**(2) Executive Summary**

GWSA Objectives

Process

Key actions to highlight

Next Steps

**Acknowledgements**

Members of Council

Members of Subcommittees

State staff

Consultants

**Using this Plan**

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

This plan is organized around five areas of action:

* Emissions reductions;
* Building resilience and adaptation in Vermont’s natural and working lands;
* Building resilience and adaptation in Vermont’s communities and built environment;
* Enhancing carbon sequestration and storage; and
* Cross-cutting pathways.

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

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

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

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

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

