



# BRATTLEBORO DEVELOPMENT CREDIT CORPORATION

## 2024 SoVermont Zone CEDS Public Input Form

Thank you for sharing your thoughts on our 2024-2029 Southern Vermont Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), which outlines what goals, strategies and objectives should guide our work as a region for the next 5 years.

Input from Southern Vermonters -- including community volunteers, municipal leaders, business owners, and anyone else who is interested in shaping the direction of the region -- is critical to informing this important strategic plan that helps us achieve the vision of the [Southern VT Economic Development Zone](#): ***"In 2030, the Zone will be home to a resilient, creative, and inclusive community in which businesses and people thrive and prosper."***

Please review the draft CEDS [here](#), and share your thoughts with us below. You may also upload a document with notes and comments.

When possible, please include page numbers in your comments for easy reference.

Comments must be submitted by December 4, 2024.

### Name

<input type="text" value="John"/>	<input type="text" value="Potter"/>
First	Last

### Email

*We will use your email only to reach out with clarifying questions (if needed) unless you ask to be added to our mailing list.*

### Would you like to be added to the BDCC email list?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Already subscribed

### Do you live or work in Southern Vermont?

- ☐ Yes, I live here
- ☒ Yes, I work here
- ☐ Neither

### Town where you work

**Occupation**

Government Management

*Field or organization is helpful in understanding the range of professions and industries we're hearing from.*

**Community board or volunteer affiliations**

*For instance, planning commission or Meals on Wheels volunteer, if relevant. This is helpful in understanding the range of community perspectives behind the public input we receive.*

**Comments, reactions, and suggestions on the 2024-2029 draft CEDS**

Consider adding a vision statement like the following (or maybe something even more specific) to motivate and help people see what successfully implementing all of the strategies results in:

"In this vision for Southern Vermont, young people find a bustling network of co-working spaces and innovation hubs in towns like Brattleboro and Bennington, where entrepreneurs, freelancers, and creatives collaborate on projects and share resources. Events like monthly pitch nights and startup competitions attract venture interest and inspire local investment. A newly renovated downtown Brattleboro offers affordable housing with proximity to public transit, local shops, and cafes, creating a community where people can easily live, work, and socialize without needing to commute far.

Business accelerators and vocational programs flourish, with partnerships connecting regional colleges to local industries. For instance, students from Vermont Technical College can seamlessly enter apprenticeships with local green energy companies or high-tech firms, thanks to a workforce development initiative that identifies and addresses skill gaps in real time. These businesses benefit from enhanced industrial parks in rural areas, where facilities support everything from light manufacturing to tech startups, all powered by renewable energy and equipped with high-speed internet.

Climate-resilient infrastructure investments ensure that towns are prepared for extreme weather and embrace sustainability. New public parks double as stormwater management systems, while upgraded, flood-proof bridges and culverts connect communities across the region. Community solar programs enable residents to invest in and benefit from locally generated clean energy, which powers homes, schools, and small businesses. Revitalized neighborhoods in towns like Brattleboro feature energy-efficient, mixed-income housing developments, with ample green space and easy access to hiking trails, bike paths, and public recreation areas.

Cultural and recreational spaces bring people together, enhancing both local pride and tourism appeal. The region's rivers, trails, and forests are well-maintained, and annual arts festivals, local markets, and farm-to-table food events showcase Southern Vermont's heritage and diversity. Every summer, outdoor concerts in the Brattleboro area and seasonal art exhibits in rural galleries attract visitors from across New England. Residents and tourists alike enjoy Vermont's distinct mix of natural beauty, local craftsmanship, and creative spirit, reinforcing Southern Vermont as a welcoming, innovative, and resilient community."

*Please include page numbers when relevant for easy reference.*

**Optional Upload: Comments Document**

*If you'd prefer to type your comments in a document and upload them here, please feel free to do so.*