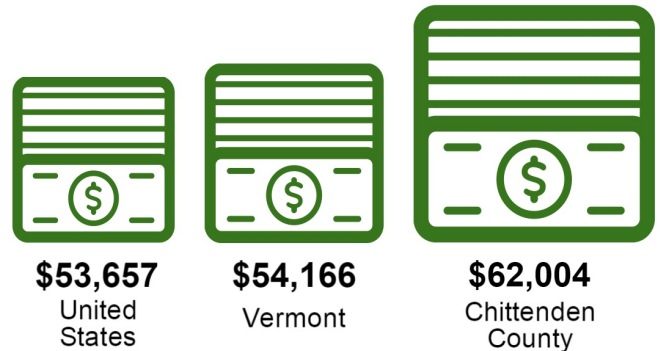
STEM jobs pay higher on average than non-STEM jobs. Chittenden County hosts a 6% STEM workforce, comparable to the national average of 6.5%.



- ✓ BTV Ignite launched as an organization that seeks to increase the talent and infrastructure for an innovation-based economy for Chittenden County through cross-sector collaboration.

## MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Chittenden County income is higher than both VT and US. After a decline between 2008 and 2010, income levels are increasing within Chittenden County.



Source: American Community, 1-Year Estimates

## POVERTY LEVEL

1 in 14 families in Chittenden County live in poverty.

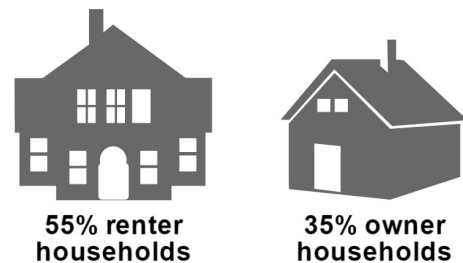


Source: American Community, 1-Year Estimates

- ✓ The "Drop the Box" campaign was initiated to expand the prospective workforce and offer greater opportunity for community members with prior criminal records by removing the standard criminal history question on the initial application.

## HOUSING COST BURDEN

Households paying more than 30% of their income on housing is 20% higher for renters than for homeowners.



Source: American Community, 1-Year Estimates

- ✓ The ASSIST loan program was passed by the State Legislature, which provides first-time home buyer assistance with down payment and closing costs.

