

To: CFED
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Date: 1/7/2008

Leverage Points: Starter ideas to achieve the 10 year vision and goals

This list flows from the goal and vision statements developed at the December CFED meeting. It is intended to stimulate a process of drilling down on the vision points to identify concrete, achievable policy initiatives that CFED might endorse.

Infrastructure

1. Housing: affordable, plentiful, concentrated near city centers and services

Can CFED recommend regulatory relief for development, in large numbers, of housing units for rental and sale when certain clear conditions are met?
2. Transportation: preventive maintenance; practical public transportation

Can CFED recommend a strategic framework to improve preventive maintenance to extend the life of Vermont's roads and bridges and strengthen public transportation such as:
 - Strategic preventive maintenance borrowing, consistent with retaining at least an A bond rating;
 - Promoting the transference of freight from roads to rail;
 - Concerted effort to coordinate employer / commuter van pools
3. Workforce Development:
Can CFED recommend specific strategies so the K-12 system can more readily recognize and embrace its place as an integrated part of Vermont's overall workforce development strategy, such as:
 - Earlier connections to career opportunities
 - Dual enrollment in high school and post-secondary education
 - More on-line and work related programming
4. Social, Communications, Transportation Infrastructure
Can CFED endorse and / or enhance ongoing strategic processes that bear on economic development including Building Bright Futures (childcare), Blueprint for Health (disease management), Vermont Telecommunication Authority (E-State), Electronic Medical Records (VITL), VTrans Long Range Plan, etc.

Employer Cost Control

5. Incubator Space
Can CFED recommend regulatory relief or other incentives for the development of inexpensive space for incubation of new enterprises?
6. Workers Compensation
Can CFED recommend policy changes to worker's compensation to mitigate an employer cost which is out of line with competitor states?

7. Energy Development: low carbon; locally controlled; cost-effective

Can CFED recommend a road map such that commercial scale wind, wood chip and solar power developments can be cost-effectively developed within Vermont's borders, and can be cost-effective and reliable in the power mix?

8. Energy Contract Renewal: high volume; low carbon; low cost

Can CFED recommend a framework and / or conditions under which the renewal of Vermont's current major power sources should be carried out?

9. Regulatory Perspective: effective, predictable, consistent, user-friendly

Can CFED recommend specific changes to the regulatory "system", such as:

- Harmonizing state, regional and local requirements so that all are working with the same standards for data;
- Reinforcing a culture of "here's how your application will succeed", rather than "not good enough; try again";
- Coordinating state agencies to speak with one, rather than conflicting, regulatory voices (i.e. ANR, Agriculture, Health Department, etc.)

Branding

10. Making Vermont "the best" for young entrepreneurs, knowledge workers, green sector professionals, etc.

Can CFED recommend specific strategies to attract young people with high earning potential such as:

- Targeted recruitment from engineering and technology schools;
- Elimination of state income tax on earned income for all Vermonters under the age of 30;
- Discounted health insurance plan for Vermonters under the age of 30;
- Discounted mortgage program for Vermonters under the age of 30.

11. Branding Vermont: the greenest, healthiest, best educated, and safest state
Can CFED recommend specific strategies to capitalize on Vermont's undisputed strengths to recruit young entrepreneurs, knowledge workers, etc?

12. Building the "Green Economy Sector"

Can CFED identify and recommend specific strategies to strengthen Vermont as a domicile for 'green' product, service and energy companies:

- Work force development; trade certification programs, tech center programs, on-line programs, etc.
- Recruitment of specific companies
- Program for small R&D grants and technology transfer