

Date: March 14, 2018  
 To: Member Municipalities of NVDA, State and Regional Partners  
 From: David Snedeker, Executive Director  
 RE: **Proposed Regional Plan Update**

NVDA’s Regional Plan for the Northeast Kingdom, 2015-2023 was adopted by the NVDA Board of Directors on August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Subsequent updates to the Regional Plan have now been proposed. Two hearings to receive comment on the proposed Regional Plan will be held on:

- Monday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Suite 250 on the second floor of the Emory Hebard State Office Building in Newport, and
- Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the NVDA Conference Room in St. Johnsbury, 36 Eastern Avenue.

The following proposed revisions to the Regional Plan are:

Volume I: Regional Goals and Strategies:	An Implementation Table of tools and timeframes for each strategy has been revised to reflect new goals and strategies from amended chapters.
Volume II: Regional Analysis	
Land Use:	This section has been rewritten to provide guidance on priority forest blocks and incorporate information from the 2016 update to the NEK Food System Plan. The amended land use plan also identifies areas that are unsuitable for large-scale commercial and industrial development.
Energy:	This is the most extensive revision of the proposed amendment to the Regional Plan. The proposed amendment continues to incorporate the NVDA board’s position on industrial-scale wind turbines. The chapter has now been revised in order to be eligible for Substantial Deference from the Department of Public Service, and NVDA intends to formally request confirmation of Substantial Deference following adoption of the amended plan. Appendices A, B, and C are entirely new and provide municipal-level energy data.
Utilities & Facilities:	This amended section reflects updated information regarding capacity of municipal infrastructure, schools, and facilities and provides a more substantive discussion of the implementation of Act 148, Vermont’s Universal Recycling Law.
Housing:	The section has updated housing data and new information on affordability initiatives in the state.
Economic Development:	This amendment reflects changes to major economic development initiatives in the region, as well as new information from the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and the 2016 NEK Food System Plan.

Natural Resources:	This chapter has been amended to reflect ongoing water quality planning initiatives and identify wildlife habitat blocks and connectors.
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The enclosed CD has a complete copy of the proposed amendments to NVDA's Regional Plan. The proposed amendments, along with the existing plan, are available for viewing on NVDA's web site: <http://www.nvda.net/regional-plan.php>

If you have any questions or comments, please contact [dsnedeker@nvda.net](mailto:dsnedeker@nvda.net) or call **802-748-5181**.  
Written comments on the regional plan may be sent to:

NVDA  
P.O. Box 630  
36 Eastern Avenue  
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819