A scenic landscape featuring a calm river or stream in the foreground, reflecting the sky and surrounding trees. The banks are rocky and covered with dense vegetation, including tall evergreen trees and deciduous trees with vibrant autumn foliage in shades of orange, yellow, and red. The sky is overcast with soft, grey clouds. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

**Climate Action Office
Update to the Climate Council
December 18, 2023**

Cutting Climate Pollution - Mitigation

KEY SUCCESSES:

- Award of federal Climate Pollution Reduction Planning Grant and looking forward to competing for significant implementation funding opportunity
- Completed key analysis to inform opportunity for emission reductions in the thermal sector
- One-time funding towards high-global warming potential refrigerant emissions mitigation

ONE MAJOR STRUGGLE:

- Striking a balance in what mitigation work is coordinated and implemented out of the new Climate Action Office

PRIORITY FOR 2024:

- Submit highly competitive application for Climate Pollution Reduction Grant funds and continue to work with agency and external partners to deploy mitigation funding across priority sectors

Resilience and Adaptation

KEY SUCCESSES:

- Execution of a contract to develop a Municipal Vulnerability Index, a mapping tool intended to help municipalities explore and understand potential vulnerabilities to climate change.
- Funding support for expansion of climate resilience research and engagement for Designation evaluation and reform project.
- Coordinated a cross-agency response following the July 2023 flooding.

ONE MAJOR STRUGGLE:

- Lack of measurable objectives and quantifiable metrics for climate resilience.

PRIORITY FOR 2024:

- Implementation of the Municipal Vulnerability Index (MVI) through grant with Regional Planning Commissions which will support the integration of the MVI as a tool to assist municipal planning for climate change.
- Development of a resilience investment analysis focused on the review of the economic impacts of investments in municipal resilience measures
- Further alignment of the CAO and the SHM Unit

Measuring and Tracking Climate Progress

KEY SUCCESSES:

- Release of the 1990 – 2020 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and Forecast report in April 2023.
- Development of a regulation to provide a protocol framework for conducting life cycle analyses for state agencies and political subdivisions.
- Ongoing life cycle analysis of Vermont's energy pathways utilizing the ISO standard 14067 (2018) that is referenced in the ANR protocol currently being developed.

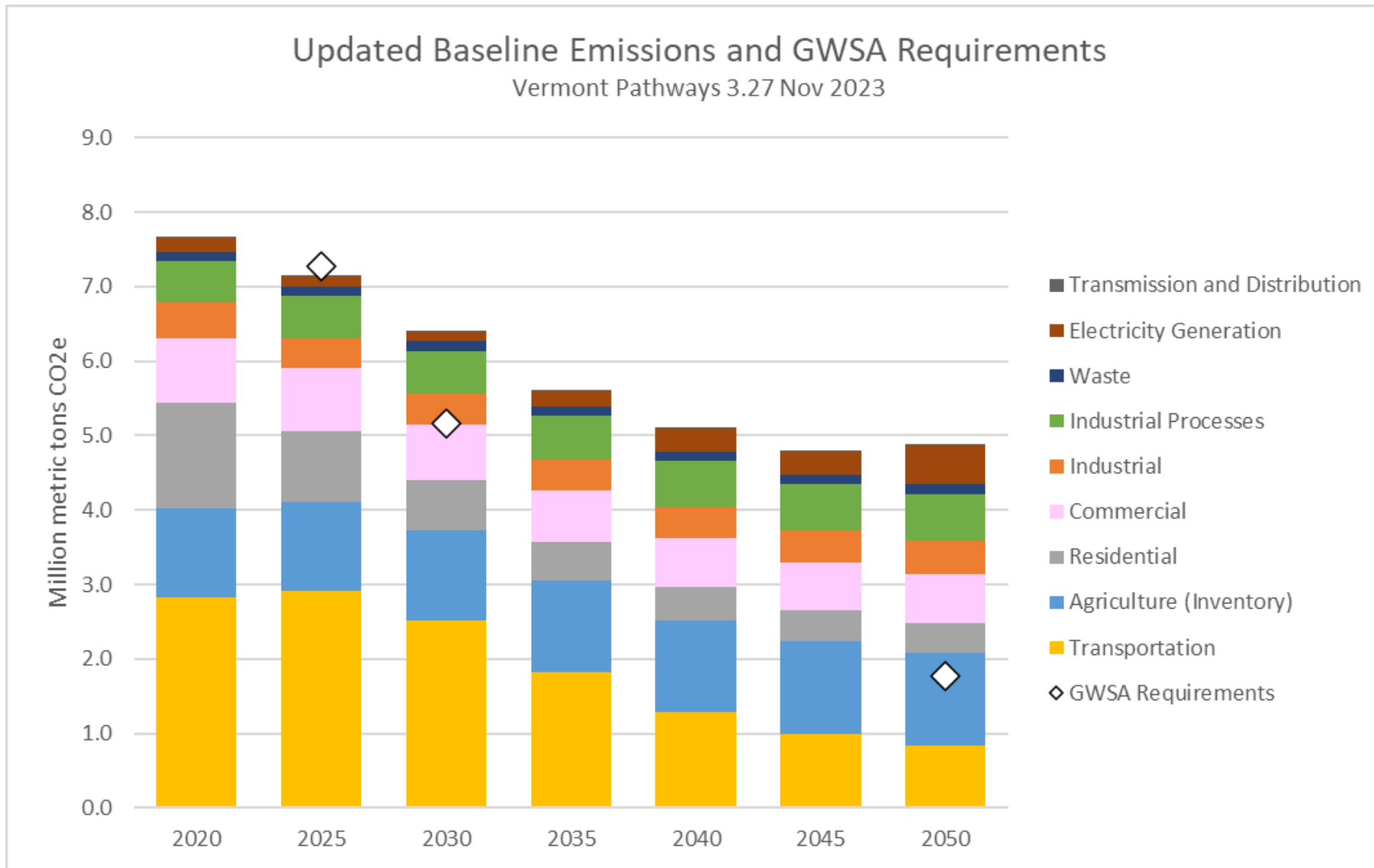
ONE MAJOR STRUGGLE:

- Better understanding and determining the impacts and/or role of biomass as related to emissions and climate change mitigation strategies.

PRIORITY FOR 2024:

- Completion of Phase 1 of the Measuring and Tracking Progress tool project, which will determine important metrics to track to indicate progress as well as determine sources of data to inform those metrics.

Measuring and Tracking Progress



Community Engagement and Communications

KEY SUCCESSES:

- Consensus Building Institute engaging with communities at locally organized events
- Onboarding a Community Engagement & Communications Coordinator
- Public engagement plan to inform Vermont's opportunity for federal Climate Pollution Reduction Grant funds

ONE MAJOR STRUGGLE:

- Integrating various climate-related public engagement activities to be holistic, cohesive, and iterative upon one another.
- Adapting government language to plain language; adapting government information systems for ease of use by the general public.

PRIORITY FOR 2024:

- Creating a user-friendly 'library' of climate public comment, input, and feedback. Ideally, this can be a resource across government and help bring the voices we're hearing to decision-makers.
- Launching the Climate Action Office Enewsletter to inform, empower, and include the public on climate action—with an emphasis on Vermonters who have traditionally not be included in these conversations.