

Vermont Climate Council 2025 Update to Vermont's Climate Action Plan

**Cross-Cutting Priority Recommendations
December 16, 2024**



Cross-Cutting Issues

Core Focus Areas

- 1. Workforce Development**
- 2. Education**
- 3. Compact Settlement**

Overview of Workforce Pathways and Strategies

Pathway: Advance workforce development and strengthen current Vermont workforce by addressing the comprehensive needs of employees and employers, while focusing on both immediate and long-term solutions.

- **4 strategies under this pathway**
- **14 actions under this pathway**



Priority Actions 1 &2

Supporting Current Vermont Workforce

Action 1c: Support workers already in Vermont to join the trades. Continue to support training programs and recruitment for diverse workers. Support workers who have additional needs to succeed in these careers by resourcing readiness and retention and wrap around services.



Priority Action 2 & 3

Supporting Employers

Action 2b: Create new avenues for businesses to access equipment and make other investments that will increase their capacity.

Action 5d: Support programs for people to start and build their own businesses in the trades (such as those offered by Small Business Development Center and Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund.)



Priority Action 4 & 5

Long-Term Workforce Development

Action 3d: Increase the number of students who can be supported in the Career and Tech Ed system in the state such as electrician, plumbing, building trades programs, agriculture and working land sectors

Action 4d: Increase the number of registered apprenticeships that can be supported in the state by Vermont State University and the Department of Labor, especially in plumbing/HVAC, electrical, and weatherization.

Overview of Education Pathways and Strategies

Pathway: Adaptation—Sustain, restore, and enhance the health and function of Vermont's lands and water to help both natural and human communities adapt to climate change

- **1 strategy under this pathway**
- **3 actions under this pathway**

Pathway: Create accessible, equitable research, partnerships, and education.

- **3 strategies under this pathway**
- **17 actions under this pathway**

Pathway: Educate Vermonters about their energy choices and available funding options to increase energy efficiency in residential homes

- **1 strategy under this pathway**
- **1 action under this pathway**



Priority Action 1

1a: Seek funding source for a grant to create a Vermont climate curriculum for educators to develop, teach and deliver interdisciplinary curriculum that is open source and accessible and builds from existing resources and programs (e.g. Shelburne Farms, Conservation Districts, Regeneration Corps, Climate Action Groups).



Priority Action 2

Redesign the state education funding model so that Career and Technical Education centers have independent funding streams and budgets, and create and fund legislation to support other educational programs that strengthen the workforce pipeline, including a range of accessible postsecondary educational models (e.g. apprenticeships, concurrent enrollment, and stackable credentials). Seek sustained funding sources as needed to maintain or strengthen Career and Technical Education Centers that support construction, energy, agriculture and conservation planning, renewable energy, and transportation.



Priority Action 3

Amend the Vermont State Board of Education's Education Quality Standards to incorporate environmental and climate change education at all grade levels (consider folding under "Science" and "Social Studies" curricula)

Overview of Compact Settlement Pathways and Strategies

Pathway: : Support compact settlement patterns that contribute to the reduction of GHG emissions, enhance community and built environment resilience, and help conserve natural and working lands.

- **3 strategies under this pathway**
- **19 actions under this pathway**



Priority Action 1

Increase investment in municipalities to improve, expand and build new drinking water and wastewater infrastructure to support compact development, including asset management tools to support long-term operation and maintenance.



Priority Action 2

Increase capacity for multimodal transportation planning and implementation in downtown and designated areas, such as making village centers permanently eligible for the downtown transportation fund that builds infrastructure needed to increase walking, biking and transit.



Priority Action 3

Continue to implement Act 181 and monitor for progress.
Increase investment in compact settlements as needed.