

Policy Adoption Fact Sheet: Joint Comprehensive Plan Update

2020 Comprehensive Plan Review | David Chernack, Joint Environmental Committee Intern



Joint Comprehensive Plan update quick facts:

CSC points: 3-21 points (PE6 Action: Comprehensive Plan with Sustainability Elements)

Benefits to Rhinebeck: sets forth vision for the immediate future; delays a full comp. plan rewrite which would cost much more

Cost: medium

Relevant agencies: Town/Village planning boards, boards of trustees, courts

Why is this action important? A

Comprehensive Plan is a document designed to guide the future actions and projects of a community, setting a vision for the future, with long-term goals and objectives for all activities involving local government. As of 2020, Rhinebeck's Comprehensive Plans are getting old. While the Town's Plan was published in 2009, the Village's most recent Plan was crafted in 1993—and neither makes mention of climate change, arguably the defining challenge of our time. Crafting an amendment to the plans that includes *both* the Village and the Town would kill two birds with one stone, and set the stage for further action soon.

How is this action implemented? A

Comprehensive Plan update is not the same thing as writing an entirely new plan. In a Plan update, issues that are missing from the most recent plan—such as sustainability and climate issues—are addressed in an addendum to the original Plan. Whereas a full Comprehensive Plan rewrite would require the formation of a comprehensive plan committee, the writing of

an update can be accomplished with preexisting government bodies, takes a much more focused approach in engaging with the public and commissioning new research.

What does the Comprehensive Plan say about it? Neither [the Town's 2009 Comprehensive Plan](#) nor the Village's 1993 Plan specifically mention when they should be updated, although the broadly accepted timeframe for comp. plan updates in New York is ten to fifteen years. Moreover, it's what these plans don't say that serves as the impetus for this action. Codifying Rhinebeck's commitment to combatting climate change by greenlighting sustainability projects is a worthy enough goal to be included in its master planning documents in some form.

What departments will it involve? The Town and Village Planning Boards, Boards of Trustees, and the Joint Environmental Committee would be involved in this relatively intensive project.

What will it cost? This project will be moderately expensive. The possibility of having to hire a consultant is where most of the cost for a comprehensive plan update would be incurred; otherwise, this task is one that would be undertaken by members of Rhinebeck's governments.