

Type	Recommendations	Status	Final Prioritization	Revise Action, Revise Strategy, Remove, Keep as is	Revised Language	Notes	Impact	Cost Effectiveness	Co-Benefits	Technical Feasibility	Average + Priority (VCC Guidance)
P	Pathway 10 (Agriculture & Ecosystems): Maintain and expand Vermont's natural and working lands' role in the mitigation of climate change through human interventions to reduce the sources and enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases.										
S	Strategy 10a: Maintain and expand Vermont's natural and working lands' role in the mitigation of climate change through human interventions to reduce the sources and enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases.		High	Keep as is			High	High	High	Yes	High
A		NEW (combines others)	High	Revise Action	Increase funding, enhance, and adapt existing State of Vermont programs that support GHG emissions reductions, soil carbon sequestration, and/or climate adaptation and resiliency on working lands. Enhance and adapt programs to better incorporate climate mitigation, adaptation, resilience, nature-based solutions, and TEK/IK. Example State programs include, but are not limited to: AAFM; Ag-CWIP, BMP, CEAP, CREP, FAP, GWFS, PSWF, VFFP, VFESP; land acquisition, river corridor easements, wetland conservation, County Forester Program, Maintaining and Creating Resilient Forests. Coordinate with USDA NRCS-VT programming to accelerate the implementation of federally funded climate mitigation and resilience practices in Vermont.		High	High	High	Yes	High
A	Expand the Capital Equipment Assistance Program (CEAP) program to extend beyond water quality and incorporate climate change criteria.	Being Implemented	High	Keep as is		"Mitigate greenhouse gases" is part of ranking criteria, but no specific focus until funding is allocated.	High	High	High	Yes	High
A	Implement agroforestry and silvopasture practices that integrate woody vegetation in agricultural production.	Being Implemented	High	Keep as is			High	High	High	Yes	High
A	Implement agronomic practices that reduce tillage and increase vegetative cover, e.g., no-till, cover crop.	Being Implemented	High	Keep as is			High	High	High	Yes	High
A	Implement edge-of-field practices that increase herbaceous and woody vegetation, e.g., riparian forest buffers through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).	Being Implemented	High	Keep as is			High	High	High	Yes	High
A	Implement grazing practices that increase vegetative cover and forage quality, e.g., rotational grazing.	Being Implemented	High	Keep as is			High	High	High	Yes	High
A	Implement methane capture and energy generation on farms, e.g., anaerobic digesters and covers.	Being Implemented	High	Keep as is			High	Medium	High	Yes	High
A	Implement Nutrient Management and Amendments (e.g., biochar, compost) on cropland and grazing land.	Being Implemented	High	Keep as is			High	High	High	Yes	High
A	Research and develop a climate feed management program, including feed amendments (e.g., seaweed, biochar) and feed quality (e.g., forage quality) to reduce enteric methane emissions; consider downstream impacts, sustainability, and equity.	Being Implemented	High	Keep as is			High	High	High	Yes	High
A	Research and pilot improved manure management and storage programs.	Being Implemented	High	Keep as is			High	High	Medium	Yes	High
A	Implement natural resource restoration practices that support climate mitigation and resilience, including river corridor easements, wetland restoration, and afforestation practices with consideration to agricultural land loss.	Being Implemented	High	Keep as is			High	Medium	High	Yes	High
A	Develop a methodology and protocol for quantifying climate mitigation, resilience, and adaptation impacts of existing state and federal water quality implementation programs as reported through the annual Clean Water Initiative Performance Report. The Clean Water Initiative Performance Report "summarizes the State of Vermont's clean water efforts and demonstrates how investments are making a difference through accountability measures." As mentioned, most water quality conservation practices and programs also have climate mitigation, resilience, and adaptation benefits. Recommend using existing tracking systems and quantifying the climate benefits from this existing implementation and data tracking. The data spans state and federal funding and regulatory programs that drive clean water efforts and coordinates across agencies to track these efforts and monitor progress.	No Action Taken	High	Keep as is		Could be done relatively easily by assigning COMET ERCs to eligible practices (already been done on smaller scale by VAAFM). Likely part of "Measuring and Assessing Progress Tool" required by the Global Warming Solutions Act. This tool will be used to track Vermont's progress towards meeting climate action requirements through the tracking of metrics and indicators related to resilience, adaptation, equity, public engagement, as well as mitigation measures that will indicate progress on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. *				Yes	High
A	The Vermont Climate Council has recommended developing and issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) that will review and analyze methodological gaps of emission inventory tools currently used by the State of Vermont to quantify greenhouse gas emissions for evaluating changes in the Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector and the tools' alignment with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and peer state methodologies and approaches. The specific recommendations for this RFP can be found in the Carbon Budget Report memo found in Appendix 10.	Completed				Add new Action that continues (implements findings) this work (below):					
A		New	High	Revise Action	Update the Vermont GHG Emission Inventory to account for both carbon sequestration and emission reduction benefits from agriculture.					Yes	High
A		New	High	Revise Action	Enhance education, outreach, research, and technical assistance programming to encourage adopting strategies that increase climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience on natural and working lands. Education should target farmers, loggers, and those providing technical assistance. Incorporate nature-based solutions and TEK/IK.	This action is combined with other actions to form one priority action.	High	High	High	Yes	High
A		New	High	Revise Action	Protect farmland and managed forestlands from development through land conservation and protection programs so these land uses can continue to provide climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience benefits. Enhance existing State land use protection programs, such as the Vermont Farmland Conservation Program and Forest Conservation Easements, to improve farmland access and protection of agricultural soils and working forests.		High	High	High	Yes	High
S	Strategy 23c: Implement a Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) program for natural and working lands.		High	Keep as is			High	High	High	Yes	High

A	Develop and implement a PES program for healthy soils and soil carbon sequestration on farms. Act 83 of 2019 convened the Payment for Ecosystems Services Working Group whose purpose is to recommend financial incentives designed to encourage farmers in Vermont to implement agricultural practices that improve soil health, enhance crop resilience, increase carbon storage and stormwater storage capacity, and reduce agricultural runoff to waters. Final program recommendations from the PES Working Group are due in January 2023.	Completed	High	Combined Primary	Fund and implement Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) program(s) for natural and working lands to encourage land owners and caretakers to implement practices that improve soil health, crop and forest resilience, increase carbon storage, increase stormwater storage capacity, and reduce runoff. Fund existing agricultural PES programs (AAFM VFESP and VFPF) and expand to include or develop new programs for forestry. (PES is payment/compensation for increasing ecosystem services/environmental stewardship achieved through better land management by farmers and loggers and does not include carbon trading or markets, which is not recommended by this subcommittee).		High	High	High	Yes	High
A	Develop and implement a PES program for forestland owners including water filtration/cycling, carbon sequestration, etc.	No Action Taken		Combined Secondary			High	High	High	Yes	High
A	Incentivize management for ecosystem services through a tax credit system that compensates landowners/managers for maintaining or restoring ecosystem services.	No Action Taken	Medium	Keep as is			High	High	High	Yes	High
S	Strategy 23d: Address upstream waste and downstream emissions from food waste and synthetic fossil-fuel based inputs.										Low
A	Develop program for tracking and limiting the use of chemicals, substances, or products that contribute to climate change in Vermont and leverage existing legislative activity on this topic i. VAAFM currently tracks statewide commercial pesticide use as well as statewide fertilizer use. This data is currently used to establish trends in the use of these inputs as our agricultural systems evolve. ii. Programs to track these agricultural inputs already exist at VAAFM but have not been assessed through the lens of contributions to climate change. VAAFM or the new newly established Agricultural Innovation Board (AIB) established by Act 49 of 2021 can prioritize an assessment of the impacts and benefits our agronomic management systems have on offsetting climate change. iii. An assessment of Vermont's different agronomic practices and management, such as, conventional, organic, no-till, and cover cropping, should be weighted for impacts on climate change based on agricultural inputs, fuel consumption, carbon sequestration and other measurable factors	Being Implemented	Medium	Revise Action	Develop a program for tracking and limiting the use of chemicals, substances, or products that contribute to climate change in Vermont and leverage existing legislative activity on this topic. i. VAAFM currently tracks statewide commercial pesticide use as well as statewide fertilizer use. This data is currently used to establish trends in the use of these inputs as our agricultural systems evolve. ii. Programs to track these agricultural inputs already exist at VAAFM but have not been assessed through the lens of contributions to climate change. VAAFM, or the newly established Agricultural Innovation Board (AIB) established by Act 49 of 2021, should prioritize an assessment of the impacts and benefits our agronomic management systems have on offsetting climate change. iii. An assessment of Vermont's different agronomic practices and management, such as conventional, organic, no-till, and cover cropping, should be weighted for impacts on climate change based on agricultural inputs, fuel consumption, carbon sequestration, and other measurable factors.	iii. Done by NRCS CPPE for some practices, not all e.g. organic likely existing literature; need to balance with water quality goals	Low		High	Yes	Low
A	The state should identify simple, low- and no-cost mechanisms to increase organics diversion and provide incentives and business and workforce development to private organics haulers and composters (including farms). i. Act 41 of 2021 created an Agricultural Residuals Management Program to be administered by VAAFM. The purpose of this new chapter of the law is to establish a program for the management of residual wastes generated, imported to or managed on a farm for farming in Vermont	Being Implemented	Medium	Keep as is			High	Medium	Medium	Yes	High
S	Strategy 23e: Develop and implement programs which incentivize management practices which maintain or increase forest carbon storage.										High
A	Apply these certification standards to procuring forest products utilized in energy or thermal generation facilities subject to PUC oversight (parallel to the existing review for state-mapped deer winter yard, etc.) through potential revisions to the renewable energy standard.	No Action Taken		Keep as is							Low
A	Create or adopt existing certification standards where management activities account for principles of Improved Forest Management towards increased carbon storage, as well as maintaining and creating resiliency (as described in existing state guidance such as Maintaining and Creating Resilient Forests in Vermont: Adapting Forests to Climate Change, VFPR 2015, or as modeled in existing programs such as the American Forest Foundation's Family Forest Carbon Program).	No Action Taken		Keep as is							Low
A	Explore additional market opportunities for certified products, expanding the potential revenue base to support Improvement Forest Management (parallel FSC, SFI, etc.)	No Action Taken		Keep as is							Low
S	Strategy 23f: Leverage market-based solutions, such as existing or new regional carbon market opportunities, to incentivize forest management practices that sequester and store greater amounts of carbon in our forests.										Low
A	Incentivize in-state purchase of carbon credits developed by Vermont-based or regional carbon projects through a system that addresses concerns of accounting (i.e., additionality and leakage).	No Action Taken	Low	Remove		The subcommittee recommended removing this action with concerns about carbon trading.					Low
A	Work to develop a new Vermont-based or regional (modeled on RGGI) Carbon Credit marketplace with necessary research and standards that address concerns around the efficacy of baseline establishment, accounting for additionality, the potential for leakage, and address equity for the diversity of wood lot owners across the state.	No Action Taken	Low	Remove		The subcommittee recommended removing this action with concerns about carbon trading.					Low
S	Strategy 23g: Increase tree coverage.										Low
A	Expand tree and other planting efforts on private land to promote restoration efforts to reforest riparian areas, wetland buffers, and degraded lands.	Advancing	Medium	Keep as is			High	Medium	High	Yes	High
A	Increase funding to tree planting via the Renewable Energy Standard (RES).	No Action Taken	Low	Keep as is							Low
A	Expand funding and support to the Vermont Community Canopy Program.	Being Implemented	Medium	Keep as is							Low
A	Increase support, funding, and education for increased urban tree planting efforts expansion to increase access to natural spaces and improve carbon sequestration/storage in the urban environment.	Being Implemented	Medium	Keep as is			Low	Medium	High	Yes	Low
A	Provide incentives for the restoration and expansion of floodplain forests.	Being Implemented	High	Keep as is			Medium	Medium	High	Yes	Medium