

CLIMATE ACTION OFFICE OVERVIEW AND UPDATE ON PRIORITIES

Climate Council
June 12, 2023

Jane Lazorchak, Director

Climate Action Office (CAO)

- ❖ Supports a vision for climate action across state government.
- ❖ Works closely within the Agency of Natural Resources and across state Agencies to understand the actions state government are taking to make measurable progress to meeting the requirements and goals of the Global Warming Solutions Act.
- ❖ Coordinates and provides significant expertise and capacity on state-led climate initiatives, as well as the monitoring, assessment and tracking of climate adaptation, mitigation, and resilience activities.

CAO Inter-Agency Advisory Board

- Inform State policy and the direction of State Agencies related to issues related to climate change.
- Foster intra-State partnerships, as well as with governance entities external to State government in pursuit of effective delivery of climate change solutions for all Vermonters.
- Identify and frame up gaps in climate action being delivered across State government where the CAO might prioritize support.
- Agree upon prioritization of the specific resources and capacity of the CAO to advance the most pressing needs as determined by the IAAB in support of State Agencies.
- Ensure that programmatic functions of the CAO are additive and supportive of existing climate action work across State government.
- Articulate where policy and financial implications overlap around climate action to ensure resources are maximized.

It includes the following governmental agencies:

- PSD
- AOT
- ANR
- VEM
- AAFM
- BGS
- AHS (DCF and VDH)
- ACCD
- State Climatologist

Staffing

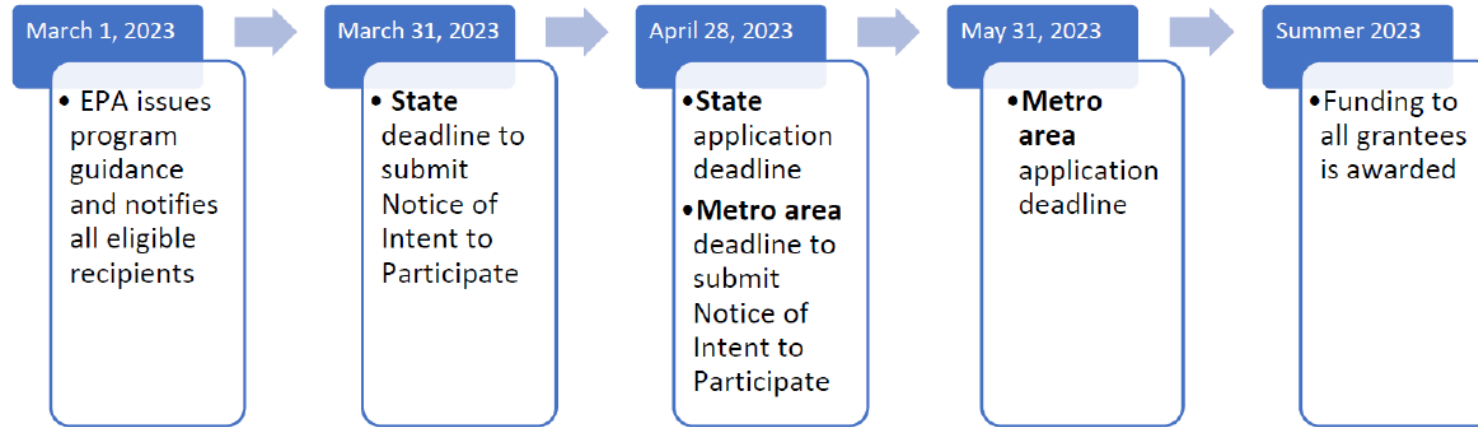
- Marian Wolz, Resilience and Adaptation Coordinator
- Megan O'Toole, Climate Change Mitigation Program Manager
- Brian Woods, Climate Change Mitigation and Modeling Coordinator
- Collin Smythe, Climate Change Progress and Data Analyst
- NWL Coordinator, Vacant
- Community Engagement and Communications Coordinator, Vacant

Technical Analyses Underway	Key Deliverables	Timeline	Implementation
Municipal Vulnerability Index	Development of an index of climate vulnerabilities at the town level to support planning and project implementation	January 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requested funding in FY24 to support implementation with RPCs Rollout of MVI will be coordinated with Climate Action Toolkit
Buildings/Thermal Sector Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantitative analysis of five policy options Update to BAU Model 	Summer 2023	Coordination of BAU with Vtrans and the development of the Carbon Reduction Strategy
Life-Cycle Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life-cycle analysis of Vermont's energy pathways Outreach and engagement to TEK experts Recommendations for other analyses 	December 2023	Support rule-making and prepare on an annual basis
Agricultural Emissions Analysis	Detailed analysis of tools and data sources in this sector for consideration in GHG inventory	November 2023	Implement recommended changes into the inventory
Community Engagement	Development of a plan, broad-based engagement events, focus groups, community liaisons, climate coalitions and payment for frontline and impacted communities.	4-year contract	Coordination with EJ Unit and Act 154

Measuring and Tracking Progress

- Issue an RFP for the first phase of a measuring and tracking progress tool to compile and visualize data and metrics related to adaptation and resilience related activities and for mitigation strategies for reducing GHG emissions in Vermont.
- Develop meaningful metrics to understand the adaptation, resilience, and mitigation strategies being implemented in Vermont. Additionally consider metrics around community engagement.
- Development of a CAP action tracking tool to rollout with state Agencies.

Climate Pollution Reduction Planning Grant



Priority Climate Action Plan:
March 1, 2024

Can update existing CAP

Focus on specific sectors, or sub-sectors with projects and programs that are closer ready to be implemented or built upon/expanded

Implementation funds will be available in 2024 to implement PCAP



Comprehensive Climate Action Plan:
Summer of 2025

Can update existing CAP, needs to address all sectors

Note that updated CAP per the GWSA is due July of 2025

CPRG Budget and Next Steps

- Key investments in limited-service position to support CAP update and CPRG implementation applications
- Position to manage a thermal program for PSD
- Temporary staff for GHG inventory and supplemental analyses
- Additional funding to support community engagement contract and facilitation services, as well as translation services
- Significant resources for contracted services and technical analyses update
- Sub-grant to RPCs to support outreach to municipalities and alignment of energy plans updates with CAP
- IAAB Members reviewing CAP Action Status and prioritizing state actions for PCAP consideration