

Vermont Voices on Climate

Vermont Climate Action Office

July through September 2025

Report Overview

This is a summary of outreach activities conducted by the Vermont Climate Action Office with contractual support from July through the end of September 2025.

Outreach focused on meeting Vermonters at community-hosted events. This “boots-on-the-ground” approach allowed us to speak with residents of diverse backgrounds all across the state. We talked about the recently updated [Climate Action Plan](#), shared the priorities in the [Resilience Implementation Strategy](#), and asked people about the actions that matter most to them.

Lastly, a virtual meeting was held with Community-Based Organizations to discuss the State’s resilience work and how we can include the communities they represent and serve in climate resilience conversations.

Objectives

- **Provide information and knowledge** that helps people prepare for climate impacts, take action, and access programs that can benefit them.
- **Lift up the voices and viewpoints of communities** into the implementation of climate-related initiatives and the ongoing work of the Climate Action Office and other key entities, including the Vermont Climate Council, so that a diverse group of Vermonters can influence this work.
- **Build relationships and communication channels** that will help Vermonters work collaboratively on future climate action with the state.



We thank the hundreds of Vermonters who took the time to share their stories and thoughts!

Activities July - September 2025



Community Events Attended/Tabled

- Governors Institute of Vermont, Lyndon
- Wellness Day, Barton
- Koasek Garden Workday, West Braintree
- O.N.E Ramble, Burlington
- Pride Festival, White River Junction
- Vermont State Fair, Rutland
- Jamaica Day, Jamaica
- SEVCA 60th Anniversary Celebration, Westminster
- North Country Moose Festival, Canaan
- Farmacy Food Share pick-up, Middlebury
- St. J Final Fridays, St. Johnsbury
- Apples and Arts - Peacham Farmers Market
- Intervale Fair Share pick up, Burlington
- Pride Festival, Burlington
- Neighbor Connections' Wellness Fair, Londonderry
- Beets and Bikes - Peacham Farmers Market
- Women in the Outdoors, Woodbury

[View map of past engagement](#)



What Vermonters are saying

"We should be turning unused buildings into housing. In Brandon we used to work at the training school, it got shut down and the building is in disrepair; it could be used."

"Vermont is aging and we are not addressing climate change for senior citizens. Often they are in older homes and in desperate need of air conditioning. They're typically not going to be on a computer or cell phone, so a program that gets them an air conditioning unit, delivers and installs it, would be most beneficial I think."

"As we've seen with recent floods and natural disasters, different areas are impacted differently, and different groups of people experience damages in different ways. I hope state government will take these geographic differences into account when making decisions."

"I hope policymakers use lessons learned from past disasters, instead of focusing only on new ideas. Strengthening community should be a top priority, because it's the only path forward."

"I support solar and wind in some cases, but not when the projects affect wildlife habitat."

"Floodplains are important to reduce flooding. I'm a school bus driver; roads in our area were washed out and kids couldn't get to school for a week, which in turn affected the parents."

"I work as a soil conservationist, and think we should integrate economic viability as part of conservation planning. Small farms are getting bought up by larger ones."

"I don't always agree with everything I hear about climate change... But what excites me is the idea of new "green jobs." For people like me in southern Vermont, living in trailer parks and struggling to make a living, it often feels hopeless... If green jobs are healthier and offer real opportunities, please bring them to communities like ours. If we can see a future where our kids can have dreams, we'll be much more supportive of new programs."

"Food systems are most important—food shelves are running out; lack of housing is contributing to that. We need to support farms—two dairies in Peacham closed. They can't keep up with the regulations. Small businesses need support too; empty storefronts in our downtown are evidence."

"Lower speed limit to 50 mph! Need education so people know driving slower saves gas."

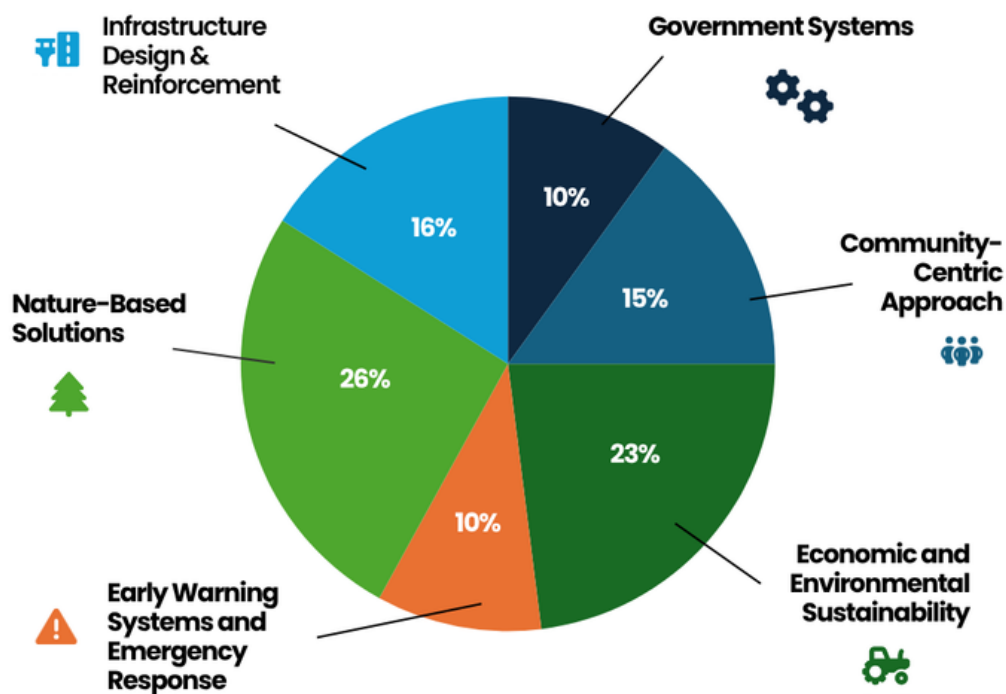
"I want to know whether gutters and drains are properly designed to deal with the increased rain we are now experiencing—they were designed for the climate of the past."

Resilience Implementation Strategy Activities

The State has created a Strategy of state government opportunities and actions to improve Vermont's resilience to climate change. Throughout the summer and fall, the Climate Action Office asked Vermonters about their values for climate resilience.

Activity #1: What would you fund first?

People received four tokens representing government funding, and allocated them amongst six "Core Components" of climate resilience.



"I think you need community buy-in, because if solutions aren't designed with the local input they won't be effective."

"I would prioritize the preventative measures. Focus on those because like preventative health care, it's better and more cost effective in the long run."

"I voted for actions that address root causes, like protecting ecosystems."

Resilience Implementation Strategy Activities

Activity #2: What news headline would you hope to see in a future, climate-resilient Vermont?

Imagine it's 2075 and our efforts to improve our resilience and adapt to climate change are paying off. What headline do you see in your local paper?

“Vermont communities enriched by global climate refugees. Their ideas for land stewardship were implemented.”

“Local resilience and watershed efforts have paid off. The flood came, and no meaningful damage to human resources took place.”

“Vermont’s investment in a resilient food system pays off. As the nation’s supply chains buckle, Vermonters show how resilience comes from strong local systems.”

“Urban tree canopies kept Vermont cool while the country cooked.”

“Wow! That is some clean water!”

“Roads fixed in record time. Greenhouses held up to provide food for all Vermonters. Grid is stable.”

“Natural building methods from locally sourced materials and on-site electrical generation via small-scale hydro finally paid off.”

“Community action feeds Vermonters cut off from supermarkets.”

“We got rid of plastic and our environment rebounds!”

“We consolidated people power in the form of connection... We met in person to celebrate each other.”

Upcoming Outreach Activities

The outreach plan for October through December 2025 includes:

- **Public meetings** about the Resilience Implementation Strategy and Climate Action Plan.
- **Small-group conversations:**
 - Plan for and host small-group discussions with flood-impacted, rural communities and linguistically diverse Vermonters about the Resilience Implementation Strategy .
- **Working with Community Based Organizations:** Develop and maintain relationships with community-based organizations that represent or serve frontline and impacted communities around the state.

[Read past Vermont Voices on Climate reports](#)

