

Bennington Strategic Economic Development Plan Overview At A Glance

Goals

1. Increase the competitiveness and quality of the workforce
2. Develop and maintain critical infrastructure
3. Improve the economy and quality of life by leveraging existing assets

Strategic Actions

Education/Workforce Development

Targeted Curricula and Training Programs
Business-Focused Internship Program
Career Week
Sophomore Experience
MAU Math Pilot Program
Survey Business Training Needs
Develop Career Pathways
Support Public Education System

Cooperation/Partnerships

Town-School System
Town-Economic Development Partners
Economic Development- Education - Business
Regional Relationships

Funding

Develop Local Enhancement Program
Create CEDS to Open Up EDA \$
Venture Capital/Angel Investor Program
Brownfields Program

Build Upon Existing Assets

Historic
Outdoor Recreation
Cultural
Artistic/Creative
Proximity to Northeast Population Centers

Marketing/Image

Focus on 18-44 Age Demographic
Use Events to Showcase Bennington
Southern Vermont Branding - EDA
Web-Based Lands and Space Database
Integrated "Best of Bennington" Strategy

Infrastructure

Basic - Water, Sewer, Energy
Technology - Broadband, Cellular
Transportation - Roads, Rail, Transit
Workforce Housing

Recruitment/Retention

Clusters and Growth Industries
Leverage Existing Relationships
Gap Analyses to Identify Targets
Key Employee Recruitment
Business Incubation System
Entrepreneurial Support Programs
Businesses Attractive to College Students

Quality of Life

Recreation
Events
Cultural Plan
Pathways
Community Wellness

90-Day Action Agenda

Implementation Framework
Select Board-School Boards Summit
Downtown Free Wi-Fi "Blanket"
Umbrella Enhancement Program
Enhance Downtown Options For Students

Downtown College Store
Detailed Recruitment/Retention Steps
Ninja Trail
MAU Math Pilot Program