

The Climate Action Plan calls for:

- Provide adequate funding and staffing...to adopt more inclusive and innovative engagement strategies.
- Present key materials in plain and accessible language, including translation into multiple languages...
- Find opportunities to engage in many ways....ensure materials and resources are easy to navigate and provide a clear path and timeline for engagement.
- Create opportunities for engagement that empowers impacted communities and is ongoing...goal of co-creation, which requires meeting people in their communities and using trusted organizations and community members to facilitate outreach.
- Create opportunities to hear from Vermonters during all processes created by the Global Warming Solutions Act...
- Support and work through and with trusted community organizations to reach impacted communities....requires coordination and support. The Climate Council is well-poised to support coordination.

Climate Council Meeting on 12/7 built on plan and suggested following:

- Council members suggested resourcing trusted community organizations that are known and understood by community members.
- The Council should reach out to groups that are not just the organizations typically consulted, and who represent a broad range of Vermonters.
- The Council should focus on who is doing the synthesizing of information and feeding it back into the Council's process.

Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) role in supporting this work is focused in three main areas:

Plan Accessibility

- Preparing a notice to the public about the availability of the state's initial Climate Action Plan and translating the notice in the 12 most spoken languages in Vermont. The intent is to notify communities that any part of the plan can be translated into those 12 languages upon request. Coordinate with the Health Department to learn how they distributed these notices to access the communities they are intended for.
- Developing a video in multiple languages to put on the website as another avenue to notify the public about the plan's availability and our capacity to translate components of it upon request.
- Reviewing templates provided by Vermont Chief Marketing Office to consider reformatting the current plan.
- Working to make the plan more communicable to Vermonters through the development of a storymap (See examples [here](#) and [here](#)). Understand how translation services can be applied here too.

- Develop stories to include in the plan in close coordination with the Council and Subcommittees.

Broad Based Public Engagement

- Partnering with CBI to support one to three online events to discuss with Vermonters what is in the plan with a focus on the ongoing work of the Council and ANR (e.g. biomass, transportation). Engagement will focus Vermonters on the next steps to garner feedback on the ongoing priorities for the Council and ANR.
- Consider timing of these events relative to capitalizing on the momentum of the release of the Plan versus being able to first speak with partner organizations, as well as being able to speak to tangible outcomes from the legislative session.

Targeted Engagement through Partner Organizations

- The objective of the targeted engagement through partner organizations is to build relationships with communities and to test methods for engaging meaningfully with these communities about climate action in an effort to develop new strategies to deploy over time to reach more Vermonters. The approaches, which will vary depending on the community and partner organization, will aim to meet people where they are and lift up views and ideas around priority issues for those communities. The goal is not to immediately “get feedback” on the initial CAP, but rather create conversations that can be sustainable over time around the issues the Council is addressing – how we heat and cool our homes, how we get to work and move around the state, how we use the land around us, how our families prepare for, and react to, threats such flooding and heat waves, and other topics of the CAP.
- The targeted engagement will begin with a handful of community organizations as partners, to test the model. We will work with leadership of those organizations to design a strategy for engaging members of the community on these topics. We will ensure we have appropriate materials. The state will fund these community organizations to carry out the work.
- For the next several months, the Consensus Building Institute will help to move these conversations forward with community partners and ensure there is an organized method for summarizing and presenting back to the council the information emerging from these efforts.