

Climate Council Next Steps

The Update to the Climate Action Plan builds off of the [initial Climate Action Plan](#) and is the result of over a year of work that included input from five subcommittees, as well as ongoing and 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 emission 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 that the Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources adopt rules consistent with the Climate Action Plan, 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 the progress of implementation of the Update to the Climate Action Plan
- Considering additional resources to make the Plan 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 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 Climate Action Office will continue to evaluate progress in meeting the requirements of the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA) and support implementation of the update of the Climate Action Plan. As a division within the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) Secretary's Office, the CAO focuses on three core areas:

1. **Climate Program Coordination:** The CAO supports the ongoing implementation of the climate action and solutions, ensuring that climate strategies are effectively integrated across state government.
2. **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.
3. **Inter-Agency Collaboration:** The CAO works closely with various state agencies, the State Climatologist, and key stakeholders such as the Vermont Climate Council. An 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, & Markets
- Agency of Commerce and Community Development
- Agency of Human Services (Department of Children & Families, and Department of Health)
- Agency of Natural Resources
- Agency of Transportation
- Department of Buildings & General Services
- Department of Labor
- Department of Public Service
- Vermont State Climatologist
- Vermont Division of Emergency Management

Public meetings and events hosted by the Climate Action Office are continuously updated can be found on the CAO's website: climatechange.vermont.gov/learn-and-act. 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.