INTHE LOOP celebrating the flow

Our vision for Downtown Montpelier is to create an urban design strategy for the local community through a series of innovative solutions by using a model that rises beyond Net Zero towards a level we call Net Zero+.

A true sustainable future stretches beyond energy efficiency and renewal; it is focused on people, by inspiring a sustainable way of life that ensures well-being.

Our proposal is based on the Scandinavian model that is defined by being Inclusive, Equitable, Robust and Adaptive to meet and allow for future change benefitting the community of Montpelier for generations to come.

A sustainable community lives in harmony with the surrounding nature and its assets, celebrating the flow.

The formulated goals, represented in the loop, are a starting point for a successful and holistic development vision, strategy and process.

... let's get in the loop.

MONTPELIER JUNCTION - BARRE

track back to life with a light rail train

IN THE LOOP will bring the existing rail

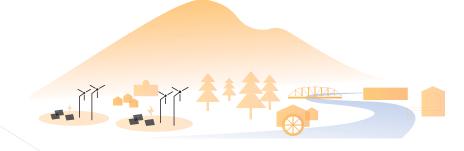
connecting Barre - Montpelier - Montpelier

Junction, reducing car traffic in downtown.

generated by the Winooski River and other

The train can be powered by electricity

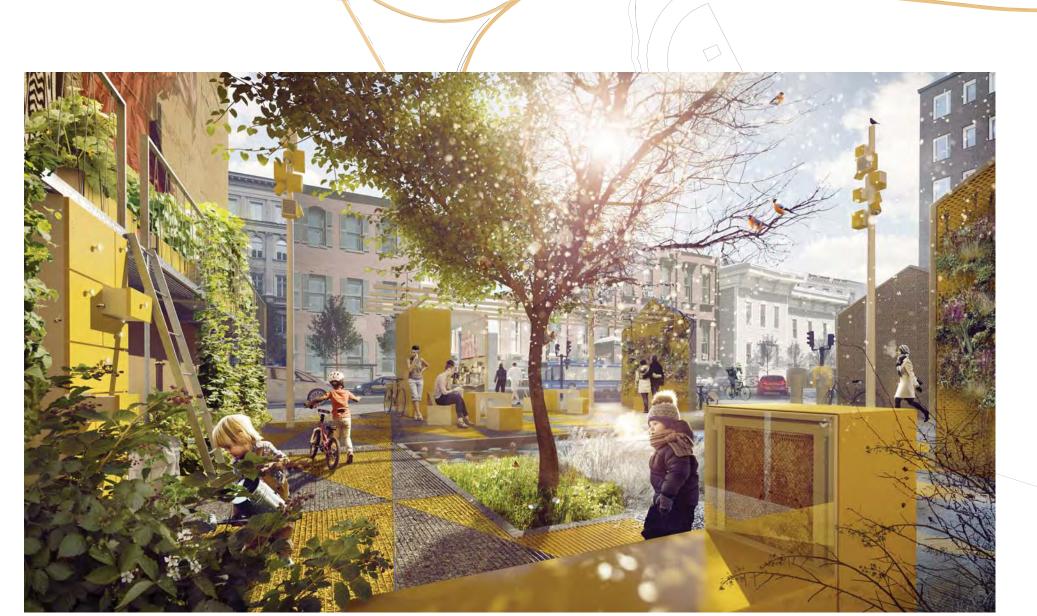
natural sources.



4. ENSURE energy Describing the flows of energy

Net Zero+ Downtown Montpelier will use energy and resources more efficiently reducing impact on public health and local ecosystems. Energy usage is reduced by retrofitting existing buildings and by constructing new buildings and infrastructure with energy efficient methods and improved operations. Energy solutions are to be affordable, accessible and renewable, such as solar and wind energy. The built urban structure and technical systems are robust to last longer and, at the same time, be flexible enough to allow for necessary future changes.

Why: A sustainable society requires the community to use energy and resources in an efficient way.



P

TOGETHER TOWARDS

Net Zero+ Downtown Montpelier 2030 will require commitment, innovation, and most of all, collaboration.

The proposal IN THE LOOP places the community of Montpelier at the center of design, ensuring a bright sustainable future for Montpelier and also inspiring cities across the U.S. and worldwide.

NET ZERO+ MONTPELIER

Net Zero+ Downtown Montpelier, a robust urban design, by which innovative small scale solutions are adaptive to meet and allow for future change to ensure the well-being of the community of Montpelier for generations to come.

RADICAL PRAGMATIC

The proposed solutions are locally informed but strategically driven.

AROUND THE BRIDGES

The proposal provides new program and usage of the river front to celebrate the river and its value to Montpelier.

STATE STREET LOOP

The proposal establishes strong connections to the river from State Street for a coherent urban plan.

WINOOSKI RIVER PARK

The inclusion of civic and cultural uses within the river zone provide multiple destinations with shared audiences.

DOWNTOWN LIFE

Residential program within the center of Montpelier ensures a 24/7 downtown.

CELEBRATE Montpelier

Describing the urban character and identity.

The vision for a Net Zero+ Downtown Montpelier aims to establish a vibrant, dynamic and diverse community, making of place, destination and home. It is equitable and inclusive, providing opportunities for all to live, work and play building upon and celebrating what makes Montpelier unique.

The proposal is "efficient by design" characterized by efficient new buildings, retrofitted existing buildings and improved operations to reduce energy consumption.

Why: Identity increases the sense of belonging and caring for the city while a denser multi-functional urban fabric provides proximity, accessibility and diversity.

2. ENGAGE in urban life Describing the open public space and connectivity.

Public space generates life in the urban environment. IN THE LOOP weaves a diversity of public space into the urban fabric, integrated with an efficient transportation network consisting of pedestrian, bicycle and shared transportation.

The well designed public space and efficient network provide easy access for all people improving operations to reduce energy consumption.

Why: The space between buildings is what makes a city, enabling social interaction and movement in a safe environment.

LIGHT RAIL TO BARRE



We need nature for our survival. So, a sustainable community requires an effective usage of energy and resources to reduce the impact on nature. IN THE LOOP embraces nature, providing access and use of surrounding natural environments and assets and integrating nature into the design to include in everyday life.

Why: An ecological balance is a prerequisite for our social prosperity for people to live, flourish and develop.



INTHE LOOP celebrating the flow

Strategies for how to reach the goals of Net Zero+ Montpelier.

8. FARMERS MARKET The proposal includes an ind

The proposal includes an indoor farmers market at the end of Barre Street. The building consists of a plinth with two residential buildings on top that have direct access to the market. Proposed housing is for elderly and younger generations. The outdoor market will be located adjecent to the church on State Street.

TODAY

IN THE LOOP includes a step-by-step strategy towards a Net Zero+ downtown Montpelier 2030 and beyond. Innovative solutions allow for a gradual process. They ensure adaptive capacity for change by continuously placing the well-being of the community in focus and by providing economic opportunities. This toolbox allows for a wide variation and can be implemented in any order.

2030

Net Zero+ downtown Montpelier is a robust urban design, by which innovative small scale solutions are adaptive to meet and allow for future change to ensure the well-being of the community of Montpelier for generations to come.

1080228

1. NET ZERO+ CENTER

The proposal places the community of Montpelier central to the design strategy.

The new center is a place of meeting, education and collaboration for the process towards a Net Zero + Montpelier and will become a center for arts and crafts after 2030.



2. STATE STREET PARKING State Street Parking is a new hybrid of

a parking garage and a public park. The landscape park gradually climbs the timber construction federal parking that houses about 400 parking spaces allowing for a variety of outdoor activities during all seasons.



axonometric view

STRAINER STREETS

The proposal includes a series of "water streets" that connect the city to the river and fulfill an important role in storm water mitigation in the form of treatment, detention and infiltration. These can take the form of Low Impact Developments, such as rain gardens, permeable surfaces with underlying structural soils.

SHAPE SPACE

New construction is placed strategically to shape, define and provide character and identity to the new public space of Montpelier. New residential buildings clearly define the new Winooski River Park.

SPECTACLE OF DIVERSITY

The proposal includes a wide variety of mixed-use buildings to ensure a resilient center.

CULTURAL CAMPUS

In addition to the commercial function of State Street, the new riverside park will be cultural venue including the new theater.



The new Winooski River Park is the a cultural campus for the community of Montpelier connecting the city to Winooski River. Its grassroots character, with a wide variety of functions including culture and outdoor leisure activities, has a strong connection to residential areas and to State Street ensures active public life.

West of Taylor Street the park brings the people closer the river while providing for flood mitigation. While east of Tayler Street the park hides the integrates the transit hub underneath.



4. MAKER SPACE LIVING

A new hybrid of residential units and shared workspace with a highly flexible construction that enables the building to adapt to market demands - maker spaces can become residential and vice versa. This building typology provides excellent opportunities for art events, office space for start-ups and housing that works especially well for a young generation.



2/2

The strategy proposed increases the adaptive capacity of Montpelier. This is achieved by recognizing the fact that the future often brings changes and challenges that should be considered and addressed in advance. The strategy consists of four steps: 1. acknowledge future change 2. provide for a robust urban design and community 3. include small scale solutions that can be changed rapidly and costeffectively 4. place the community at the center.

ADAPTATION



7. 25 SQUARE METERS

The Scandinavian model, where no building permit is needed for structures less than 270 sq ft, provides affordable opportunities for the densification of existing neighborhoods. We suggest the City of Montpelier make available D.I.Y. kits that ensure safe and Net Zero construction.

TIMBER CONSTRUCTION

Wood might be the best building material there is. Timber construction houses are outstanding from an environmental point of view, both in the short and long term. Timber construction has a negative carbon emission, construction time is two times faster than concrete construction, it has excellent acoustical qualities, weighs less, easy to transport, slow burning qualities and takes only a minute to cultivate.*

* Growth of the Swedish forests

TOOLBOX

IN THE LOOP provides an extensive "toolbox" to help Montpelier achieve Net Zero+. New housing include a Net Zero "core" that can be complemented as desired to provide personal identity while ensuring Net Zero standards.



6. NORTH BRANCH BRIDGE

• • • |• • • |

The redesign of the existing rail bridge over the North Branch includes pedestrian and bike traffic connecting Winooski River Park to the Main Street and onwards towards Stone Cutter Way Development providing a waterfront promenade on the north bank.

THE LOOP

IN THE LOOP introduces a clear urban structure based on loops for pedestrian and bicycle traffic. Three loops start at the new transit hub and include 1. Main Street / State Street, 2. Hubbard Street / State Street, and 3. College Street / State Street.

. RIVER HOUSING

The River Housing is a typology that includes a half-sunken concrete plinth with apartments built in timber construction. The concrete plinth provides a solid foundation that can function as stormwater storage during possible flooding, while the timber apartments embrace the warmth of the landscape.







community gathering at the river front