

# Rural Resilience & Adaptation Subcommittee

## 2021 CAP Pathways and Strategies

June 14, 2024

## Adaptation and Building Resilience in Communities and the Built Environment Pathways, Strategies, and Actions

### Pathway 1: Increase capacity for climate resilience planning and implementation, and address inequities of under-resourced communities.

ID	Strategy + Action	Overall Priority Ranking	Included in CAP
Provide tools and resources to help communities assess climate vulnerabilities and create climate resilience plans. ← Strategy			
a	Develop a climate planning toolkit to help towns assess vulnerabilities to climate change impacts, such as heat, air quality, drought, flooding, high winds, heavy rain, hail and sleet, and identify and prioritize actions to increase their resilience to climate change. Include newly developed tools, such as the vulnerability index, and existing tools, such as the AOT Repeat Flood Damage Inventory Tool, and the NOAA Climate Resilience Toolkit.	High	x
b	Create a tool kit and provide technical assistance and training to promote local regulatory and non-regulatory options that protect and restore flood plains, flood ways, and river corridors. ← Action	Medium	
c	Expand ongoing efforts to collect and share strategies and best practices in local resilience and adaption	Medium	
d	Establish training and mandatory continuing education requirements for chairs and members of planning commissions, development review boards, zoning and floodplain administrators, and others involved in the planning and zoning process.	Low	
e	Expand existing programs that prepare homes and buildings for hot weather and days with poor air quality by installing air conditioning or heat pumps	Low	
f	Develop a mechanism for tracking new structural development in the river corridor so development patterns can be tracked over time.	Medium	
Establish permanent statewide funding and technical support for local and regional climate resilience planning and project implementation to enhance rural resilience to impacts of climate change.			
a	Increase funding to Regional Planning Commissions and local municipalities to support climate and energy planning and target funds to support towns with limited staff and marginalized populations that score high on the climate vulnerability index.	High	x
b	Create and fund one natural resource staff position at every Regional Planning Commissions to assist with implementation of climate policies and natural resources requirements such as Act 171 (forestry and habitat blocks). Use the Transportation Planning Initiative as a model to fund RPC natural resource staff and support trainings with ANR and other partners.	High	x
c	Increase and create a permanent state fund for design and implementation of local and regional climate adaptation and resilience projects.	High	x
d	Provide technical assistance to municipalities to assess the flood and erosion risks facing their drinking water and wastewater systems and identify potential mitigation improvements.	High	x
e	Establish a state level individual assistance program to provide financial assistance to uninsured or underinsured households impacted by disasters not federally declared. Program should incorporate Community Action Agencies and supporting networks to ensure assistance is received expeditiously by those that need it most.	Low	x
f	Target vulnerable municipalities to provide technical assistance to achieve ERAF compliance to lower overall financial exposure to declared disasters in the future.	Medium	

Pathway 1: Increase capacity for climate resilience planning and implementation, and address inequities of under-resourced communities.

- Strategy 1.1: Provide tools and resources to help communities assess climate vulnerabilities and create climate resilience plans.
- Strategy 1.2: Establish permanent statewide funding and technical support for local and regional climate resilience planning and project implementation to enhance rural resilience to impacts of climate change.
- Strategy 1.3: Expand cross-sector collaboration to align efforts, share best practices, and leverage resources to advance resilience and preparedness efforts statewide.
- Strategy 1.4: Increase community participation in local governance and support civic engagement and citizen involvement.

Pathway 2: Proactively and strategically invest to enhance resilience in transportation, communications, water/wastewater, and energy infrastructure statewide.

- Strategy 2.1: Create a policy, planning and organizational foundation to support effective investments in infrastructure resilience.
- Strategy 2.2: Public, private, and nonprofit entities should be prepared to respond and recover quickly to disruptions caused by severe weather and other climate change threats.
- Strategy 2.3: Increase the resilience of critical infrastructure to severe weather and other climate change threats by reducing vulnerabilities of specific facilities.
- Strategy 2.4: Increase the resilience of critical infrastructure to severe weather and other climate change threats by improving system efficiency, reliability and redundancies.

Pathway 3: Support the reduction of municipal, school district, residential, university, and hospital fossil fuel use in rural areas through equitable best practices that address the unique challenges of rural communities.

- Strategy 3.1: Provide tools and resources to help assess data needs and establish best practices for rural communities, businesses, and institutions to reduce fossil fuel use.
- Strategy 3.2: Equitably expand access to programs that provide options to rural homeowners, landlords, municipalities, school districts, universities, and hospitals for weatherization, electrification, and utility upgrades.

Pathway 4: Change Vermont's land-use policies so current and future land development will be adaptive and resilient to climate change impacts.

- Strategy 4.1: Increase investment in the infrastructure (sewer, water, stormwater, sidewalks, bike lanes, EV charging, broadband, energy supply) needed to support communities that are more resilient to climate disruptions, equitable, resource efficient, and protects the adaptive capacity of natural resources.
- Strategy 4.2: Develop permanent private and public funding sources to floodproof, elevate and purchase commercial and residential properties, as well as conserve and restore ecosystem services upstream to protect our people, property, environment, and economy from flooding.

## Pathway 5: Ensure that all people have access to safe, accessible, energy efficient, and affordable housing.

- Strategy 5.1: Update state and local land-use governance, regulations, practices, and investments to eliminate barriers to housing development.
- Strategy 5.2: Increase investments in the preservation and development of both private-market and nonprofit-owned affordable housing.
- Strategy 5.3: Increase access to fair and affordable housing for Vermonters who are housing instable.

# Cross Cutting Pathway: Workforce

- Strategy 1: Support workforce development in trades and skills that are needed to implement the Climate Action Plan.



Cross Cutting Pathway: Support compact settlement patterns that contribute to the reduction of GHG emissions, enhance community and built environment resilience, and help conserve natural and working lands.

- Strategy 1: Increase investment in the infrastructure (sewer, water, stormwater, mixed-use development, housing, sidewalks, bike lanes, EV charging, broadband, energy supply) needed to support compact, walkable development.
- Strategy 2: Update state and local land-use governance, regulations, and practices to remove barriers to compact settlement and improve coordination on land use issues across agencies, departments, municipalities, boards, commissions, and authorities.
- Strategy 3: Fund research, data collection and digital maps to provide insights on land use decisions in Vermont and the impact it can have on climate and resilience goals and outcomes.

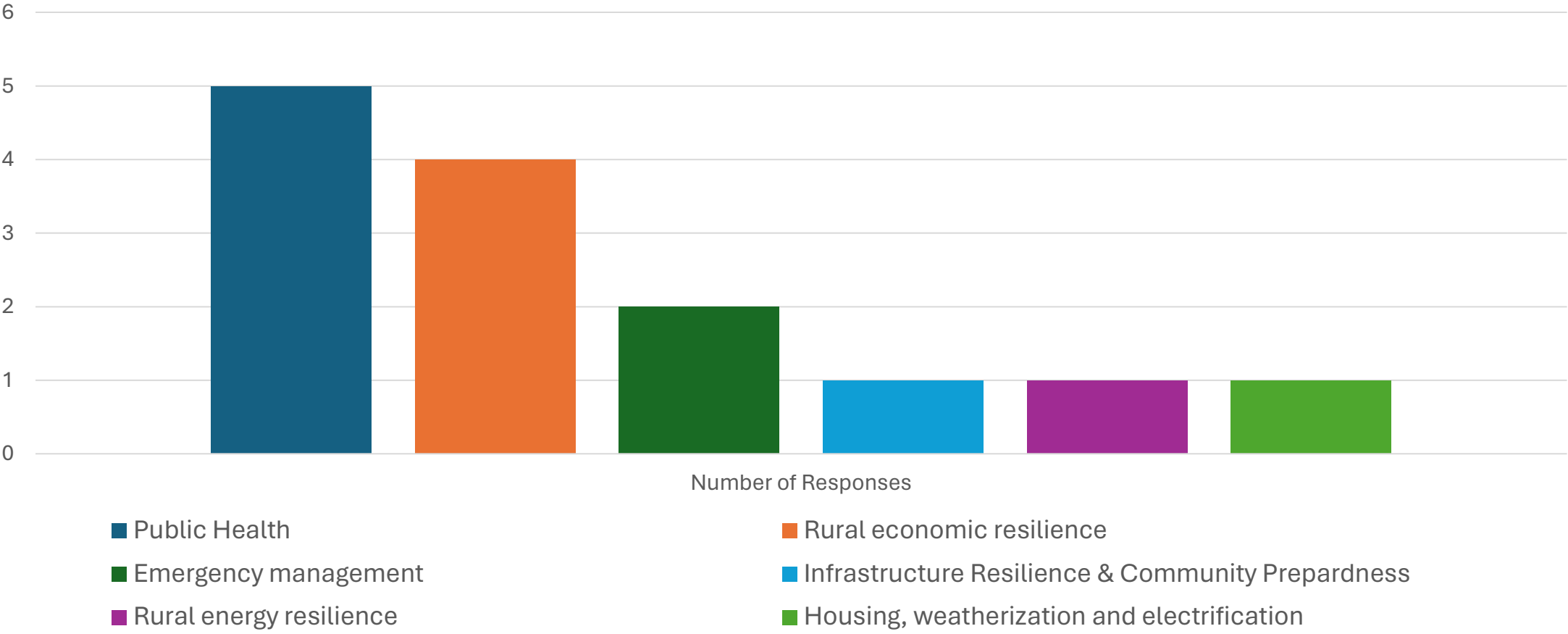
Cross Cutting Pathway: Ensure that all people have access to safe, accessible, energy efficient, and affordable housing.

- Strategy 1: Increase access to fair and affordable housing for Vermonters who are housing instable.

# Should there be greater focus on...



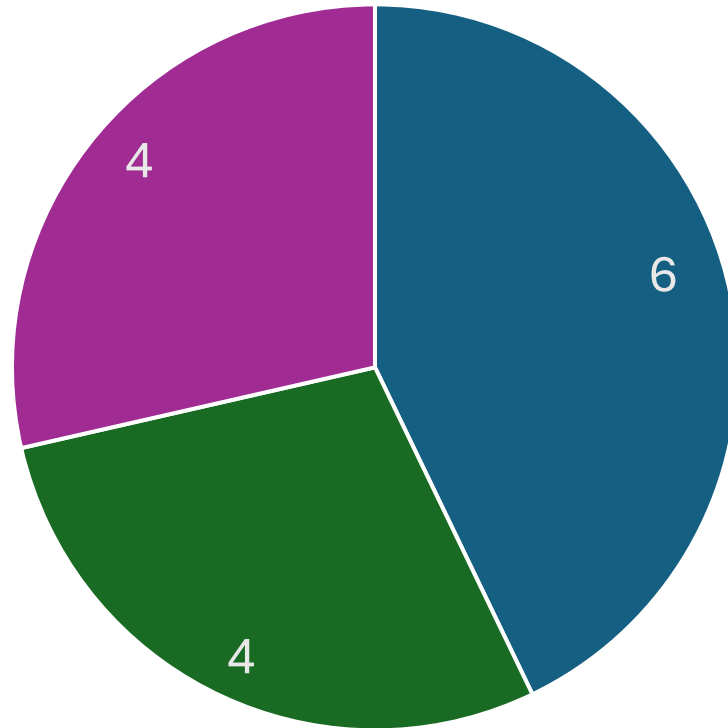
# Which of the following sectors should be better represented:



# For the pathways that need additional attention, the following themes or types of actions that need additional focus include:

Focus on what will make the biggest difference in the lives of VT's most vulnerable to climate change.

More focus on action as climate is changing as we speak.



■ Financing ■ Planning ■ Justice and equity

In the realm of planning - assessment of threats & vulnerabilities - possibly building on/translating MVI to be a useful way to target \$ and efforts to build resilience

Outreach, improving awareness, access, and mobilization

# What else should RRA be considering as we move forward towards the next iteration of the CAP?

## **Energy Resilience**

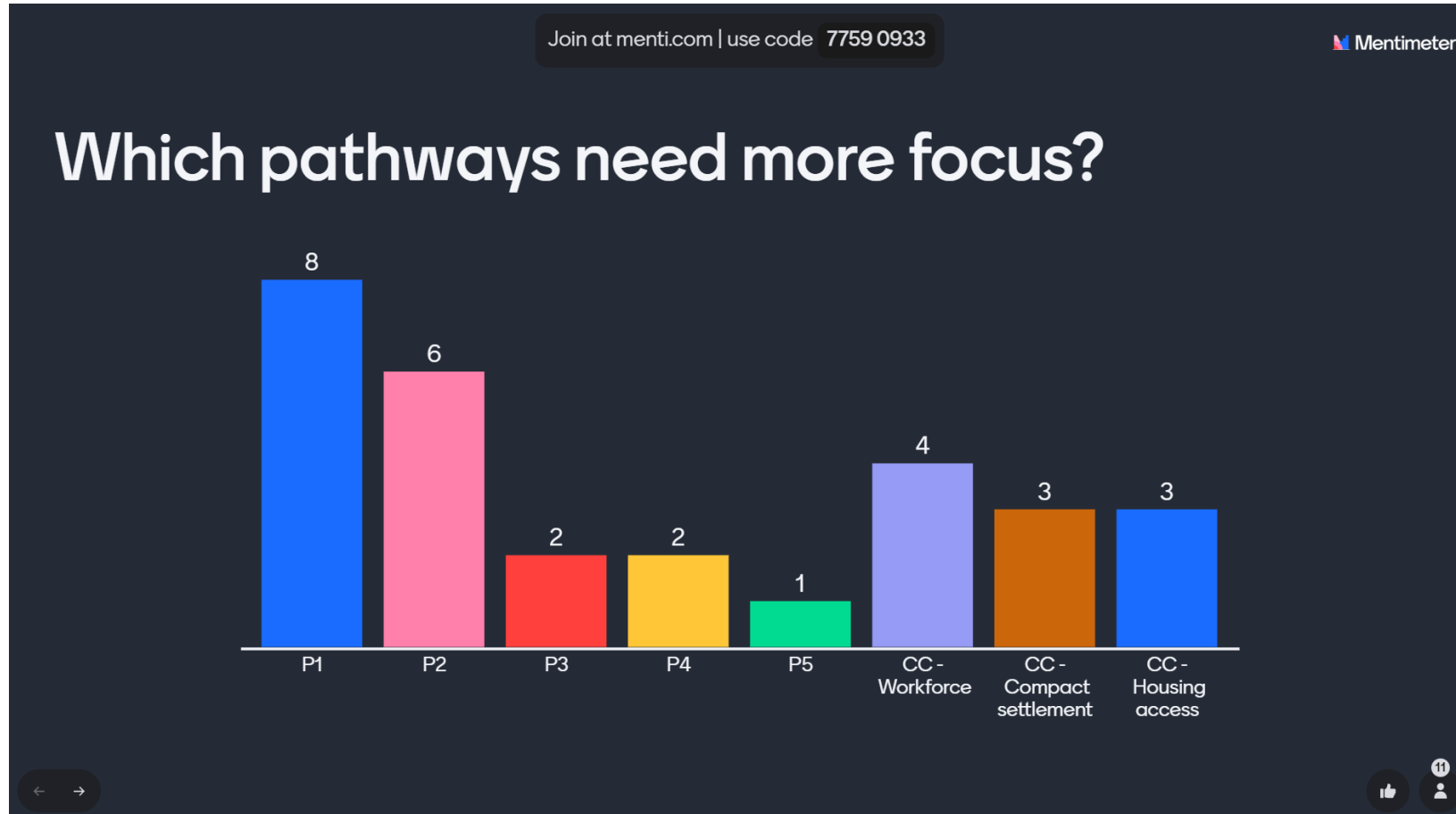
- Overlap between community resilience and energy resilience
- More electrification and green buildings
- Affordable housing should be “clean energy homes”
- Match fossil fuel subsidies in the renewable energy sector

## **Planning → Implementation**

- Metrics of success
- Sub-state-level planning & funding capacity
- Moving forward with action
- Moving from planning to action

- Helping municipalities understand flood mitigation and the role of nature-based solutions.
- More focus on emergency management.
- More focus on building resilience (where new buildings go, how are they sited, how to deal with existing building stock).
- Access to rebates, loans, and grants for the most vulnerable.

# In-meeting polling results





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# Which sectors should be better represented?



13

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# What other sectors should be considered?

10 responses

affordability  
finance  
migration  
building codes insurance  
municipal collaboration  
school consolidation  
incentives



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