

### Three Prioritized:

- **Land Use** (Pathway 4): Strategy 1 (“Promote and incentive compact settlement and reduce forest fragmentation”): Provide enhanced technical assistance and support to municipalities and regions, including outreach and education for landowners and community members, to develop and implement town plans intended to maintain forest blocks and connecting habitat as authorized by Act 171, and effective zoning and subdivision bylaws to maintain forest blocks and connecting habitat.

### Two Prioritized:

- **Mitigation** (Pathway A): Strategy (“Leverage, expand and adapt existing State of Vermont programs. . .”): Implement natural resource restoration practices that support climate mitigation and resilience, including river corridor easements, wetland restoration, and afforestation practices with consideration to agricultural land loss.
- **Land Use** (Pathway 4): Strategy (“Include biodiversity and resilience...”): Examine the implications and consider establishing a state policy of no net-loss of natural and working lands (including active and passively managed forests, agricultural lands, and wetlands) accounting for the transitions of lands within and between these conditions, with aspiration for a net gain.
  - (1) As part of this effort, track land use trends to quantify degree of no net-loss, including aggregating data on subdivision, land transfers, and the loss and/or fragmentation of forests, agricultural lands and wetlands to inform progress and state policy.
  - (2) Develop a strategy to increase the area of land in functioning wetlands, with an initial focus on protecting and recovering the highest quality wetlands (“Class I Wetlands” in ANR’s wetlands rules), consistent with the goal of ensuring no net loss of other categories of natural and working lands.
- **Land Use** (Pathway 4): Strategy 3 (“Strategic conservation”): Use best available data and mapping to analyze existing portfolio of conserved agricultural lands to identify forest, wetland or natural community restoration opportunities and prioritize funding for these projects. (note: could accompany pathway 4, strategy 3, action I).
- **Land Use** (Pathway 4): Strategy (“Strategic conservation”): Expand use of the Water Infrastructure Sponsorship Program (WISPr) to improve accessibility and use for restoration projects.

### One Prioritized:

- **Mitigation** (Pathway A): Strategy (“Create a system for tracking and accounting metrics and indicators for natural and working lands”): Develop a methodology and protocol for quantifying climate mitigation, resilience, and adaptation impacts of existing state and federal water quality implementation programs as reported through the annual Clean Water Initiative Performance Report. The Clean Water Initiative Performance Report “summarizes the State of Vermont’s clean water efforts and demonstrates how investments are making a difference through accountability measures.” As mentioned, most water quality conservation practices and

programs also have climate mitigation, resilience, and adaptation benefits. Recommend using existing tracking systems and quantify the climate benefits from this existing implementation and data tracking. The data spans state and federal funding programs and regulatory programs that drive clean water efforts and coordinates across agencies to track these efforts and monitor progress.

- **Adaptation** (Pathway 1): Strategy (“Promote healthy, connected river corridors, floodplains, and wetlands”): Support and fund research and design to strategically invest in floodplain and river corridor reforestation efforts. Specifically, develop an inventory of priority/critical headwater and floodplain storage areas, prioritize investments for restoration and protection in these areas, and use to inform Compact Settlement planning efforts
- **Viability** (Pathway 2): strategy 1, action C (starting with "fund a research project...").
- **Economies** (Pathway 3): Strategy 4, action A (starting with "build out and utilize TEK...") (note: this would need longer term funding to support).
- **Land Use** (Pathway 4): Strategy 3, action I (starting with "provided funding for municipalities...")
- **Education** (Pathway 1): Strategy 3 (starting with "the language in Vermont agencies..."), all actions.