

1 **(2) Executive Summary**

2 GWSA Objectives

3 Process

4 Key actions to highlight

5 Next Steps

6 **Acknowledgements**

7 Members of Council

8 Members of Subcommittees

9 State staff

10 Consultants

11 **Using this Plan**

12 This Climate Action Plan is a multi-stakeholder plan that outlines the steps Vermont needs to
13 take to impact meaningful climate action. This plan includes recommendations for state,
14 regional, local, private, and non-profit sector partners to take, as well as a set of actions that
15 individual Vermonters can take, highlighting the request the Council heard many times for a set
16 of implementable actions at all levels of society and government.

17 This plan is organized around five areas of action:

- 18 • Emissions reductions;
- 19 • Building resilience and adaptation in Vermont’s natural and working lands;
- 20 • Building resilience and adaptation in Vermont’s communities and built environment;
- 21 • Enhancing carbon sequestration and storage; and
- 22 • Cross-cutting pathways.

23 These areas cover the board scale change and shifts that are needed to reach Vermont’s
24 emissions reduction requirements, as well as ensure that Vermont’s communities and landscapes
25 are resilient to the impacts of climate change. Each area identified above contains a set of
26 pathways, strategies, and actions, that while not exhaustive, do reflect the priority actions that
27 will support emissions reduction requirements, and adaptation, resilience, and carbon
28 sequestration goals.

29 Pathways are the high-level mean to achieving GHG emissions reduction or adaptation,
30 resilience, and sequestration goals. The pathways identified in this plan illustrate the framework
31 needed for climate action in Vermont. Under each pathway are a set of strategies. Strategies are
32 the benchmarks, or objectives, to be reached in pursuit of a pathway. Strategies illustrate how we
33 are going to get to a particular pathway. Within each strategy are a set of actions. Actions are the
34 tasks that define the policy, program, project, initiative, and plans, that should be undertaken to
35 meet the pathways and strategies.

36 The pathways for emissions reduction identify those broad steps that need to be taken together to
37 meet the GHG reduction requirements set forth in the Global Warming Solutions Act. As there is
38 no one silver bullet to get Vermont to its emission reduction requirements, the set of actions
39 included in that section must be taken as a whole to ensure Vermont can meet its 2025, 2030, and
40 2050 GHG reduction requirements. Within that section on emissions reductions, the Climate
41 Council has identified a lead implementor, and timeline to implement for each action, to ensure a
42 clear path for bringing that recommendation to fruition.

43 The pathways for adaptation, resilience, and carbon sequestration, do not identify a lead
44 implementor or timeline to implement by action. These pathways however include clear actions
45 that implementors at the state, regional, and local level can take. Unlike emissions reductions,
46 requirements and metrics for resilience, adaptation, and carbon sequestration were not as clearly
47 laid out in the GWSA. The Climate Council acknowledges the more work needs to be done to
48 identify clear metrics and goals across those areas of work. Actions and strategies were
49 organized under pathways based on the prioritization process undertaken at a subcommittee
50 level. See the graphic below for details on how to read the strategy and action tables.

51 The release of this Climate Action Plan is only the first step in the Council's work to inform
52 climate action in Vermont. This plan includes a section on implementation that should be used
53 by legislators and other state level stakeholders to inform the work that should be carried out
54 beyond the adoption of this plan. In addition to implementation of the actions identified herein,
55 the Council will continue to build out a framework for measuring and assessing progress that
56 government, non-profit, private sector, and municipal partners will be able to use across the state
57 to track the impact their actions are making.

How to read an action or strategy table

Lead implementer who will be working on this action. This is not inclusive of all necessary partners, but names the lead government agency, legislative body, non-profit, private sector partner, etc. who will take the lead and coordinating on this action. A lead implementer is only identified for the actions under the Emissions Reduction Pathways. Acronyms have been used to save space and are listed under Definitions and Acronyms.

For Emissions Reduction pathways, **impact** is an assessment of the actions' contribution to achieving 2025, 2030, and 2050 emissions reduction requirements. For all other pathways, impact is an assessment of the action on adaptation, resilience, and carbon sequestration goals. Actions were ranked as high, medium, and low and all actions included in the body of this plan were ranked either as high, or as actions that are needed to support high priority actions (enabling actions). For all other pathways, impact was assessed at the action level, but the plan includes a summary assessment of all actions under a strategy.

An **equity assessment** was conducted at the action or strategy level using the Guiding Principles for Just Transition Scoring Rubric developed by the Just Transitions Subcommittee. The equity assessment and scoring rubric can be viewed under Attachments.

