

A topographic map of Vermont, showing terrain contours and a network of rivers. A prominent red boundary line is overlaid on the map, tracing a path through the state. The map uses shades of green and brown to represent elevation and vegetation.

2017- 2020

STRATEGIC PLAN - ADOPTED 11/15/17

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MISSION

The mission of the EGC is to improve the quality & lower cost of government services through coordinated investment, management, and application of geospatial data & systems.

The EGC is a consortium of state government and partner organizations focused on effective management of the State's Enterprise Geographic Information System (GIS). This Plan is an important part of the state's 'comprehensive strategy' for the development and use of Vermont's Geographic Information System (VGIS) as described in 10 V.S.A. § 122. The Strategic Plan guides the EGC's annual business plans.

VISION 2020

Geospatial data and technologies will have played an important role in helping the State of Vermont meet its goals. Whether having improved water quality, optimized snow plow routing, increased the predictability and speed of permitting or helped better target services for those struggling with opiate addiction – the EGC will have contributed to the partnerships, data, technology, and people responsible for finding innovative solutions to some of Vermont’s biggest challenges.

In addition to meeting the longstanding and ongoing GIS needs of member organizations the work of the EGC will have contributed significantly to the Statewide strategic goals set by the Governor of Vermont:

- 1) Growing the Vermont Economy
- 2) Making Vermont an affordable place to live, work, and do business and;
- 3) Protecting vulnerable Vermonters

(STRATEGIC GOALS EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 01-17)

PROCESS

The EGC Strategic Plan steering committee led the creation of this document with the input of individuals across agencies as well as state government partners. It is based on the recommendations of the following:

- 1. State of Vermont, Agency of Administration, GIS Location Strategy (2016)** This report is the result of an ESRI ‘Envisioning Workshop’ that focused on understanding state agency business priorities, challenges, technology landscape, and future plans. The three-day workshop involved eleven agencies and interviewed several additional agencies via teleconference.
- 2. Special Committee on the Utilization of Information Technology in Government (2016)** Created by the Legislature in 2015, this committee was charged with evaluating the governance and management structure of the State of Vermont’s overall IT system and IT programs.
- 3. VCGI Customer Surveys and Interviews (2015, 2016)** The Vermont Center for Geographic Information conducts user surveys and interviews to “assure that VGIS data are of high quality and are compatible with, useful to, and shared with other public-sector and private-sector data users.”

KEY FINDINGS

- 1) GIS is viewed as critical technology & there is a growing need for data based decision making.** The future of government in Vermont will include an increase in reliance on geospatial data and information. Interagency GIS collaborations are increasing the efficiency of providing government services. Web based GIS tools are evolving rapidly and empowering more and more individuals to visualize patterns and help solve problems.
- 2) The EGC is a valuable organization and there are many aspects of it that function well.** Many value the ability of the EGC to be nimble and focused on its mission. One hour monthly executive meetings with work delegated to working groups has worked well and the model of voluntary participation has resulted in engaged membership that has focused on 'win-win' solutions. The EGC should be mindful of what works well, while continuing to evaluate ways to evolve.

KEY FINDINGS

- 3) **The lack of any statewide GIS Advisory Council or formal relationship to external partners is a missed opportunity.** There exists a need for a governing/advisory body that is representative of the broader VT GIS community to provide input, advisement and collaboration regarding geospatial data/technologies in the State.
- 4) **GIS infrastructure, experience, data, and workflows are distributed unevenly across state government.** Vermont has pockets of GIS expertise mixed with a broader culture of geocentric thinkers, however there are agencies in State government where needs are unmet and there exists a failure to leverage existing assets. An effort should be made to bridge the gap between the ‘haves’ & ‘have nots.’
- 5) **There is widespread demand for the ability to have any employee make maps as needed without having to go to a GIS person.** Non-GIS professionals want to learn how to make maps and there is a need for intuitive tools that can meet their needs without requiring training.

GOALS

01 PARTNERSHIPS

Engage partners and lead a culture of information sharing that supports responsible decision making based on accurate data.

02 DATA

Lead efforts to create and maintain high quality geospatial data necessary to meet the State's Goals.



03 TECHNOLOGY

Coordinate investment & application of GIS technologies to support effective information sharing, collaboration, and cost savings.

04 PEOPLE

Empower people to make, use, analyze, and share maps and geographic information.

GOAL 1 PARTNERSHIPS

Engage state government agencies as well as their partners and lead a culture of information sharing that empowers responsible decision making based on accurate data.

- 1. Establish GIS Advisory Council to advise EGC and Vermont Center for Geographic Information.** The Council should be representative of the broader Vermont GIS community and compliment the work of the EGC. The council should focus on advisement and collaboration regarding geospatial data/technologies and policies in the state, as well as provide for opportunities to showcase best practices in Vermont.
- 2. Increase visibility of EGC and outreach to non-GIS professionals.** Highlighting the work being done by members will help people see the unrealized potential of GIS and how it can help them make smarter decisions.

GOAL 2 DATA

Lead efforts to create and maintain high quality geospatial data necessary to meet the State's Goals.

- 1. Develop a VSDI (Vermont Spatial Data Infrastructure) Management Plan.** The plan should define the VSDI include a framework for guiding investment in the development and maintenance of VSDI assets, as well as identify authoritative datasets and their stewards. The VSDI should be compatible with the National Spatial Data Infrastructure described in Executive Order 12906.
- 2. Promote quality and consistency through the adoption of best practices and standards.** Standards and practices should comply with those of the Federal Geographic Data Committee.

GOAL 3 TECHNOLOGY

Coordinate investment & application of GIS technologies to support effective information sharing, collaboration, and cost savings.

1. **Evolve the Open GeoData Portal to be the State's official source for authoritative geospatial data.** The Portal should become a robust platform that allows people to easily find data/services, make data management easier, and realize increased government transparency and accessibility.
2. **Identify and capitalize on opportunities to coordinate the acquisition and use of GIS software/infrastructure.**
3. **Explore new geospatial technologies and find innovative ways to modernize state government.**

GOAL 4 PEOPLE

Empower people to make, use, analyze, and share maps and geographic information.

1. **Expand capabilities and knowledge by making more person and on-line trainings available.**
2. **Serve as a community for sharing ideas or asking for help in tackling problems with GIS.**
3. **Expand capabilities and a culture of information sharing through a Geo-Peer Pilot Program (GP3) that pairs interagency colleagues with different skills in small collaborative projects.** Bring subject matter experts together with GIS professionals to find new solutions to problems.

APPENDIX: CHARTER

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization, hereinafter referred to as the "EGC", shall be the Vermont Enterprise GIS Consortium (EGC).

ARTICLE II. DURATION

Ongoing. Initiating on July 1 of each year, with automatic renewal unless or until dissolution per Article IX.

ARTICLE III. AUTHORITY

The EGC will act with approval and acceptance of the Office of the CIO.

ARTICLE IV. PURPOSE

The EGC will support the ongoing implementation and management of the State's Enterprise Geographic Information System (GIS). This support will be guided by the vision and goals articulated in the State of Vermont's Enterprise GIS Strategic Plan. The Plan aims to establish a dynamic Enterprise GIS framework within state government which:

- ◆ Promotes and leverages efficient use of the state's Geographic Information Technology (GIT) resources;
- ◆ Recognizes opportunity through coordination and resource sharing;
- ◆ Promotes quality and consistency through standardization;
- ◆ Addresses data access needs;
- ◆ Enhances the effectiveness of GIS services and solutions; and
- ◆ Improves decision making throughout state government.

ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Eligible Organizations

1. **Voting Member Organizations:** Organizations that are eligible for voting membership include Vermont State government Agencies, Departments, and the Vermont Center for Geographic Information (VCGI).
1. **Non-Voting "Liaison" Member Organizations:** Organizations that are not eligible for voting membership may establish "Liaison" membership. These member organizations will not have a vote.

Section 2. Establishment of Membership

Prospective EGC member organizations must be signatories to the EGC's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in order to establish official membership in the consortium.

APPENDIX: CHARTER

ARTICLE VI. POWERS, DUTIES AND REQUIREMENTS

Section 1. Powers of the Membership

Members of the EGC shall have and may exercise all the powers of the EGC, provided that they are consistent with State policies, standards, and guidelines. The EGC may exercise any and all powers granted to it by this Charter, or by any amendment to this Charter.

Section 2. Duties of Member Organizations

1. It shall be the duty of the Member organizations to further the vision and goals articulated in Vermont's Enterprise GIS Strategic Plan.
2. Member organizations are strongly encouraged to attend all meetings and remain current with EGC activities.
3. At the Annual Meeting, Member organizations shall designate two Co-Chairs for a one-year term. The Co-Chairs will coordinate EGC efforts and drive the overall process (including scheduling of meetings, drafting of minutes, etc.).
4. At the Annual Meeting, Member organizations shall adopt a business plan for the coming year.
 5. The EGC may establish sub-committees and define the scope, purpose and tenure of each sub-committee. Member organizations shall nominate sub-committee members.

ARTICLE VII. VOTING

Section 1. Representation

Each Member organization shall have one vote. Member organizations may proxy vote by sending notice to the Chair. Refer to "Section 4. Voting Rules" below for additional details.

Section 2. Quorum

A quorum consists of fifty percent (50%) of the Member organizations.

Section 3. Voting Rules

1. Decisions will be based on majority rule.
2. EGC member organizations may officially abstain from votes in which they need more information from others in their organization in order to place the vote. This abstention will be recorded in the meeting minutes. Any member organization abstaining will have until the next meeting to get the information needed and to enter an official vote on the issue.
3. Unanimity (everyone agreeing) is the best outcome. When unanimity cannot be reached, minority opinions will be documented in meeting minutes.

APPENDIX: CHARTER

ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular Meetings

Regular meetings of the EGC shall be held at a time and place to be selected by the Co-Chairs.

Section 2. Special Meetings

The Co-Chairs may call special meetings. Special meetings shall be called whenever any three Member organizations request such special meeting in writing or email.

Section 3. Annual Meetings

The Annual Meeting of the Members shall be held during the month of June at a time and place to be selected by the EGC. At the Annual Meeting, the Members elect the Co-Chairs for a one-year term. Also at the Annual Meeting, the Members will adopt a business plan for the coming year.

Section 4. Meeting Notice

Co-Chairs shall email regular meeting notices and tentative agendas to all Members of the EGC at least two weeks prior to EGC meetings.

ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS

This Charter may be amended or dissolved by resolution of the Member organizations at any regular or special meeting, provided that the following conditions have been met:

1. That proposed amendments to these Charter are presented in writing to the Members at least fifteen (15) business days prior to the date of the EGC meeting at which they are to be discussed and voted on.
2. That the Charter is amended by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the voting Member organizations present.
3. That the date of approval must be included with any amendment to this Charter.

Endorsed 8/4/2008

EGC MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES

VT Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets	Caroline Alves	116 State St. Montpelier, VT 05620	caroline.alves@vermont.gov	802-461-6188
VT Buildings and General Services	Richard Kehne	4 Governor Aiken Ave. Montpelier, VT 05633	Richard.Kehne@vermont.gov	(802) 828-1421
VT Agency of Commerce and Community Development	Melissa Prindiville	1 National Life Dr. Montpelier, VT 05620	melissa.prindiville@vermont.gov	802-828-5900
VT Agency of Human Services	Pete Young	108 Cherry Street Suite 304 Burlington, Vermont 05401	peter.young@vermont.gov	802-652-2062
VT Agency of Natural Resources	Erik Engstrom	1 National Life Dr., Davis Building, 6th Floor Montpelier, VT 05620-0501	erik.engstrom@vermont.gov	802-595-1939
VT Agency of Transportation	Lesley Bean	1 National Life Dr., Dewey Building, 6th Floor Montpelier, VT 05620-0501	lesley.bean@vermont.gov	802-828-0106
VT Association of Planning & Development Agencies*	Pam Brangan	110 West Canal Street Suite 202 Winooski, Vermont 05404	pbrangan@ccrpcvt.org	802-846-4490
VT Center for Geographic Information	John Adams	1 National Life Dr., Davis Building, 6th Floor Montpelier, VT 05620-0501	john.e.adams@vermont.gov	802-522-0172
VT Department of Information and Innovation	Casey Cleary	133 State Street, 5th Floor Montpelier, VT 05633	Casey.Cleary@vermont.gov	802-505-1711
VT Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security	Brett Pierce	Waterbury, VT 05671	brett.pierce@vermont.gov	
VT Enhanced 9-1-1 Board	Jeremy McMullen	100 State St. Montpelier, VT 05620-6501	jeremy.mcmullen@vermont.gov	802-828-6504
VT Department of Public Service	Steph Magnan	112 State Street Third Floor Montpelier, VT 05620-2601	steph.magnan@vermont.gov	802-828-3060
US Geological Survey (USGS)*	Lin Neifert	617 Comstock Rd. Suite 7 Berlin, VT 05602	lineifert@usgs.gov	802-522-8275

*Non-Voting Ex Officio Membership