

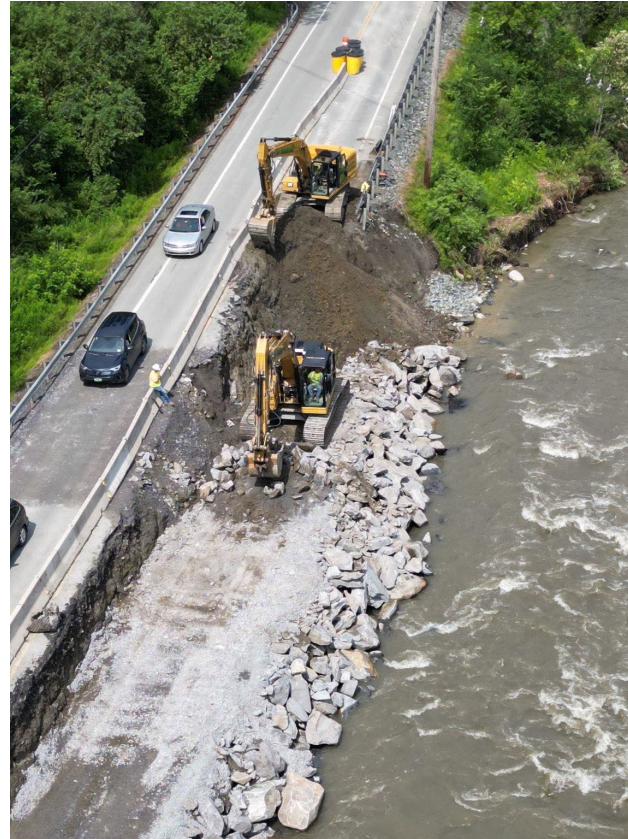


Meet Vermont's 2025 Climate Action Plan

Virtual Public Meetings
January 2026
Vermont Climate Council

Today's Agenda

- **Climate Action Plan:**
 - What it is
 - How it was updated
 - Priority actions
 - *Clarifying questions from you*
- **Discussion:**
 - *What's most compelling for you?*
- **From planning to action:**
 - *Panel and discussion*



Why we plan: How climate change is impacting our state

Vermont has the 7th
highest number of
federally declared
disasters of all states

Climate-related disaster declarations by U.S. county, 2011–2024

National rank	County	Total number of disasters
#1	Washington County, VT	22
#2	Merrimack County, NH	19
#3	Lamoille County, VT	17
#4	Essex County, VT	16
	Franklin County, KY	16
	Johnson County, KY	16
	Orleans County, VT	16

Source: Rebuild by Design, “Atlas of Accountability,” 2024.
Notes: Data represent climate-related federally-declared disasters. The vast majority of disaster declarations in Vermont have been related to severe storms and flooding.



Vermont's Climate Action Plan (CAP)

**Global Warming
Solutions Act
Passed; Climate
Council established**

2020

**Initial Climate Action
Plan Adopted**

December 2021

**Implementation and
update every four
years**

Updated
July, 2025



CAP Overview

01	Reduce Climate Pollution (Cross Sector Mitigation)	• Transportation • Buildings • Electricity
02	Support Agriculture and Ecosystems	• Nature-based solutions • Funding • Investment
03	Rural Resilience & Adaptation	• Capacity and planning • Built environment • Public health
04	Implement Cross-Cutting Solutions	• Education • Workforce • Financing and funding

Updating the Plan: How the Work Happened

Vermont Climate Council & its Five Subcommittees



**Rural
Resilience
&
Adaptation**



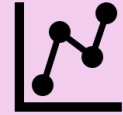
**Agriculture &
Ecosystems**



**Cross-Sector
Mitigation
(Reducing
Climate
Pollution)**

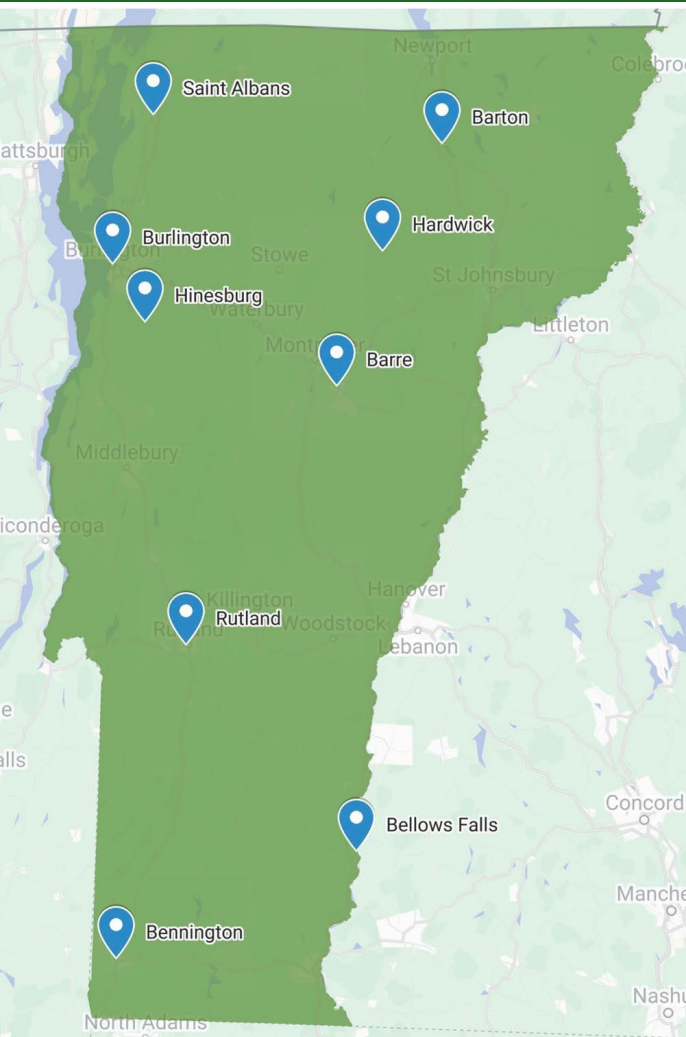


**Just
Transitions**



**Science &
Data**

Vermonters spoke, we listened



January 2026

- Held **8** in-person and **11** virtual public meetings
- Attended / tabled **24** events
- Partnered with community-based organizations
- Offered multiple ways to provide written or verbal comments



Public input shaped the plan

Key Messages from Vermonters:

- “Too many ideas - Prioritize!”
- “Need to ensure funding”
- “Why no mention of geothermal networks?”
- “Language is not accessible”
- “Be mindful of costs”

Climate Council Response:

- Identified Top 10 Priority Actions
- Recommended a new funding mechanism action
- Created a new recommendation
- Created a plain language intro and executive summary
- Focused on affordability

Top 10 Priority Actions *(slide 1 of 5)*

- ▶ Expand and maintain a permanent Flood Resilient Communities Fund.
- ▶ Invest in municipal infrastructure to support compact development.



Top 10 Priority Actions *(slide 2 of 5)*

- ▶ Increase funding for programs that achieve climate goals on farms and in forests.
- ▶ Promote equitable landscape connectivity and conservation.



Top 10 Priority Actions *(slide 3 of 5)*

- ▶ Weatherize homes, prioritizing low- and middle-income households.
- ▶ Take preparatory steps and join a cap-and-invest program when viable.



Top 10 Priority Actions *(slide 4 of 5)*

- ▶ Support utility programs that ensure the electric grid supports customer electrification and resilience.
- ▶ Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles and buildings through electrification.



Top 10 Priority Actions *(slide 5 of 5)*

- ▶ Identify revenue sources to immediately support these priority actions.
- ▶ Implement the U.S. Climate Alliance's Climate-Ready Workforce Initiative.



Questions?

January 2026

Let's hear from you!

Discussion Guidelines

- **Share the floor** (Make space for others.)
- **Respect different views** (Show others the respect you'd want people to show you.)
- **Stay on topic**



Let's hear from you! *(continued)*

What action is most compelling to me, my organization, or my constituents in this updated Climate Action Plan?



From Planning to Action

What is an immediate next step to move these actions forward?

What else will help make implementing the CAP successful?





Thank you

climatechange.vermont.gov

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