



# STRATEGIC VISION: MAPPING THE FUTURE OF HARTFORD, VT

We have  
**Town  
unity  
and  
village  
pride.**



## ENGAGED AND WELCOMING COMMUNITY

A diverse, caring, engaged, and inclusive community.

Stimulate community excellence through a **culture of appreciation**. Maintain a **robust network of committees**, **high voter participation**, and **strong culture of volunteerism**. Ensure **voices are heard** through open and civil dialogue. Create **comfort and safety** for all through **anti-discrimination** and **pro-diversity policies and practices**.



## STRONG AND STABLE LOCAL ECONOMY

An evolving, culturally connected, four-season, creative economy.

Strike a balance between **commercial and industrial businesses** with a **thriving arts scene**. Local businesses **add character to the community**. Attract visitors and new residents with a **thriving local economy** and **high quality of life**.



## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Valuing and protecting our natural environment.

Lead the transition to **renewable energy** and **reducing greenhouse emissions**. **Protect** wildlife corridors, green spaces, forests, rivers, and other outdoor spaces. **Manage our waste stream responsibly**. Draw inspiration from the **Iroquois Seventh Generation Principle**; make decisions that take into account the impact on future generations.



## HIGH QUALITY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Excellent and extensive learning opportunities for all ages.

Excellent public, private, and volunteer-led educational opportunities **attract participants from around the world**. **Life-long learning** opportunities improve our natural, social, and professional environments. **Career opportunities are enhanced** through **placement mentoring** and **continuing education**.

## EQUITABLE OPPORTUNITIES



A place where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

Appeal to a **diverse ethnic, racial, and socio-economic demographic**. Provide **holistic care and services** with dignity and without stigma. Residents have **equal access to services, employment, and programs**. Total **cost of living is within reach** through a balance of affordable housing, low-cost services, and affordable tax rate.



## RESILIENCE

Preparing for and responding to emergent challenges.

Provide thorough **resilience training programs**. Ensure departments are **well equipped for natural disasters**. **Maintain plans for potential supply interruption of basic necessities** (food, water, electricity, medical supplies, energy, and communication).



## FUNCTIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE

A thoughtfully planned and well-maintained infrastructure.

Prepare and follow a **Capital Improvement Plan** that prioritizes projects based on the needs of the town. Prioritize **public safety**. Actively address **emerging needs**, such as parking, high-speed internet, distributed energy, waste stream, and others. Adequately fund and staff departments to **continually maintain and improve infrastructure**.

## VISIONARY AND RESPONSIVE GOVERNANCE



Ethical, transparent, and accessible government.

Use **leadership models** to support **civic dialogue across differences of opinion** and carefully consider **public input**. Encourage a **diversity of voices**. Practice **fiscally responsible and transparent governance**.





# STRATEGIC VISION: MAPPING THE FUTURE OF HARTFORD, VT

The following list of actionable **Strategic Priorities** was identified by the Town of Hartford Selectboard in **July 2019** to support the goals set forth in the **Strategic Vision**, which was adopted in **October 2018**. [Ranking from 1-37; Implementation Year; Responsible Entity: Selectboard (SB) or Town Manager (TM)]



## ENGAGED & WELCOMING COMMUNITY

- Downtown diverse food festival. [31; '20; SB]
- Town Manager regular Cable TV interview. [37; '20; TM]



## STRONG & STABLE LOCAL ECONOMY

- Resolve downtown parking shortage. [2; '20-'21; TM]
- Create incentives for more diverse business ownership opportunities. [16; '20; SB]
- Brand, market, and cross promote Town of Hartford. [17; '21; TM]
- Build Hartford Riverwalk. [24; '21; TM]
- Learn about how to incorporate more "new economy" techniques into Town culture. [27; '20; SB]
- Encourage local purchasing within Town and region. [29; '20; TM]



## RESILIENCE

- Investigate and develop a plan to prepare for clean energy disruption. [9; '21; SB]
- Carry out flood criticality analysis. [10; '20; TM]
- Work toward the Town's ability to be self-sustaining for some limited period of time (e.g. 3-7 days). [11; '20; SB]
- Analyze perceived vs. actual threats to wellbeing of our community as initial stage of planning process. [18; '20; TM]
- Develop food forest and commit to edible municipal plantings. [34; '20; SB]
- Develop plan for tiny houses that float in the floodplain. [36; '20; TM]



## VISIONARY & RESPONSIVE GOVERNANCE

- Improve media presence online and establish a marketing plan. [21; '20; TM]
- Create methods for receiving and celebrating visionary, innovative solutions from staff, volunteers, public officials. [30; '21; SB]
- Institute presentations by social service providers at Selectboard Meetings. [32; '20; SB]
- Citizen survey: satisfaction with services and spending priorities. [33; '21; TM]



## EQUITABLE OPPORTUNITIES

- Work toward regional solution to adequate low-income housing with Core 4 Towns. [6; '21; TM]
- Increase the intake of new Americans. [12; '20; SB]
- Work towards an effective zero% homelessness. [14; '20; TM]
- Take action to make Hartford more hospitable for the LGBTQ+ community. [28; '20; SB]



## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

- Decide the future of the Transfer Station and solid waste enterprise. [1; '20-'21; SB]
- Heighten environmental awareness of rail car storage. [20; '20; TM]
- Develop and track metrics associated with greenhouse gas and renewable energy goals. [22; '20; TM]
- Create Town-wide green storm management plan. [23; '20; TM]



## HIGH QUALITY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- Increase communication with the School Board. [25; '20; SB]
- Have High School Liaisons to committees and commissions and/or youth councils. [35; '20; SB]



## FUNCTIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- Restore Fairview/Gates street and sidewalk. [3; '20-'21; TM]
- Fix or replace Bugbee Senior Center. [4; '20; TM]
- Increase system capacity of downtown drainage. [5; '20; TM]
- Determine cemetery management plan. [7; '20; SB]
- Develop a plan to fix or close Wrights Reservoir. [8; '20-'21; SB]
- Bring public walkways, sidewalks, parking up to ADA standards and codes. [13; '20; TM]
- Analyze need for storm water, wastewater, sewer improvements. [15; '20; TM]
- Develop a program for recreational use of WABA when it doesn't have ice on it. [19; '21; TM]
- Seek private sources to fund recreational capital projects. [26; '20; TM]