

1 **Pathways Overview**

2 Addressing the climate crisis requires immediate and sustained investment in reducing
3 greenhouse gas emissions and improving landscape-level resilience—and this presents a
4 transformational opportunity for Vermont. To realize these opportunities and address the
5 objectives of the Global Warming Solutions Act, the Climate Council organized their
6 recommendations in a Climate Action Plan around five areas of action: 1) emissions reductions;
7 2) building resilience and adaptation in Vermont’s natural and working lands; 3) building
8 resilience and adaptation in Vermont’s communities and built environment; 4) enhancing carbon
9 sequestration and storage; and 5) cross-cutting pathways.

10 The recommendations are further organized in the following sections into tiers of pathways,
11 strategies, and actions – with increasing levels of detail. A pathway is a high-level means of
12 achieving GHG emissions reductions or adaptation, resilience, and sequestration goals. While
13 written broadly, pathways are specific enough so that Vermont can assess whether progress has
14 been made in achieving them. Under each pathway, a suite of strategies has been developed.
15 These strategies are a statement of measurable activity, a benchmark, to be reached in pursuit of
16 the pathway. Finally, actions have been identified as the “operational” tasks that the state,
17 regional organizations, municipalities, non-governmental organizations, and Vermonters will
18 undertake to meet the pathways and strategies. Actions were developed around existing, as well
19 as new, policies, programs, projects, initiatives, plans, etc. The actions have been prioritized
20 using the foundational criteria defined earlier in the plan. All the actions included here are a
21 priority for implementation.