

Program Overview

Designated growth centers encompass areas beyond the commercial center to shape the way a community develops over time. Once designated, public and private infrastructure and building investments, supported by a local framework of policies and regulations, ensure that 20 years of future development will enhance the vitality of the center, while protecting farm and forest land outside the growth center. Municipalities must have a state designated commercial center in place with adopted plans, policies and regulations that support walkable, compact, mixed-used development within the growth center. The designation lasts 20 years with 5-year check-ins to see how the program is working.

Website: <http://accd.vermont.gov/community-development/designation-programs/growth-centers>

Municipalities with Growth Center Designations

Bennington, Colchester, Hartford, Montpelier, St. Albans City, and Williston

By the Numbers [2014 - 2018]

6

growth centers
designated

73%

of residential development
occurring in the growth
center in the past 5 years

62%

of the commercial/industrial
development occurring in the
growth center in the past 5 years

Designation Benefits

Designation provides Act 250 benefits to developers and the municipality receives priority consideration for a wide range of state funding programs. Access to infrastructure financing tools like Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and additional state permitting benefits are needed to fuel growth in these centers.

St. Albans City - Designation Leverages Vitality



Streetscape Revitalization on Main Street



Downtown Hotel

St. Albans obtained growth center designation in 2010, aiming to amplify the benefits of downtown designation and support redevelopment within and surrounding its designated downtown. Within five years, the city leveraged nearly \$1.3 million in grants and obtained state approval for a Tax Increment Finance District (TIF) that has helped attract \$33 million in private investment with \$12 million in public funds transforming the city, reversing decades of decline, and stimulating hundreds of new public and private jobs. From streetscape reconstruction, a new parking garage, new and expanding businesses, to attracting a nationally branded hotel downtown, growth center designation is helping the city restore its role as the beautiful and prosperous center of northwestern Vermont.

For more information, please contact:

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