

23. Climate Council Next Steps

The *Vermont Climate Action Plan 2025* (CAP) builds off of the [Initial Vermont Climate Action Plan](#) as well as ongoing public input from Vermonters. The work of the Climate Council is ongoing, and additional efforts are needed to drive climate action forward and meet the emissions reduction targets outlined in the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA).

The recommendations in this plan will require a combination of legislative and administrative action. Specifically, the implementation of the CAP will require the Legislature to pass significant legislation as well as allocate the necessary resources to advance the recommendations. The GWSA also requires the Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources to adopt rules consistent with the CAP, as adopted, on or before July 1, 2026. There are currently no rules being put forward under that timeline.

While the Legislature, the Agency of Natural Resources, and other agencies of state government will work to advance numerous actions put forward in this plan through legislative action and rulemaking, the Council will work to further advance work efforts in several key areas, including but not limited to:

- monitoring and tracking implementation of the CAP
- considering additional resources to make the CAP actionable
- working in partnership with the state government, the Legislature, and the Climate Action Office
- convening Climate Council meetings on a quarterly basis to engage with the public
- bringing subcommittees together as needed to support the work of the Climate Council

Connect with the Climate Action Office

The Vermont Climate Action Office (CAO) plays a pivotal role in coordinating state-led climate initiatives and providing expertise on climate adaptation, mitigation and resilience activities.

The CAO will continue to evaluate progress in meeting the requirements of the GWSA and support implementation of the updated CAP. As a division within the Agency of Natural Resources Secretary's Office, the CAO focuses on three core areas:

Climate program coordination: The CAO supports the ongoing implementation of climate action and solutions, ensuring that climate strategies are effectively integrated across state government.

Community and public engagement: Recognizing the importance of public involvement, particularly from frontline and impacted communities, the CAO is committed to fostering broad citizen participation and partnerships to deliver climate solutions for all Vermonters.

Inter-agency collaboration: The CAO works closely with various state agencies, the State Climatologist, and key stakeholders such as the Climate Council. The Inter-Agency Advisory Board meets regularly to coordinate climate action across state government, focusing on proactive coordination, maximizing resources, monitoring progress, and developing state positions on climate-related issues.

The Inter-Agency Advisory Board includes representatives from:

- Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets
- Agency of Commerce and Community Development
- Agency of Human Services (Department of Children and Families, and Department of Health)
- Agency of Natural Resources
- Agency of Transportation
- Department of Buildings and General Services
- Department of Labor
- Department of Public Service
- Vermont State Climatologist
- Vermont Emergency Management

Public meetings and events hosted by the CAO are continuously updated and can be found on the [CAO's website](#). The website also provides information on how to get involved and learn additional information about CAO programs.

The Climate Action Office looks forward to continuing its work with Vermonters to achieve transformative climate action for current and future generations. Reach out to the CAO with questions or comments at ANR.CAO@Vermont.Gov or [\(802\) 404-2729](tel:8024042729).