

3/10/25 Climate Council Meeting: Action Items

General Actions:

- Include a priority action on financing as a complementary strategy, led by Johanna Miller.
- Identify top priorities within existing actions.
- Maintain existing efforts in light of current funding landscapes.
- Add definitions to programs and fully write out acronyms.
- Whenever an act is referenced, describe and hyperlink.
- Remove names of outside organizations (i.e. non-state government orgs).

Rural Resilience and Adaptation:

- In #14, use clarifying words for equipment, supplies, and services. Vermont Climate Council, March 10, 2025
- For #15, start after the comma to make clear the intent: “Provide funded partners...”
- In #11, delete “and/or county government.”
- Merge #11 into #2 and combine #12 and #13 in an effort to avoid repetition.
- #8, 9, and 10 are all related to walkable, livable communities. Consider integrating proactive planning for electric and wastewater infrastructure into all three areas, ensuring smarter rebuilding after flood damage.
- Consider language modifications in #7-10 to pull together various threads.
- Start #8 at “Create a transportation flood resilience...”
- In #9, delete “normal replacement schedules” as it reflects the status quo.
- Keep #5 in Compact Settlement and delete #10 in Rural Resilience because they are similar.
- Tweak #5 in Rural Resilience to reflect the ongoing mapping efforts by the Vermont Geological Survey. Delete piece about regional housing targets, as those have already been set.
- Call out new action for statewide project plan for hazard mitigation (similar to the State Transportation Improvement Program)
 - Andrea Wright and Chris Campany to lead on writing this new action

Agriculture and Ecosystems:

- Combine #3 and #16 and explicitly reference Act 59.
- Use the consolidated version of #5, 6, 7, and 12 (the summary version is already written).

- Clarify distinction between Ag & Eco and Rural Resilience. For Ag & Eco recommendations, the focus is on land stewardship (and built infrastructure that directly supports that stewardship), whereas Rural Resilience is focused on public and other community infrastructure. To be sure, these areas overlap in some instances.
- Reminder to fix acronyms
- #2 as it stands is not ready.
- Revise it to say “utilize best practices to account for carbon sequestration and emission reductions from agriculture
- Page 7 forestry, and other land use,” without directly referencing the inventory for now. In #1 and #12, separate distinct concepts (e.g. separating out TEK) to make clear the intent/goal.
- Revise #13, change to say, “through considering how to incorporate into...” and remove “state regulatory processes.”
- Rework language to avoid dichotomies (e.g. “Western science versus traditional knowledge”). Recommendations should not undermine science, and TEK should be integrated into scientific decision-making.
- #17 raises concerns. A small group of Councilors should revise this action. It needs to reference cost-effectiveness and avoid making a distinction between renewable projects and other development
- Consider adding a caveat that some Councilors oppose it
- Suggestion to weave it into a broader story about protection of land and economic viability.
- #4 needs more detail about the programs. Ryan will send around more data and presentations.
- In #14, acknowledge that the first half of this is already happening / note that it will continue to utilize nature-based solutions and weave the second half into broader technical assistance actions.
- In #11, remove the word “locally.”
- In #10 and in all priority actions, remove names of outside organizations (i.e. non-state government orgs).
- All Councilors will review the biomass addendum in preparation for further discussion and a decision at the March 31st meeting.

Cross-Cutting Priority Actions

- Education
 - Lift up K-12 Education

- Dr. Lesley-Anne Dupigny-Giroux will assist
 - In #3, change it to “grow state funding for...”
 - When agriculture is mentioned, incorporate forestry.
 - In #4, make the recommendation focused on a broader definition of technical assistance service for individual homeowners, and then mention navigators and energy coaches as a “such as.”
 - Include a call-out box indicating what is meant by “climate career/ workforce” and note that a definition is in development.
 - Throughout, incorporate the idea that the first step would be to identify / evaluate existing programs, then increase funding where needed
- Compact Settlement
 - Update #5 to: Increase investment in municipalities to improve, expand and build new drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, and other infrastructure to support compact development, especially growing away from climate hazards such as flooding, and ensure the assets’ long-term operation and maintenance.
 - #5 is similar to #10 in Rural Resilience and Adaptation and should be cross-referenced.
 - Consider how to incorporate “walkable, livable communities” as alternative language for “compact settlement.”
- Workforce Development
 - See if there is more substance for #7, and if not, delete.
 - Elevate the need to support the transition of fossil fuel workers as a new action.
 - In #8 and #11, add specificity about the types of trades and careers.
 - #3, 8, 9 and 10 could potentially be combined.
 - All workforce recommendations should broaden the definition for climate jobs.
 - Consider diverse recruitment, including recently incarcerated or incarcerated populations.

Cross Sector Mitigation Subcommittee:

- 3/17 Council meeting to discuss Cap-and-Invest programs
- Dedicate time at 3/31 meeting to review and discuss Cross Sector Mitigation priority actions