

(AD) Addison County Regional Planning Commission – 802-388-3141  
(BC) Bennington County Regional Commission – 802-375-2576  
(CV) Central VT Regional Planning Commission – 802-229-0389  
(CC) Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission – 802-872-1600  
(LC) Lamoille County Planning Commission – 802-888-4548  
(NV) Northeastern Vermont Development Association – 802-748-5181  
(NW) Northwest Regional Planning Commission – 802-524-5958  
(RR) Rutland Regional Planning Commission – 802-775-0871  
(SW) Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission – 802-674-9201  
(TR) Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission – 802-457-3188  
(UV) Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission – 603-448-1680  
(WR) Windham Regional Commission – 802-257-4547

August 2001

## Who Should Care About GIS Data Standards?



Those who plan to or do any of the following:

- \* Use GIS data
- \* Contract services for the creation of parcel data or parcel maps
- \* Contract for the creation of any maps, with hopes of using GIS in the future
- \* Create any type of digital, geographically-referenced data

## Why Use a Recipe?



If you were going to bake a chocolate cake, you would probably use a recipe. Why?

- \* So it works (rises etc.)
- \* So it tastes good to you and others
- \* So that if you like it, you can make it again
- \* It is more efficient to achieve all of these goals by using a recipe, rather than through trial and error

Creating digital geographic data (GIS data) is similar to baking a cake. Following a standard (using a recipe) can help to ensure your data is useful to you and can potentially be shared with others (like bringing a cake to a potluck and knowing others will want to eat it), and it can be the most efficient way to achieve your goals. Why not learn from others' mistakes and successes?

Following a standard does not mean you can't customize your data to meet your needs, any more than using a recipe means you can't add spices to taste.

## What Recipes Exist For Data?

The Vermont Center for Geographic Information maintains a document called the **VGIS Handbook**, which contains standards and guidelines for the creation of data:

### STANDARDS

- A. Digital Data Conversion
- B. Map Coordinate System
- C. Land Cover/Land Use Codes
- D. Metadata (Data Layer Documentation)
- E. Geographic Area Codes
- F. Surface Waters Data Standards
- G. Road Centerline Spatial Data-Interim Standard
- H. Buildings Data Standard
- I. Drainage Basins Data Standard - Draft

### GUIDELINES

- A. Municipal Property Mapping
- B. Use of Vermont Coordinate System
- C. Attribute Definitions and Codes
- D. Directory Structure and File Names
- E. Maintaining an SML Library
- F. Contracting With GIS Consultants
- G. Managing Data Layer Updates
- H. Horizontal Datum Conversions

## Where is the Handbook?

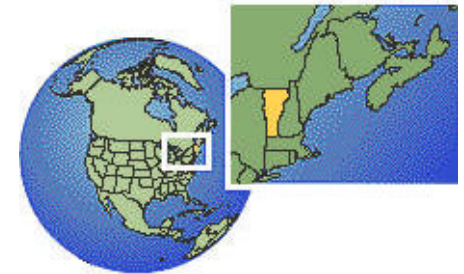
Whether you plan to delve into the technical details of the Handbook or not, it will be important to refer contractors you hire or technicians within your organization to the relevant standards or guidelines.

You can view and/or download the VGIS Handbook by going to the Publications section of the VGIS web site:

**<http://www.vcgi.org>**

If you would like additional guidance in developing data according to existing standards, contact VCGI or your Regional Planning Commission (see the back of this brochure):

VT Center for Geographic Information  
590 Main St., UVM  
Burlington, VT 05405  
Phone: 802-656-4277  
Fax: 802-656-0776  
[geowiz@vcgi.uvm.edu](mailto:geowiz@vcgi.uvm.edu)



over