**CAP/CEP Coordination**

The development of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) has coincided with the development of Vermont’s Comprehensive Energy Plan (CEP)[[1]](#footnote-2). As described earlier, the CAP is an Action Plan for greenhouse gas mitigation, sequestration, and adaptation strategies in the face of climate change. The CEP is a mechanism to implement statutory energy policy[[2]](#footnote-3) based on a comprehensive analysis of challenges and opportunities in Vermont. While the CAP and the CEP have considerable areas of overlap, they remain distinct planning requirements, with different objectives. While the CEP must be consistent with and a key component of meeting the State’s GHG requirements, it is not a climate change plan nor a comprehensive look at Vermont’s non-energy GHG emissions or climate adaptation needs.

The CEP reviews energy system planning in ways that are beyond the scope of the GWSA. For example, it focuses on planning for reliability of the electric system given the pathways necessary to meet our climate goals. In addition, it must include recommendations for regional and municipal energy planning. In turn, the CAP looks at the impacts of climate change beyond the scope of the CEP, addressing resiliency in the natural and built environment, adaptation, sequestration, and non-energy mitigation.

That said, and as described in this plan, energy consumption drives a large majority of Vermont’s greenhouse gas emissions; it is important that the process for the CAP and CEP aligned. Thus, the Public Service Department in its role developing the CEP and the Agency of Natural Resources in its role managing the Climate Council have closely coordinated these two required plans.  Notably, public engagement efforts have been aligned, so that targeted outreach to both Vermonters and technical experts was not duplicated (See Chapter X public engagement). In addition, modeling (See Appendix X Modeling) was initiated for purposes of the CEP but reviewed, modified and adopted for the CAP, ensuring there is one set of energy-related assumptions on which the two plans were based upon. State Agency staff have diligently worked on both the CAP and the CEP.

The CEP is required to be consistent with the requirements of the GWSA and the CAP. At the same time, the CAP is required to be informed by the CEP. These requirements to closely coordinate the efforts – even if the resulting actions are not necessarily identical, the basis on which they are formed was efficient and practical – allow for clearer consideration of the issues rather than a debate of the facts.

1. 30 V.S.A. §202b requires the Vermont Department of Public Service to lead development of the CEP at least every 6 years; the CAP is required at least every 4 years. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. 30 V.S.A. §202a most directly. Goals and policy objectives are littered throughout statute. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)