

Agency of Natural Resources Lunch and Learn

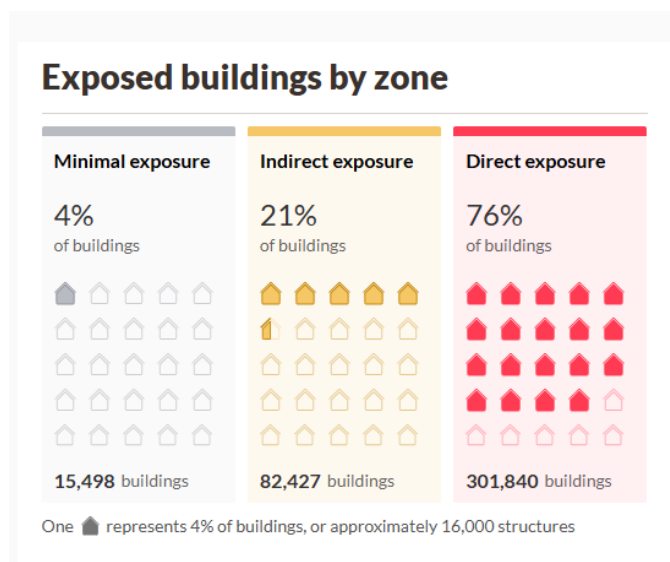
April 28, 2025

This document contains feedback gathered from a “Lunch and Learn” session for Agency of Natural Resources staff, modeled after the public engagement events. Approximately 60 people attended.

- Outdoor recreation infrastructure is linked to public health (ex: access to shade and places to swim on hot days)
 - The other outdoor recreation connection that might be of interest is the interest from Ski resorts in installing EV infrastructure:
<https://vtdigger.org/2025/04/27/despite-funding-freeze-demand-for-ev-chargers-remains-at-mountain-resorts/>
- Support for the following actions:
 - Cross Cutting #4, 8, 10, 12
 - Rural Resilience and Adaptation #5, & 10
- Question: what do you mean by Nature-based solutions?
- Regarding this point: “State land management agencies shall adapt their management of lands using nature-based solutions to address climate impacts, increase ecosystem resilience, enhance biological diversity, and improve water quality.”
 - State land management agencies typically define management goals and objectives in our long-range management plans for state lands with corresponding Land Management Classification. While these objectives may be based on to varying degrees on “nature-based solutions,” the “[IUCN Global Standard for Nature-Based Solutions](#)” do not contain not the terminology or guidance we typically follow when planning for state lands management.
 - I'd suggest a clear definition of Nature-based Solutions is needed in order to determine what is intended for Ag and Eco #10 and #11 and

how to implement (and determine if we have indeed prioritized/incentivized and/or adapted to incorporate)

- "Why should any money be spent or any taxes raised for emission reductions when doing so won't change the climate?" -devil's advocate
- I think there could be a link between Public Health #15 and Education #1 - students could benefit from the mental health support as they are learning about climate change.
- Ag & Eco Adaptation #6: "market expansion for...local wood products, process, and manufacturing? To what end regarding reducing climate impacts? Wood burning does not necessarily reduce climate impacts."
- Ag & Eco #13 may need an edit: National Forests aren't where the addition of old forest are needed most, based on recent analyses. Unless perhaps there's reason national forests were specifically mentioned?
- Percent of structures at risk to direct exposure to protecting homes to wildland fire [graphic below]. We are seeing longer seasons and high fire activity regionally. I know a lot of the focus is on Flooding rightfully so, but we have a large risk exposure here too. Vermont-specific data and tools:
 - [VT Risk Reduction Zones](#)
 - [Northeast/Midwest Wildfire Risk Explorer](#)



In response to the question “How does your work at ANR take action on climate change?” participants responded:

- indirectly
- Writing grants that provide funding for climate actions
- Floodplain protection
- Prioritizes resilience
- Wildfire Fire Response
- Helping communities become more flood resilient and safer
- Landfills and waste
- emissions reductions
- in response too
- Support administration of contracts and grants
- My work includes working with groups and communities on building flood resilience alongside clean water projects.
- Educating Vermonters
- clean water project progress tracking, some projects of which also help to mitigate effects of climate change
- Goal setting and support to small communities
- Resilience of streams and rivers
- Coordination with outdoor industry / business

What’s the first word that comes to mind when I say – 'Climate Action?'

14 responses

