

PART B

THE PLAN

GOALS, POLICIES, IMPLEMENTATION

The discussion presented in the previous chapters provides background information and framework for determining planning goals and policies.

What follows are the goals, policies, and also the tasks by which the plan will be implemented.

.For the purpose of the Mount Holly Town Plan we define goals, policies, and implementation tasks:

Goals express broad, long range community aspirations relative to one or more category of topics.

Policies are statements of the Town's intent, or position, with regard to specific issues or topics. In certain settings, such as during Act 250 proceedings, policy statements shall serve as the basis for determining a project's conformance with the Mount Holly Town Plan. Goals provide context for understanding policies, but it is the policies alone that serve as the final statement regarding the Town's position.

Implementation Tasks are specific actions to be taken by an identified entity to support one or more policy and to achieve the community's long term goals. (Note that Implementation Tasks, below, are not listed in any particular order).

Priorities for implementing the tasks are identified as

- ongoing,
- short term (to be completed within one year of plan adoption),
- mid-term (1-5 years of adoption) and
- long term (5+ years from adoption).

Responsibilities

The Town government officials and bodies responsible for each task are identified. Other organizations whose assistance the Town will request are identified with "x"

Too often after a town plan is adopted, it is set aside and/or ignored. There are several reasons for this, including the lack of available resources – money, people, and time – to accomplish everything called for in the plan.

A town plan should, however, be viewed as a living document that describes a direction for the community.

The following goals, objectives and, most importantly, the implementation tasks should be viewed as a work plan to assist local decision-makers in a variety of settings, and include:

- Guiding the Select Board with budgeting and capital facilities planning
- Guiding the Planning Commission and landowners with local regulatory processes
- Serving as the "blueprint" for anticipated revisions to the Town's subdivision regulations, by describing the desired location, type, and intensity of future development

- Providing Town government, citizens, and landowners with guidance during Act 250 proceedings
- Informing state and federal officials - in regulatory, administrative, or legislative processes involving the Town - of the Town's objectives regarding development
- Providing the foundation for policies, programs, and regulations designed to ensure the conservation, preservation, and use of natural and cultural resources
- The plan can be used to inform and educate anyone interested in the Town

Consistency with State Planning Goals

Under current Vermont enabling legislation (the Act), Vermont towns are encouraged to plan in accordance with State planning goals (§4302) and to contain specified elements (§4382).

While this Plan was developed to meet the needs and reflect the desires of the Town of Mount Holly, the Plan has been written in a format so show consistency with all the State-specified goals and elements. The following goals, policies and tasks are consistent with State planning goals.

I. LOCAL PLANNING PROCESS

GOAL

To ensure the widespread involvement of Mount Holly citizens and property owners at all levels of the local planning and decision-making process.

POLICIES

- 1. Opportunities for citizen input will be provided at every stage of the planning and decision-making process and decision-making shall occur only in an open, public environment.**
- 2. Statutory hearing requirements will be recognized as an absolute minimum level of public involvement, and they will be expanded in all instances where public interest is evident.**
- 3. Public opinion will be solicited through the use of surveys and questionnaires on a regular basis.**
- 4. Public forums, direct mailings, the Town's web page, and the ChitChat will be used to inform the public of governmental activities on a regular basis.**
- 5. The attitudes and opinions of Mount Holly's non-residential property owners will be solicited on matters of broad community concern, to the extent practical.**
- 6. Local land use regulations and related planning programs will be administered in a fair and consistent manner and the Town Plan will be used as the key resource document regarding questions of interpretation or intent.**
- 7. The Town Plan and related planning documents will be reviewed on an ongoing basis and amended as appropriate to address changing circumstances.**

LOCAL PLANNING PROCESS TASKS	RESPONSIBILITY	PRIORITY
<i>(Note: Tasks are not listed in any particular order)</i>		
1. Provide an open, accessible, and civil government to all citizens.	Select Board	on-going
2. Foster enhanced communication among all elected and appointed bodies.	Select Board	on-going
3. Review current maintenance and use of the Town web site to identify opportunities to expand its effectiveness as a means for keeping citizens informed of local government activities.	Select Board Planning Commission	on-going
4. Continue to publish meeting schedules and meeting agendas for local boards and committees.	Committee Chairs	on-going
5. Establish an annual planning forum where community members can be heard and where a policy of pro-active involvement is fostered.	Planning Commission	short-term
6. Conduct surveys to solicit public opinion regarding policy priorities of the Town and the preferred rate of community growth and development.	Planning Commission	on-going
7. Hold periodic meetings to evaluate the Town's performance in implementing the Town Plan.	Planning Comm Work Gp	on-going

II. PRESERVATION

GOAL

To preserve and enhance Mount Holly's natural resources, scenic landscape, environmental quality, and historic heritage for the benefit of current and future generations.

POLICIES

1. Support the efforts of land conservation organizations to identify and to preserve land and other important natural resources.
2. Protect water quality in streams by ensuring:
 - a. adequate sewage disposal
 - b. riparian buffers to protect water quality and fisheries habitat
 - c. control of runoff and erosion
 - d. restricted development in designated flood plains
 - e. protection of groundwater supplies.
3. Protect important natural resources and fragile features including wetlands, floodplains, unique geologic features, prime agricultural soils, and slopes in excess of 25%.
4. Protect critical wildlife habitat and important ecological communities including but not limited to deer wintering areas, rare and/or endangered species habitat, local fisheries, critical bear habitat and identified travel corridors from inappropriate or destructive development and land management activities.

5. Development on steep slopes, hillsides and ridgelines shall be carefully assessed to avoid or mitigate adverse impact to scenic resources, water quality, and public safety.

6. The Town shall advocate for State Wildlife Management Areas, State Forests and Parks, and the Green Mountain National Forest to be retained in public ownership now and in the future and to be managed for the long term health and well-being of the relevant ecological resources.

7. The extraction of earth resources, including sand, gravel and stone, shall be conducted in a manner that minimizes conflicts with properties in the vicinity, avoids adverse impacts to ground and surface water quality and other fragile features, and shall include plans for the restoration of extraction sites based on the unique conditions of the area affected.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY TASKS	RESPONSIBILITY	PRIORITY
1 Promote best land management practices for water resources, through subdivision performance standards for runoff, erosion, stream ecology, and aquatic life.	Planning Commission	short term
2. Develop a plan for an assessment of water quality with recommendations for the implementation of necessary measures.	Select Board Planning Commission Agency Natural Resources "x" Rut Reg Planning Comm "x"	on-going
2. Evaluate existing storm water management facilities and identify improvements that would enhance water quality.	Select Board Road Commissioner Rut Reg Planning Comm "x"	on-going
3. Conduct the second part of a critical wildlife habitat inventory (ecological survey) to assist landowners and town planners to anticipate and to avoid possible conflicts between development and/or land management activities and wildlife habitat protection goals.	Planning Commission MH Conservation Trust "x" NEGEF "x" State of VT "x"	short-term
4. Continue to review proposed subdivisions to determine the potential impact on fragile ecological communities and natural resources.	Planning Commission	on-going
5. Actively participate in the preparation of management plans for the state and national forests as well as the Yale/Bowen Forest and other public or conserved properties to ensure management strategies that are consistent with the goals of this Plan.	Planning Commission MH Conservation Trust "x"	on-going

6. Encourage active management and preservation of historic pastures and meadows.

Planning Commission on-going

7. Update the Town's flood hazard bylaws for the National Flood Insurance Program

Select Board
Planning Commission short-term

("x" = Organization to be asked for assistance with task)

PRESERVATION TASKS	RESPONSIBILITY	PRIORITY
1 Designate roads in addition to Maple Hill Road as "Town Scenic Roads" and encourage road work and private development to preserve and to enhance the scenic value of the roads including, but not limited to, the design of residential and non-residential subdivisions and the placement of buildings on subdivisions in order to preserve views, open space, stone walls, and natural and historical features.	Planning Commission MH Conservation Trust "x"	on-going
2. Work with interested Town organizations to inventory historic resources, including, but not limited to, hamlets, school districts and schools, cemeteries, churches, town halls, mills, cheese factories, blacksmiths, railroad stations, bridges, barns, buildings on the National and State Registers of Historic Places, stone walls, cellar holes, Jackson Gore boundaries, and other features.	Planning Commission MH Comm Hist Museum "x"	on-going
3. Nominate sites to be included on the State Historic Register.	Planning Commission MH Comm Hist Museum "x"	on-going
4. Protect Mount Holly's scenic landscape and rural character by the careful siting of residential development, to avoid placement in highly visible locations on hillsides and ridgelines, or on open meadows and farmland.	Planning Commission	mid-term
5. Encourage the Designated Village of Belmont to develop design review guidelines and process, so that development is compatible with the historic character and varied architectural heritage of the Designated Village of Belmont.	Planning Commission Belmont Designated Village "x"	short-term
6 Encourage the upgrade and maintenance of historic barns and other historic structures through adaptive reuse provisions.	Planning Commission MH Comm Hist Museum "x" MH Barn Pres Assn "x"	mid-term
7. Discourage the demolition of historic buildings.	Planning Commission MH Comm Hist Museum "x"	mid-term

III. GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

GOAL

To accommodate a rate of growth and development that meets the needs of the community and, as expressed in the Town's vision, to remain a rural town with open spaces and significant undeveloped lands.

POLICIES

- 1. Growth and development trends will be monitored on an annual basis using the best available data, estimates, and projections.**
- 2. Local infrastructure and services will be planned to accommodate anticipated increases in the Town's population.**
- 3. Each new development will be evaluated for conformance with the Mount Holly Town Plan and associated policies, bylaws, and programs.**
- 4. New development shall be sited to conserve significant undeveloped land, natural resources, and conservation lands, and to prevent strip development.**
- 5. The rural landscape and rural character of most of Mount Holly's countryside, consisting of moderate to low density residential development, farming and forestry, and limited commercial enterprises such as outdoor recreation, home occupations, and cottage industries shall be maintained by:**
 - a. ensuring that land subdivision is carefully designed to avoid, to the extent practical, adverse impacts to natural or fragile features, productive farmland, and other features which help to define the Town's rural character and working landscape;**
 - b. the careful siting and landscaping of subdivisions on steep slopes, hillsides, and ridgelines;**
 - c. encouraging land use that retains as much undisturbed rural and forest land as feasible.**
- 6. Mount Holly will protect itself from untoward results of development by establishing guidelines pertaining to:**
 - Access for emergency vehicles**
 - Peace and quiet of neighborhood**
 - Trees and scenic quality of ridge lines**
 - Scenic views**
 - Air and water quality**
 - Off-street parking**
 - Wildlife habitat**
 - Exterior lights**

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT TASKS	RESPONSIBILITY	PRIORITY
1. Catalog the Town's ordinances and update as appropriate, including but not limited to the Town's bylaws and subdivision regulations.	Planning Commission	on-going
2. Develop a capital budget and program that schedules capital improvements in relation to anticipated growth, local development objectives, and available financing.	Select Board Planning Commission	short-term
3. Maintain active membership on the board of the Rutland Regional Planning Commission to represent Mount Holly's interests in local and regional development and growth management initiatives.	Select Board Planning Commission	on-going
4. Participate in Act 250 and other state regulatory proceedings as appropriate to ensure that Town growth and development needs and limitations are adequately addressed, in conformance with the Mount Holly Town Plan.	Select Board Planning Commission	on-going

IV. HOUSING

GOAL.

Mount Holly shall be a Town where Vermonters with incomes in the median and lower ranges can afford to live.

POLICIES

1. The development of housing that meets the needs of a diversity of social and income groups, including elderly, low, and moderate income residents, will be supported by programs and regulation as appropriate.

2. The development of affordable housing options in appropriate locations shall be supported by providing incentives such as density bonuses.

3. The Town will work with developers, regional and state agencies, and other funding sources to provide new affordable housing opportunities in Mount Holly.

HOUSING TASKS	RESPONSIBILITY	PRIORITY
1. Make permanent the Mount Holly Affordable Housing Task Force to ensure that the Task Force continues to plan for the provision of local affordable housing and to find resources to build and/or rehabilitate buildings for affordable housing.	Select Board	short-term
2. Conduct another affordable and elderly housing needs analysis once 2010 U.S. Census is published, to be supplemented with local data, and identify specific local actions		

for addressing those needs.

Planning Commission
Afford Hous Task Force
Rut Co Comm Land Trst "X" long-term

3 . Explore the advisability of adopting subdivision or other regulations to require that new multi-unit residential developments include a mix of housing types and costs.

Select Board
Planning Commission
Afford Hous Task Force mid-term

4.Study the value of a process - prior to planning and construction of multi-unit or commercial developments – whereby builders and developers can be acquainted with the Town's considerations regarding such development

Select Board
Planning Commission mid-term

("X" = Organization to be asked for assistance with task)

V. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GOAL

To support well-planned and orderly development of Mount Holly's economy in a manner which is compatible with Mount Holly's identity as a traditional New England rural Town, a residential Town for families and second home owners, and a Town with a vision for economic development that does not change the character of the Town.

POLICIES

1. Economic development compatible with the Town's vision of rural development, home businesses, expansion of existing businesses, and small scale commercial and industrial activity will be encouraged.

2. Mount Holly's continued development as a residential and second home community will be actively supported by the Town to the extent that such residential development enhances Mount Holly's economy, tax base, and the quality of life for all Town residents, and does not adversely impact facilities and services, community character, or the local environment.

3. Mount Holly's existing economic base should be strengthened and diversified through:

a. the enhancement of telecommunications infrastructure to encourage the creation and relocation of businesses and professionals engaged in information-dependent technologies;

b. ensuring the continued viability of existing manufacturing and technology enterprises;

c. support for home occupations and compatible home-based businesses (cottage industries);

d. strengthening of resource-based enterprises (farming and forestry) through the protection of the resource base, the manufacture and marketing of value-added products, and the use of locally grown and manufactured products.

4. Private initiatives to expand cultural events will be supported .

5. The Town will continue to make public facilities available for performance and exhibit space and special events which benefit the community.

6. Economic development initiatives will be coordinated with the efforts of the Rutland Economic Development Corporation, the Rutland Regional Planning Commission, and other appropriate agencies and organizations.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASKS	RESPONSIBILITY	PRIORITY
1. Study the use that Mount Holly might make of new State legislation including provisions for village center designation (Downtown Development Act), growth center planning; creation of a tax increment financing (TIF) district for the financing of needed improvements.	Planning Commission Select Board	mid-term
2. Form a voluntary, ad hoc Economic Development Council to develop a comprehensive Economic Development Strategic Plan to guide overall economic growth, to diversify employment, and to expand the Town's tax base.	Planning Commission	short-term

VI. AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY

GOAL

To preserve Mount Holly's rural character and historic working landscape.

POLICIES

- 1. Enhance the economic viability of agriculture and forestry in Mount Holly by:**
 - a. encouraging local participation in Vermont's Agricultural and Managed Forest Land Use Value Program - commonly known as the "Current Use Program" - to support the viability and maintenance of farm and forest land;**
 - b. encouraging the creation of local industries which provide a market for locally produced agricultural and forestry products;**
 - c. encouraging seasonal recreational diversification and multiple uses of farm and forest land.**
- 2. Maintain an adequate land base to support present and future forestry and agricultural activities by:**
 - a Protecting agricultural resources by discouraging development on prime agricultural soil;**
 - b Protecting the viability of forest lands by discouraging development that divides contiguous forest areas;**
 - c Encouraging the use of locally-grown food products;**
 - d Including the development of alternative agriculture in any planning for economic opportunities;**

e Encouraging the clustering of residential development related to the subdivision of existing farm, forest land and open space, in order to facilitate the preservation of open space and to keep productive land;

f Fostering the tradition of the working landscape by promoting conservation easements, Federal and State programs, and other land use options which facilitate the preservation of land and open space.

AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY TASKS	RESPONSIBILITY	PRIORITY
1. Explore options for preparing and distributing a "Mount Holly Stewardship Guide" to educate landowners regarding the tools, techniques and resources that can assist them to manage land in a manner that protects environmental resources and maintains and enhances the working landscape, highlights the value of local farming and forestry to the Town's heritage and economy, and provides suggestions for supporting these traditional land uses.	Planning Commission MH Conservation Trust "x"	on-going
2. In conjunction with schools identify ways to assist young people find career opportunities in agriculture or forest industries.	Planning Commission Schools "x"	on-going
3. Consider, (in consultation with affected landowners), using both state and private conservation easement programs.	Planning Commission MH Conservation Trust "x"	on-going
4. Prepare an open space inventory for the Town that identifies parcels containing one or more natural resources. Establish a process for setting conservation priorities and for discussing conservation options with affected landowners. At a minimum, the open space inventory should explore the potential for preserving, through the purchase of development rights or other voluntary landowner actions, the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. scenic river accesses b. working farms c. large tracts of farm and forest land d. undeveloped forest land e. open fields in the Rts 103 and 155 corridors 	Planning Commission MH Conservation Trust "x"	mid-term
5. Amend local subdivision regulations to require the preparation and implementation of forest and/or farm management plans, when lots are set aside as open space or otherwise created as part of a local subdivision.	Planning Commission Select Board	mid-term
6. Amend subdivision regulations to assist in the implementation of above policies	Planning Commission	short-term

VII. RECREATION

GOAL

To continue to provide a diversity of recreational activities for all segments of the resident and visitor population, including continuing the Town's tradition of allowing recreational pursuits on private lands. (Traditional recreational pursuits include hunting, fishing, hiking, snowmobiling, cross country skiing, snow-shoeing, mountain-biking, and horseback riding.)

POLICIES

1. Monitor Federal and State land management plans to advocate for continued undeveloped status of those public lands.

2. Ensure that growth and development does not diminish the value and availability of outdoor recreational pursuits or of undeveloped land.

3. Encourage private landowners to keep land open for traditional recreational pursuits, and explore ways to increase the responsible use of private land for traditional recreational uses.

4. Promote the use of established trail systems such as VAST, Catamount, and hiking trails.

5. Identify, provide, and protect public access to non-commercial outdoor recreational opportunities such as lakes and hiking trails.

6. The Town will plan for anticipated future demand on recreational services and facilities to accommodate future population growth.

7. Maintain and improve recreation facilities, in order to expand current levels of service and types of facilities, including the following:

a. add trail facilities

b. maintain the recreation and ball fields and gym located at the Elementary School for use by the entire community

c. maintain the Star Lake public beach

8. Designate and clearly delineate roads that are available for ATV and snowmobile access.

9. Recreation facilities, including trails, pathways, playgrounds, conservation areas, and water access on Star Lake and Lake Ninevah should be incorporated as features of new development projects and remain open to the public.

RECREATION TASKS	RESPONSIBILITY	PRIORITY
1. Prepare a Recreation Plan to address: a. the use and maintenance of the gymnasium, b. the future maintenance and use of the Star Lake beach and shore areas, c. the four-season use of the Town's recreation facilities, areas and trails, d. expansion of recreation programs that target youth and teenage populations.	School Board "x" Planning Commission	mid-term
2. Develop a Town Trails Plan	Planning Commission.	

	MH Conservation Trust "x" VAST "x"	mid-term
3. Review and update management plans for public recreation facilities and properties.	Select Board	short-term
4 Organize and/or work with volunteer groups to maintain the School's athletic fields and gym and Star Lake beach, skating area, and swimming water quality.	Select Board	short-term
5. Request Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department to expand the list of acceptable uses of the Lake Ninevah access point to include non-motorized boating.	Planning Commission	short term
("x" = Organization to be asked for assistance with task)		

VIII. TRANSPORTATION

GOAL

To provide an efficient, cost effective, multi-modal transportation network that provides for the needs of the community.

POLICIES

1 Preserve the rural, historic, scenic character of Mount Holly by:

- a. Retaining existing paved and unpaved roads with no widening or increase in paving unless necessary for public safety;
- b. Maintaining safe and passable roads throughout the year consistent with the Vermont "Safe Roads at Safe Speeds" policy;
- c. Requiring that all road maintenance activities focus on safety, efficiency, cost-effectiveness and prevention of deterioration, rather than on facilitation of greater traffic volume or speed;
- d. Maintaining roads that can accommodate multiple modes of transportation, and recreation.

2. The Town shall provide a range of transportation options, including roads, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities, to accommodate the current population.

3. The Town shall explore possible transportation systems within the Town and surrounding region to meet the needs of the elderly, disabled, and others without means of transportation.

4. Class 2 roads shall be maintained, as needed, to promote the efficient movement of traffic within and through Town, without undermining historic character or pedestrian safety.

5. Class 3 roads shall be maintained, as needed, to accommodate current traffic volumes, while maintaining the unique character of the Town's residential neighborhoods and rural areas.

6. The current Mount Holly Road and Bridge Standards shall serve as the Town's standards for construction of public roads. Where a special road design is not covered by the Town Standards, the current Vermont State Design Standards shall be used for guidance.

7. The Mount Holly Municipal Center and Belmont Village should serve as the transportation hubs of the community.

8. Provide adequate parking to meet the parking demand generated by new development.
9. Advocate for a Route 103 Corridor Management Plan as a means to address traffic concerns in Mount Holly and access to Ludlow and elsewhere on Route 103
10. The Town shall accept new roads, only if related to the existing road system, in order to minimize the impact of new roads on areas of historic, scenic, or natural resources. The Town shall require, to the extent possible, that new roads form an interconnected network of roads, especially in proximity to higher density residential districts, and the Town will avoid roads that transect contiguous forest areas.
11. The Town shall seek, to the extent practical, regional solutions to traffic management and transportation issues through active local participation on the Rutland Regional Planning Commission's Rutland Region Transportation Council and coordination with the Vermont Agency of Transportation.
12. The Town shall protect and maintain the historic and scenic features located within the rights-of-way of scenic roads.
13. All road construction public or private shall have as little impact as possible on important natural areas, and shall preserve historic and scenic features of the landscape.
14. The Town shall retain stone walls along roads as part of the rural, scenic, and historic character of the Town.
15. The Town shall remove healthy trees from the right of way only where necessary for safety, visibility, snow removal, utilities, or drainage.

TRANSPORTATION TASKS	RESPONSIBILITY	PRIORITY
1. Through the Town's development regulations and driveway rules, continue to carefully control access to public roads in accordance with appropriate standards.	Road Commissioner Select Board	ongoing
2. Create and adopt an official map for the Town that indicates all existing and planned transportation routes, which might include: intersection improvements; traffic circulation improvements in Belmont (parking, one-way streets, traffic control, sidewalks); sidewalks; recreation paths; wetlands walkway.	Belmont Designated Village "x" Road Commissioner Planning Commission Select Board MHConservation Trust "x"	short-term
3. Through the Town's subdivision regulations, consider opportunities for proposed development roads to connect to contiguous existing or planned roads.	Planning Commission	on-going
4. Prepare and submit to the Town a Scenic Road Ordinance,		

and maintain designated scenic roads, in accordance with approved scenic road maintenance plans.

Planning Commission
Road Commissioner ongoing

5. Prepare a bicycle and pedestrian improvement plan for the Town that, at a minimum, addresses the following:

a. the creation and extension of trails along "ancient roads",

b. the feasibility of creating horse trails in conjunction with neighboring towns

Planning Commission
Road Commissioner
Select Board short-term

6. Explore with the Rutland Region Transportation Council ways to improve transportation for those without access to private transportation, including transportation during emergencies.

Planning Commission mid term

7. Keep abreast of changing regulations or funding regarding rail services and their effect on the Town.

Planning Commission
Rut Reg Trans Council Rep ongoing

8. Amend subdivision regulations to assist in the implementation of policies cited above.

Planning Commission short term

("x" = Organization to be asked for assistance with task)

IX. ENERGY

GOAL.

To encourage the efficient use of energy including the development and use of renewable energy resources.

POLICIES

1. Town energy expenditures shall be reduced to the extent feasible through energy efficiency and conservation.

2. Energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable energy resources shall be considered in new Town construction projects, equipment purchases, and operations.

3. Energy efficient building and site design which reduce energy requirements for lighting, heating, cooling, and transportation, including but not limited to the clustering and siting of buildings and the use of landscaping and screening shall be encouraged as applicable under local regulations and ordinances.

4. Encourage energy efficiency, energy conservation, recycling, and the use of renewable and alternative power and fuel sources (including wind, water, solar) within the Town of Mount Holly.

5. Ensure that development of alternative energy sources does not negatively impact the environment or the character of the community.

ENERGY TASKS	RESPONSIBILITY	PRIORITY
1. Conduct periodic energy audits of all municipal buildings as feasible and economical.	Select Board	short-term
2. Review and update as needed existing Town policies, bylaws, and ordinances to promote energy efficiency and conservation and to protect renewable energy resources.	Planning Commission	mid-term
3. Investigate participation with other towns or organizations in bulk-purchasing agreements for fuel supplies.	Select Board	short-term

X. EDUCATION

GOALS.

To provide educational facilities and shared services that ensure a comprehensive educational experience for all Mount Holly children in a stimulating and supportive environment.

To broaden access to both local and regional educational and vocational training opportunities for all Mount Holly residents.

To maintain the Mount Holly Elementary School as a valuable and functional asset in the community.

POLICIES

- Growth should not overburden the capacity of the school system, while at the same time maintaining sufficient enrollment.**
- All development plans shall incorporate school enrollment and infrastructure needs.**
- The Town shall support broadened access to educational, vocational and distant-learning opportunities, including educational programs and initiatives of local organizations.**
- Town educational facilities will continue to be available for public meetings, recreation, entertainment, and special events to the extent that these do not interfere with educational programs.**
- Encourage the development of additional services to support educational opportunities for all residents**
- Promote career opportunities for local residents in fields consistent with Mount Holly's rural nature**

EDUCATION TASKS	RESPONSIBILITY	PRIORITY
1. Develop enrollment projections and annually monitor school enrollments in relation to facility and program capacities.	School Board "x" Planning Commission	on-going
2. Conduct a capacity analysis of school facilities in order		

to accommodate projected enrollments and maximize staff efficiencies.

School Board "x" on-going

3. Review new housing development for its potential impact on the school system.

School Board "x"
Planning Commission
Aff House Task Force on-going

4. Develop interactive distance-learning programs in partnership with other organizations.

School Board "x" on-going

("x" = Organization to be asked for assistance with task)

XI. CHILD CARE

GOAL

To ensure the availability of safe and affordable child care for the children of Mount Holly.

POLICIES

1. To integrate child care issues into the planning process.

CHILD CARE TASKS	RESPONSIBILITY	PRIORITY
1. Maintain an inventory of Child Care programs in the region.	Planning Commission	short-term
2. Work with the Rutland Regional Planning Commission to conduct a child care needs assessment.	Planning Commission Rut Reg Plan Commission "x"	mid-term
3. Promote enhanced Child Care by requesting and encouraging local organizations to host events such as a Child Care fair.	Planning Commission Local organizations "x"	short-term

("x" = Organization to be asked for assistance with task)

XII. UTILITIES & FACILITIES

a. PUBLIC SAFETY

GOAL

To protect public safety by providing a high level of police, fire, and rescue services in an affordable and cost effective manner.

POLICIES

1. Emergency services will be provided as determined by locally defined needs and generally accepted standards for communities comparable to Mount Holly. The Town will plan for anticipated future demand for services and facilities to accommodate a reasonable rate of population growth.

2. To improve and maximize the delivery of services the Town's emergency providers will coordinate and integrate their services with other local and regional service providers.

PUBLIC SAFETY TASKS	RESPONSIBILITY	PRIORITY
1. Identify existing and projected space and equipment needs for inclusion in a capital budget and program.	Select Board Fire Department "x" Rescue Squad "x"	on-going
2. Monitor staffing and volunteer levels for both the fire department and rescue service to identify possible shortages of volunteers in future years.	Fire Department "x" Rescue Squad "x"	on-going
3. Review existing emergency service and emergency response standards included in subdivision regulations and make revisions as appropriate to ensure that adequate fire protection facilities (hydrants, water supplies) and provision for emergency vehicle access are required for new development.	Planning Commission Fire Department "x" Rescue Squad "x"	on-going
4. Work with Rutland Regional Planning Commission to conduct annual reviews of local Emergency Management Plans	Select Board Heads of services "x" Rut Reg Plan Comm "x"	on-going

("x" = Organization to be asked for assistance with task)

b. SOLID WASTE

GOAL

The collection and disposal of Mount Holly's solid waste in a clean, efficient and environmentally sound manner.

POLICIES

- 1. The Town will continue to work toward the State goal of 50 % waste diversion, meaning that half of Mount Holly's solid waste should be diverted from the waste stream.**
- 2. The Town will maintain the reuse facility and explore other means of increasing the recycling rate.**
- 3. Pursue regional solutions to solid waste issues through continued membership and active participation in the Rutland County Solid Waste District.**

SOLID WASTE TASKS	RESPONSIBILITY	PRIORITY
1 In conjunction with the Rutland County Solid Waste District, inform and educate the public on solid waste issues.	Select Board	

("x" = Organization to be asked for assistance with task)

c. COMMUNICATIONS

GOAL

To promote access to modern telecommunications infrastructure and services for all residents and businesses.

POLICIES

1. **Support the extension of state of the art communications infrastructure throughout the Town including high speed Internet services and Public Access TV**
2. **The development of new telecommunications towers shall meet the standards set forth in the Town's regulations, to the extent allowed by the State.**

COMMUNICATIONS TASKS	RESPONSIBILITY	PRIORITY
1. Conduct a local telecommunications assessment to identify existing access to telecommunications infrastructure, and opportunities and strategies for expanding access.	Select Board Planning Commission	mid-term

d. ARTS and CULTURE

GOAL

To actively promote local arts and culture, to benefit Mount Holly area residents, visitors, and businesses.

POLICIES

1. **Municipal facilities will be made available for special events, exhibits, and use by area arts organizations as appropriate, based on availability, capacity, and associated costs.**
2. **The Town will continue to support the Library and encourage continued resident support of other community organization such as the Mount Holly Community Historical Museum.**
3. **Preserve and maintain Mount Holly's cultural resources, including its historic sites, buildings, monuments, and resources, for present and future Mount Holly residents; encourage the adaptive reuse of historic structures as appropriate under local regulations.**

ARTS AND CULTURE TASKS	RESPONSIBILITY	PRIORITY
1. Support the Library's long range plan.	MH Comm Library "x" Select Board	on-going
2. Develop provisions for the preservation and/or documentation of historic buildings and structures, and incorporate historic preservation guidelines and adaptive reuse provisions into local bylaws as appropriate.	MH Comm Hist Museum "x"	

Planning Commission
M H Barn Pres Assn "x"
Select Board on-going

("x" = Organization to be asked for assistance with task)

XIII. REGIONAL COORDINATION

GOAL

To facilitate ongoing cooperation and coordination with neighboring towns, the Rutland County region, and the state.

POLICIES

1. Notify neighboring towns of development proposals that meet the Rutland Regional Planning Commission's "Substantial Regional Impact" criteria.

2. Assure, to the extent possible, that state decisions affecting Mount Holly are compatible with this plan through:

- a. regular review of state decisions and actions affecting the Town compatibility with this plan**
- b, participation in Act 250 and other state proceedings to ensure that Mount Holly's Select Board and Planning Commission make determinations of conformance with this plan**
- c regular review of state agency plans to ensure compatibility with this plan**

XIV. EVALUATION

GOAL

To assess progress in achieving the Town's vision for its future.

POLICIES

1. To continually assess the progress made in implementing the Town Plan and to adjust tasks and policies as needed to achieve the vision and goals of the Town.

Ongoing evaluation activities will be incorporated into the work plan for the Planning Commission and with the ongoing local planning process outlined above - # 1