



Shaping
Our Region
from the Ground Up

Plan Central Vermont Regional Priorities Survey Results

January 8, 2013

Survey Information

The Regional Priorities Survey was created by the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) to inform the 2016 Regional Plan Update, *Plan Central Vermont*. The survey was formed by taking goals from the 2008 Regional Plan and adding additional goals from other regional plans in Vermont as well as other successful plan examples. At the beginning of the survey, participants were asked to answer three basic demographic questions. The rest of the survey was broken down into 12 topic areas of plan goals and participants were asked to pick their top three goals within each topic.

The topics included:

- Agriculture and Forestry
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Climate Change, Hazard Mitigation and Flood Resilience
- Strong and Diverse Economy
- Safe and Affordable Housing
- Energy Efficiency and Development
- Historic, Cultural and Scenic Resources
- Utilities and Infrastructure
- Emergency Management and Public Safety
- Healthy Communities
- Transportation
- Future Land Use

The purpose of the survey was to solicit feedback from residents of the Central Vermont Region on their priorities and inform the following in the *Plan Central Vermont* process:

- development of a vision and broad goals;
- identification of key topics for more detailed public discussion and input; and
- prioritization of goals, policies and strategies for Plan implementation.

The survey was open from Monday, November 25 until Thursday, December 12, 2013. There were 311 total responses, with 224 (72%) finishing the entire survey.

The survey was distributed to the *Plan Central Vermont* updates list, made up of around 70 community members who attended the kick-off meeting in September of 2013, and was featured on CVRPC's website. It was also distributed to CVRPC Commissioners, town staff and select boards, as well as on social media including Facebook, Twitter and Front Porch Forum. Everyone who received the survey was encouraged to share it with other residents of Central Vermont.

Incentives were given to encourage residents to take the survey. One participant received a \$50 gift card to the restaurant of their choice in the Region and another received a family pass to Wrightsville Beach.

The results of the Regional Priorities Survey are shown on the following pages, beginning with the demographic questions. Next, the resulting top three goals within each topic are listed. Following each goal, the percent of participants who chose the goal (out of all participants who responded to the question) is shown.

After this section, each topic is listed out along with the survey results, including the description that was given on the survey, a graph showing the number of responses for each goal and the total number of participants who answered the question. In each list of goals, there was also an option for other that included a comment box. The comments received from this box are listed out on the page following each topic.

Demographic Information

Since not every participant finished the survey, the number of responses per question are shown in Figure 1. Generally, topics that were covered later in the survey received fewer responses. Within the survey, each topic was on its own page and the pages were in the same order for all participants. Agriculture and Forestry was the first topic and received 275 responses, while the final topic in the survey, Future Land Use, only received 224 responses. With each page of the survey, the goals were listed in a randomized order for each participant.

Everyone was asked to fill out three demographic questions, including their age group (Figure 3) and whether they were a concerned citizen, business owner, municipal staff/board or other (Figure 2). The majority of participants identified themselves as concerned citizens (73%). Within various age groups, the greatest number of responses was in the 60-69 year old category, with 73 responses, followed by 50-59 (72) and 30-39 (70).

Figure 2: Survey Responses by Type of Participant

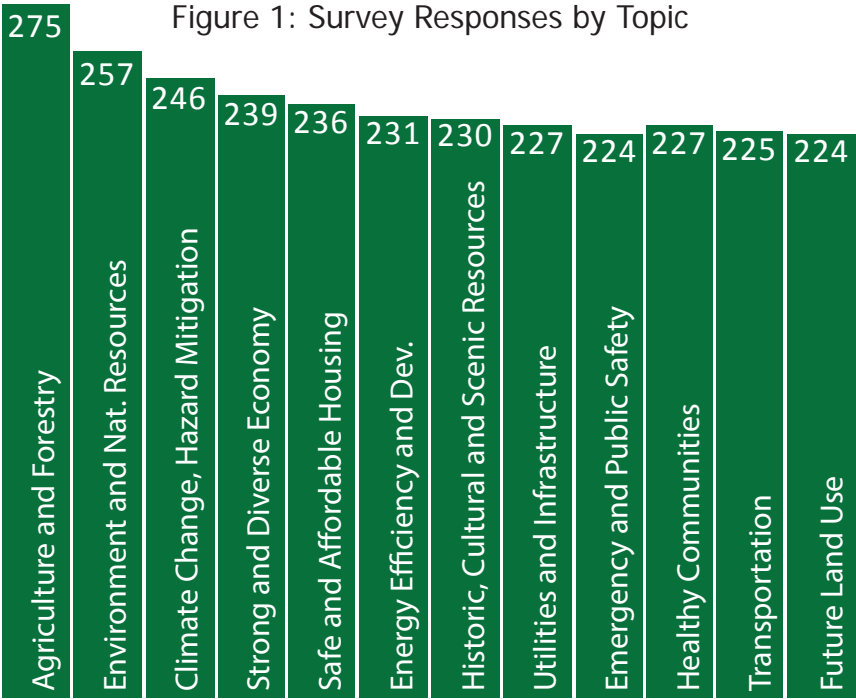
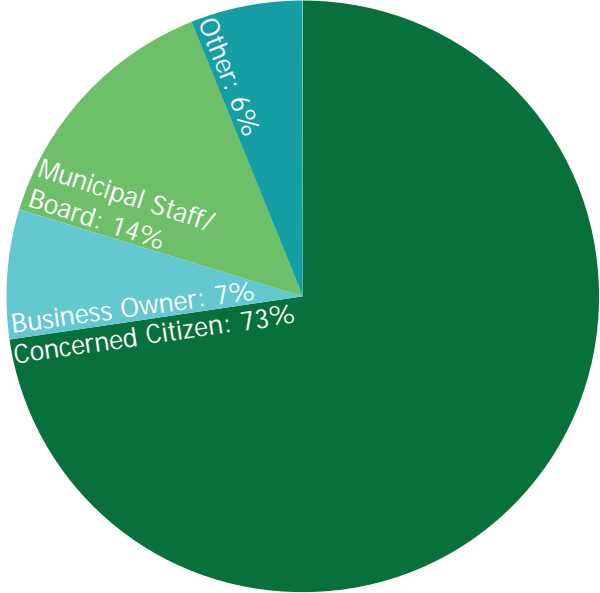
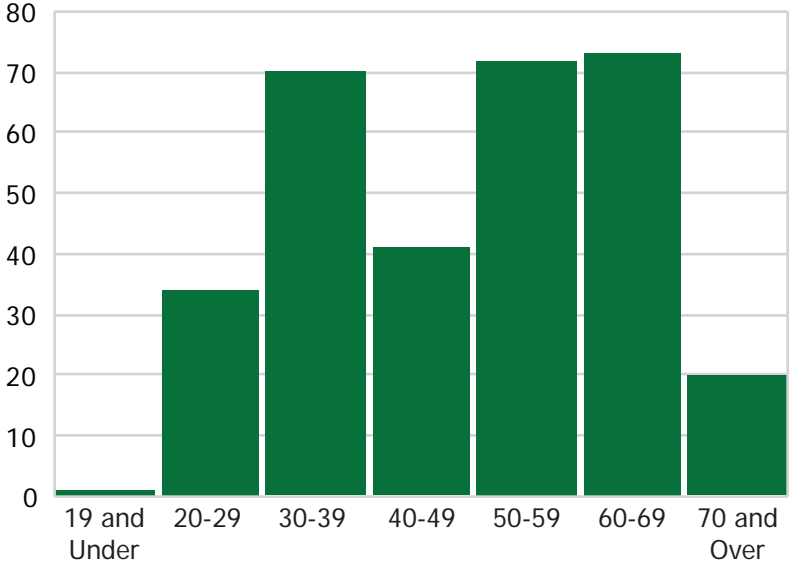


Figure 3: Survey Responses by Age Group



Demographic Information

Within the demographic questions, participants were also asked to select the town where they lived within the Region (Figures 4). There was also an option for Outside of the Region, which received 7 responses. Overall, the majority of responses were from Montpelier with 92 responses; however, when normalized by each town's 2010 population (Figure 5) Calais had the greatest response rate with 32 total responses representing 1.99% of the town population.

Figure 4: Survey Responses by Town

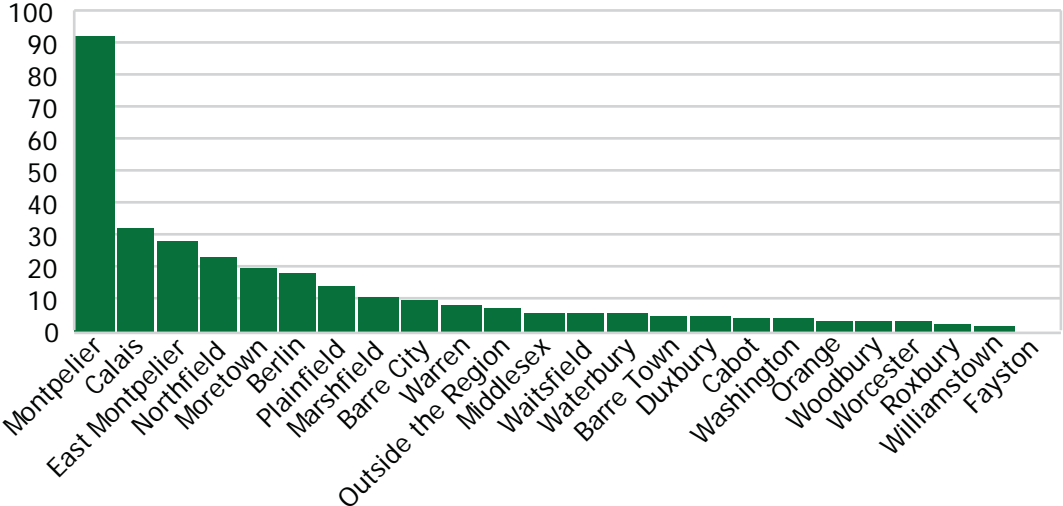
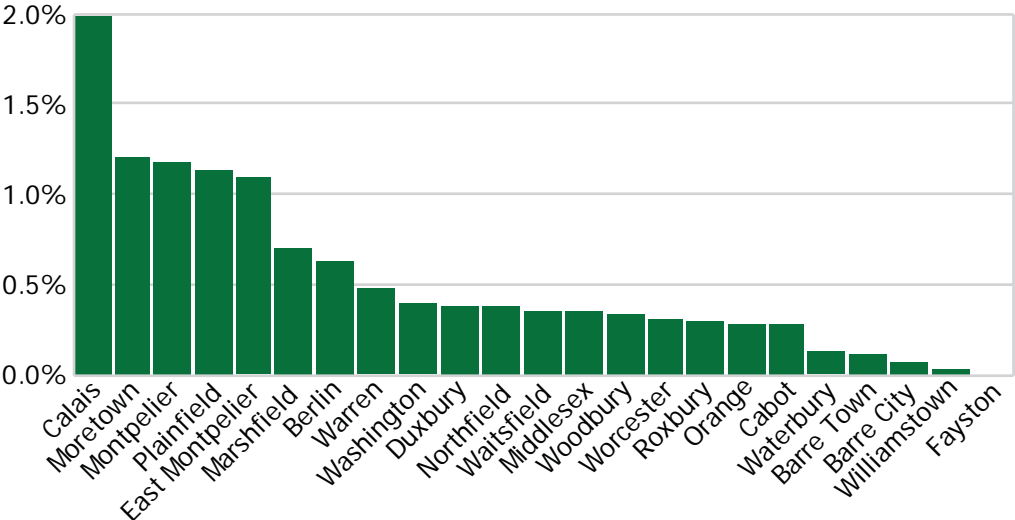


Figure 5: Responses by Town as a Percent of their 2010 Town Population



Town Representation

In order to determine whether there was fair representation within the survey results from all municipalities, the results were also viewed with the responses from Montpelier and Calais removed. Responses from outside of the region were removed as well, leaving a total of 180 responses. Overall, the top three goals within each category were very similar. The top three goals were exactly the same and in the same prioritized order within the topics of:

- Agriculture and Forestry
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Emergency Management and Public Safety
- Future Land Use

The following topics had the same top three goals in a slightly different order:

- Climate Change, Hazard Mitigation and Flood Resilience
- Strong and Diverse Economy
- Safe and Affordable Housing
- Energy Efficiency and Development
- Transportation

Only three of the categories had a slightly different set of top three goals. These topics were:

- Historic, Cultural and Scenic Resources
- Utilities and Infrastructure
- Health Communities

Each of these three topics had the same first and second goals in the same order, but with a different third goal. For all three topics, the goal that was listed third when all survey responses were considered was listed as the fourth goal when responses from Montpelier and Calais were removed.

On the following three pages, the top three goals within each topic from all of the responses are given. The three goals that differed within the 180 response sample omitting responses from Montpelier and Calais are listed as Goal 4 within their respective topics. In the Healthy Communities topic, there were two goals that tied for third place and they are both listed out as goal 4 under that topic.

Survey Results: Top Three Goals in Each Category

**Goals that are listed as Goal 4 in blue italics are goals that were added after reviewing a separate sample of the population to remove any possible skews in the data based on high responses from Montpelier and Calais. These results are discussed on page 4 in the Town Representation section.*

Agriculture and Forestry

Goal 1: Facilitate local food production and increased access to healthy food through planning, land use ordinances, and incentive programs. ... 63.6%

Goal 2: Encourage coordination among towns, public, private, and non-profits involved in preserving and promoting the working landscape. ... 50.9%

Goal 3: Decrease subdivision and fragmentation of productive forest and agricultural lands. ... 47.3%

Environment and Natural Resources

Goal 1: Maintain or enhance existing critical wildlife habitats. ... 51.0%

Goal 2: Encourage the protection of significant natural and fragile areas. ... 44.0%

Goal 3: Encourage watershed-based cooperation of towns, citizen groups and businesses in the protection and enhancement of surface water quality. ... 43.6%

Climate Change, Hazard Mitigation and Flood Resilience

Goal 1: Direct new development to safer locations and avoid new development in identified flood hazard and river erosion areas through local land use regulation, incentives and conservation. ... 52.8%

Goal 2: Support initiatives, legislation, and actions for reducing and responding to climate change at the local, regional, and state level. ... 39.8%

Goal 3: Slow, spread and sink floodwater throughout the watershed through protection of floodplains, wetlands, river corridors and upland forested areas. ... 38.6%

Strong and Diverse Economy

Goal 1: Preserve farms and forest lands by supporting the entire value-chain of the food system and natural resource economy. ... 41.4%

Goal 2: Support redevelopment and infill to strengthen our downtowns, village and commercial districts. ... 41.4%

Goal 3: Foster entrepreneurialism, support cottage industries and strengthen buy local efforts. ... 36.4%

Survey Results: Top Three Goals in Each Category

Safe and Affordable Housing

Goal 1: Increase the opportunities for safe, energy efficient, affordable, and accessible housing for all types of households in mixed-income neighborhoods. ... 50.0%

Goal 2: Promote preservation, rehabilitation and maintenance of the existing housing stock. ... 41.9%

Goal 3: Promote the adaptive re-use of older and historic buildings for housing. ... 39.0%

Energy Efficiency and Development

Goal 1: Support efforts to reduce transportation energy demand and consumption through land use planning and promotion of non-motorized and public alternatives. ... 49.4%

Goal 2: Encourage the generation and use of renewable energy resources, particularly those of local origin. ... 42.4%

Goal 3: Energy conservation and efficiency measures should be taken during the siting, design, construction or renovation and maintenance of buildings. ... 34.6%

Historic, Cultural and Scenic Resources

Goal 1: Preserve significant scenic and aesthetic resources of the region for the benefit of current and future generations. ... 57.4%

Goal 2: Promote sensitive economic development in areas of historic value such as in town centers, villages, and hamlets. ... 50.9%

Goal 3: Promote access to a wide range of high quality cultural experiences for all sectors of the population. ... 41.7%

*Goal 4: Preserve and to enhance the unique characteristics of historic sites or areas, where the public interest is clearly benefited thereby. ... 36.8%**

Utilities and Infrastructure

Goal 1: Continue to reduce the amount of solid waste and hazardous waste generated. ... 56.4%

Goal 2: Ensure that water systems are not contaminated, depleted, or degraded, and that there is sufficient quantity of water available for current and future needs. ... 55.5%

Goal 3: Ensure that remaining waste is disposed of in an environmentally sound manner. ... 36.1%

*Goal 4: Support the enhancement of telecommunications and high speed networks when such facilities do not have significant adverse environmental, health, or aesthetic impacts. ... 38.3%**

Survey Results: Top Three Goals in Each Category

Emergency Management and Public Safety

Goal 1: Maintain a strong and effective system of public safety that is built on the concept of cooperation and mutual aid. ... 67.4%

Goal 2: Support emergency preparedness and response planning and strengthen integration with traditional planning and resource allocation activities. ... 64.7%

Goal 3: Maintain a high level of community awareness and involvement and in the delivery of emergency and public safety services. ... 50.4%

Healthy Communities

Goal 1: Maintain and improve a high quality health care system that is accessible and affordable to all residents of the region. ... 44.5%

Goal 2: Encourage development of shared use trails to connect communities, schools, and other facilities, and increase residents' options for physical activity. ... 41.9%

Goal 3: Encourage in-fill development and density to increase walkability and potential for alternative transportation options. ... 33.5%

*Goal 4: Promote recreation and a healthy natural environment as regional assets, and plan development in a way that will ensure that those assets are sustainable. ... 33.3%**

*Goal 4: Provide excellent educational and vocational training for the region's schoolchildren and promote access to lifelong learning in both public and private facilities. ... 33.3%**

Transportation

Goal 1: Integrate modes of travel in order to allow for their most effective use and ultimately reduce dependence on single occupant vehicles. ... 55.1%

Goal 2: Promote a regional public transportation system. ... 50.2%

Goal 3: Establish a transportation system that minimizes consumption of resources and maximizes the protection of the environment. ... 46.2%

Future Land Use

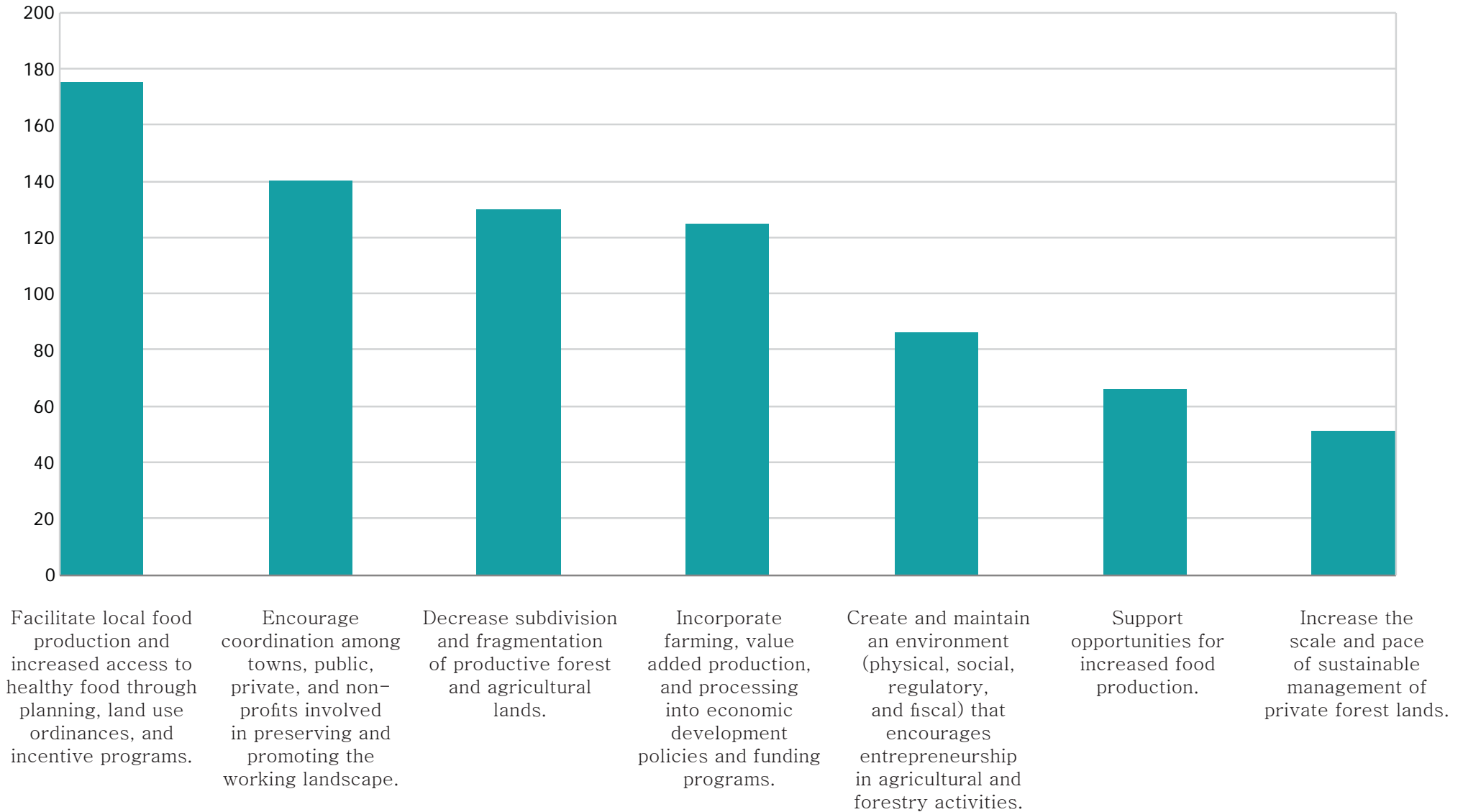
Goal 1: Sustain and support the region's working landscape of agriculture, including farming, forestry, fishing and sugaring. ... 57.1%

Goal 2: Direct new growth in the form of jobs, housing, commerce, utilities, industry, community facilities, and cultural activities to downtowns and villages. ... 52.7%

Goal 3: Support the adoption of clear land use plans and implementation policies that will preserve historic settlement patterns, and prevent rural sprawl. ... 37.5%

Agriculture and Forestry

The Agriculture and Forestry section will encourage the protection of working lands and the livelihoods of the people who use them by recognizing their benefits, promoting their products, and examining the attitudes, policies, and land use patterns that threaten their existence.

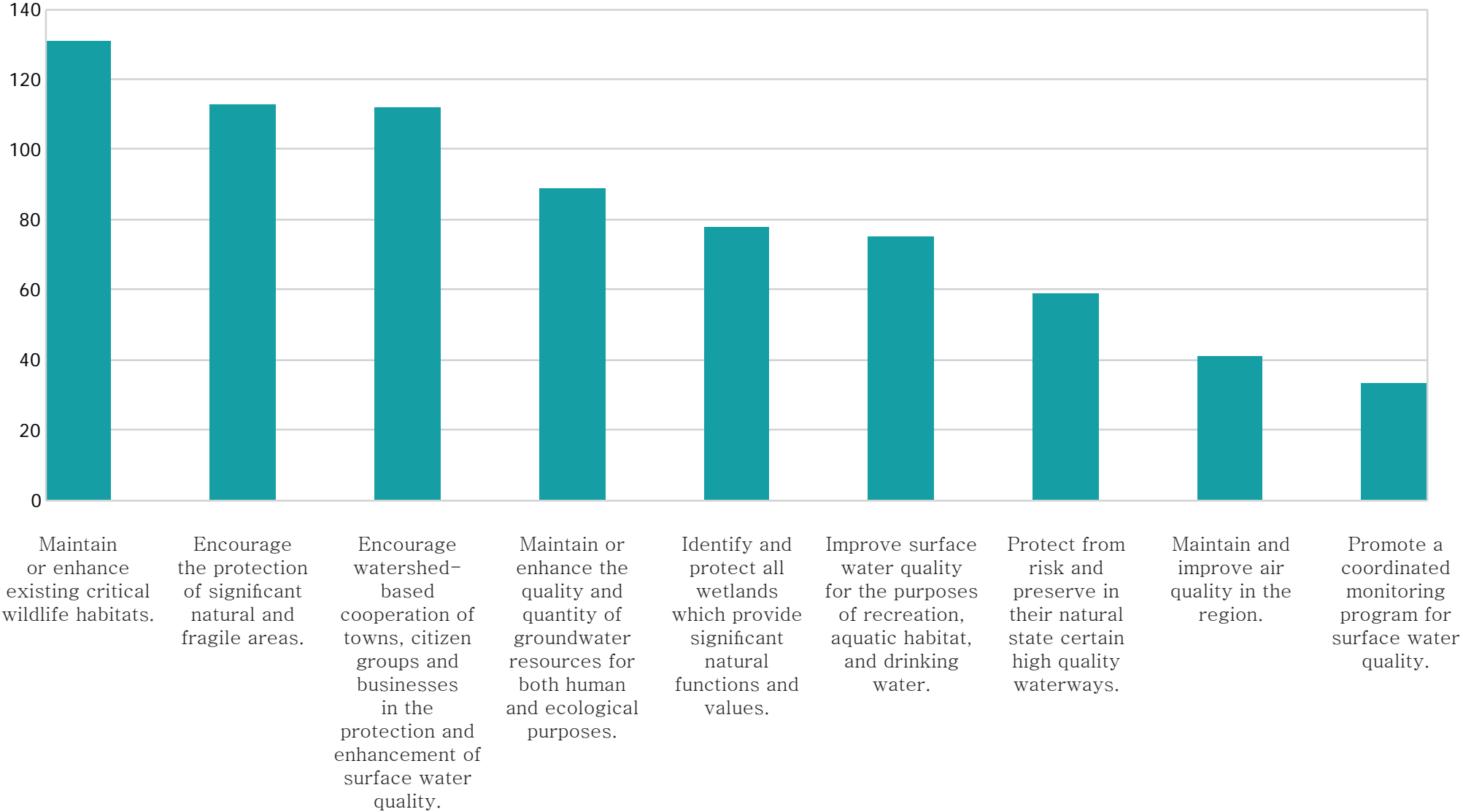


Comments: Agriculture and Forestry

- Support use of renewable energy on farms and homes through zoning ordinances, financial incentives and free/low cost how-to-do it information. It is beneficial to forests and agricultural production to have a role in reducing climate warming.
- I'm not sure what some of the above items mean. What is 'value added production' and what is the difference between option four and option six on local food?
 - Let market forces secure the future vs. government intervention
 - Address methods to encourage landowners to participate in the working landscape and protect their landowner rights.
 - Increase subdivision and fragmentation of productive forest and agricultural lands.
 - Encourage organic and sustainable agriculture and silviculture through incentive programs and funding programs.
 - My main goal is to alter the proposed bike path to use existing roads, bridges, parking lots and parks instead of the destruction of wildlife habitat and private property! The cost in money and mental anguish to Barre Town residents is terrible!
 - Pedestrian-friendly downtown development
 - Support communities in local, renewable wood pellet energy awareness home heating options
 - Preserve land for wildlife habitat, walking trails.
 - Ensure that farming and forestry practices are environmentally sustainable in terms of their affects on water bodies, erosion of soils, CO2 emissions, etc.
 - Maintain a healthy agricultural community in central Vermont.
 - Support for Organic farming practices only
 - Encourage altering the current agriculture regulatory scheme (i.e., hands off) to improve management/control of the effects caused by the modern large farm/dispersed field locations/satellite farm locations, etc. business reality
 - It would be hard to find a more biased set of questions. The goal is assumed and only the method is in question.
 - Limit regulations for small independent agricultural growers/farmers.
 - Increase good local govt (which is already good), cut down on effects of absentee govt, aid citizens in being independent, responsible individuals mindful of community goals and needs, and focused on not draining them. Solar panels decreasing farm land is not agriculture unless really, really effective
 - Decrease pollution attributable to farming.
 - Allow landowners with 25+ acres of mixed forest/agricultural land to qualify for the Current Use Program instead of requiring them to have 25 of agricultural or 25 of forest.
 - Make it easier to develop housing in places where we want housing (within walking distance to downtowns.) This could reduce development pressures on our farms.
 - Maximize wildlife habitat and corridors
 - Reduce restrictions and mandates on those working the land and processing farm products.
 - Make it easier to subdivide existing lots under 11 acres. A lot of land was wasted by former septic rules that encouraged 10.1 acre lots.

Environment and Natural Resources

The Environment and Natural Resources section will encourage the conservation, protection, and improved health of native species, habitats, water quality and air quality.

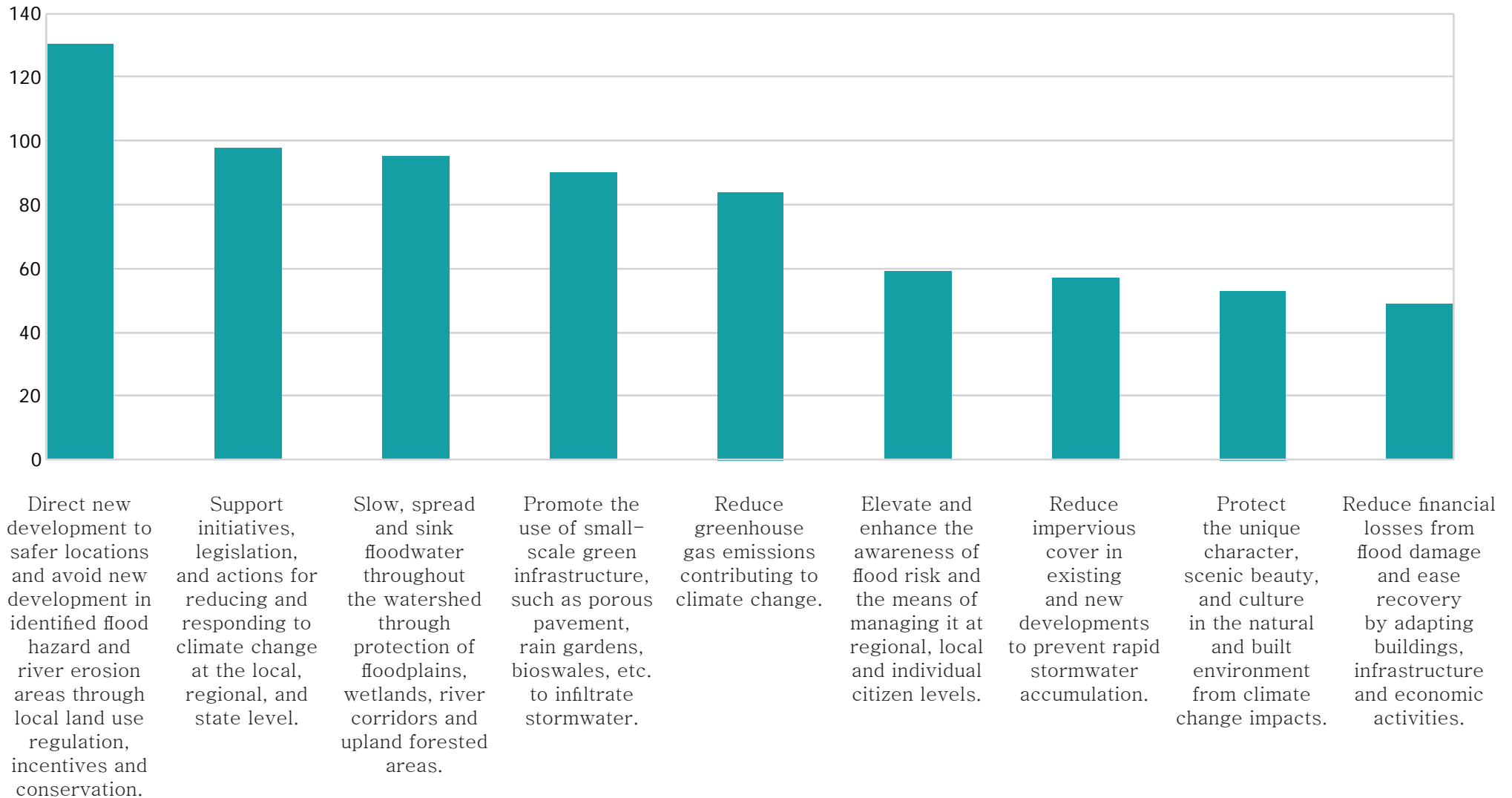


Comments: Environment and Natural Resources

- Encourage the development of unused existing dams for generation of electric energy. If the global temp increases 5 degrees the quality of groundwater resources will be destroyed.
- Prevent extraction of water for commercial purposes; protect subsurface water and aquifers from water removal and contamination (inc ban on fracking).
 - Local control of natural resources, for example shoreland zoning
 - Enforce existing laws, stop making new ones
 - Identify and encourage economic development that enhances and protects air and water quality
 - Regional effort to locate, identify, and control invasive plants and species that threaten Vermont's natural environment.
 - None of the above. Current regulations and laws are sufficient to the point of choking development.
 - Restrict access to Berlin Pond and designate it as a wildlife preserve and a "critical infrastructure" reservoir.
 - Flood management
- Barre Town does not have a storm water run-off plan. The water has been miss-directed downstream towards other Barre Town homes and Barre City homes and business properties!
 - All of the above
 - No recreational use of Berlin Pond
 - 1) Habitat loss and fragmentation are the key drivers of most biodiversity loss. This is separate from "critical" wildlife habitats - but probably more important. 2) What wetlands don't provide significant natural functions? Lake Champlain has lost 50% of it's wetlands since European settlement. I think we can safely say "protect ALL wetlands."
 - All of the above are important. It's hard to choose the most important.
 - Ensure that any additional wetland protection comes with coordinated policies that help, not hurt, owners of the protected areas
 - Protect water and air from large corporations. Maximum penalties for corporations that pollute.
 - Create fact-based, well researched, scientific baselines about resources. Create an informed, problem solving, engaged citizenry with knowledge to independently and in partnership forge common sense, sustainable ways to steward all resources. That will also help build trust, decrease the gap between govt and citizens (more distrust the more distant or invasive govt is). This gap was identified by many participants in a recent Snelling Ctr. leadership meeting.
 - All of these are important - I think a systems-based approach is best, which protects significant natural areas/wildlife areas while also focusing on wetlands and important upland watersheds. Conserving intact natural communities and managing our working lands and developed areas properly are all essential to the mission of the environment and natural resources. We don't have to choose between say, state-significant natural communities and watershed preservation.
 - Protect river corridors/fluvial erosion hazard areas from development. Protect forests and other habitat blocks from fragmentation.
 - 1) Make it easier to develop housing in places where we want housing (within walking distance to downtowns.) This could reduce development pressures facing important natural resources. 2) Stop promoting auto-oriented strip development. 3) Protect unfragmented forests and wildlife corridors.
 - Reduce restrictions and mandates on those working the land and processing farm products.
 - Draft goal 4 should state "...protection and enhancement of surface AND GROUND water quality"
 - This survey is biased toward environmentalists. Clean air and water along with natural beauty are important resources but people need good jobs. The two aren't mutually exclusive but we can't job do one.
 - Maintain the current regulations while constantly monitoring them to assure that they are actually effective and don't become an undue burden on people's property ownership rights and benefits. Put all regulation under an effectiveness scrutiny every five to ten years and repeal any regulation that cannot show that it has produced a clear benefit and that it is the least expensive approach to render the same or nearly the same benefit. All newly proposed regulation should go through the same effectiveness to cost scrutiny.

Climate Change, Hazard Mitigation and Flood Resilience

The Climate Change, Hazard Mitigation & Flood Resilience section will guide the creation of a resilient region that works to minimize its contributions to climate change and is prepared for the challenges and opportunities of a changing climate.

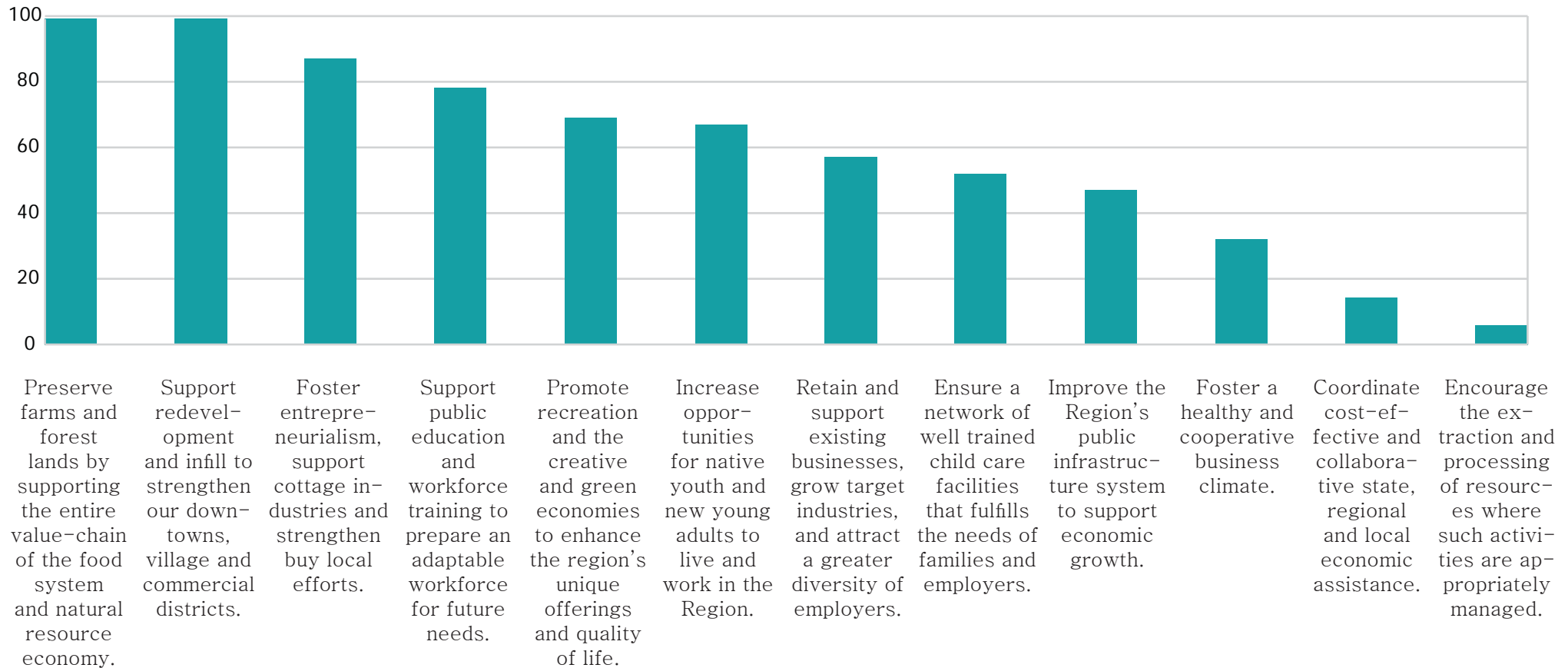


Comments: Climate Change, Hazard Mitigation and Flood Resilience

- Local control of flood plains
- Stop wasting time and billions of dollars on a “greenhouse gas” theory that does not stand up to science.
- Recognize Vermont is not a contributor to excess carbon emissions and that we can do little about mitigation because we are so small. So why discourage job creation for this ill conceived initiative?
 - None of the above. Current regulations and laws are sufficient to the point of choking development.
 - Cars & Heating = 95% of VT’s greenhouse gas contribution – this is where we need to focus, NOT on industrial-scale wind energy!!!
 - Many of these sound the same. Decrease construction in wooded areas, utilize already built structures and parking lots.
 - Do not allow rebuilding of homes, businesses, etc. in areas that have flooded recently; re-engineer washed out roads (i.e. relocate, elevate, etc.), culverts, etc. to take on twice what they were unable to survive in the last flooding The long range forecast from NOAA is for a much wetter New England than in the past. Flooding is our present not just our future.
 - Reduce reliance on cars
 - Support statewide divestment from oil companies which are the primary cause of global warming.
 - I want to check them all
 - All would be great.
 - Don’t try to protect from the effects of climate change; design a scheme that will allow our region to adapt to climate change (i.e., if it’s going to happen, work with it)
 - Reduce, limit or ban new development in floodplains and other areas that will contribute toward soil erosion and flooding
 - Perhaps you will address this more specifically later, but I’m surprised that there isn’t more about other climate change combating opportunities. Flood resilience is just adaption, what about more active prevention?
 - All of the above
 - Develop multi-municipality FEMA Community Rating System at Regional Planning Commission
 - Again, biased questions leading the survey to a conclusion.
 - Encourage living close to work.

Strong and Diverse Economy

The Strong and Diverse Economy section will support a unified economic vision. This vision will guide the use and conservation of community resources and help to direct public investment.

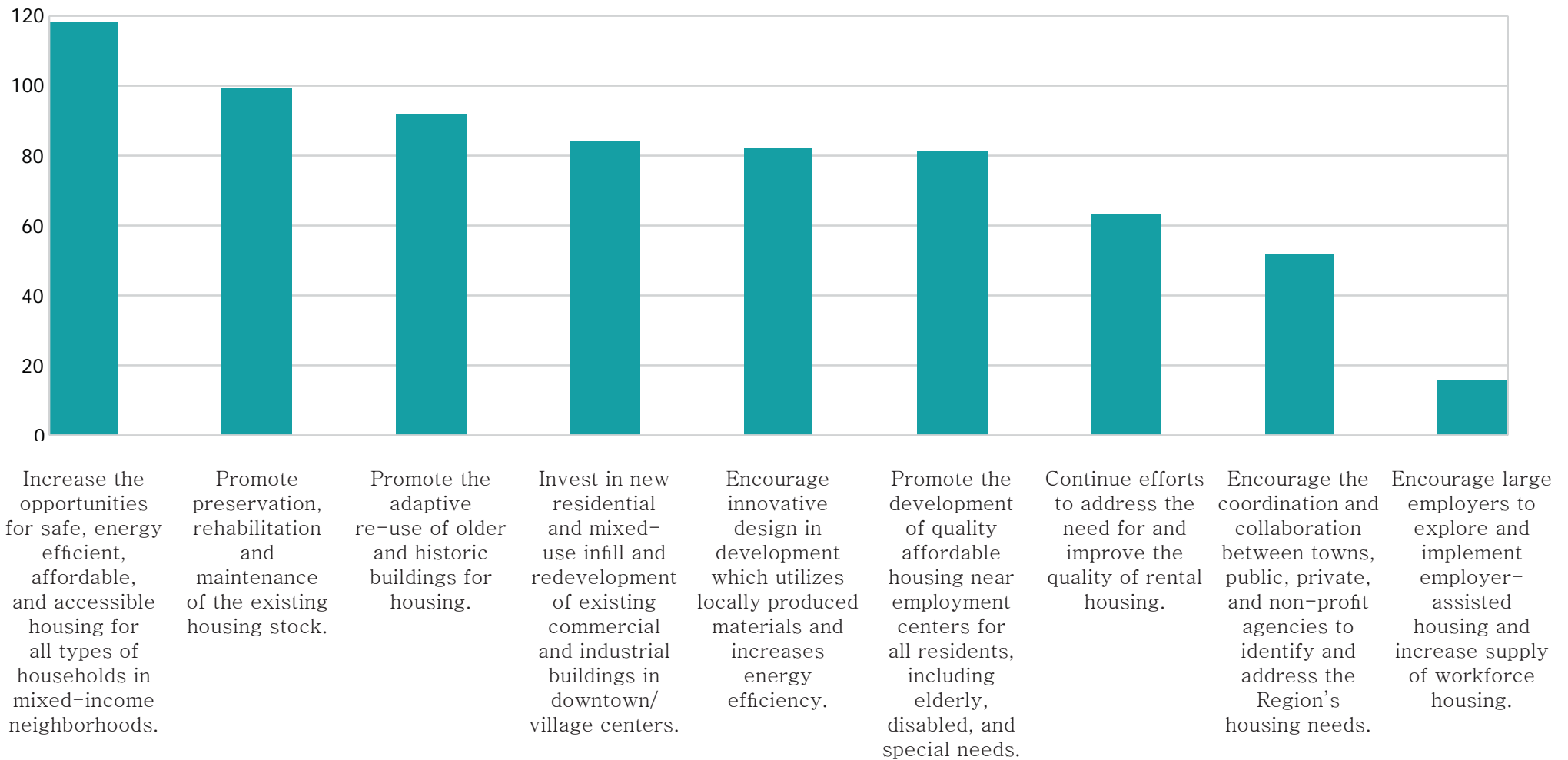


Comments: Strong and Diverse Economy

- Support the creation of a state bank to keep \$\$\$ in-state, reduce taxes, and provide a source of capital for LOCAL, especially small businesses
 - All of the above
 - Reduce government involvement and therefore reduce a suffocating tax policy.
 - Discourage development of “big box” and chain stores which drive out local Vermont businesses.
 - So many of your choices are really different answers that it is difficult to choose. For example, how and why do recreation and the creative and green economies have to go together? They are 3 different things.
 - Increase Re-use and Recycling infrastructures; and added value economic development
 - Utilize existing building and roads and stop destroying woodlands before we have no animals to watch.
 - Livable wages and affordable housing. Without these two things it is difficult to live and work in Central VT.
 - Growth is done; downsizing is the new black. Focus on permaculture, home sharing, and helping one another as the money for services disappears.
 - Limit industrial and commercial development in our outlying areas, and encourage growth in the urban communities. Reduce and discourage suburban sprawl.
 - Require a minimum living wage – especially for large corporations (big box stores) that want permits to develop here.
 - Discourage part time jobs in favor of full time jobs with benefits.
 - All of the above
 - Support education, workforce training, and job placement to those over 40.
 - Target high paying (or at least not low paying!) business opportunities. Target creative high tech sorts of business opportunities, examples of this would be the gaming industry. Create the sorts of jobs that young people want, then they will stay or come.
 - Make it easier to develop housing in places where we want housing (within walking distance to downtowns.) Employers find it challenging to attract employees with the existing housing opportunities.
 - Jobs Jobs, Jobs!
 - I support most of one of the goals – “retain and support existing business and grow target industries,” but I don’t think that we should be doing traditional economic development through attracting large existing businesses through incentives (smokestack chasing).

Safe and Affordable Housing

The Safe and Affordable Housing section will review the number and types of housing units currently in existence, future trends in housing demand and costs, and outline strategies to meet identified housing needs.

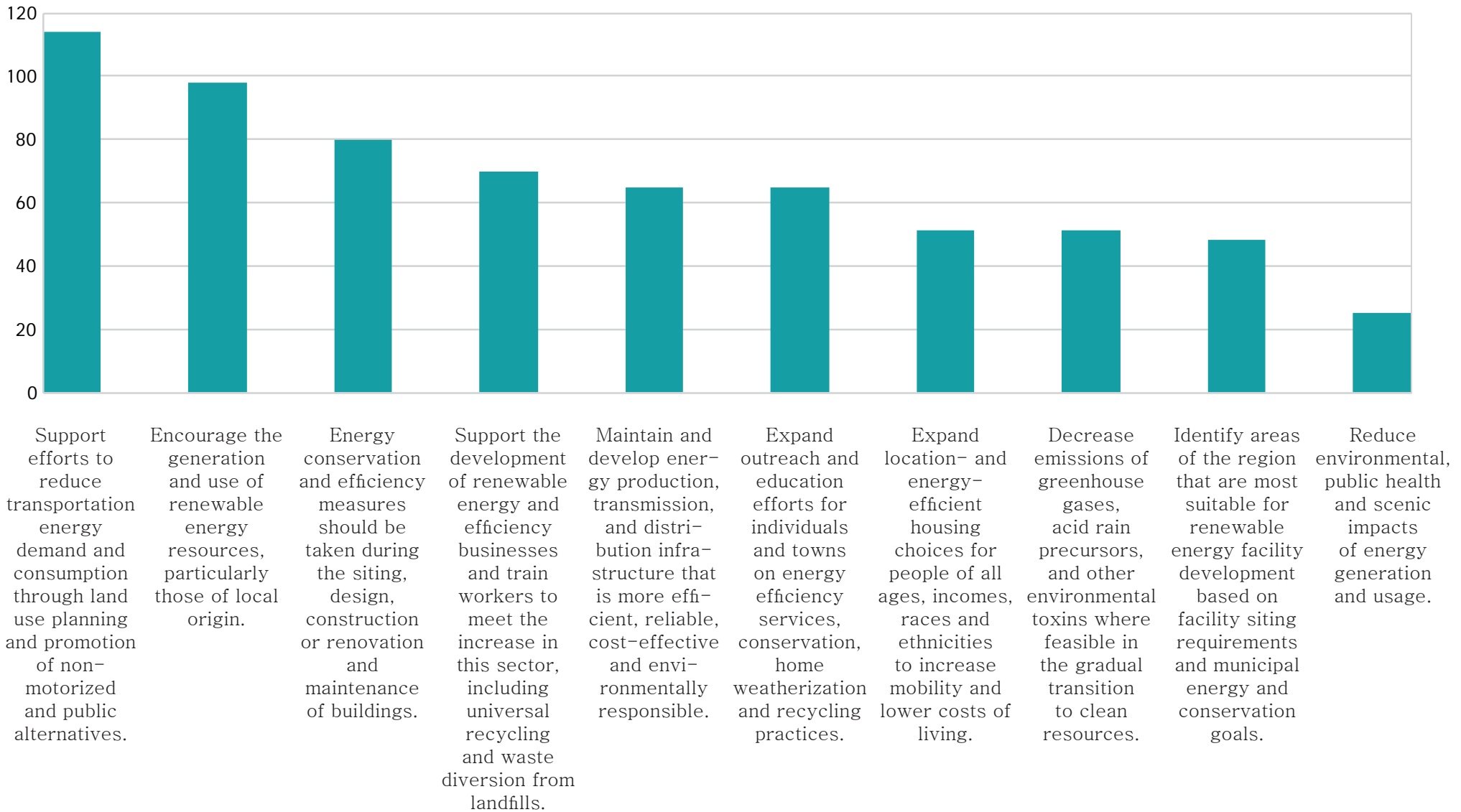


Comments: Safe and Affordable Housing

- Support co-housing organizations and co-housing through zoning ordinances.
- Focus on encouraging housing in or near town and village centers while preserving farmland and forests (prevent suburban sprawl development)
 - The first and best way to make housing more affordable is to lower property taxes.
 - Lower taxes and affordable housing will follow
 - Provide financial incentives for homeowners to weatherize their homes.
 - Begin a genuine home sharing program--not just for elderly or disabled but for single moms with kids, etc. Changes in zoning, number of persons per space, etc. may need to be made. (See #1--encourage innovative design with local materials -- more not-quite-so-tiny cob/straw bale, etc. houses clustered around a garden plot-- co-housing without the outrageous price tag.
 - Reduce cost in home building of regulations
 - Identify government boundaries; improve awareness of, recognition of benefits and drains on citizenry. Stop scope creep, which is so deep rooted and pervasive that government at state and national levels now focuses on the world, not serving citizens well
 - Do all of these.
 - Fewer mandated up front permitting, infrastructure and utility costs for housing projects.
 - Provide incentives for people to buy 1 to 3 family houses and live in them as owner occupants. That will improve the housing stock more than anything else we can do.
 - Review all housing regulations and revamp to provide maximum safety at minimum cost

Energy Efficiency and Development

The Energy Efficiency and Development section will be designed to assist in the decision making processes of state and local government, and to enhance the economic and environmental health of the Region.

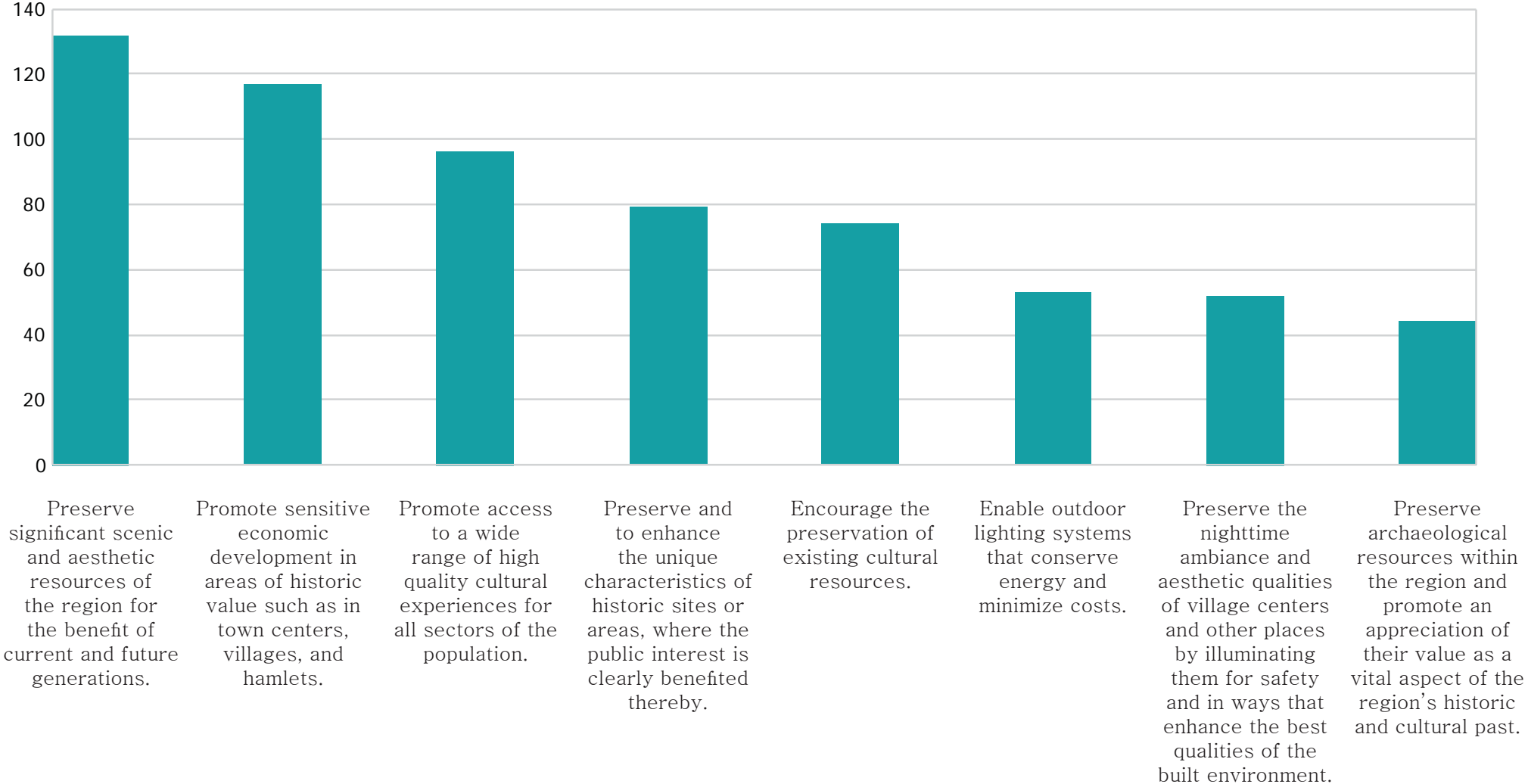


Comments: Energy Efficiency and Development

- The description of this section doesn't make sense.
- These goals are not comparable with your other goals.
- Small scale hydro, new nuclear, methane reclamation,
- Reduce energy use for snow-making in early months.
- Plan and fund EV infrastructure.
- Again, these all sound the same. Increase use of solar panels and wind turbines, reduce destruction of woodlands
- Require comprehensive environmental impact study of any new energy facility. Allow adequate time for citizen input.
- Gradualism in combating further climate change is no longer an option. Climate chaos is already occurring at much lower temperature levels than was forecast even last year. The physics demands immediate and immense effort. E.g., Germany recently paid for every homeowner, apt. owner, etc. to have solar panels. Now they are making more electricity by these solar panels than the entire country needs at times. (Note: We're cloudy in the winter, but I don't believe that Germany is the Colorado of Europe) Mandatory, state-funded weatherization for apartments, as well as homes and offices, etc.
 - Make realistic subsidies available for small-scale solar and wind power for homeowners and small businesses, especially farms.
 - Enact and ENFORCE strong building codes for all buildings, new and existing buildings, which includes aggressive efficiency measures, encourages renewable supplies for electricity, heating and cooling, brings in transportation and locational efficiency into the code equation etc.
 - Solar over ridge line wind energy development
 - Work to prevent NIMBY effects; aim for positive state/interstate (regional) effects -- local is not best for this issue; energy production is one of the few true global concerns -- don't forget the forest for the trees
 - Start by assuring facts are in place, not opinions based on activist agendas. CVRPC is the perfect host for improvements; it already does science and fact based research and reporting quite well. Again, focus on citizens and their needs. Find outside of government ways to act for and fund needs of others.
 - Require compliance with VT PSD stretch codes for residential and commercial development, when codes are issued.
 - Implement initiatives to place a recycling and composting bin next to every public trash can.
 - Encourage lower energy use across the board by promoting low-impact lifestyles, jobs and housing.
 - Develop more accessible public transportation!
 - Base energy prices on usage, not incomes.
 - No wind turbines
 - No issues here. We are already on track as much as we need to be.
 - Dedicate funding and direct incentives towards weatherization of existing buildings (thermal efficiency initiatives).
 - Encourage the use of fossil fuels until technologies improve that will make renewable energy sources cost effective. End all subsidies to renewable energy.

Historic, Cultural and Scenic Resources

The Historic, Cultural & Scenic Resources section will highlight the region’s rural character, historic and cultural heritage, and scenic landscape in order to preserve and enhance these resources.

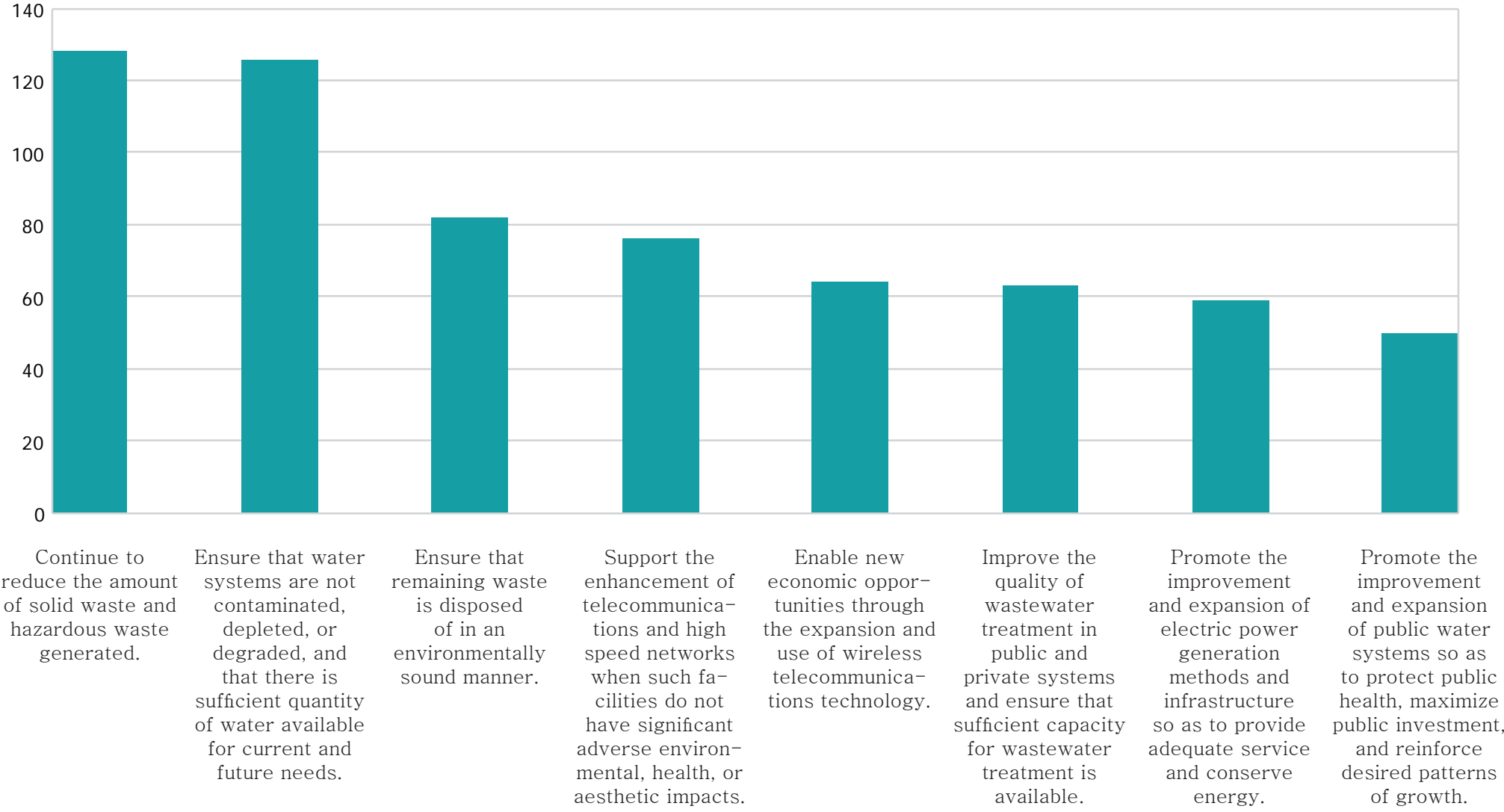


Comments: Historic, Cultural and Scenic Resources

- Support libraries as sources and location of cultural experiences
- Work with businesses, particularly along highway corridors, to design and illuminate businesses in a manner that is consistent with historic and scenic qualities. Reduce light pollution.
- Replace wide diffusion/upward-contamination street and other lighting with downward facing LED alternatives.
- Keep the libraries and the auditoriums open (for books, plays, live concerts, etc.) Promote outdoor and smaller events and local venues.
- While I support the use of energy efficient outdoor lighting, safety concerns should be paramount. It is very dark in Montpelier since the light bulbs were changed, and indeed unsafe.
- Develop opportunities within school systems for students to experience, understand, and contribute to the preservation of Vermont's scenic and aesthetic resources.
- Preserve our view of the night sky - eliminate outdoor lighting.
- Future development should be limited to town centers, villages and hamlets. Suburban sprawl and the conversion of farmland to tract housing should be strongly discouraged.
- Reduce ridge line development.
- ALL towns and businesses should have sensor lighting, where street lights, etc. are greatly dimmed until motion is detected. This will greatly reduce light pollution far from town limits.
- Discourage chain stores, box stores, and fast food restaurants from areas that do not already have these kinds of stores
- Limit night-time lighting as it interferes with sleep.
- Encourage citizen involvement at every step of the way; learn the importance of old and new cultures to the citizens
- This sounds like someone wanting to sell parking lot lights: "Preserve the nighttime ambiance and aesthetic qualities of village centers and other places by illuminating them for safety and in ways that enhance the best qualities of the built environment."
- Other exactly, Identify unrecognized cultural resources historically overlooked or ignored
- Promote the ongoing discovery and better understanding of the region's past through study and exploration.
- Not an issue
- Encourage the use of the National Park Service Standards/Guidelines for the Rehabilitating Historic Buildings

Utilities and Infrastructure

The Utilities & Infrastructure section will insure that the region’s infrastructure has adequate capacity to meet current and future needs in a timely and cost-effective manner that supports desired growth patterns; public health and safety; and environmental sustainability.

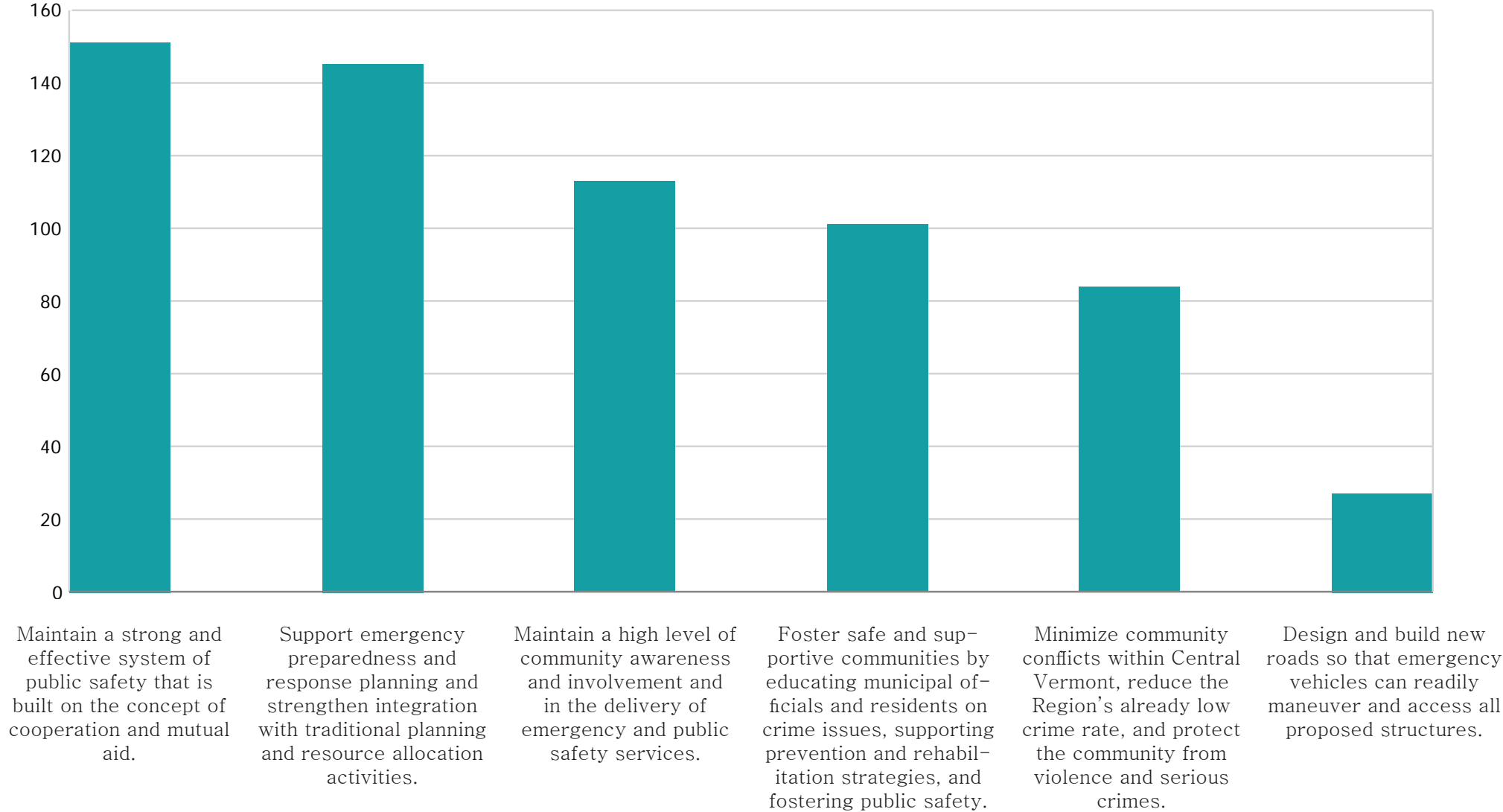


Comments: Utilities and Infrastructure

- Support local generation of electricity via renewable energy systems on homes and businesses instead of expanding larger commercial electric generation
 - No wind
 - Find ways to make these affordable to citizens and municipalities.
 - Authorize the new cell at Moretown Landfill.
 - Assist towns in developing zoning regulations that will promote orderly growth when waste water lines are extended.
 - Too many subjects on this page: reduce waste, dispose of properly, increase renewable energy, reduce impact on land and residents.
 - Eliminate fluoride in public water systems.
 - Find ways to remove chemicals from wastewater --chemicals that are not currently removable (e.g., medications, pesticides, hormonal disrupters, etc.) And keep clean water clean (free from animal or agricultural runoff, runoff from city streets, etc.)
 - Waste water treatment plants dealing with landfill leachate may need upgrade?
 - Encourage the development of small scale residential and agricultural wind and solar power generation.
 - NOTE: when encouraging electric generation, please stress RENEWABLE generation.
 - Educate the public as to how to reduce waste and wastewater.
 - Plan for emergencies and for needed upgrades and repairs to infrastructures - Focus on citizen safety in all situations. Eliminate gaps, such as the GMP plan to notify all citizens in affected towns when Marshfield Dam or other dam may have to be released. GMP & Vt State Police did not have the town of Berlin on their list, although many Berlin citizens were in river bank areas and would have been endangered
 - Support alternative waste water technologies. State Approval of alternative gray water systems
 - All of these are very important. It is difficult to choose only three...
 - Developing systems for public composting.
 - Just build the high speed network and skip all the PC qualifiers.
 - These are already being addressed. No additional focus needed.
 - Promote power generation sources that are renewable and sited, designed, and operated in a manner that is socially and environmentally acceptable.

Emergency Management and Public Safety

The Emergency Management & Public Safety section will enhance preparedness within the Region for responses to emergencies and create a safer Region for all residents.

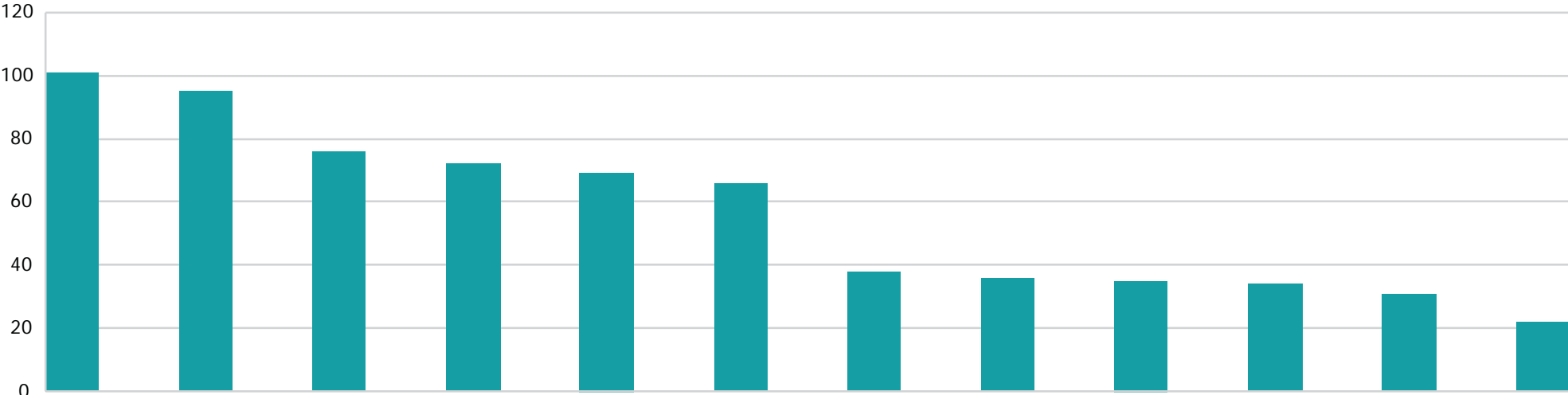


Comments: Emergency Management and Public Safety

- Establish effective citizen review boards with teeth to assure that law enforcement conduct is reviewable and there are consequences for inappropriate law enforcement conduct.
 - Encourage personal responsibility in preparedness.
 - Increase sex offender laws, increase/enforce resident status for welfare recipients.
 - Foster the growth and use of preventive and rehabilitation efforts -- e.g., in supporting families and young people -- as an approach to violence and serious crimes
 - Provide treatment options, specifically transportation to and from treatment, for addicts to curb the region's opiate problem.
 - Invest in drug education and prevention and strengthen services to help those who are addicted get clean.
 - Foster discussion of regional police service.
 - New roads? I think we have plenty of roads now. They are everywhere. Odd sentence in this page.
 - Less investment on police force. Remember that police is here to protect and serve, not to harass teenagers or to impose over priced traffic tickets on tax payers.
 - Coordination of police and mental health services in responding to emergency situations. Training in de-escalation techniques.
 - Refuse to participate in the militarization of local police departments by the DHS. No VT town needs a tank or a grenade launcher or any of those chilling faceless black riot outfits....
 - Do not build new roads, even in the interest of public safety, which can be a smokescreen for further development of rural areas to the detriment of agriculture and forestry.
 - Promote the development of a regional approach for all types of emergency services -- this is one area where the Vermont "town as an island" approach is useless
 - Make sure that citizens have the right to refuse aid!
 - Require sprinkler systems in new development.

Healthy Communities

The Healthy Communities section will promote strategies to foster the health and well-being of all residents.



Maintain and improve a high quality health care system that is accessible and affordable to all residents of the region.

Encourage development of shared use trails to connect communities, schools, and other facilities, and increase residents' options for physical activity.

Encourage in-fill development and density to increase walkability and potential for alternative transportation options.

Provide excellent educational and vocational training for the region's schoolchildren and promote access to lifelong learning in both public and private facilities.

Promote recreation and a healthy natural environment as regional assets, and plan development in a way that will ensure that those assets are sustainable.

Support programs that promote convenient access to healthy and nutritious foods for all residents.

Maintain the emergency medical services system at a very high level of service and accessibility throughout the region.

Ensure the preservation of and public access to a wide range of high quality sustainable recreation experiences for all sectors of the population.

Develop a regional recreation system that meet the recreational needs and wants of people of various ages, physical abilities, incomes and educations.

Promote effective, efficient, accessible, and affordable educational facilities and services.

Promote community-based educational programming and service learning opportunities.

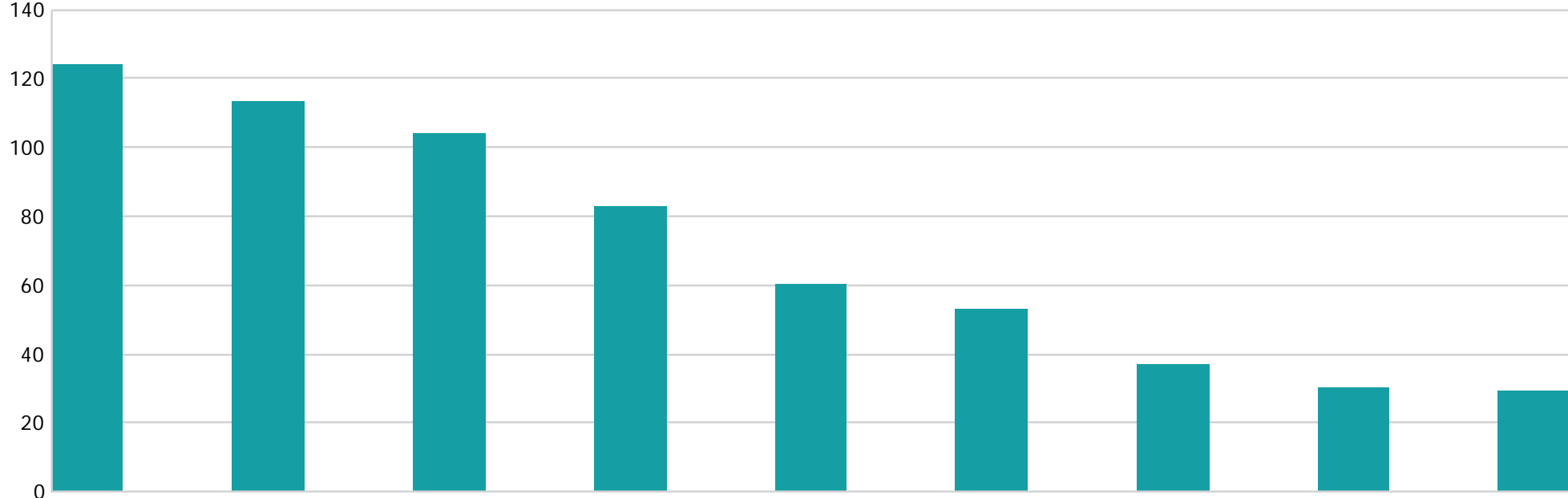
Support municipalities in effectively incorporating public health issues into local plans and/or healthy community action plans.

Comments: Healthy Communities

- Improve (widen) shoulders on all roads to allow safe bicycling.
- Eliminate Obama care/Shummy care
- Shared use path/recreational path/bike trail connector should be built along the edge of existing roads connecting Barre Town Rec Field and Barre City Rec Field without destroying private property or high cost! Millions of dollars is crazy!
- Give more sick days for workers with children. Enforce sick people to not go to work when they are sick.
- Advocate for pedestrian friendly downtowns
- All of the above
- Local food production should be a primary focus of any future planning.
- Develop and support community food security efforts to ensure access of healthy local food for all people (e.g., community gardens, gleaning programs, food rescue, EBT at farmers' markets, Healthy Retailers programs, etc.)
- Most/all of the above. On the subject of nutrition, acknowledge that healthy food can be more expensive and continue to work on new solutions to that issue.
- Return health services and payments to a contract between patient and his/her physician.

Transportation

The Transportation section will be the culmination of a thorough study of the multi-modal transportation needs within the Central Vermont Region.



Integrate modes of travel in order to allow for their most effective use and ultimately reduce dependence on single occupant vehicles.

Promote a regional public transportation system.

Establish a transportation system that minimizes consumption of resources and maximizes the protection of the environment.

Achieve a regional transportation planning process that is comprehensive, multi-modal, and public, and is integrated with regional and local land use planning.

Make necessary improvements to achieve a transportation system appropriately structured and designed to safely, effectively, and economically move goods and people.

Promote a regional transportation system that preserves and enhances residential and economic development potential in growth areas.

Enable the transportation system to operate at its highest efficiency by managing travel demand an encouraging shift to under-utilized and more efficient travel modes.

Preserve and maintain the existing transportation system.

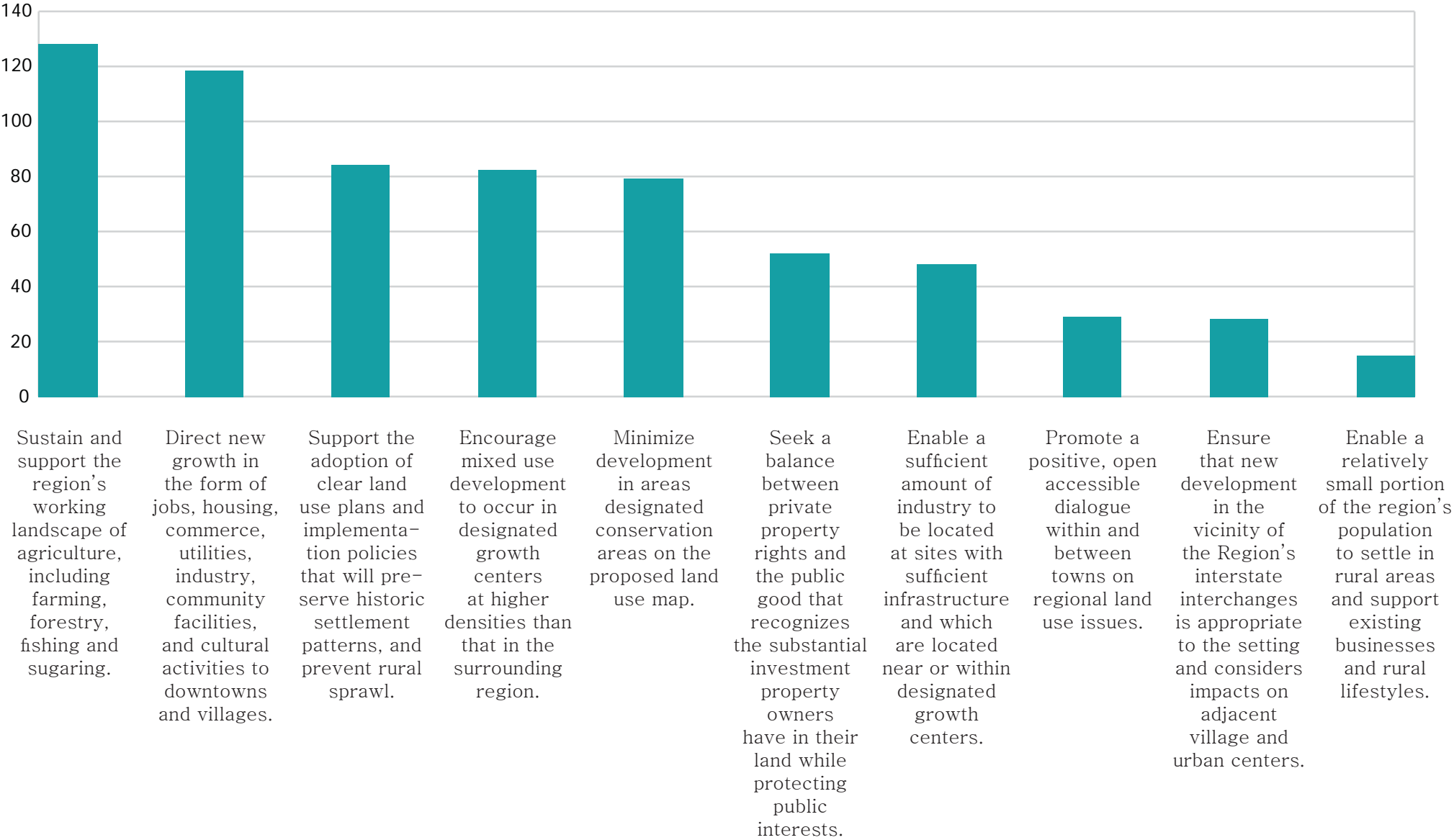
Promote a transportation system design that strives for aesthetic and functional characteristics that improve the quality of life.

Comments: Transportation

- Encourage placement of many recharging stations for electric vehicles throughout the region to encourage more use of EVs.
- Support safe bike lanes and paths so that bikes can be used in all municipalities (for instance, Rte 2 in Plfd and to and in Montpelier is not safe for bike riders in many places, same for Rte. 14.
- Improve the condition of non-paved roads so as to reduce runoff and reduce the need for gas consuming cars in muddy weather.
- Let me keep my truck!
- Expand bus service/other mass transit to more rural areas where housing is generally more affordable.
- Utilize and improve existing roads, encourage buses. Shared used paths along the existing roads are fine. All paving and road-widening projects should include a bike lane. Do not build new paths through/over existing private property.
 - TRAIN...Let's use it!
 - Reduce reliance on cars in dense cities like Montpelier and Barre
 - Expand public transportation for municipalities and rural areas. Increase transportation services for handicapped and elderly.
 - Promote bicycle and pedestrian friendly communities through changing built infrastructure (bike lanes and pedestrian sidewalks)
 - Provide weekend and weekday evening transportation between Montpelier and Burlington
 - Look at making greater and more efficient use of the under utilized rail network in Vermont. Less than carload shipments and passenger rail need to be developed.
 - On call public in resort areas such as Mad River Valley
 - Work to eliminate rail bed regulations that impede rational use of available rights-of-way (obviously more a federal than state or local issue, but the effects tend to be local/regional)
 - Safety first please; educated transportation officials at all levels, including and especially knowledgeable on road maintenance and improvement. Get double strollers and 5 wide running groups out of the road (maybe we don't teach responsible road use to anyone any more?)
 - How about a local train and not just a high speed train. We would love a train to stop in Northfield, especially for the Norwich University students!
 - Bicycles
 - Encourage fracking and natural gas line extension.
 - Allow towns to identify road systems that suit the town by allowing the adoption of modified VTrans Road and Bridge Standards. Not all roads although they may be designated (for example Class 3) are not all the same. More local control of maintenance, ditching, etc. without needing to increase ditching, road widths, cutting of trees.
 - It is fine the way it is. We are too small to spend any more money on this stuff.

Future Land Use

The Future Land Use section will promote the preservation of the Region’s historic settlement pattern and scenic resources, defined by compact villages surrounded by rural countryside.



Comments: Future Land Use

- Promote private property rights.
- Eminent Domain and land acquisition should not be occurring in the Barre Town/ Barre City area. Private property owners should have final say on their own property! Over the wishes of the many who like to ride their bicycles.
- I'm disappointed in all of the questions on the entire survey in that it is very hard to determine what each goal actually means – they are worded in such a general and vague way, yet, many appear to have distinct outcomes – but only if you spend time trying to follow the goal to its logical conclusion. I'm concerned that someone doing this quickly may end up voting for goals they do not really support. With just a couple sentences of explanation each goal (and its fiscal, social and environmental implications) could have been made much clearer. Thanks for the opportunity to participate.
- Appeals to permitted development should require documentation of a bylaw or zoning regulation.
- I would like to add that the development of the Burke mountain area is a very bad idea. The jobs that will be created will be primarily low paying service jobs. The creation of the new lodge, hotel, water park, etc. is only to support people of means, who may visit. The Stowe and Jay Peak ski areas are absolutely ugly establishments, where most of the employed are treated like steerage and not paid well. The residents are appalled about these monstrosities. This type of development is NOT Vermont. This is not why people visit this state. Once the true Vermont is gone, it will be gone and people will stop coming. The only one's who will be financially rewarded by these types of development are the investors and they don't give a cold day in hell about you or the residents or the long term environmental impact of the area. I urge all the decision makers on this project to reject the plans as it now stands. Just keep it simple! In Peace.....
- Severely limit rural residential sprawl by developing regional standards that must be adhered to by towns
- Provide incentives for people to leave their land wild and serve as a carbon sink.
- What does this mean? “Enable a relatively small portion of the region's population to settle in rural areas and support existing businesses and rural lifestyles.” This question devalues the survey.
- A comment on this whole survey: Very hard to make 3 choices -- the possibilities are all so similar and all stated in such standard bureaucratic language -- I got “cross-eyed”
- Concentrate development in Sabin's pasture.
- Let residents build and live where they choose. Reduce permit obstacles and mandates in growth centers, downtowns and village areas.
- This survey is almost indecipherable. The questions do not lend themselves to reasonable responses. Recommend redesigning utilizing people who actually know how to design a survey.