

22. Coordination of the Climate Action Plan with Other State Plans and Initiatives

The [GWSA](#) requires that the CAP be coordinated with the [Comprehensive Energy Plan \(CEP\)](#). This was intentionally orchestrated during the *Initial Vermont Climate Action Plan* in 2021 as the CEP was due to be completed only one month after the CAP was adopted. However, the CEP is required to be updated every six years and as a result is not currently being revised. That said, it is still important to understand the distinctions between the two planning processes and the rationale for why the plans should be aligned.

The CAP is an Action Plan for GHG mitigation, sequestration, and adaptation strategies in the face of climate change. The CEP is a mechanism to implement statutory energy policy based on a comprehensive analysis of challenges and opportunities in Vermont. While the CAP and the CEP have considerable areas of overlap, they remain distinct planning requirements, with different objectives. While the CEP must be consistent with and a key component of meeting the state's GHG requirements, it is not a climate change plan nor a comprehensive look at Vermont's non-energy GHG emissions or climate adaptation needs. That said, and as described in this CAP, energy consumption drives a large majority of Vermont's GHG emissions; it is important that the process for the CAP and CEP are aligned.

While the CEP is not currently being updated, the CEP is required to be consistent with the requirements of the GWSA and the CAP. At the same time, the CAP is required to be informed by the CEP. These requirements to closely coordinate the efforts—even if the resulting actions are not necessarily identical—are important. As a result, the Department of Public Service and the Agency of Natural Resources continue to engage around the modeling efforts that underpin the plans and in engagement to support the public's involvement and understanding of both efforts.

In addition to the CEP, there are other state planning efforts and initiatives that align with and further support the recommendations in the CAP. As a starting place for the development of this plan, the Climate Council received a presentation to learn more about the [State Hazard Mitigation Plan](#) (SHMP). The [2023 Vermont State Hazard Mitigation Plan](#) presents the natural hazard impacts most likely to affect Vermont, an assessment of our vulnerabilities, and a mitigation strategy to reduce or eliminate our most significant risks. The 2023 SHMP accounts for both observed and projected hazard impacts and accounts for changes in population and development. It also places a special focus on how hazards affect people beyond loss of life and property damage to account for

quality of life and impacts to our frontline communities. The SHMP is foundational to the resilience and adaptation recommendations found in the CAP, with recommendations in the CAP building off recommendations from the 2023 SHMP that have not been completed or need additional focus. The Rural Resilience and Adaptation Subcommittee of the Climate Council is charged with developing actions that focus on the pressures that adaptation will impose on rural transportation, electricity, housing emergency services, and communications infrastructure, and the difficulty of rural communities in meeting the needs of its citizens.

In addition to recommendations in both the CAP and the SHMP, work is needed to strategically prioritize actions in state government to build resilience and adapt to a changing climate. The devastating flooding of 2023 and 2024, along with heatwaves, droughts, and wildfire smoke, make it clear that climate change is threatening Vermonters' health, safety, quality of life and economic security. The [Resilience Implementation Strategy](#) (RIS) is a joint initiative of Governor Scott and State Treasurer Pieciak, announced on January 3, 2024. The RIS will develop a comprehensive strategy to guide and prioritize climate resilience efforts as well as help policymakers understand and address gaps. This strategic set of recommendations will detail where adjustments to state programs can increase resilience to climate change and will augment considerable work done by state government to date to build resilience to climate change. It is intended to complement the CAP by prioritizing capacity and funding for resilience projects. It will also identify available new and innovative funding solutions for climate adaptation activities.