

Vermont Voices on Climate

Vermont Climate Action Office

October to December 2025

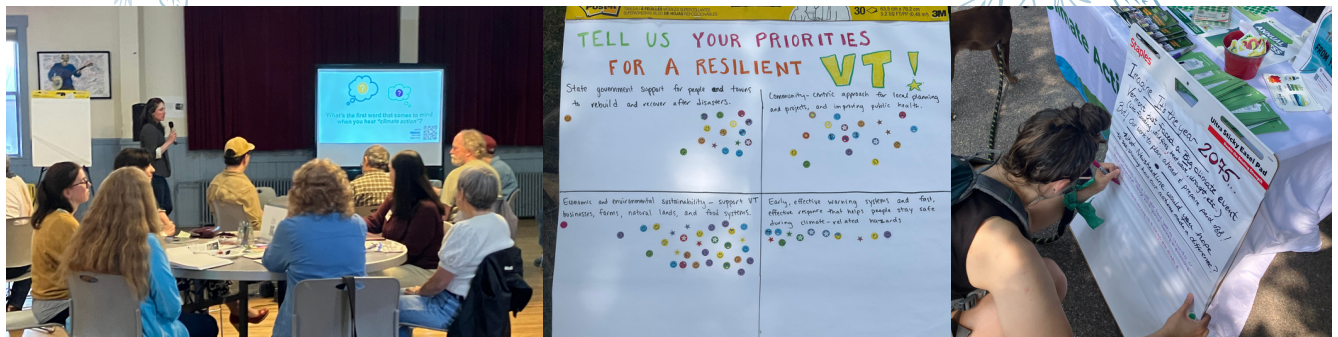
Report Overview

This is a summary of outreach activities conducted by the Vermont Climate Action Office, along with contractual support, from October through December 2025. It also includes a look-back at climate-related engagement and outreach that occurred across state government throughout 2025.

To finish out 2025, conversations focused on the recently updated [Climate Action Plan](#) and newly released [Resilience Implementation Strategy](#).

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 with us in 2025!

Engagement Activities in 2025

25+ Events
Attended

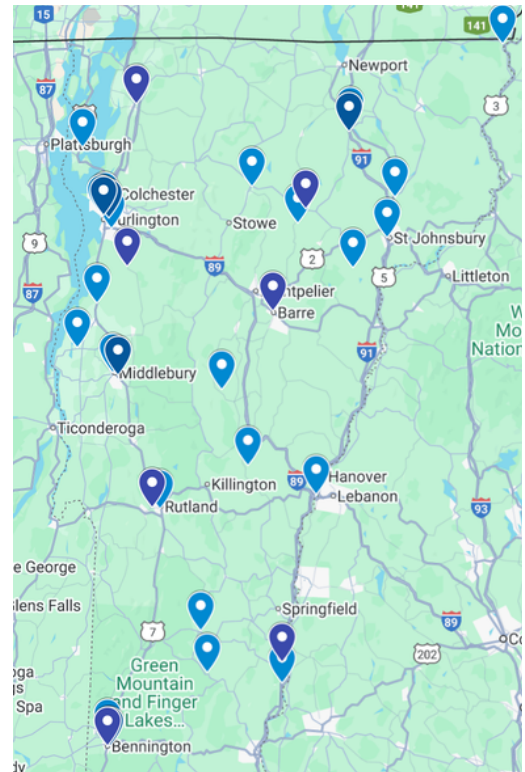
14 Public
Meetings

5 Focus Groups

Looking back on 2025 In-Person Community Engagement Activities Map

[View the interactive map of past engagement](#)

This map shows in-person community engagement activities of the Climate Action Office. It does not capture virtual/online engagement.



2025 Climate-related engagement across state government

Public Service Department



Solar for All: Residential Assistance in Solar Energy (RAISE) program

Solar for All federal funding has been halted. The RAISE program was intended to support Vermonters living on low incomes to purchase small rooftop solar arrays. Engagement occurred during the design phase and may inform future community solar initiatives. Six focus groups engaged community-based organizations, residential solar installers, and potential program participants. Participants shared their preferences for certain program design parameters, such as technical assistance, and highlighted key questions for future engagement.

Department of Labor



Service-to-Careers Summit

This summit discussed, among other topics, how service can be a pathway into careers in the climate workforce.

Buildings and General Services



Municipal Energy Resilience Program

This program helps municipalities reduce energy costs and improve energy resilience in municipal buildings. The program hosted webinars, funded events in municipalities across the state, presented at conferences, and surveyed communities. [Learn about the Municipal Energy Resilience Program.](#)

Agency of Transportation



National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Program

Federal NEVI funding supports building fast chargers for electric vehicles. In 2026, the Agency of Transportation will seek input from Regional Planning Commissions, municipalities, and private entities about potential electric vehicle charging locations and host sites.

Climate Action Office Engagement October - December 2025

October: Resilience Implementation Strategy Public Meetings

November: Meeting with Community Ambassadors

December: AALV Youth Group presentation

Centering Community Knowledge in Climate Engagement

The Vermont Climate Action Office is using a participatory and collaborative approach to community engagement that centers community knowledge from the outset. Instead of arriving with an agenda set solely by the engagement team, representatives from linguistically diverse communities played a central role in shaping the focus and structure of the conversations.

Their lived experience, cultural context, and understanding of community needs informed how discussions were designed, ensuring that content and dialogue are accessible and relevant to community members.

On November 24, 2025, the Vermont Climate Action Office convened a working session in partnership with community ambassadors at [Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity](#) to better understand how different communities talk about climate change and resiliency; which cultural and historical references resonate most; where gaps in information exist; and what resources communities are seeking.

The Office of Racial Equity and Community Inclusion at CVOEO played a crucial role in identifying and convening the community ambassadors who serve linguistically diverse communities across Vermont. With plans to engage these communities in late February to share the Resiliency Implementation Strategy, this session was intentionally used to co-create an agenda grounded in community priorities.

Representatives of eight language groups participated, with the conversation focused on building trust and developing focus group agendas based on ambassador input. This collaboration will inform four upcoming focus groups, engaging members from five language communities across Vermont.

[View Resilience Implementation Strategy public meetings](#)



Climate Action Office Engagement October - December 2025

AALV Youth Climate Action Presentation

In December, we delivered an interactive climate action presentation in Burlington to approximately 30 AALV youth of various ages. The session focused on helping young people understand climate change in a Vermont-specific context and how climate action strengthens the resilience of both communities and individuals.

We discussed practical ways Vermont is preparing for climate impacts, such as extreme weather and changing ecosystems, while highlighting how youth can play an active role in shaping a more resilient future.

The presentation encouraged participants to think critically about climate issues, reflect on how climate change affects their own lives and communities, as well as mental health, and explore pathways for involvement, civic engagement, and climate leadership. The session emphasized empowerment, accessibility, and the importance of youth voices in Vermont's climate action efforts.



What Vermonters are saying



During 2025, we spoke with Vermonters across the state. Here are some of their voices.

"Whatever we (as a state) decide to do, let's make sure that we have a way of paying for it before we get ourselves in a pickle, and NOT with taxes for Pete's sake."

"I'd love to see incentives being given to businesses and even individuals who spend mindfully. For example, being aware of the packaging and the amount of plastics that are used in everyday packaging, etc."

"Create easier pathways for communities to help folks dealing with the aftermath of a climate-related disaster. We can't count on the feds and the process as it is now is slow to respond so think outside the box and who better to help than your own community, but they need access to resources."

"We've all got individual needs and please don't forget about the older folks like me. We might not be using technology to communicate."

"Can we talk more about Nuclear power? I hear it's clean and more reliable than others."

"Give folks resources so that communities can be better prepared rather than just react."

"I'm a teacher and in the spring, early summer, and even in September now, I bring my own fans into my classroom because it's oppressively hot. I'm sure that it's not going to get better only worse."

"I've heard other places have really strong community and mutual aid networks and I guess that some places in Vermont are better than others, but I'd like to see an effort to have a state wide network of trusted "hubs" where people can access aid and share resources. Right now it seems all over the place."

"My kids are struggling with mental health and my partner is a disabled vet. We've been hit with storms that have damaged the house and garage but I'm unable to get things fixed because I can't afford the upfront out of pocket expenses, even if I'd get reimbursed down the road."

"I think someone could make an app for Vermont where you can say what you need like, "all of our furniture got damaged in the flood, or I need help fixing the shed," or whatever, and people can help each other. I guess what you were saying about building networks with low barriers."

Upcoming Outreach Activities

The outreach plan for January through March of 2026 includes:

- **Public meetings** about the Climate Action Plan.
- Plan for and host **small-group discussions** with linguistically diverse Vermonters about the Resilience Implementation Strategy.
- Continue to 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](#)

