A scenic photograph of a Vermont farm landscape. In the foreground, two cyclists are riding on a gravel path that curves through a green field. The cyclist on the left is wearing a red shirt and a white helmet, while the cyclist on the right is wearing a light blue shirt and a white helmet. To the left of the path, there is a red barn with a white door and a small white window. In the background, there is a large green field with a white fence, and a forested hillside under a clear blue sky. The text "Vermont Climate Action Plan 2025 Update" is overlaid in the top right corner, and "Welcome!" is overlaid in the bottom center.


# Vermont Climate Action Plan 2025 Update

**Welcome!**





**What's the first word that comes to mind  
when you hear “*climate action*”?**

A spiral-bound notebook with a white, lined page is open on a wooden desk. A teal pencil lies vertically to the right of the notebook. The text "How are you experiencing a changing climate?" is written in green on the notebook page.

**How are you  
experiencing a  
changing climate?**

Counties with Highest Disaster Count	
COUNTY	TOTAL DISASTERS
Washington, VT	22
Merrimack, NH	19
Lamoille, VT	17
Franklin, KY	16
Johnson, KY	16
Essex, VT	16
Orleans, VT	16
Clay, KY	15
Lawrence, KY	15
Lee, KY	15

## How is climate change impacting Vermont?

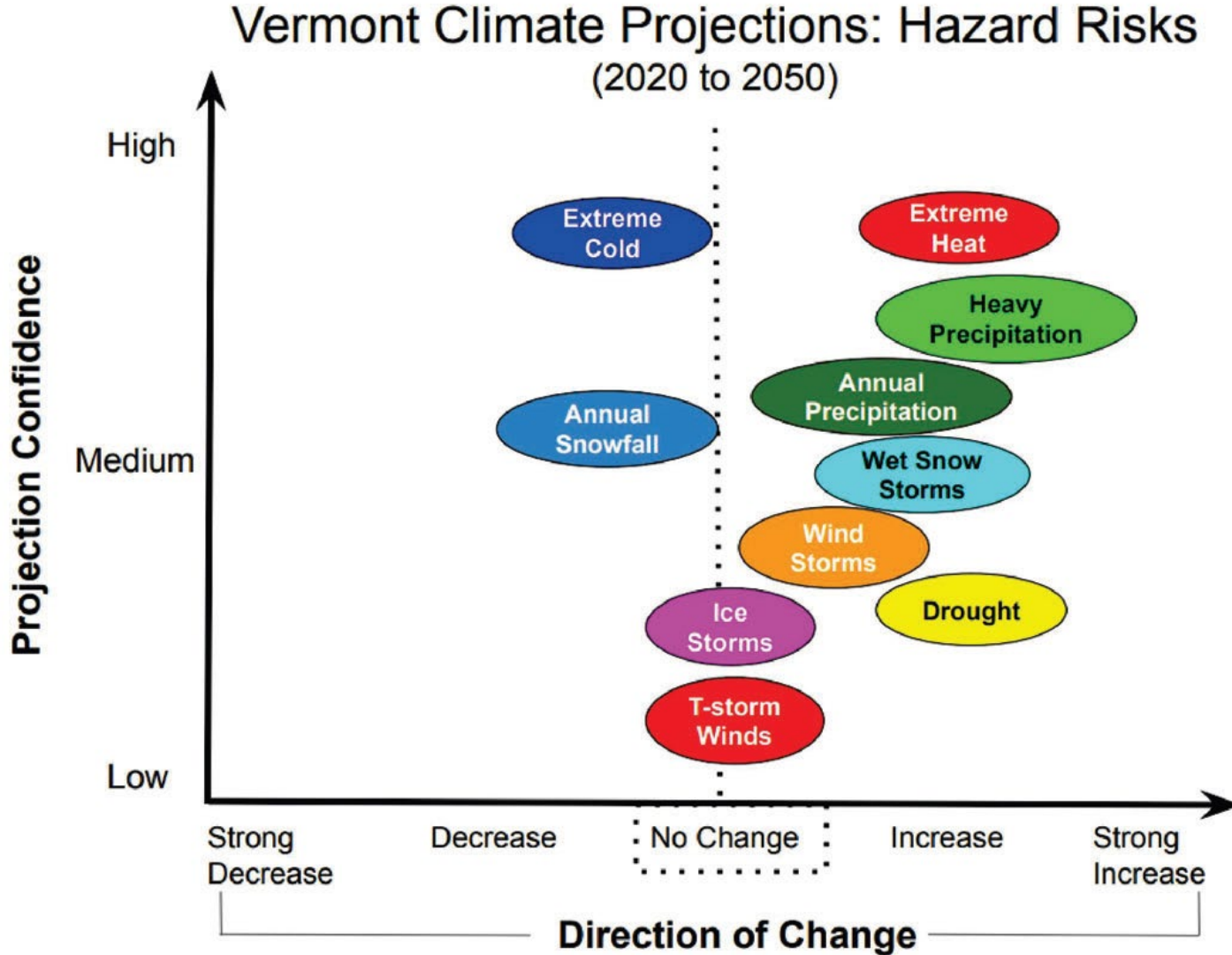
7<sup>th</sup>

highest number of federally declared disasters of all states

4<sup>th</sup>

highest per capita disaster assistance of all states





## How is climate change impacting Vermont?

- *Increased precipitation*
- *Warmer winters*
- *Drought*
- *Hotter summers*

# Where does Vermont's energy come from?

Vermont spends about \$2 billion annually on fossil fuels

## Vermont fossil fuel spending, 2023

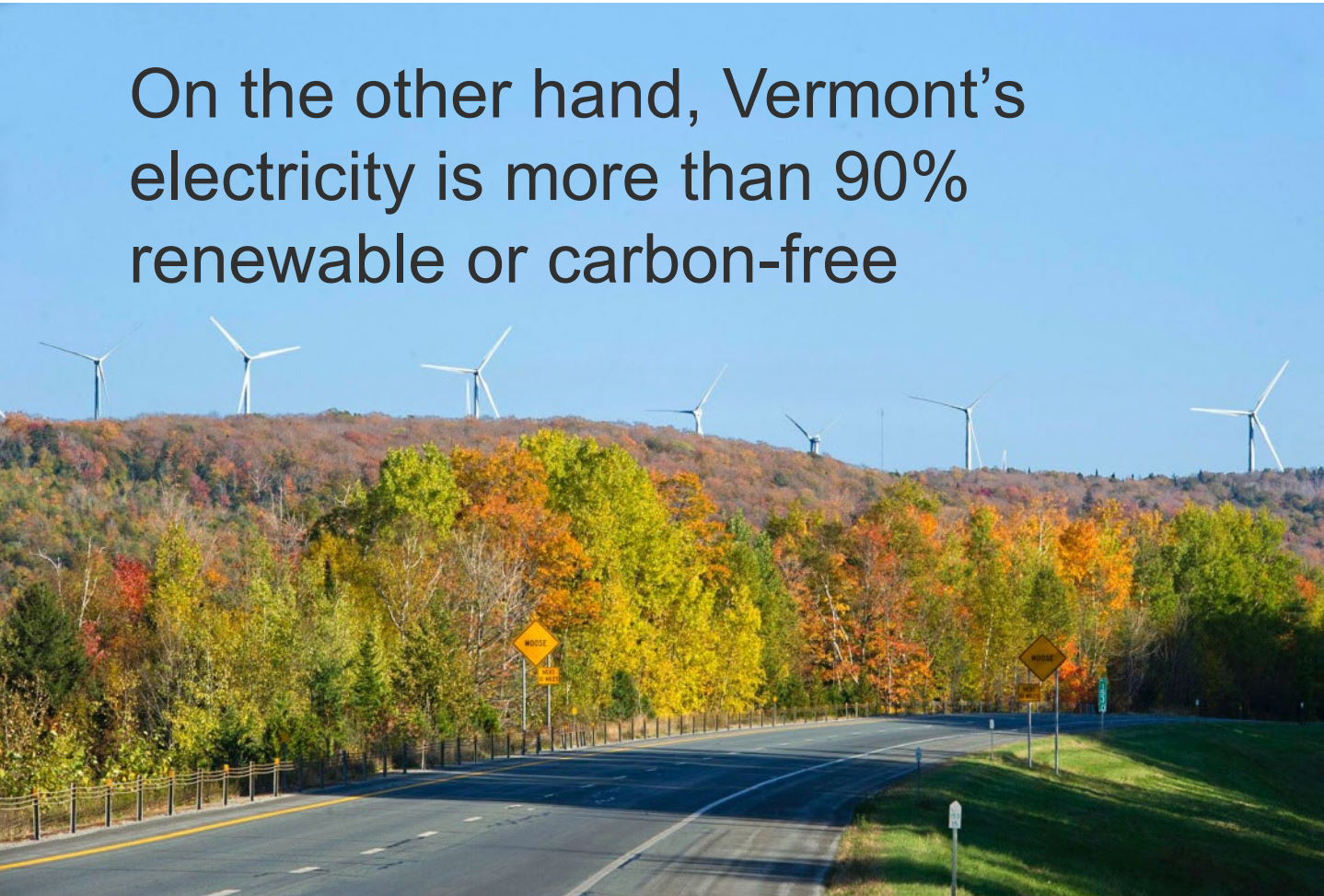


**Sources:** Fossil fuel spending: Vermont Department of Taxes, 2024; VGS, 2024. Dollar recirculation share: Ken Jones, Senior Fellow for Economic Analysis, 2024. **Note:** This graph includes spending on thermal and transportation fuels only.

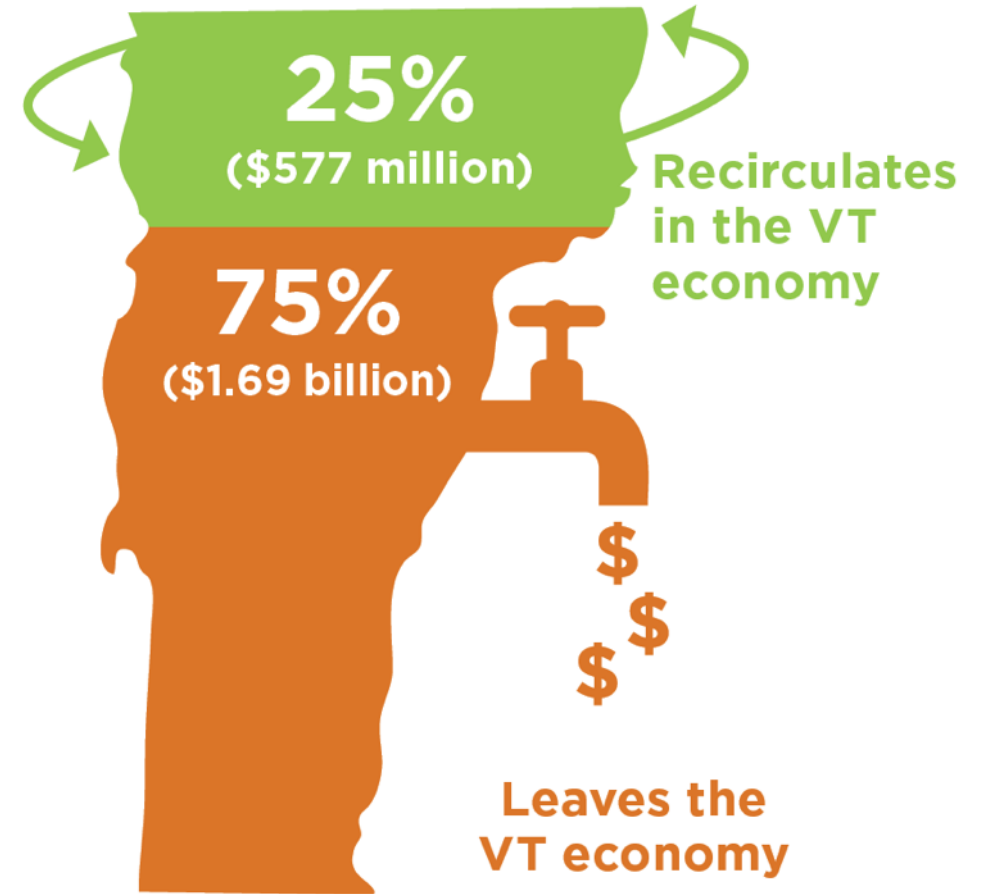
Energy Action Network  
Vermont Public Service Department

# Where does Vermont's energy come from?

On the other hand, Vermont's electricity is more than 90% renewable or carbon-free



## Vermont fossil fuel spending, 2023



**Sources:** Fossil fuel spending: Vermont Department of Taxes, 2024; VGS, 2024. Dollar recirculation share: Ken Jones, Senior Fellow for Economic Analysis, 2024. **Note:** This graph includes spending on thermal and transportation fuels only.

Energy Action Network  
Vermont Public Service Department



# Climate impacts are not felt equally...

*And Vermonters living on lower incomes are less able to bounce back from floods and other climate hazards*



Jean Deree, Vermont Daily Chronicle





# Climate impacts are not felt equally...

*"I've had heat exhaustion or heat stroke, whatever you want to call it, several times. Yeah. First thing you notice is you stop sweating, and you get a headache. The headache is very severe, and you'll start vomiting. You'll feel cold. Goosebumps. When you're in that stage you need to get help."*

– Unhoused Vermonter, 2023

# **What actions are you taking?**

What actions have you and/or your community taken to be more prepared for climate hazards (heat, flooding, ice storms, drought)?

Are there actions you have taken to reduce energy and save money on home heating or transportation?



A horizontal timeline graphic with a light gray background and a large light gray arrow pointing to the right. Four dark green rounded rectangular boxes are placed along the timeline, each containing a milestone and its date. The text is white.

**Global Warming  
Solutions Act  
passed**

September 2020

**Vermont Climate  
Council  
established**

November 2020

**Initial Climate  
Action Plan  
adopted**

December 2021

**Implementation  
and update  
every four years**

Next update due  
July 1, 2025



# Progress on increasing climate resilience & adaptation

Conserving priority ecosystems and mature forests

- Biodiversity Bill (30x30)
- Changes to Current Use Program (UVA)

Making climate-smart development decisions

- Flood Safety Act
- Act 250 Reform




# Progress on reducing climate pollution

Most heat pump installations per capita in  
New England

Nearly 18,000 electric vehicles registered

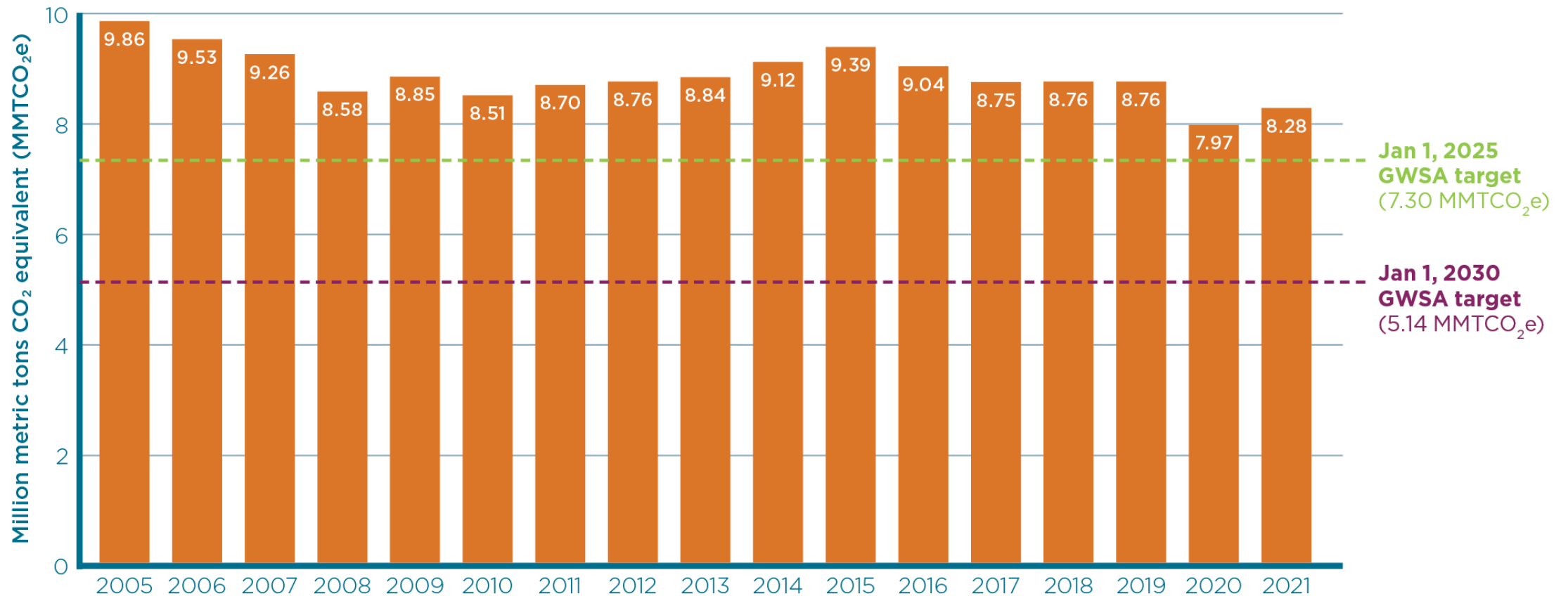
Approximately 41,000 homes weatherized  
between 2000-2024



Vermont Agency of Transportation

# There is still much more to do!

## Vermont GHG emissions (2005–2021) and GWSA targets



Source: Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Vermont GHG Emissions Inventory and Forecast: 1990-2021, 2024.



# Vermont 2025 Climate Action Plan Update



# Vermont 2025 Climate Action Plan Update

## Spring and Summer 2024

Update begins



## Fall 2024

Subcommittees draft recommended actions and submit them to



## Winter 2025

Council drafts an updated plan



## Spring 2025

Council revises and finalizes plan based on public input.



Community engagement throughout!



**Cross-Sector Mitigation**

Transportation

Electricity

Buildings & Thermal

**Cross-Cutting**

Workforce

Education

Compact Settlement

**Rural Resilience & Adaptation**

Capacity & Planning

Built Environment

Public Health

**Agriculture & Ecosystems**

Reduce & Sequester

Support Adaptation

Climate-Resilient Land

# Let's hear from you!

- 1) Which of these draft actions are most compelling for Vermont?
- 2) What is the most urgent feedback you have for the Council to make these draft ideas better? Do you have a suggested priority action that is more important than the ones on this list?





# Discussion Guidelines

## Let's have a constructive conversation

- **Share the floor** (Make space for everyone to speak.)
- **Respect different views** (It's OK to bring different perspectives. Show others the respect you'd want people to show you.)
- **Stay on topic** (Let's stick to the discussion prompts.)

# Next steps

**April** | Submit written comments by May 1

**May** | Climate Council discusses your feedback, edits and revises draft

**June** | Final revisions

**July 1, 2025** | Climate Action Plan complete!

**Summer and fall 2025** | Events to share new Climate Action Plan with Vermonters





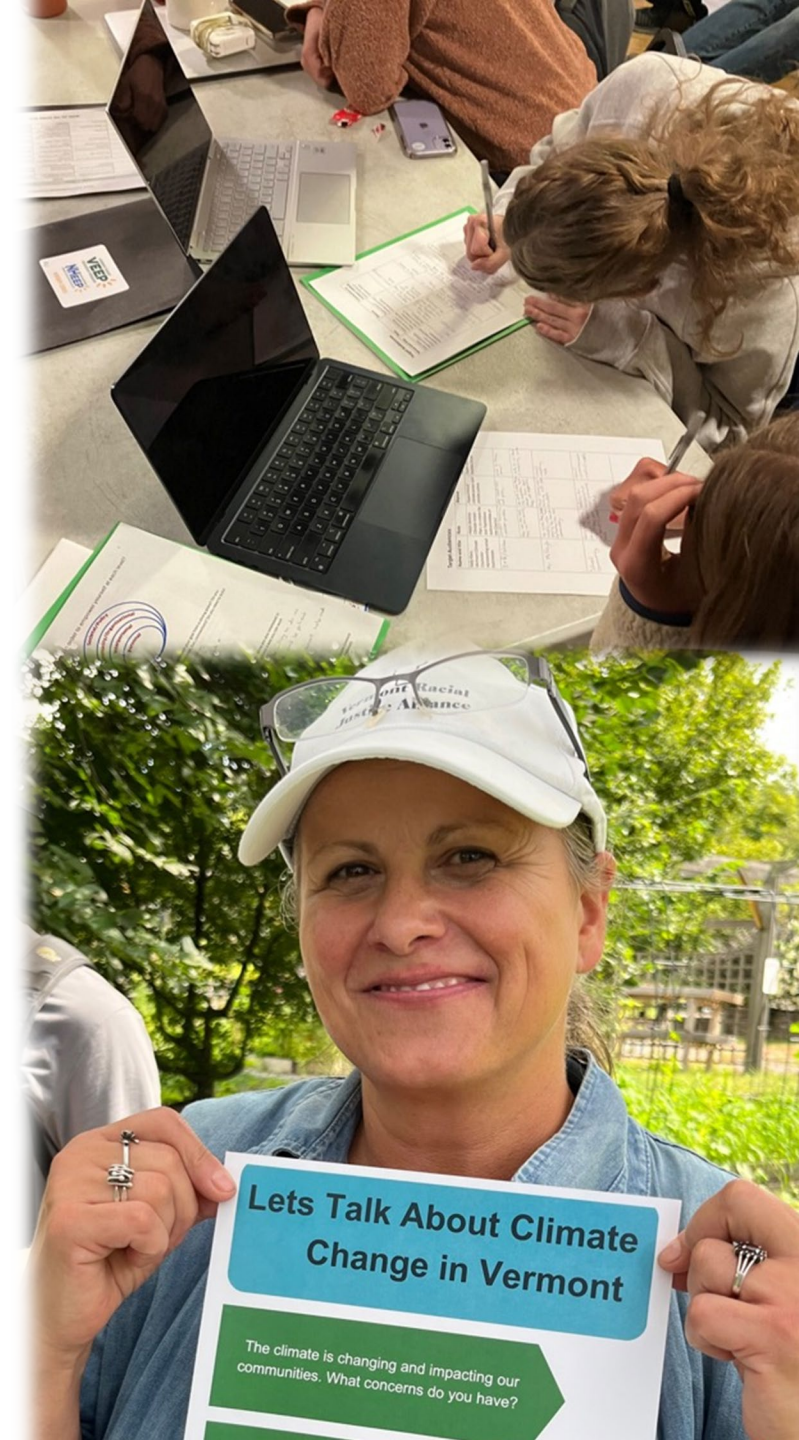
# Stay involved

Submit your written comment  
[climatechange.vermont.gov/cap2025](https://climatechange.vermont.gov/cap2025)

Text “Join” + your email to (802) 569-9875 for  
monthly Enewsletter and/or text alerts

Take action at  
[climatechange.vermont.gov/learn-and-act](https://climatechange.vermont.gov/learn-and-act)

Find meetings and events at  
[climatechange.vermont.gov/calendar](https://climatechange.vermont.gov/calendar)





# Vermont Climate Action Plan 2025 Update

Thank you!