

Written Comments: Climate Action Plan Update

October – December 2024

Color Coding: ●Buildings & Thermal, ●Transportation, ●Electricity, ●Natural & Working Lands, ●Equity & Justice, ●Flood Resilience, ●Policy, ●Housing, ●Biofuels, ○Affordability

Andrew Catlin, Montpelier

Topic areas: ●Buildings & Thermal, ●Electricity

“Hi, my name’s Andrew Catlin and I’m a member owner of a worker-owned construction company called TimberHomes Vermont. I just attended the input session on Building & Thermal – So many great ideas and comments, I couldn’t get my thoughts gathered in the moment! Also so many people inside and outside the state agencies working on some really complicated issues. Please know I can only speak to new residential construction in the \$0.5M to \$2M range. Maybe not the most critical sector in this conversation, but it is a factor. Here are a few random thoughts:

1. I’ve been very impressed with the 2020 and 2024 VT RBES in how comprehensive it is, instead of just relying on some incomplete metrics like R-Value. However, I was disappointed that in 2024, the base standard for air tightness is just 0.15 CFM50/ sq. ft. building shell area. For example, the last house project I lead got a blower door test result of 0.016 CFM50/sq. ft. building shell area, and I didn’t feel like I was trying that hard! Yes we need more training in this stuff, but in new construction, it’s very easy to do, with the right envelope design from the beginning.
2. As you might guess, the homes my company builds always exceed the VT energy code. But, as someone in the discussion mentioned, because compliance with the VT residential code is completely voluntary, we are competing against builders who are not meeting those standards and who have probably never even looked at the RBES. While some of our clients are truly cost constrained by construction loans, they are generally not the people who need government assistance. However, even our most wealthy clients are always trying to drive costs down, even if they claim ecological responsibility as a priority. Plus, the average home building client has no idea what a pascal, a U-Value, or an ERV is. The result is when the company down the road says they can build the “same” house for \$100k less, we loose the job, and the energy standards don’t get met. I truly don’t know what the solution is – I can’t ever imagine building inspectors in every town in VT, but these standards and codes need some attached carrots or sticks to ensure people like our clients who can clearly afford it, are building houses in compliance.
3. I would have loved to hear anything about embodied energy in this discussion. Jacob Deva Racusin of New Frameworks gives an excellent talk and analysis of embodied energy in high efficiency homes. He demonstrates that the “carbon debt” from achieving that high efficiency with foam insulation can take over 30 years to pay its self back in energy savings,

compared to carbon neutral insulation like cellulose and wood fiber. Again, my company is committed to building foam-free, but we struggle to sell the higher cost of wood fiberboard to clients, when there are no incentives or regulations attached. Similar things can be said around limiting concrete use.

4. I was interested to see an item about peak load managing water heaters, but I was disappointed to not hear anything about smart panels. That's one technology I think will be completely CRITICAL in the transition to electric homes and cars, but also represents one of the most complex interconnections of policy, regulation (both state and national), and emerging technologies. Point is, it is possible right now to have a fully electric home and EV on 100A. You just need breaker panel that can shut off the water heater while you're cooking dinner, the EV charger while you're running the drier, etc. This exists, but right now it's expensive and not recognized by the national electric code. That means by code, you might still need a service upgrade, even if you have a system that will never allow the load to exceed your capacity. This needs to change. People are paying way too much for service upgrades, particularly in rural areas. That's not to mention all the trickle down effects of load capacity calculations in the grid. My electrician often talks about how 300 or 400 Amp service is now becoming standard, and he's even done a couple homes with 600A. This is crazy! And it's all because of electrification, EVs and solar back-feed and the way those loads are calculated as if you need all your large loads running at the exact same time, which simply does not have to be the case.
5. Another piece of new technology that could be a game changer is induction stoves with battery storage. These are so new that they're basically not yet available in the US. But they will be, and we want to encourage that! Imagine being able to remove a gas stove, slide in an induction stove, and just plug it into the 120V outlet that's already there. No running wires for a 50A plug, no service upgrade. The battery charges up, and provides the short-term higher amps needed for cooking. There's one model you can even plug your fridge into for power failure backup!
6. Someone in the chat mentioned heat-pump clothes dryers. Those are another great piece of technology, and they're currently available! We just need more options, lower prices, and better public education around them.

Sorry this comment got so long, thanks for reading, and thanks for all the hard work of everyone working on the plan revision! Andrew”

Ann Janda, Hinesburg

Topic Areas: •Buildings & Thermal, •Equity & Justice, •Policy

“Ideas for new or refined actions in Buildings and Thermal: Technical assistance and incentives that specifically lower GHGs, not just reduce electric and thermal costs: Vermont doesn't currently have widespread, well-funded, and consistent incentive programs or technical assistance solely dedicated to incentivizing and assisting all consumers that want to reduce GHG emissions. Such programs would actively implement the Vermont CAP and Global Warming Solutions Act. One way to create these programs in Vermont would be to expand Efficiency VT's mission to allow them to offer technical assistance and incentives that lower GHG emission but that may increase electricity consumption. Lastly, there needs to be a strong effort to ensure that residents know about these

programs and that they are accessible. Consider policy for municipalities to borrow for energy upgrades without voter approval: Many building energy projects can pay for themselves with the energy savings over time. Given that voters have historically put their municipal buildings last when voting to approve debt, making debt for energy upgrades exempt from voter approval could incentivize many projects across the state. Here is VLCT's list of situations when a municipality can borrow money without voter approval: <https://www.vlct.org/article/when-can-legislative-body-borrow-money-without-voter-approval-0>. Consider proposing legislation to make it possible for municipalities to borrow funds for energy upgrades without voter approval, which they have done to enable borrowing from the State Municipal Equipment Loan Fund. See below: 6. Borrowing from the State Municipal Equipment Loan Fund for the purchase of construction, fire, emergency, or heavy equipment or vehicles so long as the term is five years or less. 19 V.S.A. § 304(a)(3); 24 V.S.A. § 1786a(b); 29 V.S.A. § 1601. Continue developing policies that protect low-income residents from high electricity costs and loss of service: As we electrify everything, including heating and cooling buildings, we must ensure that there are rate-payer protections for low-income Vermonters. We must also ensure that there is strong policy around not cutting off electrical service, which in a hot climate, could cause major health issues and death.”

Kim Hall, North Bennington

Topic Areas: •Buildings & Thermal

“The Affordable Heat Act is grossly unfair to renters who pay their utilities. They have no agency to change the landlord's heating technology or building efficiency, and so the higher cost of fossil fuel will be solely borne by them. Landlords must be required to maintain rents and assume the costs of fossil fuel utilities until validated by energy audit they have pursued energy efficiency. Then and only then should they be permitted to make renters assume the costs.”

Richard Butz, Bristol

Topic Areas: •Buildings & Thermal

Attachment: [Buildings & Thermal Responses](#)

Elizabeth Ferry, Barnard

Topic Areas: •Buildings & Thermal, Workforce

“Thank you for accepting public input on the Climate Action Plan. I understand that you are soliciting input specifically on Buildings and Thermal. My comments will be brief and directed at one point. Background: I have served on my local town energy committee (Barnard) for 10 years. In that time, we have

- run a Button Up campaign,
- used ARPA funds to supplement Efficiency Vermont's home energy upgrade rebates
- researched ways to increase energy efficiency education among the town's contractors and tradespeople

- promoted education for youth and others entering the trades workforce
- promoted home efficiency through in-person presentations and local list-serv posts.

Recommendation: Looking to the future, I rate educating the current workforce in energy efficient technology and building practices as the single most important area to focus attention and resources.

- Vermont has many people work in the building trades. (Not enough, but many.)
- Many of them have deep family roots in the community.
- They are trusted, and rightfully so.
- But if, for example, they only “know” propane and oil-fired heating systems, they never are going to recommend a heat pump, even if it might be beneficial to the customer, the town, the environment.
 - o Why? Because they can still make a living building on what they already know how to do and do well. Increasing awareness and training among our experienced tradespeople is essential, in my estimation.
- We have trusted workers in our communities.
- The challenge is to build their fluency and confidence in energy-efficiency as it relates to their trade.

Thank you for considering this point and for your dedication to the state’s Climate Action Plan. Best regards, Elizabeth Ferry Barnard Energy Committee”

Nancy Patch, Westford

Topic Areas: •Natural & Working Lands, •Biofuels, •Buildings & Thermal, •Electricity

“I strongly support moving away from fossil fuels as quickly as possible. We have a fuel source in our own backyards which include solar, wind, geothermal, and very importantly a renewable wood source. Using modern wood heating makes sense for both our fuel needs and the local economy. Improving the McNeil plant to include a thermal heat component for the community would make that plant so much more efficient. We manage our forests well in VT, and the source of wood is not coming from clearcutting but from management that maintains a balance of age classes. Forests that are 20-80 years old are sequestering carbon at the greatest rates. By managing our forests to have a range of age classes, we can grow older trees (150 plus) while maintaining a high rate of sequestrations in the younger age classes. The McNeil plant uses wood from forests managed in this way. Other modern heat such as bulk pellets for boiler systems are an excellent source of fuel. Wood stoves are also still valuable as there is minimal processing prior to BTU output, and are traditional in Vermont. There is an enormous amount of misinformation coming from a public with good intentions, but who are mis-informed about forest management in VT. Forest management is not a one size fits all. Pellets manufactured in the region should stay in the region. Pellets lose their carbon value when shipped long distances. Keep things bioregional and produce our own thermal heat and electricity.”

Carl Bucholt, Manchester

Topic Areas: •Buildings & Thermal, •Biofuels, •Natural & Working Lands

“I heat with firewood, and have done so for 50 years, but I bought a heat pump a few years ago and now burn about half as much wood as I used to. If our goal in Vermont is to reduce GHG emissions, it makes no sense for individuals to substitute an oil or gas furnace for a wood furnace or pellet stove. If folks want to replace their oil furnace to reduce GHG emissions and/or reduce their heating bills, it makes more sense to buy a cold climate heat pump that operates on electricity. On a larger scale, I am vehemently opposed to cutting down forests to use as fuel in wood burning plants to generate electricity, such as the McNeil plant in Burlington or the proposed plant in Lyndon/St Johnsbury. Burning huge quantities of wood to generate electricity emits not only GHG emissions but also particulate matter that is proven to have serious, adverse effects on the public’s health. Additionally, older forests store much more carbon than younger, newly harvested forests. Older healthy trees that sequester carbon while fostering biodiversity are not “renewable” in any time frame that helps our current climate crisis.”

Kelly Kahler, Wilmington

Topic Areas: •Natural & Working Lands

“I am new to this but have a short comment to contribute. It feels that we, of course, focus heavily on man’s impact... both constructive and destructive. Having been involved in recreational development for over 45 years I have great passion for our natural surroundings. During my early 30s while working summers for YCC in Alaska I was able to experience old growth forest. In New England (and perhaps a high percentage in the lower 48) there is very little that has not been cut. I firmly believe that we should strive to have programs that preserve select acreage of a meaningful size that is allowed to grow/evolve naturally into what I choose to describe as a natural classroom/experience for the many generations to follow. Its natural evolution itself may be valuable to environmental researchers over the years. Programs that encourage private landowners to set aside sizable tracts of land indefinitely would be an investment and a gift lasting far into the future. Thank you Kelly Kahler Wilmington, Vermont”

Mike Morin, Concord (New Hampshire)

Topic Areas: •Natural & Working Lands

Attachment: [Vermont Climate Action Plan Comment Letter 12-2-24](#)

Doug Patterson, Shoreham

Topic Areas: •Natural & Working Lands

Attachment: [FSC United States](#)

“No mention of Forest Stewardship Council certification as a means to get to climate resilient forests and forestry.”

Seth Clifford, Starksboro

Topic Areas: •Natural & Working Lands

Attachment: [Seth Clifford Comments 11-2024](#)

“Please see attached comments regarding 11/13 Agriculture & Ecosystems subcommittee listening session.”

Kelly Stettner, Springfield

Topic Areas: •Natural & Working Lands, Water, •Electricity

“Consider that current CO2 levels are at 0.04% of the atmosphere; at 0.025%, plant life begins to suffer and die. Growing the soil is the best multi-purpose tactic we can employ to improve our resilience to climate change - we must realize that it is dangerous to pull apart the climate gestalt and attempt to make drastic adjustments to individual pieces, without understanding how those changes will impact the whole. We need to focus on building/growing our soil - capturing stormwater on and in the land is going to provide the largest mitigation factor against flooding damage. Drainage infrastructure is important, but infiltration is the key to mitigating floods as well as droughts, providing contiguous habitat for wildlife, and managing the temperature and moisture across wide swaths of the Vermont landscape. Deep, healthy, living soil is our foundation for everything. Development should be done in alignment with goals of planting native vegetation after land clearing is complete - tie it to the permitting process as part of a "stormwater management plan" for every developer/builder. Stop draining/filling wetlands, re-establish these important natural sponges everywhere it is feasible and pragmatic to do so. Incorporate permeable paving, ditch "turnouts," and other green development practices; move solar projects to existing buildings rather than clearing dozens of acres of vital forest. Promote small-scale solar rather than industrial-scale. Engage and empower and fund the Natural Resource Conservation Districts to support the vital grassroots-level work they do with soil and water conservation, as well as with the ag community.”

Ashley Adams, Burlington

Topic Areas: •Natural & Working Lands, •Biofuels

“Dear Members of the Ag & Ecosystems Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council, I am a Burlington resident and 7th generation Vermonter. I grew up in rural Vermont with a deep appreciation for the forested land we were fortunate to live on. My mother wishes to steward that land for the benefit of all by allowing it to grow old so it will continue to sequester carbon, support biodiversity, mitigate floods, and clean our air and water. She no longer wishes to enroll the parcel in the Use Value Appraisal program because it does not allow a no cut option, even with its recent changes. This is an unfortunate position that I suspect many forest owners will encounter. I respectfully ask you today to offer your robust support for the following proposals that I believe you are considering:

- Stop logging all public lands in Vt
- Protect mature forests

- Place a moratorium on utility-scale biomass burning
- Place a moratorium on importing biofuels
- Reform UVA to allow any landowner to opt for passive management
- Introduce bio-regional planning (integrate this approach into state-wide land-use planning and to give the charge and funding to implement to the NRCD watershed districts)
- Recommend that every town or municipal forest establish old forest reserves (no logging zones)

Thank you for your service to the state and for making thoughtful, science informed decisions as we all work to preserve a habitable world for our children and future generations.”

Alan Coulter, Weybridge

Topic Areas: •Natural & Working Lands, •Biofuels

“Greetings and thank you for your work! I strongly support the following recommendations to the Climate Council. Time is of the essence, and bold actions supported by science is in order.

- Stop logging all public lands in Vt Protect mature forests
- Place a moratorium on utility-scale biomass burning
- Place a moratorium on importing biofuels
- Reform UVA to allow any landowner to opt for passive management
- Introduce bio-regional planning (integrate this approach into state-wide land-use planning and to give the charge and funding to implement to the NRCD watershed districts)
- Recommend that every town or municipal forest establish old forest reserves (no logging zones) Thank you”

Sarah Henshaw, Stowe

Topic areas: •Flood Resilience, •Housing

Attachment: [LTRG Legislative Document 2024](#)

“I appreciate the ability to provide feedback and comment on the VT CAP. As the Coordinator for the Lamoille Area Recovery Network (Lamoille's long-term recovery group focused on flood recovery), I appreciate the need to support mitigation and adaptation as we recover from the 2023 and 2024 flooding events. One of the things that consistently catches my attention is the desire to support buying out homes in flood plains - which is appropriate. Yet, the question that has repeatedly been asked of me when discussing buyouts with homeowners is - where do I go? We have a housing crisis. Many of the homeowners in the buyout are older, have owned their home for decades, and are on set incomes. The state needs a comprehensive plan for how to safely move homeowners out of flood plains AND find new, affordable housing in safe areas of the same town/ county. In creating resilience plans for towns and regions, I would strongly encourage this committee to consider safe relocation communities, especially in towns with higher numbers of buyouts. Yes, funding would be needed, and so would technical expertise on how to create safe communities. In addition, this plan seems to be lacking in considerations of how to keep folks in their homes....weatherization and improved and efficient use of resources in homes is merely part of this. What we don't have is the

technical expertise and funding to support households to stay in their homes that continually are flooded, yet not in mapped flood plains or the homeowner is unable to move. Elevations are only one piece of this solution. Both of these comments might seem too micro-level for a comprehensive plan across the state, but individuals and homeowners are critical stakeholders. In a state with such an acute housing crisis, there is a strong need to help folks in buyouts or in continually flooding homes find durable and sustainable solutions so they don't leave the state or become homeless. Thank you for your consideration.”

Jules O’Guin, Springfield

Topic Areas: •Housing, •Equity & Justice, ◦Affordability

Attachment: [Housing & Homelessness Alliance of Vermont’s 2024 Point-in-Time Count](#)

“I am writing to encourage you to fully and thoroughly consider how any planned actions you may take to address climate change may contribute to or worsen the housing crisis which Vermont is currently facing. Vermont currently has one of the highest populations of homeless residents in the country. The number of homeless Vermonters has greatly increased in recent years. The cost of housing has gone up so steeply in the past 5 years that it has pushed Vermonters who have never before struggled with housing at all out of their housing completely. I am asking you to fully consider the 3500+ homeless Vermonters who currently are unhoused, and what your policies will do for them. In all things, there must be balance. Yes, we need to address climate change so that we can all have a future in which our lives are livable. However, we also need to consider how many people's lives currently are not livable and how the policies we create contribute to those unlivable lives which people are suffering through right now. Idealism is a fantastic tool which motivates people to put their best effort into making the world a better place as they see it. Unfortunately, we do not live in an ideal world, and we never will. Do not lose sight of the world we live in while attempting to create the world you want to see. Consider the consequences of your policies. Utilize your capacity for empathy. Our society faces a great many challenges, many of which are delicately and intricately entwined. Please consider this delicate network that is our society and build solutions that do not negatively impact other areas in which we are already experiencing devastating losses.”

Kate Kinney, St. Albans Bay

Topic Areas: •Transportation ◦Electricity

“I am concerned about the push to change over all vehicles to electric. 1) We cannot even keep up with the electricity requirements now. Are we improving the grid enough to have everyone charging cars too? 2) I’ve heard we are doing a lot of damage to the earth in trying to extract all of the minerals required to build electric cars. How do you respond to that?”

Chuck Breiner, Bennington

Topic Areas: •Transportation

“Please continue (and expand) e-bike incentive programs. Please continue / expand bike/pedestrian infrastructure programs.”

Patty Davis, Essex

Topic Areas: •Transportation

“I am very interested in climate goals to decrease diesel emissions from trucks. If trucking companies do not go green, then they should not be on our roadways in VT, especially close to residential zones. They should stay on State Highways and build their own access roads to their industries, not double up on Essex Town Highways abutting largest residential zone like ours. The issue with Designated Town Centers trying to get the semi trucks out of their town centers, pushes the pollution problem to village residential areas that chose to live away from State Highways for that reason. (Be far from truck routes). Where are the trucks supposed to go if they are pushed away from Designated Town Center that happens to be along a State Highway? Route 15 state highway since 1959. What rights do residents have living in residential zoned areas outside of new designated town center but still in sewer core? They assumed by choosing home away from State Highway that they would have their health, safety and general welfare guaranteed. Regarding Chittenden County 2025 to 2030 climate goals, let’s start by keeping diesel trucks out of Vermont and allowing green semi truck companies travel our roadways. Otherwise, we will continue to go the wrong direction.”

Ralph Culver, South Burlington

Topic Areas: •Transportation, •Equity & Justice

“As the owner and driver of a fully electric vehicle, I was disappointed to learn recently that many Vermont EV incentives have lapsed. These must be reinstated and funding needs to be secured to create similar and other incentives. Low- and middle-income households need to be able to afford fully electric transportation, and such incentives are crucial to making that possible. Also, as the owner and driver of a fully electric vehicle and someone who lives in multi-unit housing, the state needs to do a better job in general building out charging infrastructure, and in particular charging that serves residents of multi-unit housing. This is particularly true of the state's more densely populated areas where this type of housing is endemic. I live in South Burlington, in a 60-unit condo high rise with a basement garage having assigned parking spaces for residents. It is impossible to create individual charging in-garage for EV owners living in this kind of setup, and difficult, complicated, and very expensive to install Level 2 chargers outside of the building in either roadside or public parking-lot locations. The state should devote greater effort and resources to solving these types of charging problems that severely hinder EV adoption. Sincerely, Ralph Culver South Burlington”

Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission Staff

Topic Areas: •Transportation

Attachment: [Comments on Vermont Climate Action Plan Transportation Sector](#)

Robert Erickson

Topic Areas: •Flood resilience, •Transportation, •Housing, •Electricity

“In response to more rainfall, we have to stop building in floodplains so the state will need to buy the properties at a value where the owner can purchase another home. This has been done in several locations already but maybe the state should start working on this now before the next flood moving communities away from the river banks. Electric cars are not the answer. The environmental impact is higher than gasoline especially in the mining and recycling costs. Lithium is also not a renewable resource and not recyclable. Forcing the electric car is not solving the problem just creating new ones. They work for some people but not all. Don't use force and dictatorship with us but provide incentives for those who think it is the best way to go. Ten years ago you had us all get rid of our light bulbs and switch to fluorescent then LED as we needed to REDUCE our electric needs only to tell us now to get an electric car and use MORE electricity. Thank you for taking the time to read this.”

Lorraine Zaloom, Essex

Topic Areas: •Transportation, •Electricity, •Natural & Working Lands

“Can we also zone industrial areas to interstate proximal regions to help reduce emissions and the very real health harms from diesel fumes, noise and run off into our waters from our roads? Diesel is very toxic to residents, typically lower income, who live along these residential routes like we are experiencing here in Essex. Our planning commission continues to build out distribution industries in Saxon Hill which is surrounded by residential. The bottom of Saxon Hill, by the Winooski River was clear cut for solar panels instead of just having them installed on the many warehouse builds leased out by same developer. Would make way more sense to stop clear cutting for solar panels instead of requiring them in parking lots/roof tops.”

Jenevra Wetmore, Strafford

Topic Areas: •Electricity, Rural

“As the state works to achieve climate goals, off-grid residents are being left behind. I live in a 1798 farmhouse on 70 Wetmore Road, which is a road that has no electricity. I will never be able to get an electric vehicle or heat pump because I am off-grid, and I can't get rid of my propane entirely because I need it for cooking and my hot water heater. I am the Executive Director of Sustainable Woodstock and am very involved in climate work, and it frustrates me to no end that I am still using a gas car and have propane at my home. My house has been here long before power was run in VT and I have no idea why power was never run here. I asked GMP how much it would cost me to run power and they quoted me ~\$110,000. I inherited this home from my uncle, who inherited it from

my grandparents, and I work a nonprofit job. I likely will never be able to afford this high cost. The irony is that I have EC fiber– it was run on this road when my uncle lived here and I know he didn't pay much for it. Strafford has an unusually high number of off-grid residents for the Upper Valley, which is something I learned in a GMP presentation a few years ago. We really need to include assistance for folks to get on the grid in future climate bills, because folks like me are otherwise unable to transition to clean technologies (even with the 23 solar panels I have here that power my home). Other Wetmore Road residents are very interested in getting on the grid, but they are even further up the road than I am, which would make it even more expensive. There is an older couple that wants to live here full time, but cannot because they wouldn't have enough power in the winter. There is a young family that is growing and will need more power in the future. Generally, we all feel left behind and ignored in the transition to clean energy.”

Abby Long, East Burke

Topic Areas: Recreation, Economy, Rural

Attachment: [Kingdom Trails Climate Plan Public Comment 11.2024](#)

Judy Kowalczyk, Ripton

Topic Areas: Economy, Compact Settlement, •Natural and Working Lands, •Electricity

“Great webinar today concerning businesses and the Climate Action Plan. I did share some words, but to reiterate in writing: 1) Whatever incentives we can offer small businesses to promote distributed renewable energy (primarily solar) and decrease climate-warming fuels (with weatherizing/heat pumps, electric-car infrastructure, etc.), the better. However, in doing so we cannot burden small businesses with more taxes or fees. We want to make it easier for younger people to come to Vermont and open small businesses. 2) Yes, we need affordable housing, but I'm with the VT Legislature in that it needs to be built in areas closer to centers of towns, not out on the rural landscape, and obviously, not near flood zones. Act 250 continues to be very important and must remain strong. Because Act 250, Vermont still holds much of its defenses against climate warming (wetlands, forests, mountains, etc.) and we must not forget that fact. 3) All new infrastructure that is built must include renewable energy (primarily solar) and energy-saving techniques (even if building affordable housing). 4) As difficult as it may be in the coming years, we must remain vigilant in the conservation of our forests, waters and lands. Our gem is Vermont, our best defense against climate warming is nature itself, and in the long run, our natural resources will be what is most valuable. The loss of connection to nature and the ensuing neglect of our Earth/home, is an underlying factor producing the ignorance leading to the deeply disturbing outcome of the 2024 election. As Vermonters, we must always favor respect for our natural surroundings over disrespect, and integrity and education over lies and ignorance. These traits: integrity, respect, care for our home and the nature surrounding, truth and knowledge, are what make Vermont so exceptional. Please confirm receipt of comments above, and thank you for the public comment opportunity!”

Diane Foulds, Windsor

Topic Areas: Municipal Planning

“This plan is hopelessly buzz-wordy, vague, watered down, and acronym-choked. It should be shortened into ONE PAGE. In one word, here's what VT's municipalities need: instructions. I.e., what they should get busy on, when. A plain old manual, telling how to accomplish each step. This should have been done at the start. No wonder we're so behind.”

M. Maxwell

Topic Areas: •Flood resilience

“The Program looks good. There is one aspect of buildings which should not be overlooked: foundations. Yes, our climate will continue to heat. We will also be receiving exceptional amounts of rain which will result in significant loss of trees, forests and soils to exceptionally saturated soils. Any new construction should have especially deep footings to hold buildings against soil loss around foundations. Also needed will be site design to divert water flow away from foundations, roadways and other homes and buildings.”

Ronald Pastore, Whitingham

Topic Areas: •Policy, •Flood resilience

“The GWSA was ill-advised and must be amended. VT can achieve no appreciable results in fighting climate change and any thinking that it can is merely virtue signaling. I don't want any of my tax dollars wasted defending lawsuits from political action groups who are waiting to take advantage of these unattainable mandates. Amend the language in the GWSA to state carbon reduction is a goal not a mandate. Instead of futile attempts to fight climate change, direct resources toward combating the effects of a changing climate. Flood resilience should be first on that list and is something that can be accomplished to a greater degree than any hopes of stopping climate change.”

Beth and Sam Holland, Glover

Topic Areas: •Policy, ◦Affordability

“With a population of about 670,000 it seems to us that this big focus on climate action is laughable. Forget the 2030 goal - it's unrealistic and unreachable. Fossil fuels keep many alive in the winter - plain and simple. It's hard to believe that these proposals would amount to more than an insignificant statistical blip on a huge map of BILLIONS of humans. Actions you take will affect the financial wellbeing of regular Vermonters far more than the world's climate! Some of the policies we've heard will only lead to hardship among those who can't afford increased fuel costs and ever higher taxes. More people will leave VT - creating a death spiral which is already beginning, as businesses, schools and hospitals close. We hear young workers saying they would love to move elsewhere, go someplace with more opportunity. Conservation and wise management coupled with available innovation as it becomes available is always a good plan. Crushing taxes only drive

people out. And BTW, now we're in our 70's and we have noticed that much of what the experts claim is gospel truth, the cutting edge of science, turns out to be false 5, 10 or 20 years down the road!"

Troy Morton, Waterbury Center

Topic Areas: ◦Affordability

"We pay so much to live in VT that we are going broke. Taxes on fuels, fees, then property taxes . The CAP update needs to understand that real people cannot afford your global utopian goals. Russia, China or India could fire up a new coal plant and all this effort would be wasted."

Donald R Pepe, Whiting

Topic Areas: ◦Affordability, •Policy

"6 years is not realistic to cut emissions in half . Vermont should not punish its citizens trying to solve a world problem. forcing oil companies to pay for climate change means forcing us all to pay thru higher cost of energy that corporations will pass along. I am all for clean air but lets try to achieve it while keeping VT affordable."

Sue Zani, Brookfield

Topic Areas: Waste, Education

"There is so much waste generated in schools, focus a program on them. From using alternative power sources, to using the students to generate ideas to reduce waste, and power electricity for their school, to educating them and motivating them to modify their own lives going forward into the future. It is often those that know the least about how things (energy generation) should work, that generate the most innovative and novel ideas."

Amanda Headley, St. Albans

Topic Areas: Waste

"I would like the fact that Composting is supposed to be required and it is not enforced. If we started with Landlords proving that they are providing the receptacles to their tenants, that would be a step in the right direction. Thank you, Amanda Headley"