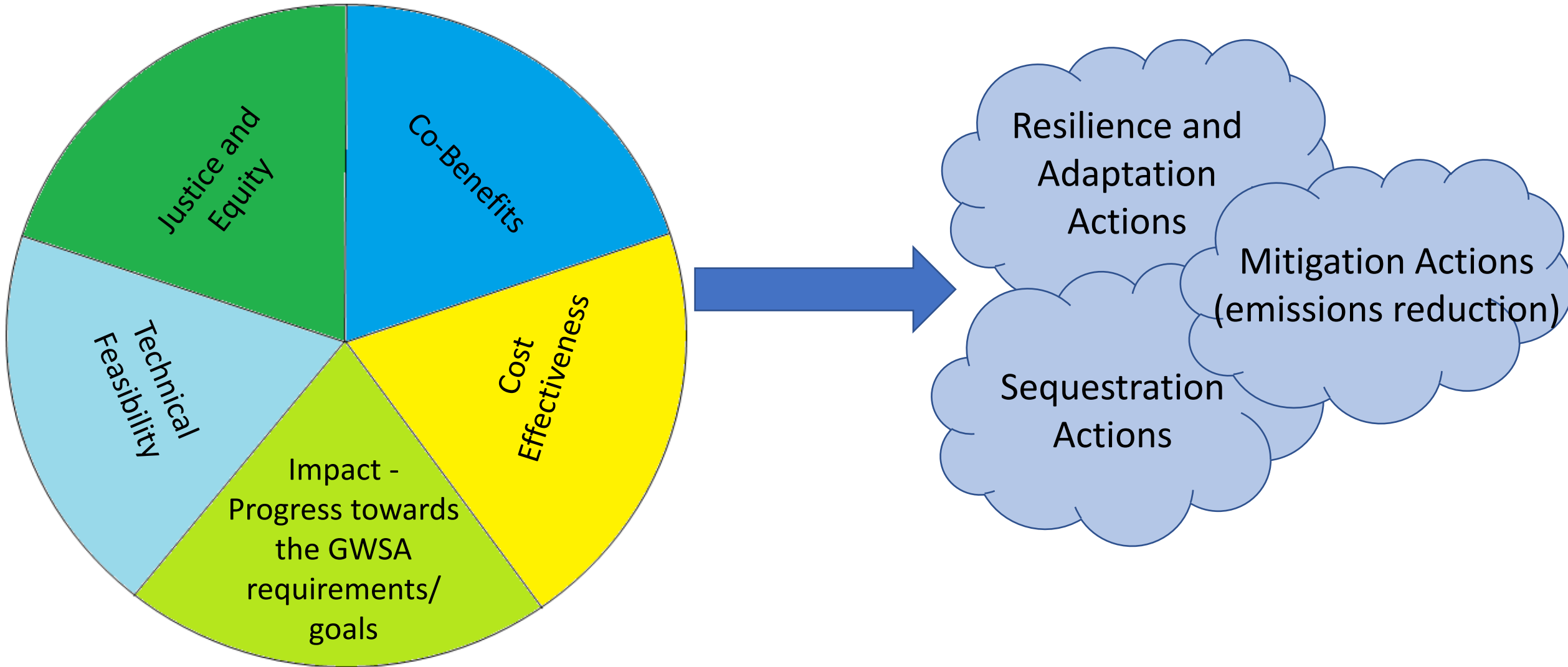


# Prioritization Supported by the Foundational Criteria in the GWSA



# Criteria Definitions

- Five criteria inform prioritization:
  - Impact
  - Cost-Effectiveness
  - Co-Benefits
  - Equity
    - *Addressed throughout process, looking at suite of strategies / actions, guided by key questions and input from outreach team*
  - Technical Feasibility
    - *Yes / no. Are the required technologies developed and reasonably available? This is called out in the GWSA*
- Will consider specifically for Cross-Sector Mitigation vs. Rural Resilience and Adaption and Agriculture and Ecosystems where needed

# Framework for Prioritization

Pathways  Strategies  Actions

*Cross-Sector Mitigation, Agriculture & Ecosystems and  
Rural Resilience & Adaptation*

**The process for incorporating foundational criteria into analysis and prioritization:**

- 1. Consolidate** pathways, strategies and actions (use expert judgement to combine ideas etc.)
- 2. Screen out** actions that **aren't feasible** (simple yes / no based on availability of needed technology or other inputs)
- 3. Conduct a high/medium/low analysis** on each action's *Impact, Cost-Effectiveness* and *Co-Benefits* to determine high priority actions
  - Sample table attached
  - Use expert judgement, show your work
- 4. Write a clear statement** around how the suite of strategies and actions **address inequities**, based on subcommittee deliberations and input from engagement activities.
- 5. As a final step:**
  - Signal a **handful of highest priority actions** that require immediate attention by lawmakers and/or state government
  - Suggest **two or three actions** that could be included in a **"Top-10"** list of actions in the updated Climate Action Plan.

# Criteria Definitions

## Impact – Cross-Sector Mitigation

Consideration of actions' contribution to achieving 2025, 2030 and 2050 emission reduction requirements. Actions will be ranked as HIGH, MODERATE or LOW. The following scale will be used:

- **High** impact recommendations are those that can reasonably be expected to get Vermont more than 10 percent of the way towards either our 2025 and/or 2030 emissions reduction requirements.
- **Moderate** impact recommendations are those that can reasonably be expected to get Vermont between 2.5 percent and 10 percent of the way towards either our 2025 and/or 2030 emissions reduction requirements.
- **Low** impact recommendations are those that can reasonably be expected to get Vermont less than 2.5 percent of the way towards our 2025 and/or 2030 emissions reduction requirements.

# Criteria Definitions

## Impact – Rural Resilience and Adaptation and Agriculture and Ecosystems – **REVISE BASED ON EMERGING NEW RESILIENCE INDICATORS**

- **High** impact actions are those actions that significantly improve the ability of [the built and/or natural environment OR people/vulnerable populations OR the economy] to adapt to or build resilience to climate change impacts. These actions may also significantly increase the ability to sequester and store carbon. High impact actions are actions that would affect broad scale change at the municipal, regional, or statewide level.
- **Moderate** impact actions are those actions that moderately improve the ability of [the built and/or natural environment OR people/vulnerable populations OR the economy] to adapt to or build resilience to climate change impacts. These actions may also moderately increase the ability to sequester and store carbon. Moderate impact actions are actions that would affect moderate scale change at the municipal, regional, or statewide level.
- **Low** impact actions are those actions that marginally improve the ability of [the built and/or natural environment OR people/vulnerable populations OR the economy] to adapt to or build resilience to climate change impacts. These actions may also slightly increase the ability to sequester and store carbon. Low impact actions are actions that would affect small scale change at the municipal, regional, or statewide level.

# Criteria Definitions

## **Cost – Effectiveness - Cross Sector Mitigation**

For evaluation of mitigation actions, cost-effectiveness shall refer to the lifetime net cost per ton of GHG emissions avoided (acknowledging that some mitigation measures do not generate net costs and actually save money). Cost-effectiveness shall also be understood to account for lifetime or dynamic costs, not merely up-front or static costs. The following HIGH, MODERATE and LOW definitions will be used for prioritization:

- Highly cost-effective are actions that have a net savings per ton of GHG emissions reduced
- Moderately cost effective are actions that essentially break even per ton of GHG emissions reduced
- Least cost-effective actions are ones that will have a net cost per ton of GHG emissions reduced

# Criteria Definitions

## **Cost – Effectiveness – Rural Resilience and Adaptation and Agriculture and Ecosystems **REVISE?****

Cost-effectiveness shall refer to the relative lifetime net cost\* of the action compared to the desired outcome or impact. As such, the action will first receive an impact ranking of high, medium and low in the prioritization framework (as discussed in Section I). From there, the action's cost should be considered as significant, moderate or low. Significant will be defined as an ongoing cost or a more than ten-year investment to Vermonters which will need to be raised from new revenues. Moderate will be defined as an ongoing or more than ten-year investment from Vermonters that has an existing revenue source OR an action that needs a new revenue source for a short-term period (less than ten years). Low will be defined as an action that has an existing revenue identified to utilize over a short-term period (less than ten years). Overall cost-effectiveness will be compiled by considering the actions impact (high, medium, low) relative then to its cost (Significant, moderate, low). The cumulative summation of overall ranking will be as follows:

**HIGH** - High/Moderate, High/Low, Medium/low

**MEDIUM** - High/Significant, Medium/Moderate, Low/Low

**LOW** - Medium/Significant, Low/Significant, Low/Moderate

# Criteria Definitions

## Co-Benefits - ALL

Comprehensive climate policy will advance actions that work to mitigate climate pollution, while also building resilience, adaptation and storing and sequestering carbon. Actions will also seek to advance broader societal benefits such as public health, equity (specific focus on impacted communities), economic prosperity, biodiversity conservation, workforce opportunities and other benefits that improve the quality of life in Vermont broadly. Identifying actions that address co-benefits and elevating them will be key to ensuring our actions are working for all Vermonters. Co-benefits will be evaluated based on **HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW RANKING** using the following guidance:

**HIGH** – an action that can easily be communicated with broad and varied benefits to Vermonters and Vermont itself.

**MEDIUM** – an action that clearly addresses multiple climate action buckets (mitigation, resilience, adaptation and sequestration/storage) but its broader societal benefits are harder to measure and speak to.

**LOW** – an action that advances mitigation, resilience, adaptation or sequestration/storage but does not clearly advance other benefits.