

# Keys to the Valley Newsletter

## Keys to the Valley Looks Forward

Thank you to everyone who participated in the events and conversations surrounding the launch of the Keys to the Valley website ([www.keystothevalley.com](http://www.keystothevalley.com)). The Keys to the Valley team has transitioned to the work of implementing some of the recommendations to come out of our research and findings. We are excited to work with you all to bring some relief to our Region's housing crisis.

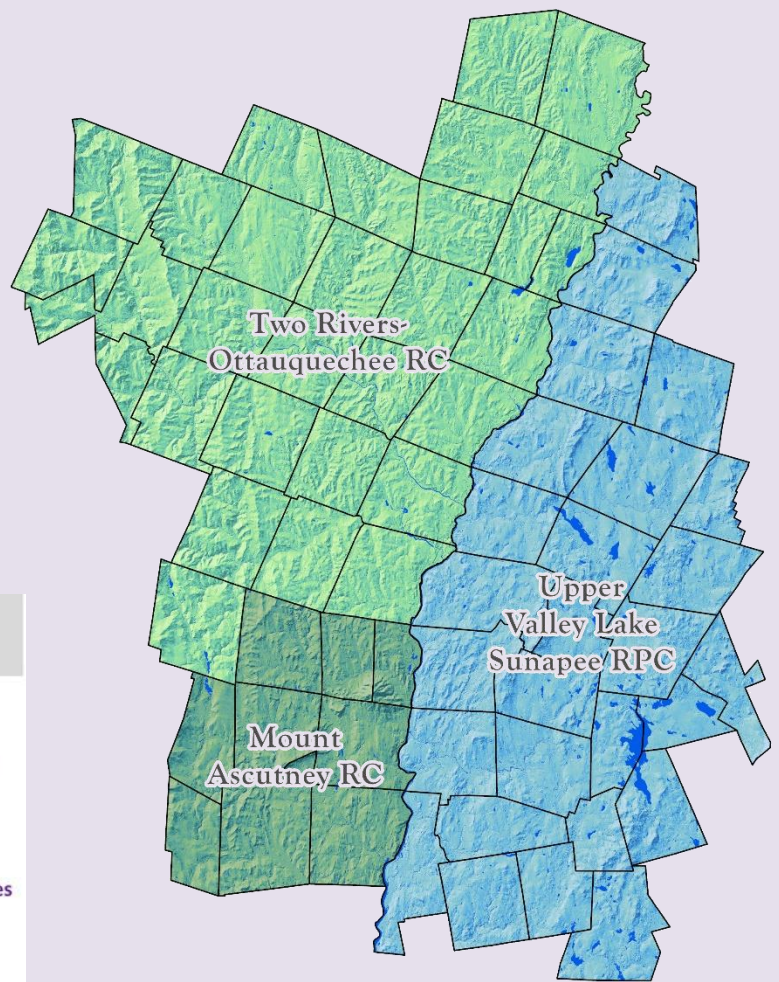
With the website launch and public events behind us, the Keys to the Valley Steering Committee has decided to continue meeting. The goal is to guide the implementation efforts of the three RPCs and our community partners.

To get involved or learn more [join our email list](#) and indicate your interest. You may also reach out our team directly:

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**HOMES THE REGION NEEDS**

**Emergency Housing**

**Homes Affordable for All Incomes**

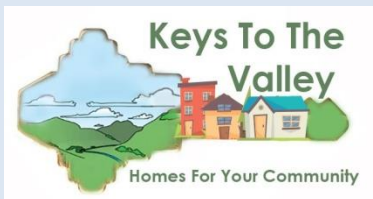
**Homes with Supportive Services**

**Homes with access to Internet, Public Transit, and Walkable Destinations**

**Accessible Homes**

**Small Homes**

Description: Informed by the Keys to the Valley public opinion survey, analysis of the region's needs, and projected population changes. Find out more at [www.keystothevalley.com](http://www.keystothevalley.com)



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## Implementation Priorities

1. Maintain the effort:
  - a) Keys to the Valley will continue to meet and Maintain the Keys to the Valley website
  - b) Update with 2020 Census data
  - c) Update regional housing needs assessments. Update regional plan housing chapters
  - d) Keep housing stories front and center/messaging
2. Regulatory reform:
  - a) Work with local governments to streamline the permitting process for housing
  - b) Work with communities to promote zoning modernization
3. Legislative reform:
  - a) Work with legislators and partner organizations to encourage housing-related statutory changes
  - b) Work with employers and other community leaders to reinforce the need for legislation
4. New tools to advance needed homes:
  - a) Utility to promote small home and/or ADU development, both new construction and renovation
5. Coalition/capacity building, Create a housing movement:
  - a) Support the evolution of and contribute to priorities set for a regional housing fund
  - b) Encourage creation of local/multi-jurisdictional housing committees or ad hoc housing groups
  - c) Develop networking (e.g., annual convening) for housing committees, ad hoc housing groups, and local/regional organizations to share available resources and allow for needed supports
  - d) Cross pollinate advocacy/education/messaging - Leading to action

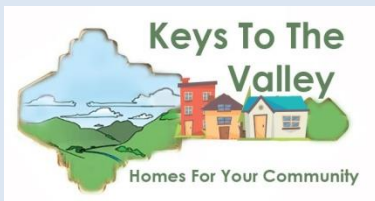
## Progress Updates

ALL : Planning a **convening for housing committees, organizations and advocates**. This event is being planned in coordination with the annual Vital Communities Housing Breakfast. Working with Dartmouth College students to evaluate business models for a **local housing utility**. Assisting many towns with **regulatory reform**.

Mount Ascutney Regional Commission : Working with Windham Regional Commission (WRC) & Windham Windsor Housing Trust on a series of **housing webinars**. Working with the Mount Ascutney hospital housing workgroup with a focus on home share. Working on a **regional plan update**.

Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission : Working with housing groups both new and pre-existing. Continuing to roll out Keys **messaging** and technical recommendations. Census updates to be in the next iteration of regional plan, 2023.

Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission : Working with Vital Communities to update the **New Homes data count**. Working on a **Regional Housing Needs Assessment** to be done by end of 2022, including data updates, and deep dives on smart growth, community land trust, and planning for change.



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## Recordings Available – Spring 2021 Public Events

If you were unable to attend any of our series of virtual public presentations and conversations, the recordings are [now available](#) on our YouTube channel. It's still not too late to join the conversation!

### **Building Smart for Stronger Communities**

To address our region's housing crisis, many new homes are needed. Through thoughtful planning, we can tackle this challenge in a way that strengthens community bonds, bolsters local tax bases, and ensures quality of life for residents. This workshop covered a variety of planning tools available to communities, including strategies around land use, transportation, infrastructure, and conservation.

### **Land Use Regulations**

Land use regulations can help our communities provide the homes needed for resident health and economic vitality; however, they can also be barriers to a community's ability to respond to specific needs and adapt to change. Learn about how land use regulations impact our region's homes and strategies to better provide the homes we need now and in the future.

### **Homes to Get or Stay out of Crisis and Homelessness**

Do we have adequate housing options for our homeless? How can we do better at providing the social supports many need to maintain a stable, safe home? Learn and hear directly from our region's social service providers.

### **Employer Assisted Housing**

A shortage of affordable homes creates many challenges for employers seeking to attract a workforce. Some employers have responded to this challenge by developing new homes themselves or investing in new home creation. Learn about strategies that employers of all sizes have undertaken to address this challenge, and how your business or organization could get involved.

### **Housing Breakfast**

Are you ready to be part of the effort to improve home availability and affordability? Learn about exciting housing approaches being used in the region and the tools and strategies available at the Keys to the Valley website.