



1. Letter from the Council

The destabilization of the climate, primarily driven by the burning of fossil fuels, is causing increasing costs and harms to Vermonters and people around the world. Vermont is experiencing this disruption in many ways, especially from the increasing frequency and severity of extreme weather. In this context, we recognize a responsibility to work together, both to respond to the effects that climate disruption is having on Vermont and to do our part to reduce the pollution that is at the source of the problem.

This *Vermont Climate Action Plan 2025* (CAP), a requirement of Vermont's Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA), provides important recommendations for how we can adapt our communities and built environment to a warming planet, work to protect natural and working lands from the damage created by climate change, support and enhance the resilience of Vermont's landscape and communities amidst a changing climate, and do our part to reduce climate pollution toward meeting our legal commitments. Our recommendations were selected in consideration of multiple criteria, including cost-effectiveness, equity, and feasibility.

We recognize a particular urgency to this work because of the degree to which climate disruption is already harming Vermonters. Of the 62 federally declared disasters since 1953, 31 were made between 2011 and 2024 alone, with 2011, 2023 and 2024 having particularly high numbers of declarations. Lamoille and Washington counties accounted for some of the highest numbers of disaster declarations in the 2011–2024 period.^{[1](#)}

¹ FEMA Data Visualizations, last modified July 30, 2025.

(Note: Interactive data tools are no longer available through FEMA.gov as of June 30, 2025. Data may still be accessed through [OpenFEMA application programming interface](#).)

We also recognize that this work will not get easier in the years ahead. Important federal programs and resources that Vermont relied on after our *Initial Climate Action Plan* was passed in 2021, both for disaster response and for pollution reduction, are now ending or—at best—facing an uncertain future as we look ahead to the 2025–2029 period that this updated plan is designed to cover. This will put additional pressure on state-specific action and necessitate a continuation and deepening of multi-state and regional collaboration.

Many carefully researched reports provide underlying data and analysis that underpin our work and help point the way forward. Additionally, the Council benefitted from robust public participation in the development of this plan. After widespread engagement in 2024, we sought feedback on early drafts of our recommendations in the spring of 2025 via 12 input sessions (three virtual, nine in-person) across Vermont, attended by over 400 people.⁽²⁾ We also appreciated and incorporated information provided via written comments from more than 250 Vermonters or Vermont-based organizations.

We are grateful for the dozens of devoted subcommittee members; the many committed participants, from members of the public to technical consultants, who attended our meetings and events; and the thousands of Vermonters who were able to engage with us in this process. Many of you spent countless hours helping us develop this *Vermont Climate Action Plan 2025*—thank you.

The Climate Action Plan is intended to be accessible to the widest possible audience, regardless of technology or ability. Should you experience any difficulty accessing the Plan, please don't hesitate to contact the [Agency of Natural Resources](#); they will provide you information in a format that meets your needs.

Citation:

Vermont Climate Council. *Vermont Climate Action Plan 2025*. Montpelier, VT, 2025.

2 [Consolidated Summaries of Vermont Climate Action Plan Engagement, Spring 2025](#), last modified June 12, 2025.