

Strategy for a Resilient Vermont



October 27, 2025

Agency of Natural Resources
Office of the State Treasurer

Strategy Overview

- Built off work already done across State Government to identify and prioritize climate resilience needs.
- Complements existing State plans and the Climate Action Plan.
- Identifies costs associated with resilience needs and considers approaches for funding of implementation.



Rutland Herald/Keith Whitcomb

Vision and Components



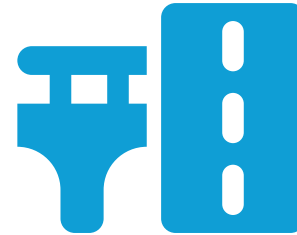
Community-
Centric
Approach



Early Warning
Systems &
Fast, Effective
Response



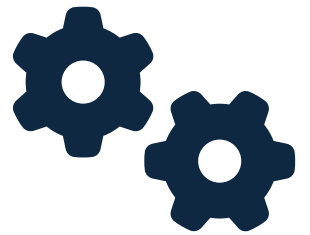
Economic &
Environmental
Sustainability



Infrastructure
Design &
Reinforcement



Nature-Based
Solutions



Government
Systems

126 Final Recommended Actions



- **Specific, measurable steps** that State Government can take to increase resilience to the impacts of climate change.
- Actions represent a **diverse set of opportunities** across the six Core Components, which can be accomplished over time through various strategies, funds, and tools.

Overview
Core Components
Government Systems
Community-Centric Approach
Early Warning Systems and Fast, Effective Response

Government Systems

The systems that support the government's role in building resilient communities are often invisible, but they form the foundation for many of the recommendations included in the Resilience Implementation Strategy. Structures that support more efficient use of resources, prioritization of funding, and technical assistance to our communities act as the critical framing on which a resilient Vermont is built.



Opportunities and Actions

2: Advance resilience through investments that prioritize adaptation, while deploying innovative tools to bridge the gap between immediate post-disaster needs and the resources required for resilient rebuilding.

2A

Tier: 1

Secure sustainable, long-term funding to expand and maintain a permanent Flood Resilient Communities Fund (Community Resilience and Disaster Mitigation Fund) for the design and implementation of local and regional climate change adaptation projects and community resilience. Funding may be used as a local match for federally funded hazard mitigation programs, as well as for non-FEMA eligible hazard mitigation activities.

Lead: Vermont Emergency Management (VEM)
Estimated Cost: \$5,000,000 minimum amount needed
Duration: Ongoing

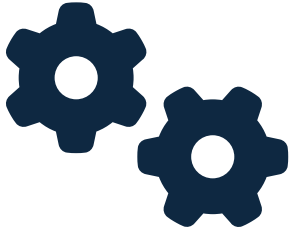
2B

Tier: 1

Develop costed-out “resilient rebuild” templates for common structures (homes, small businesses, mobile homes, etc.) so people can quickly understand what resilience upgrades would cost, what portion is typically covered by aid or insurance, and what funding gap needs to be addressed.

Lead: Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)
Estimated Cost: \$500,000
Duration: One-Time

Sample High Priority Actions



- Secure sustainable, long-term funding for the **Flood Resilient Communities Fund**.
- Secure dedicated funding to expand the **Municipal Climate Recovery Fund**.
- **Public education campaign** on the importance of flood insurance.



- On the ground support to prepare for and respond to **climate hazards affecting human health**.

Sample High Priority Actions

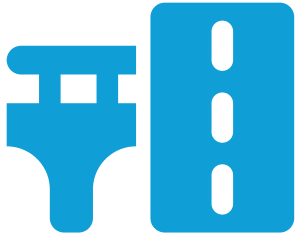


- Develop a targeted outreach campaign to **increase VT-Alert subscriptions among underserved populations.**
- Expand capacity to convene regional tabletop exercises on **dam safety.**
- Conduct hydraulic studies to **improve understanding of river channel dynamics.**



- Identify funding for the **Farm and Forestry Operations Security Special Fund** to cover losses resulting from climate disasters.

Sample High Priority Actions



- Develop a standardized **capital program climate guide** for municipalities.



- Implement an **equitable user fee for access to state lands** (i.e., conservation license).
- Develop methods and tools to **quantify the climate resilience co-benefits** of water quality projects.

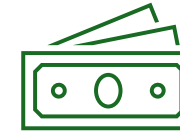


Questions?

Priority Action Costing

- Actions that clearly **call for a funding or financing source.**
- Actions related to **immediate disaster response and recovery.**
- Actions relating to the **evaluation of risk and high-value mitigation** plans.
- 48 actions have associated estimated one-time or recurring costs.

Estimated one-time funds



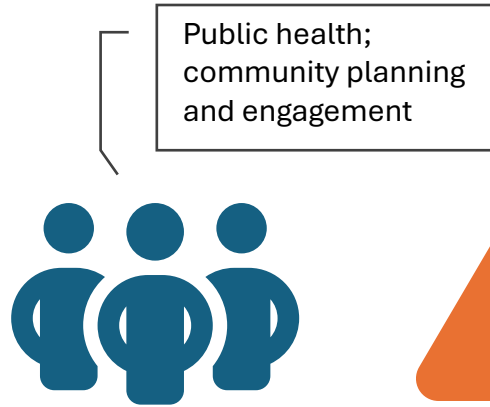
\$270 million

Estimated ongoing annual needs



\$95 million (in 2025 dollars)

What matters most to Vermonters?



Public health;
community planning
and engagement

**Community-
Centric
Approach**



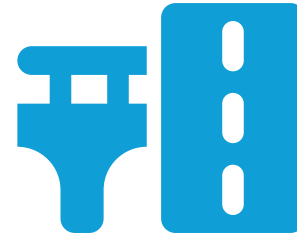
**Early Warning
Systems &
Emergency
Response**

Dam safety exercises;
targeted outreach for
emergency
communications



Support for farms
and other
businesses

**Economic &
Environmental
Sustainability**



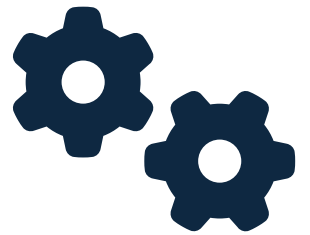
**Infrastructure
Design &
Reinforcement**

Protect, repair, relocate our
roads, bridges, culverts,
facilities, power lines, and
communications services



Safeguarding ecosystems and
using nature-based solutions
to protect communities

**Nature-Based
Solutions**



**Government
Systems**

Funding for resilience through
Flood Resilient Communities
Fund and the Municipal Climate
Recovery Fund; government
systems to support resilience
projects



What if we get it right?

Imagine it's 2035...

Vermont just experienced a climate-related disaster (*wildfire, drought, heat wave, flooding, etc.*) But Actions from this Strategy are starting to pay off and communities are seeing results.

What headline would you want to see in your local paper showing how these actions made a difference in your community?



Next Steps and Implementation

- Climate Action Office to kick off some early actions, and lend support to implementing Agencies and Departments
 - Policy proposals to be developed for legislative consideration to support key recommended actions
- Visit www.ClimateChange.Vermont.gov/Resilience for a deeper dive!