



Overview

The devastating flooding of 2023 and 2024, along with heat waves, droughts, and wildfire smoke make it clear that climate change is threatening Vermonters’ health, safety, quality of life and economic security.

The Resilience Implementation Strategy (RIS) is a joint initiative of Governor Scott and State Treasurer Pieciak, announced on January 3, 2024. The RIS will develop a comprehensive strategy to guide and prioritize climate resilience efforts, as well as help policy makers understand and address gaps. This strategic set of recommendations will detail where adjustments to State programs can increase resilience to climate change and will augment considerable work done by State Government to date to build resilience to climate change.

Five Core Areas



Timeline

Complete by July 1, 2025, to coincide with and complement Vermont’s Climate Action Plan update.

Phase 1 Spring–Fall 2024	Phase 2 Winter 2024-25	Phase 3 Spring-Summer 2025
Inventory plans, programs, and tools across State Government that help Vermont build resilience and adapt to climate change. Understand gaps and overlap based on that inventory.	Identify opportunities and gaps to address using prioritization criteria and identify measures to fill gaps. Develop metrics to assess progress for the measures identified.	Evaluate and identify new and innovative funding solutions and sources to fund climate adaptation activities, as well as programmatic changes to fill identified gaps.



Implementation

Outcome

The Strategy will recommend how to prioritize capacity and funding for resilience projects. It will also identify available new and innovative funding solutions for climate adaptation activities.

Public and Stakeholder Engagement

- April 22 and 25, 2024** | Public kick-off events held.
- August - September 2024** | Online public survey to gather feedback on draft climate resilience vision.
- January - February 2025** | Public engagement events for feedback on the finalized inventory, identified gaps, and prioritized gaps.
- February - March 2025** | Two half-day workshops to engage stakeholders (State staff and external partners) to identify the strategies to fill prioritized gaps.
- April 2025** | Public engagement event for feedback on the proposed strategies to fill gaps.
- May - June 2025** | Public and stakeholder engagement events hosted by the State Treasurer on the cost and ways to fund climate resilience projects long-term.
- Ongoing** | Information about the RIS and opportunity to provide feedback about it is folded into the Climate Action Office’s on-the-ground engagement work that meets Vermonters in their communities.
- July 2025** | Share the finalized RIS with Vermonters through public events.

Statewide Coordination

The RIS is coordinated by the Agency of Natural Resources’ Climate Action Office with support from a Steering Committee made up of representatives from: Agency of Natural Resources (Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Environmental Conservation, Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation), Public Service Department, Department of Health, Vermont Emergency Management, Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets, State Recovery Office, Agency of Transportation, Agency of Commerce and Community Development, and the Vermont State Climatologist.

Photography: Peacham hillside, Dennis Curran | Tree planting, Vermont Fish and Wildlife

