

MEMBER SINCE 2017

VERMONT



CLIMATE SUCCESS STORY The Vermont Climate Council engages Vermonters to develop the state's climate action plan.



Source: Vermont Governor's Office

Vermont's *Climate Action Plan* looks to those impacted most by climate change

Vermont must prepare for a changing climate and cut its climate pollution roughly in half by 2030 to meet the target in Vermont's 2020 *Global Warming Solutions Act*. Development of the state's initial *Climate Action Plan*, released in December 2021, was a significant step in Vermont's process.

The legislature established the Vermont Climate Council (VCC) to draft the *Climate Action Plan*, which incorporated ideas and feedback from Vermonters. Five subcommittees shaped the plan: Rural Resilience and Adaptation, Agriculture and Ecosystems, Cross-sector Mitigation, Just Transitions, and Science and Data.

Vermonters must be part of determining and implementing solutions to climate change. The Just Transitions Subcommittee created *Guiding Principles for a Just Transition* to provide a framework for the council and subcommittees to evaluate, adjust, and prioritize recommendations based on how they will impact Vermont's frontline communities, including

those who are highly exposed to climate risks, experience oppression and racism, are excluded from opportunities or have fewer resources to adapt to climate and economic change, bear the brunt of pollution and negative effects from fossil fuels and extractive economies, and are more likely to experience a job transition as Vermont addresses climate change.

Vermont has already seen bold climate action as a direct result of the *Climate Action Plan* in the 2022 legislative session, with the investment of hundreds of millions of federal dollars in weatherization, electrification of the transportation sector, flood-resilient communities, and natural and working lands. Additionally, the state stood up a Climate Action Office, passed comprehensive environmental justice legislation (S.148), and created a forest reserve land category for enrollment in the state's current use tax program (H.697). Continued engagement with Vermonters in the coming years will realize the bold action envisioned by the *Climate Action Plan*.



CLIMATE ACTION-AT-A-GLANCE

The following list includes both **statutory** and **executive** policies and actions that have been adopted or are in the process of being adopted.



ECONOMY-WIDE GHG TARGETS & CLIMATE GOVERNANCE

- Lead by Example programs & goals
- Economy-wide GHG goal
- Carbon neutral goal
- State climate action plan



INDUSTRY

- Regulations addressing HFCs
- Regulations addressing methane from oil & gas, landfill, and agricultural sources



ELECTRICITY

- Renewable portfolio standards



RESILIENCE

- Statewide resilience or adaptation plan



JUST TRANSITION/EQUITY

- Environmental justice offices or interagency bodies



NATURAL & WORKING LANDS

- NWL in state GHG inventory
- Healthy soils legislation



TRANSPORTATION

- Low emission vehicle standards
- Zero-emission vehicle standards



CARBON MARKETS & VALUING CLIMATE DAMAGES

- Carbon market participation



BUILDINGS/EFFICIENCY

- Electric utility energy efficiency resource standards
- Gas utility energy efficiency resource standards
- Appliance efficiency standards