

# VERMONT FOREST FUTURE STRATEGIC ROADMAP | FRAMEWORK SUMMARY

The strategic framework was developed to provide a roadmap for achieving the preferred future identified through the planning process. The framework is an organizing structure for objectives, strategies, and actions. The Strategic Pillars are viewed as interdependent and mutually supportive. The pillars include a “package” of recommended actions that work together to achieve the preferred future.

## PILLAR 1: FOREST MANAGEMENT AND LAND USE

**OBJECTIVE:** Sustaining a diverse forest economy and contributing to climate change mitigation by supporting the health, resilience, and productivity of Vermont’s forestlands through stewardship and management.

**STRATEGY:** Manage for increased forest health.

**STRATEGY:** Promote land use policies to maintain working forestlands.

**STRATEGY:** Empower landowners to maintain working forests by reducing barriers and creating incentives.

- Action 1: Provide robust data on forest health trends.
- Action 2: Build a community of practice.
- Action 3: Demonstrate best practices for increasing forest health.
- Action 4: Promote working forests in land use planning.
- Action 5: Support resilience and biodiversity planning.
- Action 6: Support Vermont’s Use Value Appraisal program.
- Action 7: Boost capacity to assist landowners.
- Action 8: Provide incentives to landowners for forest management.

## PILLAR 2: BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT AND CONDITIONS

**OBJECTIVE:** Creating a business environment and workforce that supports the competitiveness of the Vermont forest products sector.

**STRATEGY:** Enhance capacity for industry adaptation.

**STRATEGY:** Build strong connections to the next generation workforce.

**STRATEGY:** Create a “problem-busting” approach focused on the forest economy.

- Action 9: Adopt climate resilience strategies.
- Action 10: Strengthen industry service providers.
- Action 11: Build greater situational awareness.
- Action 12: Boost the next generation of forest workers.
- Action 13: Create a governmental interagency taskforce focused on solutions.

## PILLAR 3: RESEARCH, INNOVATION, AND TECHNOLOGY

**OBJECTIVE:** Promoting innovation and adaptability in the Vermont forest products sector by supporting technological development, cross-sector collaboration, and processing capability for both new and existing forest products.

**STRATEGY:** Pursue new development opportunities for Vermont forest products.

**STRATEGY:** Accelerate the adoption of technical innovation.

- Action 14: Anticipate and respond to new consumer demands.
- Action 15: Recognize new economic development opportunities.
- Action 16: Leverage the success of the maple industry.
- Action 17: Build financial tools to help drive innovation.
- Action 18: Invest in accelerating innovation.

## PILLAR 4: INDUSTRY REPUTATION AND MARKET PROFILE

**OBJECTIVE:** Strengthening positive market and consumer perceptions by communicating the importance of working forests and promoting the benefits and contributions of Vermont’s forest products and forest economy.

**STRATEGY:** Strengthen and maintain the social license of the forest products sector.

**STRATEGY:** Encourage the demand, use and appreciation for Vermont forest products.

- Action 19: Promote the forest industry’s critical role as an ecosystem manager.
- Action 20: Educate land users and landowners about working forest landscapes.
- Action 21: Highlight professionalism of the forest industry.
- Action 22: Elevate the importance of modern and efficient wood energy.
- Action 23: Leverage national wood promotional programs.
- Action 24: Encourage the use of Vermont woods in specialty products.
- Action 25: Stimulate local demand for use of wood in construction and building.

## PILLAR 5: FOREST ECONOMY AND VERMONT COMMUNITIES

**OBJECTIVE:** Protecting and enriching the positive impact of the forest economy on the communities embedded in the Vermont forest landscape.

**STRATEGY:** Build stronger linkages between forest users and the forest products sector.

**STRATEGY:** Imagining the forest community of tomorrow.

- Action 26: Connect recreational and other forest users with the forest products sector.
- Action 27: Demonstrate working forest landscapes and the forest economy.
- Action 28: Empower Vermont communities to view local forests as an integral part of their future.
- Action 29: Engage indigenous groups, including Vermont Recognized Tribes, to expand the range of communities involved in forest management approaches.
- Action 30: Promote the economic contribution of the forest economy to Vermont communities.

