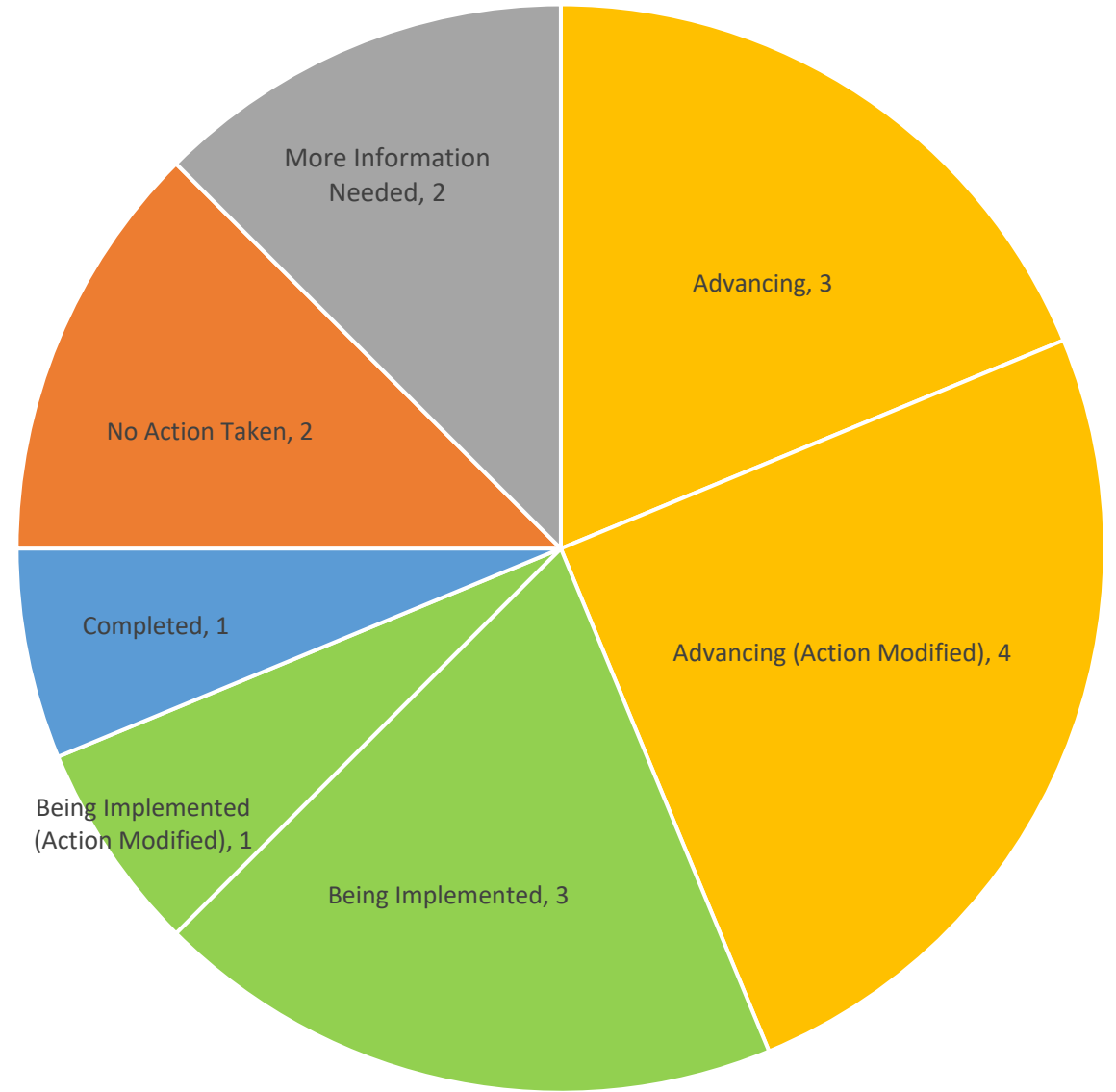
A scenic landscape featuring a calm river in the foreground, reflecting the sky and surrounding trees. The river is bordered by a rocky shoreline on the left and a sandy bank with dense autumn foliage on the right. In the background, a forest of evergreen and deciduous trees is visible, with some trees showing vibrant autumn colors. The sky is overcast with soft, grey clouds.

# Climate Action Office Update to the Climate Council January 29, 2024

# Pathways for Emissions Reductions: Transportation

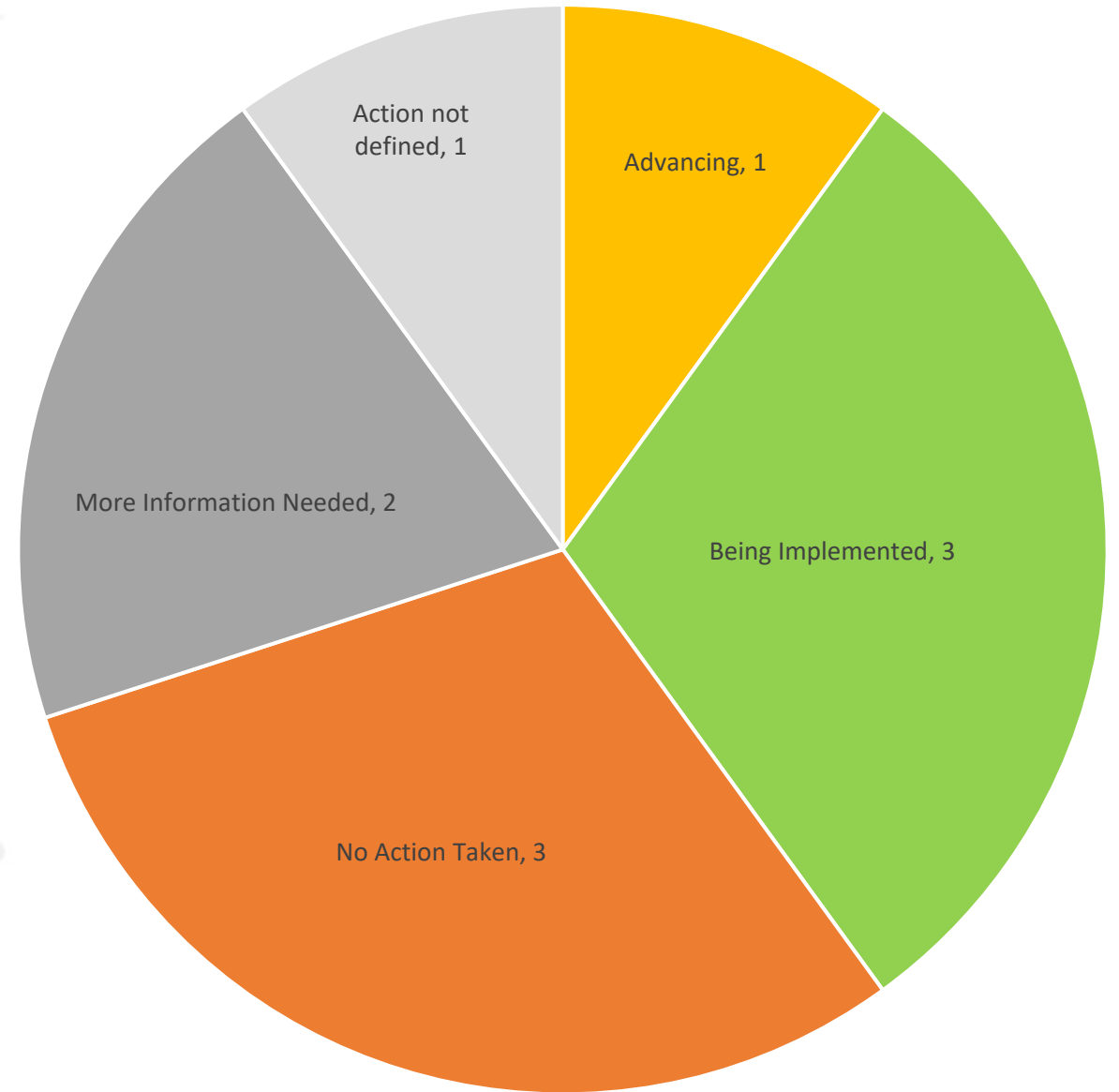
- 4 Pathways
- 16 Actions



Status of Actions (Emissions Reduction: Transportation)

# Pathways for Emissions Reductions: Buildings & Thermal

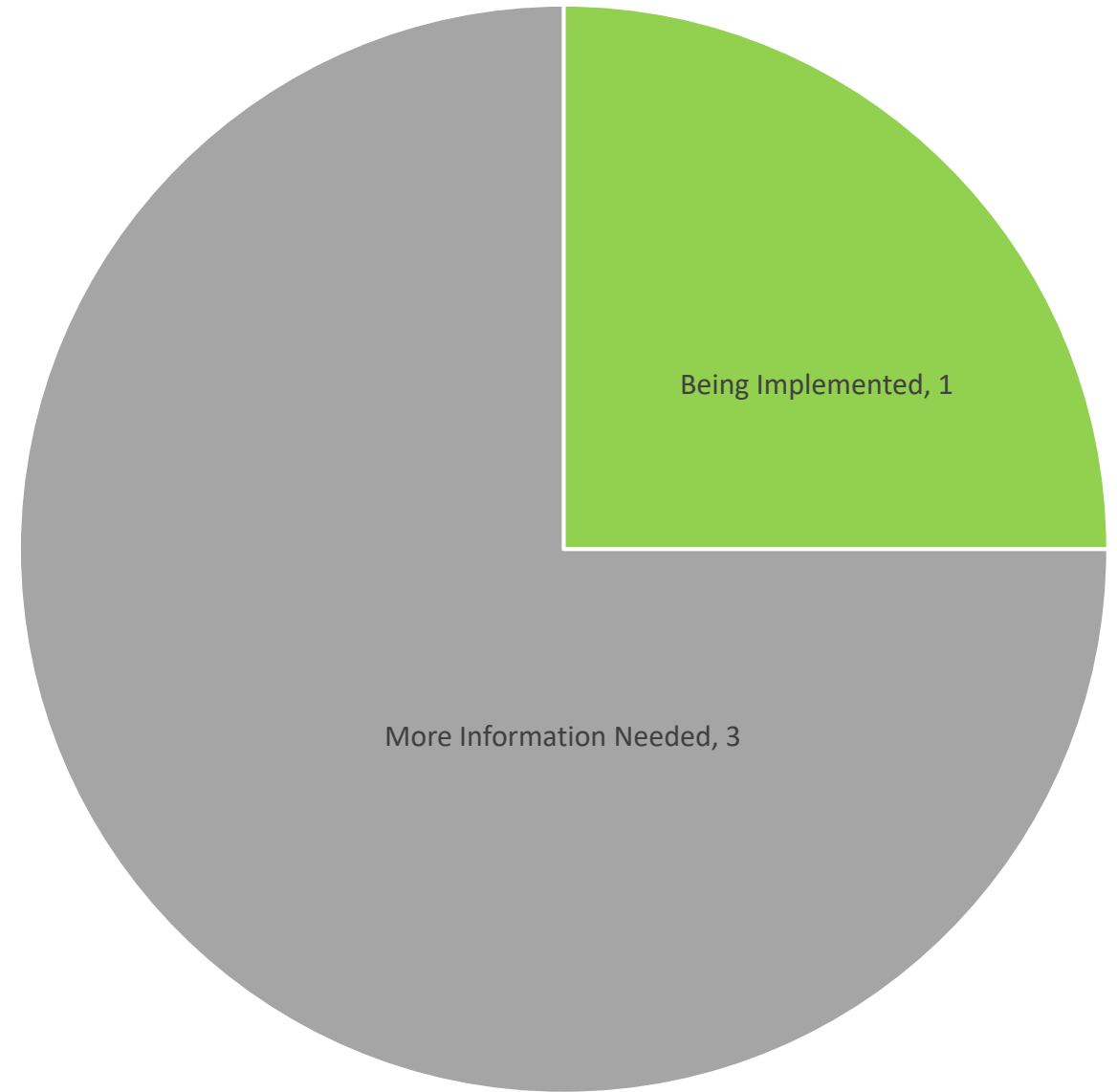
- 2 Pathways
- 10 Actions



Status of Actions (Emissions Reduction: Buildings & Thermal)

# Pathways for Emissions Reductions: Electricity

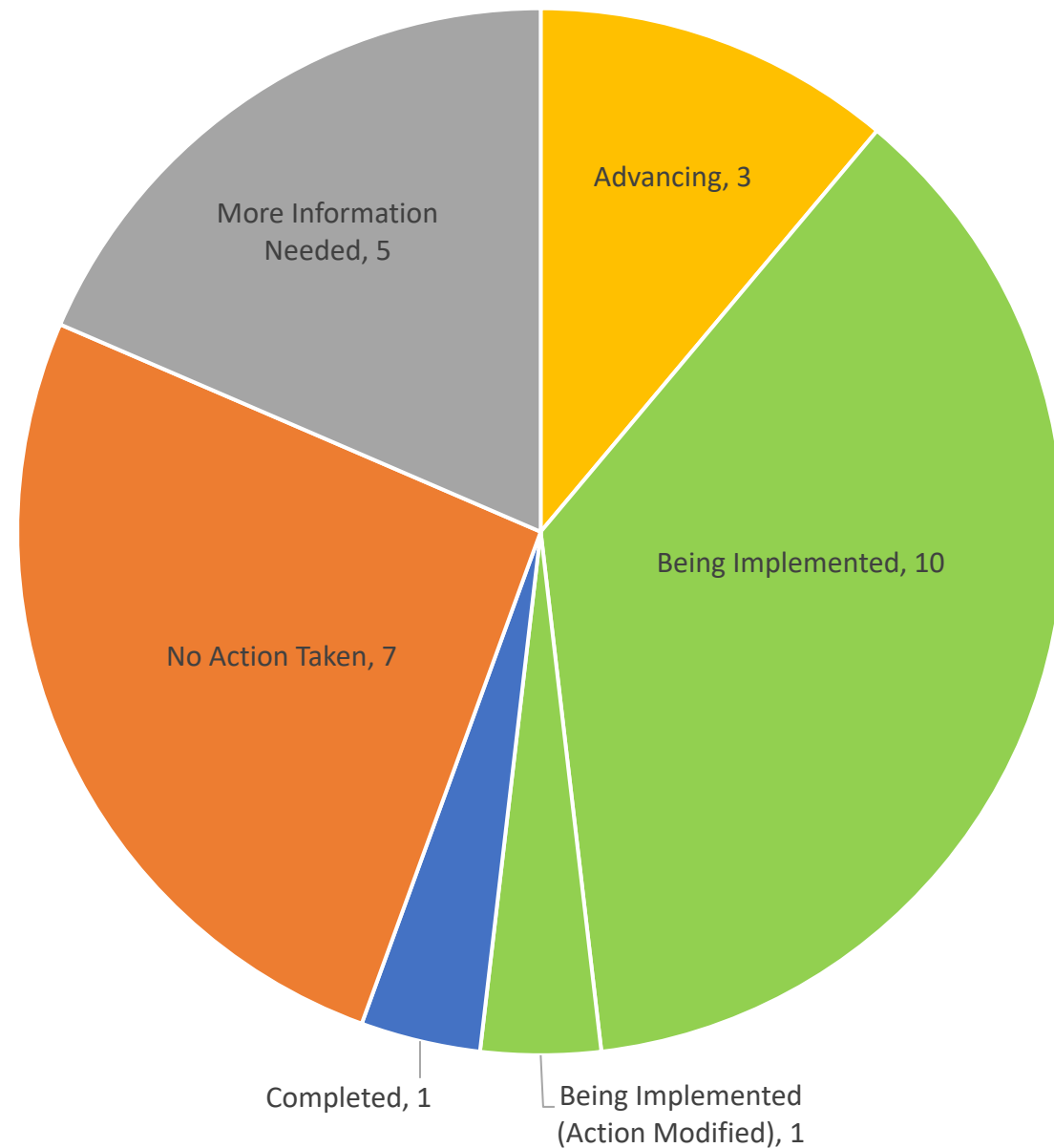
- 3 Pathways
- 4 Actions



Status of Actions (Emissions Reduction: Electricity)

# Pathways for Emissions Reductions: Agriculture & Ecosystems

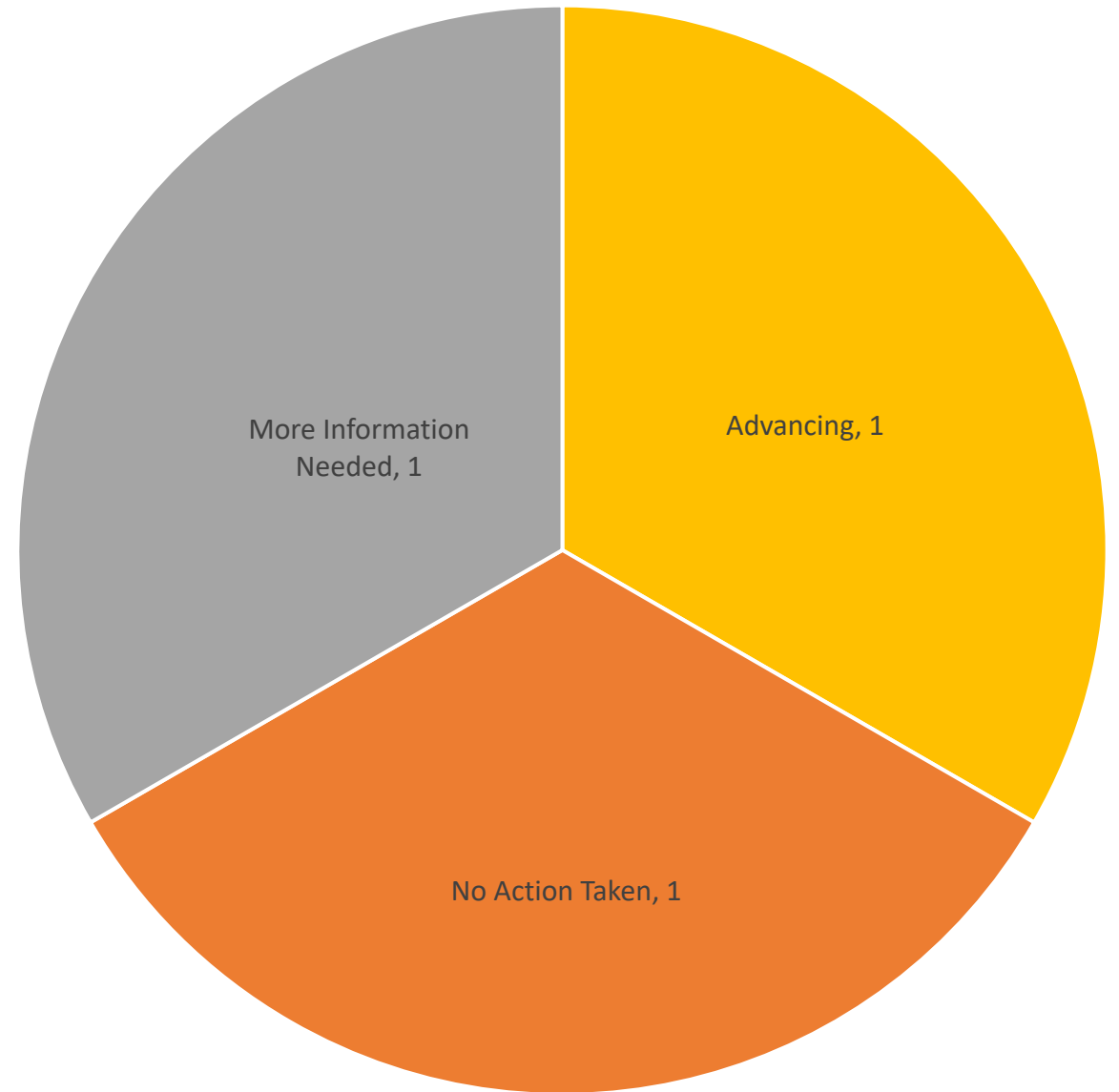
- 1 Pathway
- 24 Actions



Status of Actions (Emissions Reduction: Non-Energy)

# Pathways for Emissions Reductions: Non-Energy

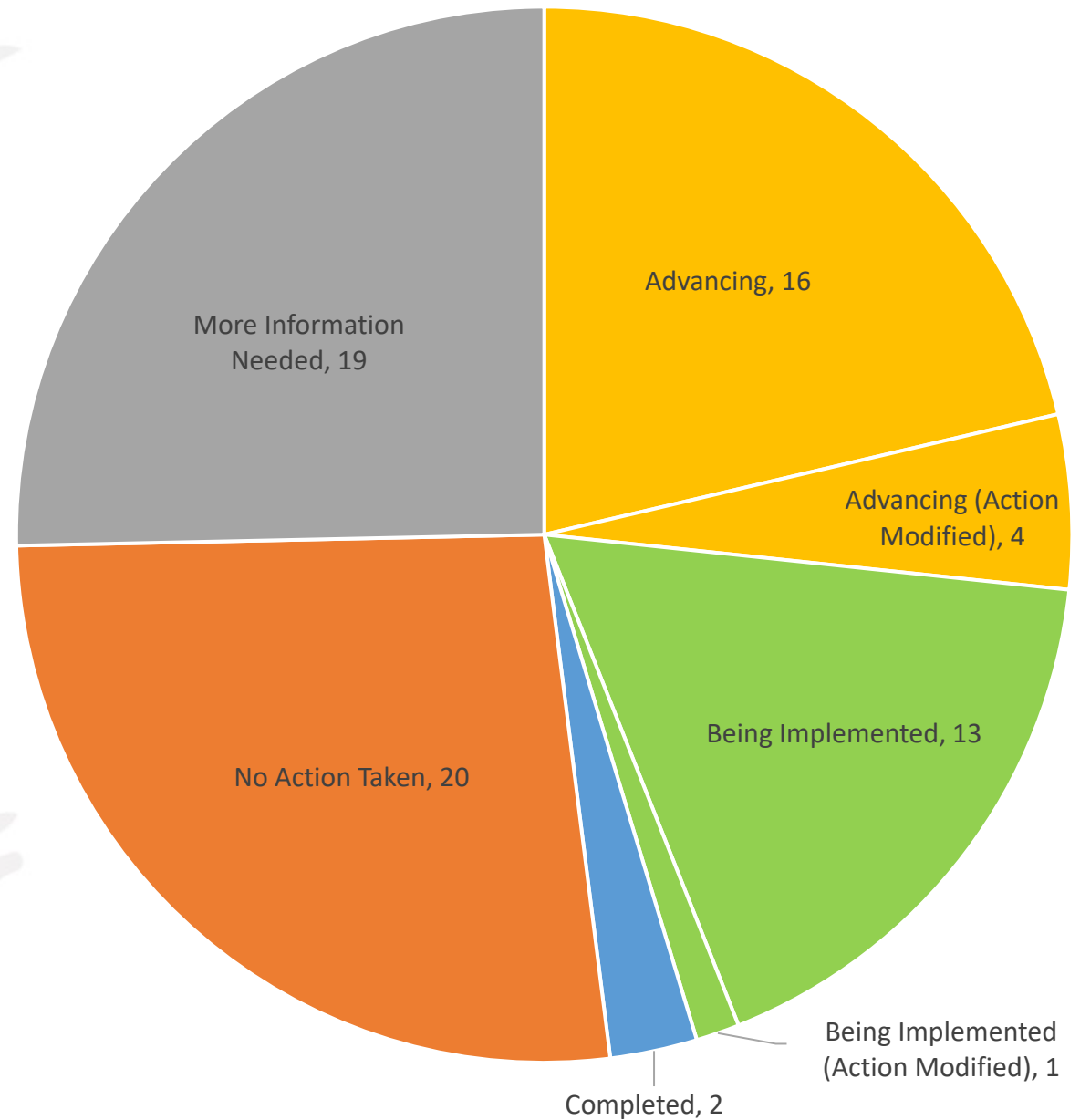
- 3 Pathways
- 3 Actions



Status of Actions (Emissions Reduction: Non-Energy)

# Pathways for Adaptation & Resilience: Communities

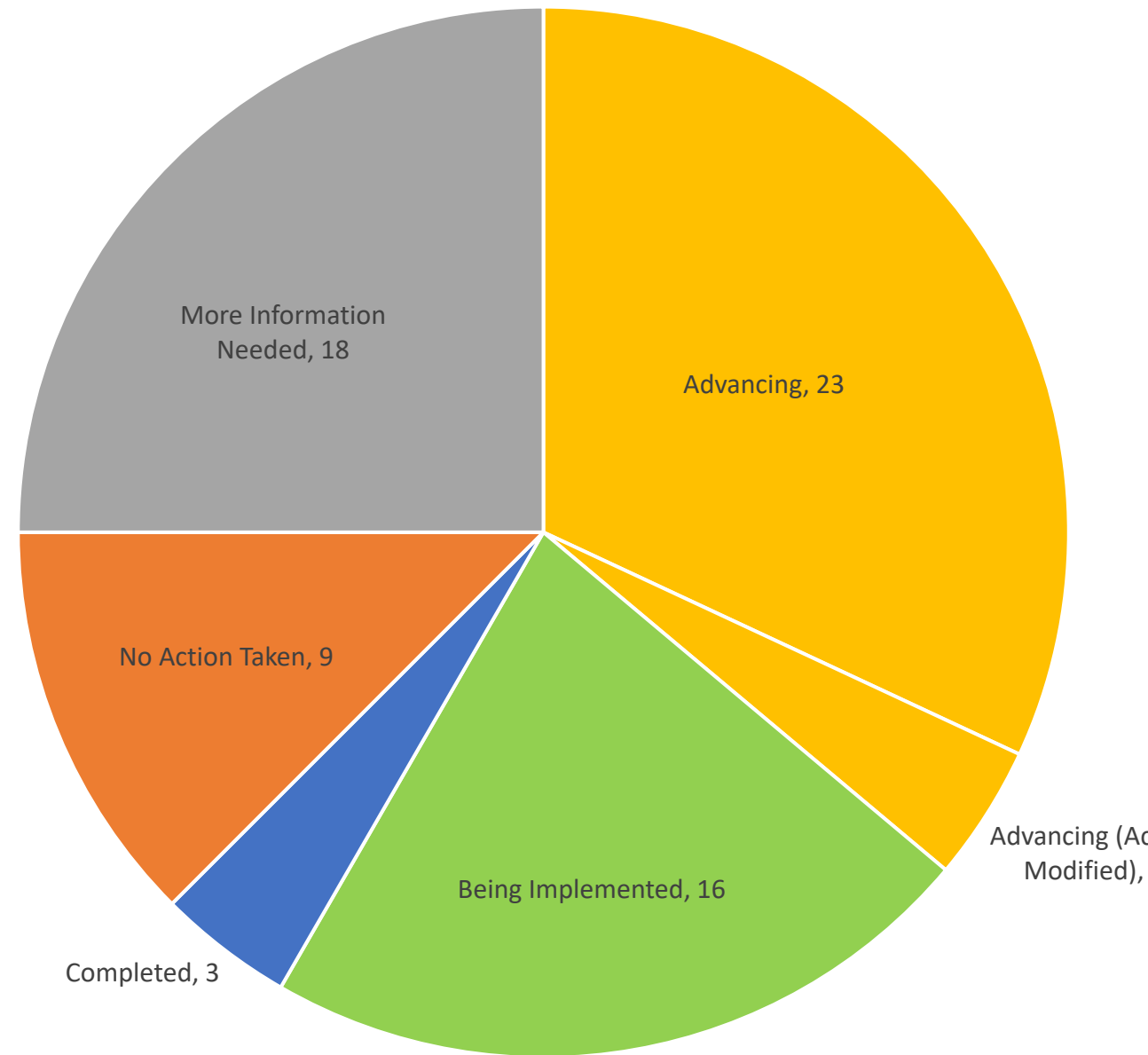
- 5 Pathways
- 75 Actions



Status of Actions (Adaptation & Resilience: Communities)

# Pathways for Adaptation & Resilience: Lands

- 4 Pathways
- 72 Actions



Status of Actions (Adaptation & Resilience: Lands)

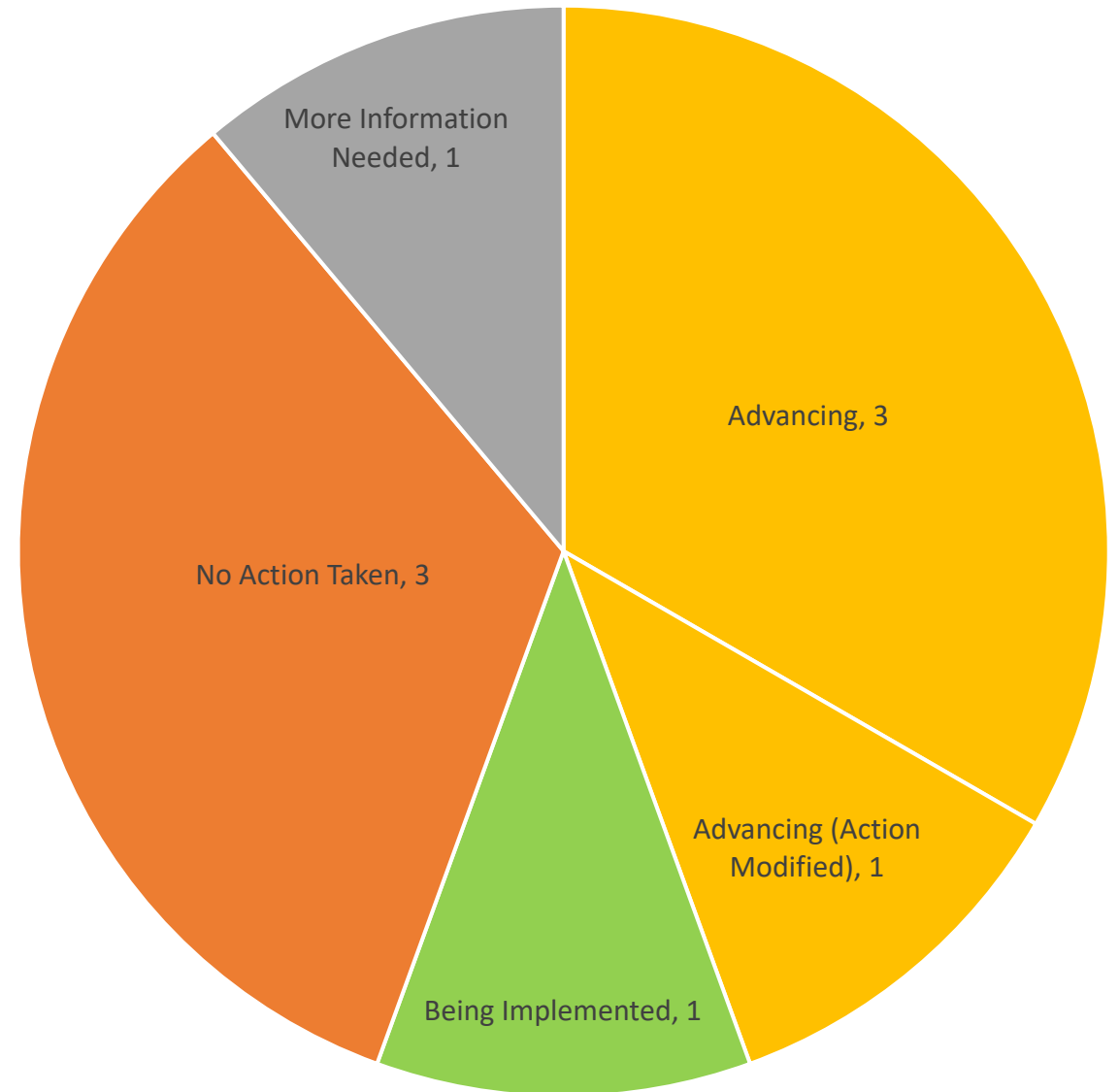


# Pathways for Sequestering & Storing Carbon

➤ 2 Pathways

**\*NOTE:** Data only shown for Pathway 24 actions

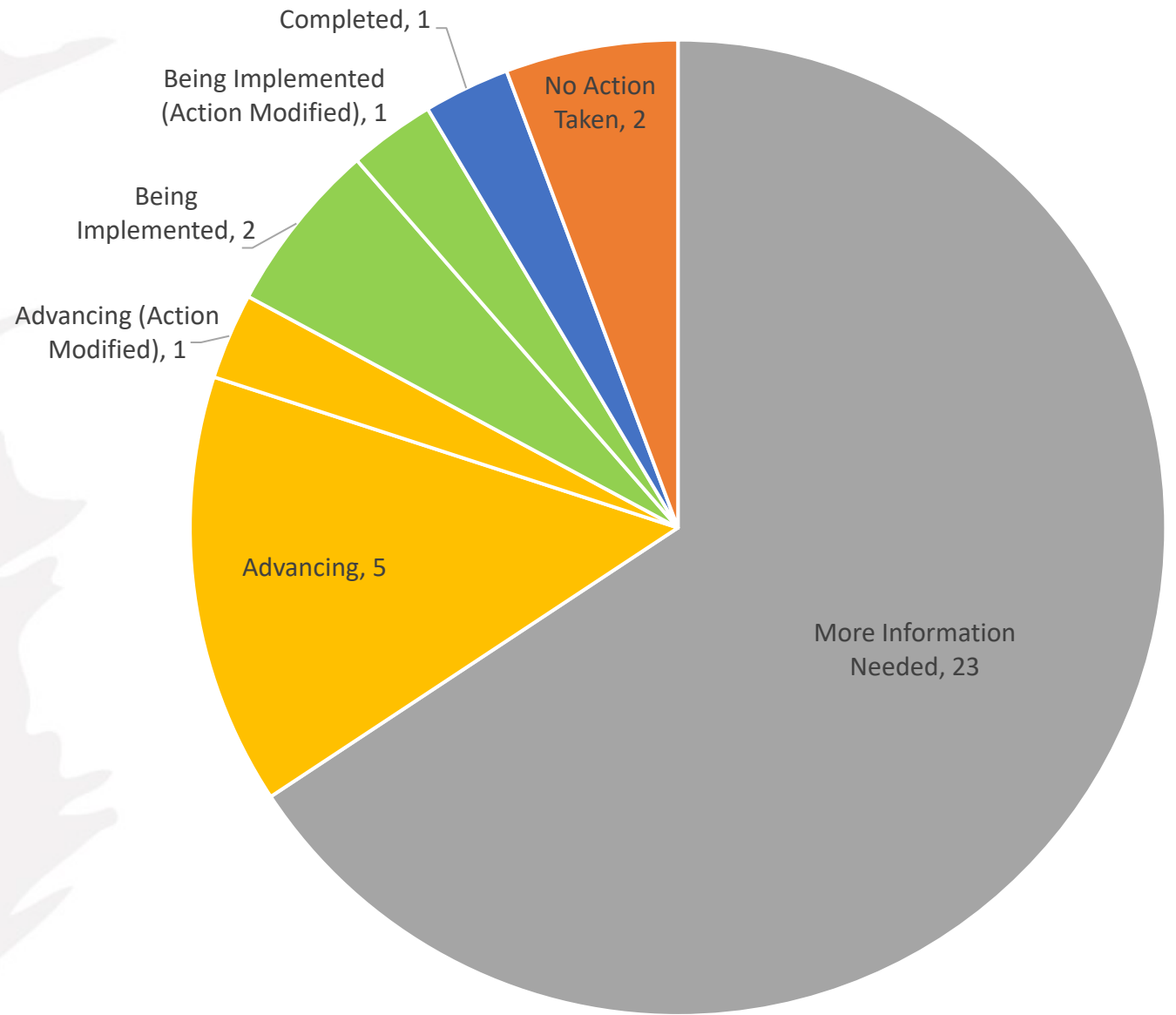
➤ 6 Actions



Status of Actions (Sequestering & Storing Carbon)

# Cross-Cutting Pathways

- 2 Pathways plus Cross-Cutting Themes (pp. 237-242 of the Climate Action Plan)
- 33 Actions



Status of Actions (Cross-Cutting Pathways)

# 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

## PRIORITIES 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
- Advance transportation sector analysis aligned with Council recommendations
- Support TAG with development of Clean Heat Standard
- Onboarding a limited-service position to support CPRG implementation and CAP process

# 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

## PRIORITIES 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.
- Completion of the Municipal Climate Toolkit which will be hosted on the Climate Action Office's website.
- Hiring a Resilient Lands Coordinator.
- Development of significant bodies of work related to resilience: metrics, an investment analysis, and an opportunity assessment.
- Staff support to develop a Resilience Implementation Strategy by 7/1/25.

# Measuring and Tracking Climate Progress

## KEY SUCCESSES:

- Release of the 1990 – 2020 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and Forecast report in April 2023.
- 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.

## PRIORITIES 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.
- Development of a regulation to provide a protocol framework for conducting life cycle analyses for state agencies and political subdivisions.
- Finalize SOP for release of GHG Inventory and public process for methodology changes.
- Development of long-term contract with SEI

# Community Engagement and Communications

## KEY SUCCESSES:

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

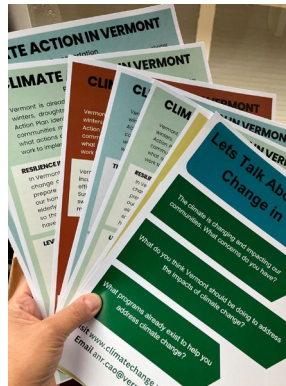
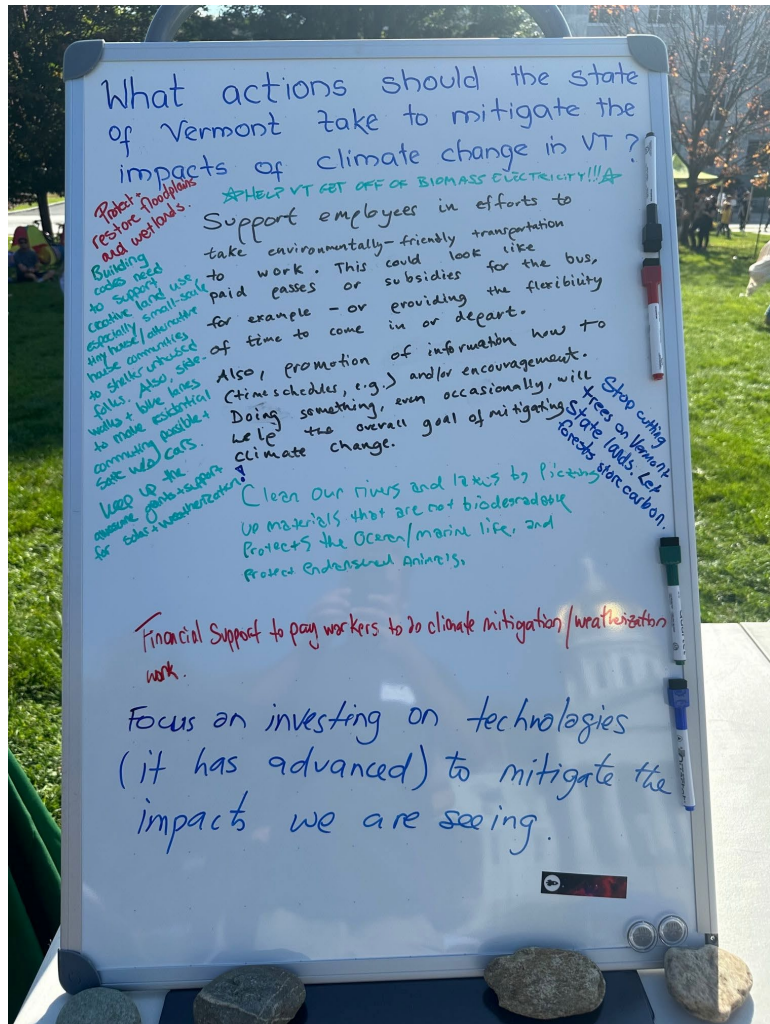
## ONE MAJOR STRUGGLE:

- 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

## PRIORITIES 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
- Continuing to align community engagement to support climate planning





# Public Outreach

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