

Name	Town	State	Comment
Nancy Detra	Guilford	Vermont	We need to support local farmers so that we are not having to have so much food shipped to us.
Kelly Ault	Middlesex	Vermont	Please see submission from the Vermont Outdoor Business Alliance
Evelyn Seidner	Burlington	Vermont	T4VT Climate Action Plan Comments
Lauren Hierl	Montpelier	Vermont	See attached document for comments from VNRC and VCV on the draft 2025 Climate Action Plan.
Annette Smith	DANBY	Vermont	Letter to Climate Council
Ben Edgerly Walsh	Montpelier	Vermont	See attached. Please note that these are comments submitted on behalf of the Vermont Public Interest Research Group (VPIRG), not comments submitted by myself as an individual.
Jennifer Rushlow on behalf of CLF Vermont	Montpelier	Vermont	See attached comment letter.
Lisa Moir	Westminster	Vermont	DO NOT include wood pellets.... As a Renewable resource ... in the plan. Calling them Bio- Fuel is GREENWASHING! These pellets were originally made from upcycled/ scrap materials. That is long gone They are now Logging Forests for the production of pellets. And we are subsidizing this! The county foresters... are an arm of the tree companies/ loggers... and the pellet manufacturers... It's ALL CARBON intensive,
Jamey Fidel	MONTPELIER	Vermont	Please accept the attached comments from the Forest Partnership in regard to the draft priority actions for the updated Climate Action Plan. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Robb Kidd	Montpelier	Vermont	Sierra Club Comment on Climate Action Plan
Nicholas Persampieri	Burlington	Vermont	I submitted the attached comments to the Climate Council in December 2023, but noticed that they are not included in the record of submitted comments. Please consider them and include them in the record. Thank you.
David L Mccolgin	Charlotte	Vermont	I strongly urge the Climate Council to do what it is tasked to do: craft a climate action plan that reduces GHG on a scale and timeline required by law. The Council should support a cross-sector mitigation policy that will require the fossil fuel industry to make clean energy affordable for all Vermonters. It is crucial that Vermont meet its climate commitments. We have no time to wait, and no excuse for further delay.

Catherine Kidder	West Newbury	Vermont	<p>I would ask that you exclude all forms of biofuels, including biomass, green hydrogen, and wood. Unintended consequences of the proposed biochar plant in Lyndon are unknown; table the proposal. Local, local low-emission solutions (weatherization, community solar and wind, thermal networks) should be prioritized.</p> <p>Increase small towns' capacity to develop a viable energy plan, including applying for and administering grants and implementation. Increase funding for regional planning commissions.</p> <p>I commend the plan for its attention to keeping energy affordable and accessible for all.</p> <p>Thank you for making this process of citizen review possible and impactful.</p>
Kenneth M Martin Jr	South Burlington	Vermont	<p>People should have the right to choose with the state telling them what they expect of us. Limiting options and restricting choices is forcing Vermont and its residents into a higher expense that we cannot sustain!!</p>
Leslie Swackhamer	South Burlington	Vermont	<p>Thanks for this opportunity. I attended a listening session. I request that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Climate councilors do what they were appointed to do – craft a climate action plan that reduces greenhouse gases on the scale and timeline required by law. It's easy to say it's too hard- but your job is to find a way. So many great people on this board- please do this! 2. For a plan that adds up to our legal mandates, the council needs to support a cross-sector mitigation policy that will require the fossil fuel industries that have caused this crisis to make an affordable, clean energy future possible for all Vermonters. One such policy is a Cap & Invest program. Affordable clean energy should be our future. I hope you will craft accordingly.
Barbara C Cocherell	Fairlee	Vermont	<p>I urge Vermont's Climate Council to create an action plan that meets or exceeds the requirements of the Global Warming Solutions Act!!!</p>
Jenel Ronn	Rutland	Vermont	<p>Thank you for the time and effort that went into yesterday's presentation. I appreciate the work being done to address the climate crisis, especially here in Vermont, and I'm glad to see these conversations taking place.</p> <p>That said, I found the structure of the session challenging. The flip books outlining the proposals across four categories were informative in theory, but the limited time to review just one in detail made it difficult to engage meaningfully. Sharing these materials in advance could have made the session more productive and allowed for deeper discussion.</p> <p>While the breadth of information was substantial, the presentation lacked specificity—particularly around data, research, and measurable impact. As a result, it was difficult to assess or provide informed input.</p> <p>I appreciated the analogy shared by a fellow attendee: that addressing the climate crisis is like mopping up a flooded kitchen without turning off the faucet. Our action plan needs to identify and prioritize the “faucet” strategies—root causes—based on expert guidance, while also investing in the “mops”: workforce development, education, and youth engagement.</p> <p>Lastly, I have concerns about the implementation and enforcement of future climate legislation. Without control over funding and enforcement mechanisms, how effective will these proposals be? In my own community of Rutland, I've seen environmental violations go unchecked despite existing laws. We need real accountability and stronger follow-through to ensure that legislation leads to meaningful change.</p>
Lauren A Ebersol	Burlington	Vermont	<p>This plan is utterly important - both because of the required action from the Global Warming Solutions Act and the current federal administration. With consideration for the latter, I urge that as many actions that can be quickly implemented are prioritized. Additionally, looking at the current economic uncertainty and general energy poverty that many Vermonters face, ensuring that solutions are prioritized for low-income and high risk populations to ensure that they are not left behind or left footing a higher bill.</p>

Linda Gray	Norwich	Vermont	Broadly, I want the Climate Council to follow the law: write a climate action plan that reduces greenhouse gasses on the scale and timeline required by the GWSA. Among the April Draft Priority Actions, I think cap-and-invest programs will be effective in raising money to fund the switch to clean energy for ALL Vermonters. As a town energy committee member since 2008, I am enthusiastic about the Education priority for energy coaches/navigators; for years I've seen the need for this for our residents. The Electricity and Financing recommendations are important as well.
Jeremy Roy	Bennington	Vermont	The Climate Action Plan sessions appear to involve only a small fraction of Vermont's population. With over 640,000 stakeholders, we need to ensure public participation, even if participation is simply to express disinterest, as what we do will affect everyone's future.
Greg Dennis	Cornwall	Vermont	I favor protecting all the current Vermont climate protections and adding a "cap and invest" policy. Please act to preserve and implement the GWSA and Renewable Energy Standard among other protections.
Henry Amistadi	Duxbury	Vermont	The cross sector mitigation section is missing broadband & smart connected energy systems. A major municipal rural broadband revolution is underway that will stimulate business, work from home opportunities, and change energy patterns (consider energy savings during the pandemic). Communication instead of transportation. The Climate Council should coordinate with the Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB). Smart connected buildings, industry, and utilities save energy, reduce demand and carbon pollution. Managing energy with information.
Denise Greene	Hyde Park	Vermont	Under Cross-Sector Mitigation - Electricity Priority 4. Our small utility needs support for infrastructure upgrades. We need to make upgrades, but we must keep electricity rates low. Net metering is important to residents who can afford to do it. Low and middle-income folks are not getting support or funding help for net metering, and our utilities need help storing electricity rather than buying it from other places. Please look harder at community solar, net metering, virtual power plants, and microplants to encourage us to create a more resilient grid. Perhaps small-scale utilities are no longer serving our needs. Priority 7: Please prioritize option A. Priority 8: Please prioritize securing funding for comprehensive weatherization focused on low- and moderate-income households. Our residents in Hyde Park are asking for this. As an Energy Committee we are working to help implement it. Funding for training contractors would help us. Our High School Technical Training Center GMTCC could use funding to create a program and recruit students. Priority 9, 10, 11 and 12 Please prioritize, these are very important short term goals that need attention now.
Terry Alan Bosworth	Westford	Vermont	Reducing CO2 emissions needs to be our top priority. All of us will have to make sacrifices in our way of life and will have to bear the cost. We must stop global warming and stop climate change. Please give Vermont a climate action plan that at least meets, if not exceeds the Global Warming Solutions Act.
Luce Hillman	Shelburne	Vermont	See attached memo

anne sarcka	Montpelier	Vermont	I fully endorse the letter sent by Interfaith Power and Light to your council. It begins We charge the Climate Council with meeting the legal requirements and timelines of the Climate Action Plan and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that people across Vermont in all walks of life are participating in the transformational publicly funded efforts to achieve short and long term climate goals. • Increase public access to community solar with strong financial support for low and middle income home owners and renters. Etc.
Barbara Huibregtse	Danville	Vermont	1) Reduce the list to a manageable list so there can be desperately needed success reported. 2) On (#1) Cap and Invest- specify "other significant emitters" so fuel suppliers do not feel singled out 3) Reduce transportation emissions by promoting rail freight over trucking to VRS 4) (#8) Prioritize Weatherization over EV's – thermal is leading transportation in GHG and I think the clean cars standard for Vermont will be gone very soon 5) Workforce development and weatherization training my encourage young people to stay in Vermont, especially if housing can be arranged.
Yves Gonnet	HUNTINGTON	Vermont	I really think the RBES and CBES should have some real enforcement teeth behind them. Short Term Rentals should be regulated and taxed like hotels. Reduce the number of acres to qualify for Current Use programs from 25 to 10. Actually enforce restricting farms from planting or damaging riparian buffer areas. Stop burning things including biomass to create electricity. Use inflation adjusted repair and replacement costs when calculating "cost effectiveness" of new electric and communications infrastructure projects, upgrades and repairs versus resilient alternatives. Prioritize health cost savings over fuel costs. Where heating is specifically mentioned and cooling might also be a concern make sure to include "cooling" in the verbiage.
Liza Cochran	Lincoln	Vermont	Hello, I'm writing to urge Vermont's Climate Council to update the state's Climate Action Plan in accordance with the requirements of the Global Warming Solutions Act. There has never been a more important time for Vermont to step up as a leader, including on climate. Thank you, Liza Cochran
350Vermont	Burlington	Vermont	Please see attached.
Andy Robinson	Plainfield	Vermont	I live in Plainfield and spent time mucking out basements and supporting my neighbors after the flood last summer. We saw similar efforts in Montpelier and Barre in 2023, mostly organized by informal, ad hoc networks. The climate action plan needs to honor and include these mutual aid networks that already exist, a little below the surface, in our communities. Perhaps that means identifying the organizers and "hubs" in each community and supporting them with stipends and other resources. I don't see this reflected in the plan.
Robert Popp	Marshfield	Vermont	At last night's meeting in Barre at least one participant downplayed the importance of protecting ecological services. I strongly disagree with this short sighted, ill-informed opinion. I acknowledge that ecological services are not flashy and mostly function behind the scenes as opposed to some more direct climate mitigation measures, and hence their value can be easily overlooked. Actions that prevent or ameliorate damage are always difficult to quantify and hence justify, but prevention is always the most cost-effective alternative. One needs only to look at the Village of Brandon that was saved from more severe flooding during the 2023 flooding by the flood storing capacity of upstream wetlands. Now more than ever we need to preserve our forests to sequester as much CO2 as possible. I applaud the Council's decision to include the 30 x 30 initiative among its goals and encourage them to make it a priority.

Paul T. Stephens	Huntington	Vermont	please ensure a climate plan that meets the requirements of the Global Warming Solutions Act
Barbara Forauer	Hinesburg	Vermont	We all can see what is happening with our changing climate. Less snow, more natural disasters, animal species finding it harder to survive, and on and on. We in Vermont need to do all we can to protect our state. I ask that you please create a Climate Action Plan that meets the requirements of the Global Warming Solutions Act. No need to recreate the wheel but use what is already there.
Vito Macaluso	Tinmouth	Vermont	I am all for cleaner air, the cleanest air I experienced in my years in Vermont were during the pandemic shut down years, and the sad part is that we in Vermont, a state of 600 thousand residents, cannot do enough to address a global problem, we need to make the solution a global one.
Carrie Nelson	Guilford	Vermont	Please commit to creating an action plan that meets the requirements of the Global Warming Solutions Act.
Linda Beebe Potter	St Albans City	Vermont	<p>Thank you for your work on the Climate Action Plan and related listening sessions, both are very much appreciated. As Vermonter's, we have experienced the devastation of climate change ; via flooding, hotter summers, less snowfall due to milder winters to name a few. In 2020 Vermont codified its climate goals in the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA). This is established law, and I am overall concerned with the attempts to role it back. When creating the plan due July 1, 2025 please maintain fidelity to the goals of the GWSA as written into law 2020.</p> <p>I am a citizen, not a scientist, and as I understand it Vermont needs to develop a Cap and Invest program. Cap and Invest would both reduce reduction of carbon emissions, as well as raise revenues to reinvest in infrastructure and financial support for low and moderate income Vermonterers.</p>
Susan	Starksboro	Vermont	Please create an Action Plan that meets the requirements of the Global Warming Solutions Act.
Lynn Silloway	Pittsford	Vermont	Vermonters want a Climate Action Plan that meets the requirements of the Global Warming Solutions Act!
Joan Nash	Arlington	Vermont	<p>We live in some unpredictable and stressful times. We don't know how much funding will actually be available to move ahead with whatever plans come out of these meetings toward a climate action plan. It's important to stress that we must do no further harm to the environment -- in forestalling climate change as well as protecting people, flora and fauna from pollution of many kinds. Climate councilors have a mandate to craft a climate action plan that reduces greenhouse gasses on the scale and timeline required by Global Warming Solutions Act.</p> <p>The council needs put forth a mitigation policy that requires the fossil fuel industry that has caused this crisis to make reparations in the form of clean energy in the future for Vermont. Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles by continuing to monitor and maintain Vermont's adoption of the California Advanced Clean Cars II (ACC II) and Advanced Clean Trucks. Supporting vehicle electrification ensuring long-term, consistent funding for EV incentives to low- and moderate-income car purchasers which aligns with estimates provided for the VT Agency of Transportation's February 2024 Clean Transportation Incentive Programs Report; as well as guidance from the February 2025 Legislative Report on Vermont Clean Transportation Incentive Programs.</p> <p>Supporting vehicle electrification investment for the equitable deployment of fast charging and Level 2 charging stations to levels needed to meet the modeling done in the Pathways 2.0 Report and as estimated in the Agency of Transportation's January 2025 report. On a personal note, I just bought a new car and purchased a hybrid, I would have loved to go with an EV, however, the infrastructure isn't ready yet. I can't stress how important this is. I have a friend that finally sold her EV after finding herself stuck without a charging station and in need of towing several times. This is not going to work unless we get the charging stations in place to adequately support EVs. A solid climate action plan needs to be planned down to the consumer level, or consumers will become a part of the solution that we all need.</p>

Catherine Crawley	Stowe	Vermont	<p>Hello, my name is Catherine Crawley. I'm from Stowe and chair the Town of Stowe Energy Committee. As the destruction that human-caused climate change becomes more and more apparent in my town, particularly the devastating flooding of the last few years, it is imperative that we do everything we can as a state to put forth ambitious solutions that meet the requirements and timelines of the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA). The following are policy recommendations that I strongly favor:</p> <p>Join a cap-and-invest program. For a plan that adds up to our legal mandates, the council needs to support a cross-sector mitigation policy that will require the fossil fuel industries that have caused this crisis to make an affordable clean energy future possible for all Vermonters. A cap-and-invest program would establish a declining cap on greenhouse gas emissions delivering cleaner air and limiting potential costs to Vermonters. Such a program would yield sizeable emissions reductions while catalyzing a clean energy economy for Vermont.</p> <p>Incentivize community solar. It is essential that the Climate Action Plan adhere to the goals identified in the GWSA and VT's Renewable Energy Standard (RES). The RES calls for generating 20% of our electricity with in-state, new (post-2010) renewable power by 2035, with another 20% from regional renewables. The PUC has been increasingly obstructive about rate setting and siting. Instead, the PUC should set incentives and pricing that pushes us toward that goal. Further, groups and communities should have the opportunity to create community solar projects, of a reasonable size, that create a solar ownership opportunity for the hundreds of thousands of Vermonters who live in shade or whose housing circumstances prevent on-site or rooftop solar. Technology and policy tools that expand the use of battery storage, vehicle to grid storage, micro-level load management, microgrid, and others should be aggressively incentivized.</p> <p>Above all, climate councilors should do what they were appointed to do – craft a climate action plan that reduces greenhouse gasses on the scale and timeline required by Global Warming Solutions Act.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to submit my comments.</p>
Matthew LeFluer	Alburgh	Vermont	I Support Everything With efficiency and affordability for cost saving climate promoting tools systems and equipment
Alexandra Ernst	Arlington	Vermont	Thank you for allowing for comments. As mine are lengthier, I will submit them as an uploaded file below.
David Gusakov	Bristol	Vermont	<p>In my view there is no more pressing issue today than the slow-moving but immensely destructive climate catastrophe we are currently living through. I am completely dismayed by Governor Scott's recent abandonment of the Vermont law setting out the timetable for reducing carbon emissions in the state. His stated reasoning (we can't afford it) could not be more short-sighted; what we save now will be lost multiple times over in the next 20 years, along with lives and complete disruption of normal living.</p>
Fran Putnam	Weybridge	Vermont	<p>This is my highest priority for the Climate Action Plan: State agencies should eliminate biomass as an energy source and stop referring to it as renewable energy. All new biomass electric and thermal energy facilities should be disallowed.</p> <p>Biomass is phasing out across the Northeast:</p> <p>New York removed biomass from the definition of “renewable energy” in 2019.</p> <p>Massachusetts removed woody biomass from its Renewable Portfolio Standard in 2022.</p> <p>Connecticut began phasing down RECs for biomass plants in 2022.</p> <p>New Hampshire ended subsidies for six biomass plants in 2019.</p> <p>At the very least, we need you to ask the Legislature to fund and undertake, as soon as possible, the study requested by the Climate Council in its biomass addendum regarding the implications of biomass as an energy source. In the meantime, enact a moratorium on approvals of new biomass utility-scale electric energy facilities, especially the proposed biomass plant in the NE Kingdom. Logging for biomass is depleting our forests at an alarming rate and is working against the important carbon sequestration that our forests provide, as well as depleting the biodiversity they provide.</p>

Pam Parker	St Johnsbury	Vermont	The Climate Action Plan, discussed at the Hardwick listening session on April 13, outlines clear goals for lowering greenhouse gas emissions. We need to continue pursuing emission reductions aggressively. This is not the time to “take our time”, slow down, make sure it’s affordable. We need to maintain and increase our forward progress. We can figure out equitable funding, if we keep thinkinhg
Anne C.	Jericho	Vermont	I have lived in Vermont for 30 years. Climate change is real and is already affecting Vermont, as exhibited by the warmer winters and heavier rainfalls. Although I have not read all of the Climate Action Plan, I am in favor of a plan for addressing climate change and was very pleased when Vermont proposed to take action. Thank you to the Vermont Climate Council for pursuing this important issue.
Michael Bald	Royalton	Vermont	Greetings, I am compelled to comment as yet another forest land management project unfolds. This time the goal is to chemically treat 262 National Forest acres above Silver Lake to prevent native red maple and beech from out-competing oak and chestnut. Although this example concerns Forest Service land, the same scenario occurs on private lands and at state properties (parks and forests). Sadly, the inclusion of PFAS forever chemicals in the pesticide formulations is never disclosed. The presence of these forever chemicals is a toxic legacy on top of the 5-fold CO2 footprint associated with pesticide production, distribution, and usage. Alternative management methods exist, but the freely chosen option repeatedly involves repeat chemical treatments. I submit that land managed in such fashion does not qualify as stewardship, and when the soil is degraded by drought and then chemical applications, I'm not even sure that should count as conserved land. If farms can be operated organically, why can't public land like forests be treated in the same manner? Disturbing to see how much of these toxins we use, and we wonder why the soils are so poor. Dead soil does not sequester carbon; it is time to move all lands forward to regenerative / organic management practices. Thank you.
Hillary Twining	Brattleboro	Vermont	Comments for Climate Council
Eric Thomas	Richmond	Vermont	I think our climate action plan needs to address the fact that while Vermont wants to - and should - be a leader in climate change mitigation, our proposed actions are both expensive per capita and limited in impact, when compared to larger states. Given that the federal government has abdicated its responsibility for the foreseeable future, the 24 states who are making climate commitments should work hand-in-hand to pool funding, share resources, and collectively make our money and impact go further than what Vermont can do alone.
Ann O'Hearn	Fairlee	Vermont	Protect the earth for our kids and grandkids
George Molla	So Burlington	Vermont	I totally support climate control action. ALSO: BAN SINGLE USE PLASTICS and disposable plastic packaging. BAN PLASTIC DRINK BOTTLES COMPLETELY There is no effective way to recycle them. BAN THE FALSELY ADVERTISED "EARTH FRIENDLY GREEN" DRINKG STRAWS AND ANYTHING ADVERTISED IN THAT MANNER. There are no facilities to process them anywhere in or near VT. Vendors and restaurants mistakenly just toss them in the usual recycle trash thinking they will decompose on their own. My salad mix and tea bags are even packaged in plastic !

Sarah	Plainfield	Vermont	Please honor our mother Earth by enacting this plan.
Janice McCann	Rochester	Vermont	Believe science, not trumps politics. Use common sense to make decisions. Help the earth heal. Tax the energy companies and AI that gobbles up resources.
James Wanner	Burlington	Vermont	I support your efforts, and I hope you get the best climate action plan you can get. Conformance with the Global Warming Solutions Act would be great.
Laura Gouthreau	St. Albans	Vermont	<p>Thank you for your leadership in updating Vermont's Climate Action Plan. I respect the complexities within which you must work, asking you to recognize the urgency in reducing Vermont's carbon emissions, aware that all Vermonters are in one way or another hampered by the effects of the climate crisis and paying the price.</p> <p>Here in Franklin County, Lake Champlain water temperatures have caused an existing water quality problem to intensify. Neighborhood folks who have never had air conditioning now need cooling. Wind and storm damage in towns now require huge resources at great expense. We are all paying for the effects of climate change, effects which will grow and intensify.</p> <p>My husband and I (one car seniors) were fortunate to receive a Vermont incentive to purchase a plug-in hybrid car which substantially limits emissions plus saves money. And our ten-unit St. Albans condo received a grant to have a building car charger installed. But alas, the good of these initiatives is being wiped out by a federal administration that has not only stifled further initiatives in battling the climate crisis, but is raising the stakes in promoting fossil fuels.</p> <p>Vermonters have proven ourselves strong and with your guidance will come to do what is best, sometimes forestalling immediate gratification for what is best in the long run.</p> <p>Rollbacks of the progress Vermont has made in climate action is not an option so I look forward to your concrete, workable plan that will lower emissions and get us where we need to be. My confidence is high that your Council, in collaboration with the many knowledgeable citizens in the field of climate resiliency, will meet required goals and be a beacon for others to follow!</p>
Thomas Simonet	Yardley	Pennsylvania	My wife and I own a house in Reading, VT, and we very much support the Climate Action Plan.
Doris Wendy Scott	Enosburg	Vermont	I want a Climate Action Plan that meets the requirements of the Global Warming Solutions Act.
Nancy Bretschneider	Shelburne	Vermont	Please support a vote for a Vermont Climate Action Plan that is in keeping with the Global Warming Solutions Act. This is of utmost importance to me, our children, and our future!
Sarah MacMillan	Burlington	Vermont	Climate Change is the greatest challenge facing humanity. I urge the Vermont Climate Council to remain focused on the urgent need to craft a Climate Action Plan that meets the requirements of the Global Warming Solutions Act. Many of the actions needed to soften the impacts of climate change will require a sustained effort over time. We can not afford to lose time, even when those leading the federal government are behaving in a foolish and reckless manner. Vermont should plan to create thermal energy networks and geexchange utilities in every single city and village. We should be improving our electrical infrastructure and heavily subsidizing EVs. We should protect the most vulnerable and build a new, sustainable economy. Saving money on property taxes now or fixating on short-term problems will not help us when floods and massive storms destroy our homes and damage our infrastructure. Please take bold action now to build a sustainable economy for Vermont. This should be the state's number one priority. I would like to leave my children and grandchildren a planet that is still habitable.
Helen Raber	Georgia	Vermont	Please do not abandon the goals of clean air, clean water and safe living standards embodied in our climate action plans! Trump doesn't speak for everyone. I know that global warming has created an environmental change which we must try to survive. Weather systems will only get stronger, excess logging only depletes the air and water quality, and fossil fuels only muddy everything. Please continue the work.

Rachael Shaw	Westminster West	Vermont	<p>Support the activities of the Rich Earth Institute in reclaiming urine for fertilizer.</p> <p>Encourage cluster housing development in already developed areas (reclaim some underutilized parking areas?), rather than fragmenting more forests.</p> <p>Property tax incentives for landowners to let forests be the excellent carbon sequesters that they are.</p> <p>Maybe an incentive for schools to play sports more locally rather than long travel to games</p> <p>Encourage children's sports teams to play more locally</p> <p>Should ski areas/snowmobile areas take some responsibility for all of the fuel consumption of their attendees driving there?</p> <p>Support weatherization projects for existing housing</p> <p>Continue to support rebate programs for efficient products</p> <p>I'd like to learn more about geothermal options</p> <p>Support for low and middle income folks to be able to afford high-efficiency products. (The rebate programs are great)</p> <p>Ban pesticides that harm pollinators.</p> <p>Ban rodenticides that harm rodent predators.</p> <p>Encourage alternatives to road salt.</p> <p>Expand support/protection for wetlands, beaver flowage areas and steep slopes.</p>
Lisa Lax	Burlington	Vermont	<p>It's really important that we adequately fund public transportation as part of an overall climate justice plan. Cutting bus routes will make it more difficult for people to rely on the bus to get to work, to school, stores, doctor appointments etc. we need to move away from reliance on individualized modes of transportation</p>
Sara Davis	Burlington	Vermont	<p>Dear Vermont Climate Councilors I urge you to prioritize public transit in the 2025 Climate Action Plan as transportation is the largest source of direct greenhouse gas emissions according to the EPA. Specifically, I ask you to support our local transit system, GMT. While private EVs work for some Vermonters that can afford private vehicles, we need to push forward a solution that works for ALL Vermonters. Highly efficient public transit not only reduces greenhouse gas emissions, but is a way to build a path to a more equitable state.</p>
Douglas Phinney	Burlington	Vermont	<p>Dear Vermont Climate Councilors, I urge you to prioritize public transit in the 2025 Climate Action Plan as transportation is the largest source of direct greenhouse gas emissions according to the EPA. Specifically, I ask you to support our local transit system, GMT. While private EVs work for some Vermonters that can afford private vehicles, we need to push forward a solution that works for ALL Vermonters. Highly efficient public transit not only reduces greenhouse gas emissions, but is a way to build a path to a more equitable state.</p>
Glenn r Kreig	Mt Holly	Vermont	<p>Being extremely concerned with environmental issues I definitely want a plan that supports the overall goals of the global warming solution with the caveats that the plan must be affordable to all Vermonters. Do not recommend steps and requirements that most Vermonters can't afford, logical for a state of only 600k people.</p> <p>Also, don't put current and future Vermonters under the burden of financial and other legal requirements that are not achievable as the current legislature has.</p>
Clove Haviva	BRISTOL	Vermont	<p>There is no new science saying it will be okay if we don't act as planned. So let's not reinvent the wheel. Please keep the commitments the state has already made: Write a Climate Action Plan that meets the requirements of the Global Warming Solutions Act. Thank you.</p>

Barbara McKay	North Ferrisburgh	Vermont	<p>It's vitally important that Vermont protect farmlands and forest lands. Preserving and extending open lands and forests means: 1) facing the fact that development must be limited to existing town centers - yes, even in the face of a housing crisis. Vermont needs to focus on ecological responsibility and its accompanying QUALITY of life - long the envy of other states. That should NOT be discarded by increasing the quantity of people here via reckless urbanization that none but developers want! 2) Because climate change is already affecting crop yields in major agricultural areas in the West and Midwest, Vermont's ability to produce food for locals is going to be increasingly important going forward. We should be planning for that NOW, by conserving farmland and increasing support for organic & regenerative methods to avoid strip-mining our meager soils, leaving them toxic & bereft of crucial microbial life needed for soil fertility. 3) We must resist pressure to increase logging in our forests, for the sake of their vital functions of carbon sequestration and wildlife habitat, not to mention their intrinsic value for human well-being. "Man does not live by bread alone!" 4) Obviously, we need to mitigate flood damage in an era of more frequent and larger storms. I don't know enough about how to do this, but it might help to remove pavement wherever practical, replacing it with plant life & soils that absorb water. This is another argument for limiting development. 5) Finally, the state should commit to finding ways to increase subsidies for clean energy and wider adoption of electric vehicles, so that ordinary people can afford to drop fossil fuels. As someone who's had an EV for 7 years and a heat pump for 2 years, I can attest that the price of electricity is steep, and needs to be corralled to enable those less fortunate to embrace electrification. We still use both our wood stove and our oil furnace, despite getting a heat pump, because the jump in electric bills is daunting. We're in our 70s & it's getting harder to handle wood. And I'd love to be done with the oil furnace, if only electricity were more affordable. Can the state regulate utility prices? I hope so!</p>
Carolyn Bronz	Bakersfield	Vermont	<p>My comment is - don't roll back on the law. Good work and planning has been done and is ongoing, we must not abandon it now. Stay strong for the fragile web of life.</p>
Michael R Beattie	Middletown Springs	Vermont	<p>Hello Thanks for this opportunity.</p> <p>First, Vermont is still fairly sane and healthy in a crazy culture. We try to do the right thing, and as a result, lead the way for our confused country. So let's keep up that role; it's very important to me, and many others, Vermonters.</p> <p>Second, It is extremely important to bring most of our Vermont citizens along with our efforts. It's tempting to rush ahead when we have a supermajority. But look what's happening on the federal level. Rushing ahead like that does not create progress, but friction. How to balance real and effective progress that also encourages other states while keeping our citizens on the same bus?</p> <p>Consider the criticisms of last year's legislation and see how to get the results we want - more conservation, less fossil burning - while minimizing the economic burden folks without lots of resources.</p> <p>Last, be strongly proactive about telling the story to all Vermonters. Try new words that will appeal to our emotional selves, for, after all, that's where decisions are made. Don't forget images!</p>
Liz Courtney	Wolcott	Vermont	<p>Overall, I'm super in favor of the proposed actions in this plan. The big question is how to fund everything, of course.</p> <p>Things I'm less in favor of are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Cap and invest since carbon offsets are not yet a reliable, verifiable solution, and it's like paying to get out of doing the actual work. 2) Anything that requires means testing -- it's burdensome for people to jump through hoops, and I have to imagine that many people will just not bother with programs that require means testing. <p>I'm particularly in favor of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Equitable weatherization of homes -- it's relatively low cost compared to things like building net new infrastructure (but again, prefer this sans means testing albeit with an effort to serve people most in need first) 2) Climate curriculum in schools - Suggest also teaching about the economics of it — how it's hard to do, the forces working against it, and why not adapting will hurt the economy. 3) Compact settlement infrastructures for water, sewer, developing away from flood risk.

Sally Jenks Roth	Bristol	Vermont	We must have a climate action plan in Vermont! We need to do it to meet the requirements of the Global Warming Solutions Act AND to benefit our children, grandchildren and the generations of Vermonters to come.
Katherine Valloch	Burlington	Vermont	I am one Vermonter of many who is counting on the Council to adopt an aggressive Climate Action Plan that meets, hopefully exceeds, the Global Warming Solutions Act. Thank you!
Kathryn M Youngdahl	GRANVILLE	Vermont	Even in these complicated economic and political times, it is essential for the future of those who have no voice - our children and our wild spaces and species - that we achieve the goals of the Global Warming Solutions Act. Specifically, we must continue to pursue the goals to reduce greenhouse gas pollution to 26% below 2005 levels by 2025.
Donna Leban	South Burlington	Vermont	Vermont needs to be very careful in how it approaches short term costs to achieve climate goals. The Clean Heat Standard is a "No GO" as it creates large and expensive administrative burdens. All taxes, and that's what they are no matter what you call them, need to be applied directly to costs incurred to achieve Fossil fuel reductions. Bio-fuels are also fine, but no tax money should go to support them. Weatherization and electrification are important, and the Low and Moderate Income assistance programs need to be maintained by new taxes on fossil fuels.
Kathleen Kesson	Barre	Vermont	I have been a supporter of strong policy to diminish global warming, save endangered species, and protect the environment for decades now. I have been hopeful that Vermont legislators and policy actors will take strong stances in these directions, and have been optimistic that they are trying to do the right thing. I hope now that they are not cowed by the strong national forces trying to roll back all the good that has been done. In that regard, I am hopeful to see a Climate Action Plan that meets the requirements of the Global Warming Solutions Act. Thank you.
Sally Shaw	Middletown Springs	Vermont	"We must move on..." Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. "You must take action. You must do the impossible. Because giving up can never ever be an option." Greta Thunberg Please craft a Climate Solution Plan that meets the requirements of the Global Warming Solutions Act.
John Dyck	North Bennington	Vermont	The best way for Vermonters to help slow climate change is to consume less. Electrification is not helpful if it fuels greater use of air conditioning and more heavy-weight vehicles. The state government should focus on helping households reduce costs. Making fuel oil costs lower by a more efficient oil supply chain and better boilers could also lower fuel use.
Thomas Spencer	Rutland	Vermont	Please stop the grift!!! Give us back our tax dollars and go away! Turn your non-profit into a true all volunteer non-profit. You should be banned from the statehouse. Dismantle the Global Warming Solutions Act!!!!!!!!!!!!
Maeve McCurdy	Burlington	Vermont	I am writing to ask that you create a Climate Action Plan that meets the requirements of the Global Warming Solutions Act. We need to be doing as much as we can to combat the effects of climate change in Vermont, especially since progress is being rolled back at the federal level. Inaction or too little now will only hurt us as a state. I support small scale local solar power, weatherization efforts, and other solutions that focus on climate justice. Thank you.
Emily Bennett	Burlington	Vermont	The Climate Action Plan must utilize the full breadth of the Climate Superfund Act! This Act is some of the most robust legislation ever enacted, and I as a Vermonter, am so eager to see it be put into full swing.
Alice White	Middlebury	Vermont	see attached file

Jorika Stockwell	Putney	Vermont	Thank you for all your work getting Vermont's Climate Action Plan in place, meeting the requirements of the Global Warming Solutions Act. If we don't have a healthy, vibrant place to live and work, everything else is pointless. Thank you for all you are doing to keep Vermont a wonderful spot on earth.
Amy Golodetz	Underhill	Vermont	Let's have a Climate Action Plan that focuses on transportation and individual responsibility. Look how easily Vermont switched from single use plastic grocery bags to "bring your own bag". We can change our habits; we just need a little push with incentives, education and new rules. The Climate Action Plan can get us to our goals.
Ron McGarvey	Burlington	Vermont	#1 The Climate Action Plan must meet the goals of the Global Warming Solutions Act-no extension of goals #2 Increase public access to community solar with support for low-income and renters #3 Increase support for public transportation #4 Reduce the burning of fossil fuels and wood for space heating #5 Adopt the California Advanced Clean Cars ii and Advanced Clean Trucks
Lillian Medeiros	Cambridge	Vermont	Any climate action plan must include the cultivation and use of hemp. Hemp is superior to trees in both producing oxygen and scrubbing CO2. If we start growing hemp for biofuel we can make a very big difference in lessening our dependence on petroleum and reducing CO2. Since seeds are the best source for oil the plant material can be used to make hempcrete which continues to scrub CO2 and has a negative carbon footprint. This will also help keep our state rural and dedicate much of the lost farmland back to farming.
David Webster	Burlington	Vermont	Please support GMT I just took it and allowed me to not have a car to take a greyhound all the way from Boston and get to my home
Natalee Braun	Essex	Vermont	Dear Climate Council Members, As you update Vermont's Climate Action Plan, I urge you to exclude all forms of biofuels—liquid biofuels, biomass, RNG, and green hydrogen—from our clean energy strategy. Burning fuels drains our energy dollars, increases emissions, and keeps us tied to outdated, high-emission systems like the McNeil Generating Station, Vermont's largest carbon emitter. Green hydrogen should be limited strictly to on-site energy storage for renewable generation. Vermont must prioritize local, low-emission solutions like weatherization, community solar and wind, and non-combustion thermal networks, ensuring these are affordable and accessible to all. Achieving our Renewable Energy Standard goals will require bold leadership and collaboration among the State, utilities, and financial partners. We must also strengthen Vermont's natural climate defenses by protecting biodiversity and carbon sinks. This includes setting aside 9% of our forests for old growth, ending logging on public lands, expanding intact habitats and migratory corridors, and offering a just transition for those connected to forest management. Finally, please remove the logging requirement from the Use Value Appraisal Program to help private forest owners enhance carbon storage, flood resilience, and biodiversity. Thank you for your leadership.
Mary Pratt	New Haven	Vermont	Vermont must hold the line concerning climate action. We've been a leader in environmental causes for at least decades. If necessary, we must raise funds at the statewide level to do the groundwork--with a graduated tax if necessary, so that lower and middle income people don't end up unresponsive. And--we must get the word out to people who don't understand how very urgent it is not only to stop using fossil fuels but to build ways of dealing with the ongoing disasters we're already facing.

Alison Spasyk	Jericho	Vermont	Please prioritize making alternate modes of transportation safer and accessible. There are a handful of good bike paths and rail trails throughout the state, but few meaningfully connect towns together. We need more dedicated bike "routes" that provide a safe way to bike between communities instead of using personal vehicles, especially where bus services are not existent or regular. Bike commuting is not currently safe nor accessible for wider community take up.
Alison Spasyk	Jericho	Vermont	Flooding is the most frequent and costly recurring hazard our state faces, and is going to get worse with climate change. In order to adapt to these increased risks, we MUST protect vulnerable areas (floodplain and river corridors) from future development. We need to make sure the landscape can attenuate larger floods by restoring floodplains and wetlands around the state. We also must do more to facilitate managed retreat away from places that frequently flood to save residents and taxpayers from the rising costs of repeated recovery.
Alison Spasyk	Jericho	Vermont	Create a law that mandates all new buildings must use renewable energy and limit the use of fossil fuel appliances in new construction statewide.
Debbie New	South Burlington	Vermont	CAP Comment Letter Thermal Energy Networks
Margaret Eaton	New Haven	Vermont	Vermont needs to prioritize electric grid infrastructure upgrades. According to GMP solar map 2.0, we in my town of New Haven and the surrounding region cannot install any more solar because the grid infrastructure is overloaded (considering both the installed solar and the solar applications in the application pipeline). I tried years ago to add only a small 15 kW array on my property and was denied by GMP unless I paid many thousands to upgrade the local transfer station. This charge made the solar installation too expensive. We will never reach our climate goals if this situation persists.
ELIZABETH STEEL	Greensboro	Vermont	With most of the priorities being extensions of existing programs and requiring funding - the Cap-and-Invest proposal stood out as, not only a way to generate much needed revenues to fund other programs, but also as a GAME changing initiative. We need something in Vermont that puts a stake in the ground to show Vermonters we are serious about climate change and providing the funds to make the investments we need, especially for a just transition that addresses the needs of the vulnerable.
Breck Knauft	Huntington	Vermont	I applaud these efforts! It does feel that investing in a green workforce is essential. Unfortunately, I often see laudable climate initiatives that fail to focus on the workforce needed to achieve climate goals. There are many organizations who can help with the workforce aspects. One impressive entity is Serve Learn Earn, a collaboration between VYCC, ReSOURCE, Audubon VT, and VT Works for Women
Linda Quinet	Burlington	Vermont	It appears to be written for engineers and/or experts rather than the regular citizen. Besides, there is so much redundancy and overlap, that it is daunting to have an opinion on specific points.
James Hodson	charlotte	Vermont	I feel it is a critical component of climate action to have the full lifecycle costs of carbon built into pricing. positioning the cost of climate change detached from the source is like saying i can grow all the corn i want but dump the waste husk in my neighbors yard at no cost to me but the taxpayer should help them out. Cap and trade schemes or tax at source get us there much better than any other alternative.
Carole O'Connell	Newport	Vermont	There are people in my community, including my legislator, who either believe that Vermont, with a small population, has already done its share to address climate change or that climate change is a nonissue. I'm not sure what it takes to convince these people that climate change is real, but I've seen changes in Vermont's climate since the 1970's. This winter has been the first in many years that I have seen weather and snowfall similar to the winters of my childhood. I support and appreciate the effort to create the Vermont Climate Plan.

Johanna de Graffenreid	Burlington	Vermont	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to submit a formal public comment on the Draft Priority Actions for the 2025 Climate Action Plan. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions. We sincerely appreciate the hard work of the Climate Council and Climate Action Office staff on this crucial effort.</p>
Henry A Bonges	Milton	Vermont	<p>Great format, discussion. I sent this to Jack Pitblado: First, I've given several talks on green energy or similar. I never ever mention climate change - until the last slide. It is all about money. People (most) do not care about saving the planet etc, they care about \$ in their pocket - end of story. The https://climatechange.vermont.gov/readtheplan website needs the same.</p> <p>For each of the 56 items: Where does the money to implement it come from, a ballpark \$ amount.. What is the return on investment?</p> <p>e.g. - higher quality building (I am not looking up the categories, just winging it). Cost is x\$ / home (can be a %). Paid for by the builder, buyer. Return is in energy savings and comfort, pays off in 2 years, and profits forever after. Solar panel, per 10kW - similar. EV charges, cost borne by (?), no \$ return, but enables EV vehicles. Note - the installs may be picked up by gas stations, business to promote traffic, they may add on a %. etc etc. Simple one liners for each of the 56 so one can very easily follow the money.</p> <p>Note - I also give him some comments related to the book "The Technology Trap" by Carl Benedikt Frey which may be useful.</p>
Richard Faesy	STARKSBORO	Vermont	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure that all of the adopted plan programs add up to meet the required goals. 2. Maintain the ability to sue the State if we don't meet our required goals. 3. Adopt the big measures that make the biggest impact such as cap-and-trade and/or the clean heat standard. 4. Include provisions that address new construction energy code compliance. Given all of the housing Vermont is planning to build, it is important to ensure they are built to RBES and CBES.

Lauren Weston	St Albans	Vermont	<p>I would like to strongly recommend, as it relates to Ag and Eco that programs like CREP which are 15-year contracts to take sensitive land out of agricultural production and into buffers and pay the farmer to do so, to be replicated for other, similar types of projects and land uses. We've been hearing from the ag community that the "in perpetuity" nature of easements such as those proposed by 30x30 are too limiting to be adaptable to the changing conditions to keep lands working and has also limited the ability of young farmers and families and new types of business models to live on the land they are farming. I believe more programs like CREP, which again are 15-year contracts (and whose funding may be on the chopping block by the current federal administration) are incredibly useful, beneficial contracts that help all stakeholders achieve their goals.</p> <p>Additionally, I want to make sure the Councilors are aware of this bill moving through the legislature currently related to item #5 : https://www.nofavt.org/farm-security-fund</p> <p>I would also appreciate seeing more ideas about how to support the dairy industry (cows and small ruminants) as it relates to good grazing, good nutrient management, and keeping working lands viable, because there is a looming threat to ag in Vermont that may cause substantial land loss from ag to development pressure. Providing more support to farmers through tax credits, additional funding, predictable regulation, and helping all farmers stay viable, including large dairies, will be needed to keep soils healthy and provide for all of the other goals of this plan. New York and Quebec have models that we could consider replicating.</p> <p>I fully believe that farmers will do the right thing, their barriers are largely financial - which is something I feel like this plan could address more thoroughly - supporting farms to become and stay economically viable.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration</p>
Thomas Longstreth	Bolton	Vermont	<p>Regarding Thermal Energy: State must expand workforce training that allows unemployed/unskilled workers to become gainfully employed in construction trades including weatherization and HVAC. Employers are struggling to find workers. The average age in industry continues to increase. The training pipeline through high school CTE's is insufficient to meet the demand and misses adult population. Moving more people into workforce has nearly immediate payback to state in form of higher payroll tax receipts that will then help fund additional workforce training. Federal funding is being cut and has always been fickle and difficult to access. Vermont must step up and increase funding for non-degree funding through VSAC and expand investments such as Serve Learn Earn that will allow youth and adults to access skills that directly result in employment in climate workforce.</p>
Jeff Forward	Richmond	Vermont	<p>We are running out of time. We must do the most impactful things in order to try to catch up with our committed goals. Joining an existing Cap and Invest program is the most impactful action in the draft plan. I urge you to begin the process of joining either the Western Climate Initiative or work with NY on the Cap and Invest program they are developing.</p>
Rita Clark	Fletcher	Vermont	<p>Thank you for all of your hard work and expert input into Vermont's action plan. I am so proud of the work you have done to try to move our state in the right direction. At one of your public comment sessions I learned about the importance of reducing our transportation emissions by modeling after the California Advanced Clean Cars II and Clean Trucks program to cut pollution. Since we are such a rural state, this needs to happen to clean up the air for all of us and reduce our reliance on fossil fuels by making alternative cars and trucks and charging stations more available and affordable. Please be aggressive and remain steadfast in this cause. Thanks</p>

Henry A Bonges	Milton	Vermont	<p>Note that the renewable energy jobs are not ones susceptible to AI (40-60% jobs are susceptible to AI replacement).</p> <p>Rather obvious - but look at the natural roadmap and focus on where stuff will be, not what is: -e.g. EV's will sell them selves when solid state batteries are production, 2 years, maybe three, so these need less of a focus. I've had an EV for almost 10 years, but tell everyone I talk to too wait a few years for solid state.</p> <p>Address issues that create harm if not acted on, vs those that delay something good. -e.g. more infill/downtown building. When building is done in places that are less desirable they cannot be unbuilt (technically - yes they could be, and no, unbuilt is not a real word). -e.g stricter statewide building codes for energy efficiency, especially multi-family. Once built. it costs a lot more to make such upgrades, and many upgrade will never be as good as a properly built building.</p> <p>Focus on enablers -The grid and ev charging have to be at the top since they enable so much. Support is dependent on correct information. -In this day and age of large scale misinformation (lies, call it what it is) we need the correct science in our schools and community.</p>
Lisa Lax	Burlington	Vermont	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment.</p> <p>My view is that we need to do everything possible to quickly transition to zero use of fossil fuels and zero burning of biomass. We don't have time to wait or move slowly on this. While we are all at risk, vulnerable populations are already being affected intensely by climate change catastrophes as we have witnessed in the recent flooding in VT and in the health statistics related to emissions.</p> <p>We know what we need to do: weatherize homes and other buildings, increase the use of solar, move away from fossil fuels to sustainable sources of electricity, increase public mass transportations systems, stop burning biomass (as well as the greenwashing that goes along with this). Yes this will cost money but in the long run it is only what we have in our power to do to mitigate and prepare for future climate related disasters.</p> <p>In addition, we need to measure emissions from fracking and burring of biomass as part of the assessment of our progress. And we need to have funds set aside for resilience and recovery when future disaster occur. Please stay strong in your work, which we know is difficult in the face of climate change denial at the federal level and the minimization coming from the governor and other legislators in our state.</p>
Kevin Batson	Williston	Vermont	<p>The Cross Sector Mitigation topics language usage of terms such as “support” is vague and needs to be changed to “fund” as in ag and resiliency Sectors</p>
Kristen Leahy	Hardwick	Vermont	<p>In the Rural Resilience and Adaptation section - #2 calls for additional funding for the Regional Planning Commissions. This is a positive idea for most areas of Vermont but in the Northeast Kingdom - this is too little, too late. NVDA does not appear to have the capacity to provide this service with one additional staff member. There are 7 watersheds in their area and many of their towns are starting at a point of little or no staff capacity and/or planning capacity. If RPCs are going to be called upon to do this work, the NVDA approach (55 towns, 7 watersheds) needs to be rethought. Watersheds should/must dominate the conversation. For example, Hardwick is in the Lamoille Watershed and should be working with the downstream towns but most of those towns are in the LCPC area. Local governments do need help, but the NVDA system is not working. Simply providing funding to a broken system does not improve or fix it.</p>
Scott D. Hicks	Underhill	Vermont	<p>The Vermont Climate Council should add passive solar technologies to Vermont’s Climate Action Plan. See the two attachments to this comment for details: Solar Greenhouse Brochure</p>

Ray Keefe	Hartford	Vermont	I am concerned about climate change however right now I am more concerned about VT taking ANY unilateral action whilst other states and the federal government are not. We don't live under a bubble here so it's either we are all in or not as it's unfair for the VT taxpayer. China/India build new coal plants and our own president is pushing more coal. We will be impacted by that and while us doing something is great on paper, realistically all we would do is make it harder to live in this great state we love. Thank you.
Kara	Cambridge	Vermont	It is essential that Vermont takes strong action to mitigate climate change no matter the directives at a federal level. Like it or not climate change is here impacting Vermonters right now and will only get worse if strong, immediate actions are not taken by the world as a whole. 2 summers in a row Vermont has faced catastrophic flooding damaging roads, businesses, homes, farms, and crops. Vermonters cannot afford climate inaction.

Name	Town	State	Comment
Kim Hornung-Marcy	Williston	VT	<p>Thank you for your service.</p> <p>My name is Kim Hornung-Marcy, I live in Williston and have spent the last four years of my retirement researching the health impacts of all fuels that burn. I volunteer both with 350Vt, Sustainable Williston and with the New England Conference of the United Methodist church on climate matters.</p> <p>I ask that we count our emissions accurately. Currently this is not being done. We can't reduce what we ignore and do not count. We are supposed to count the methane released by fracking and transporting natural gas. We do not count this. We do not count the methane associated with Hydro Quebec. We consider biomass renewable and do not count the emissions. No good scientist considers anything that burns zero carbon.</p> <p>You can fool people, but you cannot fool the atmosphere or the human health impacts which are severe for anything that burns or releases methane.</p> <p>Just this week the Washington Post covered an article in JAMA the Journal of the American Medical Association connecting early life exposure to ground level ozone with increased asthma in children. Ground level ozone is a critical air pollutant caused by most fuels that burn.</p> <p>https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2025/04/13/early-childhood-asthma-wheezing-ozone/</p> <p>The Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public health ran a webinar where new studies show that PM2.5 another critical air pollutant restricted by the EPA, is connected to increased dementia and mood disorders as well as the lung, heart and cancer issues most people are aware of. . https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUZw-jg5SiE</p> <p>I have actually met people who tell me they do not know anyone with asthma even though our state ranks 5th nation-wide for the most asthma. And that data is clearly stated on the Vt Department of Health Website. But I think almost everyone knows someone with dementia or a mood disorder like depression.</p> <p>In my family we lost my husband aunt due to an asthma attack. She was a productive scientist and professor of Biology at the University of California at Santa Barbara. She was attending a Conference in Maine at the time of her death. She took a walk on the beach and did not return, devastating family, colleagues and students. Asthma is a serious disease. It robs many people of a normal life span and causes everything from discomfort to severe illness and disability.</p>

Name	Town	State	Comment
			<p>But even if you do not know someone with serious asthma. Everyone knows someone with a family member struggling with dementia. This ‘living death’ causes a lot of struggling and turmoil in many families as they scramble to care for a loved one, changed beyond recognition by this illness. Or we know families with members struggling from depression.</p> <p>We ask that you take into account the real science and count the emissions from all things that burn and work to move us to heating and cooling our buildings, to transportation and to electric production that does not involve burning things. These solutions already exist and often save money. For sure they save money on people’s doctors’ bills. The more we move to clean green solutions the healthier our planet and people will be. We do not have time for more delay.</p> <p>In conclusion counting things accurately is one of the asks supported by our Climate Council Just Transition Sub-committee. Please follow all the recommendations of this Sub-Committee so we count accurately and really reduce greenhouse and health wrecking emissions for all Vermonters.</p> <p>Thank You.</p>
Lindsey Kirkland	Barre Town	VT	<p>Regarding the Education Goals - I think this section could use some more specific goals that can support systemic shifts in the education section state-wide. I like that standards and resource availability are addressed. I feel like what's lacking is a wholistic perspective of what's needed to including climate change into everyday classroom experiences. For teachers to change the way and what they teach they really need a lot - 1. directives from policies (standards), 2. support from administrators (school, district, state), 3. support from parents, 4. engagement from students, 5. on-going funding and time for professional development and planning, and even 6. shifts in personal beliefs.</p> <p>I would really like to see something about sustained and funded teacher professional development in the Education Goals. This will be absolutely necessary if the standards are re-written. So you should write it explicitly as a separate goal.</p> <p>Also, at my organization we hear time and time again from states that are doing this well that hiring district or school-based sustainability or climate change education coordinators is essential for sustaining forward movement. These Coordinators</p>

Name	Town	State	Comment
			<p>can be responsible for developing, implementing, and managing sustainability initiatives that reduce the school's environmental impact and help teachers build their curriculum around climate change solutions implemented on their schools' grounds or in their buildings. Coordinators can also work with schools boards to pass resolutions that support climate education and action projects. Kimberley Talarico, Climate Education Coach, from Milwaukee Public Schools in WI would be a good person to talk to about this!</p> <p>Regarding the Education Goal #2 "Amend the Vermont State Board of Education's Education Quality Standards to incorporate environmental and climate change education at all grade levels (consider folding under "Science" and "Social Studies" curricula)." I'd love to see this stay in the plan as a priority as it's essential for stewarding systemic shifts in the education sector. I think revising the Graduation Hierarchy for Science and Social Studies as well would make sense so that all students have graduation requirements to meet related to climate change.</p> <p>It would be interesting to know which resources you will use to update the standards as VT has adopted NGSS. A 2020 report from the National Center for Science Education looks at climate change in state standards, VT rates pretty well (see attached link). I think NGSS is now considered a bit out of date according to many climate change educators who helped author some new education guidelines linked the 2024 Climate Literacy Principles (NOAA and others) and the 2024 North American Association for Environmental Education Guidelines for Excellence: Educating for Climate Action and Justice. It would be fun to have a working group to align these new frameworks to create some new standards!</p> <p>Due to recent executive orders, the two documents that I listed might not be available online. Email me if you want access as I have them saved!</p> <p>Regarding the Workforce Goals. I feel like this section needs some work to disentangle workforce development from Career and Technical Education (CTE) from other. It feels a little jumbled up and I think separating them out or making them more explicit would help with clarity of purpose a bit.</p>

Name	Town	State	Comment
			<p>My areas of expertise is in education so I will speak to #8 and #10 which I think relate directly to CTE programs and general education.</p> <p>#8 reads "Support training from middle school through adult education programs for a wide variety of audiences, including through the weatherization training center and the many existing training programs." It would be helpful here explain what is mean by "training" and perhaps distinguish this from "education". Also being more descriptive about "the many existing training programs" would be helpful, because the modes of dissemination and summer for different institutions varies greatly. I could see this being separated into two goals perhaps (i) Support the development of learning outcomes, teaching materials, and educator professional development that can support age-appropriate career readiness education for all students going through the VT public school system, and (ii) support community outreach and public training for a wide variety of audiences and ages, including through the weatherization training center and other existing community-based training programs, like...</p> <p>#10 reads "Increase the number of students who can be supported in the Career and Tech Ed system in the state including electrician, plumbing, building trades programs, agriculture and working land sectors. " I agree, from what I know there is a big demand for CTE programs in VT! However, when I look at the CTE proficiency guidelines - climate change or sustainability education doesn't show up at all. To me, that means people who go through CTE programs are not getting any information about how professions have the ability to address climate change impacts or how professionals can make choices that support the Climate Action Plan. Some states like Oregon (House Bill 3365) are advocating for updating CTE program with climate literacy learning outcomes. I think this could be a recommendation or VT as well and would benefit the long term future of the climate action plan.</p>
Ali Palmer	Burlington	VT	<p>Dear Climate Council Members,</p> <p>Thank you for your work on Vermont's Climate Action Plan. As the climate crisis unfolds and the federal administration dismantles the institutions and alliances combating it, it is all the more important that states step up and take decisive action. As a</p>

Name	Town	State	Comment
			<p>member of 350VT's Transportation Working Group, I would like to offer the following comments on the updated plan:</p> <p>First, I wanted to share my story. As someone who has been unable to heavily rely on public transportation to begin with because of the low frequency and the lack of public transportation past 11:30pm in Burlington, I have had to bring up my car, which was not my original intent when going to school at UVM. I work at the Applebee's in the University Mall and often times, when I did not have a car, I would close the restaurant after the last bus would come past 11:20pm. So, I would walk back in the dark over the I-89 highway, but that was not the safest route to walk and I had already through that more public transportation is needed later in the evenings for individuals. Yet, the reduced funding to GMT has made it so that there is even more reduced frequencies of busing, which is an environmental justice and equity issue. Thus, public transportation, especially bolstering the current buses, trains, and car shares programs over EVs in Vermont. The lack of public transportation in the state is appalling to me and EVs are just one part of the solution but have had too much of an emphasis placed on them, excluding those who do not have the money to buy them (myself included!). Also, the mining associated with the batteries are another environmental justice issue, so it is important to focus on solutions that work for all and could bolster car reduction in general in the state, which is public transportation! We need more buses and commuter rail! This is why it is crucial that the Climate Action Plan is aligned with the Just Transition principles developed by the Climate Council's own Just Transition Subcommittee. As is well known, climate change will hit already disadvantaged communities the hardest; climate action hence is a matter of social justice. However, it must also be ensured that the burdens of climate action are not borne by the most vulnerable members of Vermont society. This plan needs to work for everyone.</p> <p>We consider measures in the transportation sector as particularly crucial for building an environmentally and socially just state. Given that transportation is one of the highest emitting sectors in Vermont, it is central to prioritize the investment in affordable, clean energy public transit systems in both rural and urban areas. Apart from being the most effective way to reduce the use of resource-intensive private vehicles, it is also pivotal for social justice given that BIPOC, migrant, low income, elderly, and disabled Vermonters are disproportionately reliant on it. While riding the bus with our neighbors we learned first hand how</p>

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			<p>impactful reliable transportation is for Vermonters. We met students that needed the bus to avoid walking along busy streets, folks that cannot afford individual vehicles, and Vermonters that cannot drive. A reliable public transportation system is also integrally linked to the housing crisis and economic development. Therefore, decisive action should be taken to reverse the concerning trend of weakening Vermont’s public transit system, as seen most recently in the cuts to GMT’s budget. We should be expanding, not reducing public transportation, and this should be made clear in Vermont’s Climate Action Plan. There are models in other parts of the world (e.g. South Tyrol in Italy, or the Cusco region in Peru) that we could turn to as examples of mountainous, rural places with well integrated public transit systems.</p> <p>Beyond transportation, at 350VT we believe that the following points should also be considered to make Vermont’s Climate Action Plan as effective as possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biomass should be eliminated as an energy source and no longer referred to as renewable energy. Any new biomass electric and thermal energy facilities should be disallowed. - All biofuels should be kept out of this Climate Action Plan, as there can be no place for biofuels in a clean energy future. - Local low-emission energy solutions (weatherization, community solar and wind, non-combustion thermal energy) should be prioritized and made accessible to all Vermonters. - There should be electricity ratepayer protection for low- and middle-income Vermonters to ensure a just transition as we “electrify everything.” - The recommendations from the Agriculture and Ecosystems subcommittee should be adopted, which includes guidance around sustainable agricultural practices and the use of braided Western science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge/Indigenous Knowledge. - Vermont’s carbon sinks and ecological resilience should be sustained by protecting biodiversity, including all existing public land. - Vermont’s forest owners should be allowed to help increase carbon sinks, flood resilience and biodiversity by removing the logging requirement from the Use Value Appraisal Program. <p>Thank you for your consideration, Ali Palmer (they/she)</p>
Jan Waterman	Plainfield	VT	Dear Climate Counselors,

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			<p>Thank you all for devoting your precious time and efforts to working on the CAP and encouraging public input again and again in order to make the plan as effective and comprehensive as possible.</p> <p>I'm submitting my comment on the CAP at almost the last minute. That's a lot like where we're at as a species, with action on the climate emergency we've caused. I hope all our actions are enough, and happen soon enough.</p> <p>I live in Plainfield, Washington County. The terrible impacts of climate change are inescapable here. It is blatantly obvious that it's imperative to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -safeguard and increase all efforts towards decreasing fossil fuel consumption, especially in the face of the current federal administration's murderous complicity with the fossil fuel industry. Implement the Climate Superfund Act. -consistently fund clean energy solutions, including support for EVs, public transportation, walkable towns. -consistently fund relief for those most impacted by climate change, especially small farms, low-income Vermonters, rural populations. -consistently fund, implement and support resilience measures (Act 59), weatherization programs, and environmental protections (Acts 121 and 181.) <p>We cannot know if the small things we do now and in the immediate future will be enough. But we do know that waiting and futzing around with policy changes and delaying action is not acceptable. If we hold back, saying "We're only one small state; what we do won't make any difference, the costs are too high," we deny the possibility of how powerful the actions of many become. And we deny the reality that the guaranteed increasingly frequent, increasingly destructive extreme climate events will be exponentially more costly. So please do not wait.</p> <p>Dear Counselors, do what you were appointed to do: craft a climate action plan that reduces greenhouse gasses on the scale and timeline required by law, and by necessity. We don't have time to kick this can down the road.</p> <p>Sincerely, Jan Waterman, Plainfield</p>
Stephen Crowley	South Burlington	VT	<p>Stephen Crowley South Burlington, VT 05403</p> <p>May 1, 2025</p>

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			<p data-bbox="586 275 1179 344">Comments to the Vermont Climate Council On the 2025 VT Climate Action Plan</p> <p data-bbox="586 394 1458 537">Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on the next generation Climate Action Plan, and for all the good work that has gone into the current redrafting. I would like to make several recommendations.</p> <p data-bbox="586 588 1479 926">For background, my work as an energy policy advocate goes back to the 1970s. Sadly, a lot of what emerges today as climate solutions are the same things we pushed for a half century ago. Between my day job as a science and climate educator, and decades of policy and organizing at the local, state, and national level, I've taken many a deep dive on different aspects of clean energy technology, climate adaptation and resilience, and the challenge of aggressive evolution in how we approach these matters.</p> <p data-bbox="586 976 1484 1161">The first edition of the CAP embodied many great ideas, and many of the draft policies that come through in the policy 'flash cards' that have led to very productive conversations in your recent round of public events. So, much appreciation to you on the Council and subcommittees for that.</p> <p data-bbox="586 1211 1382 1241">Here are a few action items of importance from where I sit.</p> <ol data-bbox="586 1291 1490 1898" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="586 1291 1490 1629">1. First and foremost, this is no time to yield to pressures to back off of our greenhouse gas reduction goals. If anything, we know that actual conditions on our planet are progressing faster than most past predictions. We are now passing the 1.5 C warming that the Paris Agreement recognized as an important marker of high risk, and we are on course to zoom past 2 C. Disaster scenarios that are already becoming frequent will be commonplace. We owe it to our children and all of humanity to do everything we can as fast as we can. <li data-bbox="586 1677 1490 1898">2. It's time to change the way we think about paying for climate action. It is a fatal flaw to try to roll these efforts into rates, either for electricity, or through an extra charge on thermal or transportation energy. These rate structures are a century old, evolving only a bit here and there. We would never have electrified the country this way! First it was private financiers. Later it was

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			<p>programs like Rural Electrification, paid for by taxpayers. Those are the kind of off-rate subsidies we need now. Let's recognize that the dramatic shifts we need require a different approach. Maybe it's bonding. But paid out of a source that taps into the wealthier demographics that have been well served for the last several decades. If we continue to look for our archaic and regressive rate systems to cover the transition, we will never make it.</p> <p>3. Protect outdoor workers. This will soon become a significant public health crisis, as our workers in the recreation field, construction, road crews, and farm workers are exposed to greater and greater risk of things like heat stroke and dehydration. Workers might even feel forced to place themselves at risk in order to keep their job, or to ensure a paycheck for their families. Add to this the children at play, including while at school, at recess, gym class, or athletic practices and competitions. We could even stretch this to classrooms where the lack of air conditioning makes learning impossible. I recommend pulling a task force together, composed of medical professionals, union members and leaders, farm workers and their leaders, educators, climate risk specialists, officials from government departments regulating labor, agriculture, and education, plus a legislator or two, to identify best practices that keep us all healthy in a warming world.</p> <p>4. Community Solar. About two thirds of Vermonters do not have the possibility of locating solar PV technology on their rooftops. It can be about shade or building orientation, about renting or multi family buildings, or other reasons. Some of these folks are in the lower income groups that Act 179 prioritizes, but many are not. For the first electrical century, monopoly power made sense. With solar and other distributed renewable resources, the monopoly logic is gone. And yet, our utilities and PUC have thrown so many obstacles in the way that the once thriving domain has disappeared. This needs to change. Current PSD proposals under Act 179 fall short.</p> <p>5. Feeding Vermonters. A great deal of our food is imported. In particular, it often comes from states and countries that are under serious threat of drought. Things could turn worse in this realm quickly and at any time. We should do everything we can to develop as much sustainable food growing in our state as we can.</p>

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			<p>6. Correct the institutionalized flaws in our greenhouse gas accounting. Start with biomass energy, for which the reality of how this impacts atmospheric carbon is entrenched in myth. Hydropower also has huge greenhouse gas costs, counting both the lost acreage of forest for reservoirs, and the emissions from reservoirs. These are artificially and systemically ignored, and should apply both to actual delivered power and to unbundled RECs. Wherever we use natural gas, whether it's for thermal and transportation energy in state, or for electric power including in-state peaker plants or imports from the regional grid, we should count the emissions associated with the upstream extraction process, pipelines, and storage facilities. Studies have made it clear that including these would double or triple the actual emission impact compared to counting only burner tip emissions. When it comes to those regional grid imports, it is fraudulent to make believe that these emissions go away when a utility purchases RECs to meet their RES requirements. The emissions still happen, and we all pretend they don't exist.</p> <p>7. Cap and Invest is risky business. In my view, it may be essential as a way towards comprehensive emission reduction. But make no mistake, there will be people involved whose jobs and careers are all about finding ways for their industry to avoid control. Any legislation underlying this should be considered with great skepticism, identifying in advance the flaws that will undermine true success. Every generation of this genre of regulation has both improved on previous problems and opened others. At minimum, designers of a Cap and Invest for Vermont should look very closely and recognize those issues, going right back to the Kyoto Accords and its unfortunate outcomes. It is no surprise that environmental justice communities world wide have consistently come down in strong opposition. It would be negligent of us to fail to take seriously the concerns that have been raised.</p> <p>8. Renewable Natural Gas is an oxymoron. Most of this is landfill gas, which would not exist or would be decreased substantially if we really minimized waste in the first place, and separated the organics from that waste stream. That demand (and profit) for the gas is a direct incentive for bad management. Nobody takes the debit for creating the gas in the first place, while utilities claim credit for their management. Add to this the reality that landfills are notoriously leaky, with much of the methane going off into the</p>

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			<p>atmosphere unaccounted. Similar things can be said regarding agricultural methane. Under normal conditions, manure in a field sees most of its decay in the presence of oxygen, with methane at a minimum, and most of the methane is about belching and not manure. When the manure is gathered, and digested anaerobically, only then do you get the methane in desired quantities. This leaks as well, and the cows continue to belch. On top of this, the large scales of industrial agriculture that this incentivizes have enormous environmental impacts beyond the greenhouse gas implications.</p> <p>9. Climate Education. As you well know, climate is a complex system, as are all of the opportunities to mitigate emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Understanding all of this is crucial for our future leaders, not just of government at all levels, but also leaders of industry and every other corner of our society. In my own career as a high school science teacher, I taught these subjects extensively, and helped our state contribute to the creation of the Next Generation Science Standards, in which climate features repeatedly. While those standards have been adopted here, nominally, it is not clear they are being fully implemented, and a good argument can be made that they are really overwhelming and a wise teacher or school district would prioritize. Vermont educators and scientists should come together to organize a rational state wide climate curriculum. It should probably start at 3rd grade, and it should prioritize hope, the capacity to adapt, as well as good earth systems science.</p> <p>Again, thank you for considering these suggestions, and thank you for your great work on the Climate Council.</p> <p>Stephen Crowley South Burlington https://anrweb.vt.gov/PubDocs/ANR/ClimateCouncil/21471/SCrowley%20comments%20on%202025%20CAP.pdf</p>
Carl Anderson	Enosburg Falls	VT	<p>Thank you for soliciting and considering public comments on this most important of issues, climate change.</p> <p>The United States is experiencing unprecedented times in governance and political agendas. Tremendous energy and focus is being directed to these issues, and as a consequence, less focus is aimed at the existential crisis that is climate change.</p>

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			<p>With all the energy directed toward immigration issues and national economics, what's lost is how much both of those issues, and so many others, are directly correlated with climate change.</p> <p>As global south ecosystems heat up, and the land becomes increasingly inhospitable, human populations are already migrating north to areas still habitable, and lands that are arable. Meanwhile, here in the U.S. tremendous costs are being shouldered by Federal and State Governments, Insurance Companies, and individuals as increasingly volatile weather events decimate large swaths of the country.</p> <p>It is foolhardy and short-sighted to solely react to the symptoms of climate change without also addressing the root cause. The science is clear; greenhouse gas emissions have both created and exacerbated the global climate crisis.</p> <p>It is clear that even with legal guardrails in place to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, efforts are being undertaken to undermine progress that has been made in addressing climate change. Without legal bounds and potential consequences for entities, including states, who fail to implement effective change, the never-ending parade of socio-political issues will take precedence. We will arrive at the place where climate change is unmanageable and inalterable.</p> <p>Vermont has long been a leader in environmental and social change. It is imperative that Vermont rise to the call again. And the threat for Vermonters is not theoretical. Along with substantial damage caused by extreme weather events over the last decade, the Global Warming Solutions Act includes the following statement:</p> <p>"(6) According to the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, the adverse impacts of climate change in Vermont include an increase in the severity and frequency of extreme weather events, a rise in vector-borne diseases including Lyme disease, more frequent cyanobacteria blooms, adverse impacts to forest and agricultural soils, forest and crop damage, shorter and irregular sugaring seasons, a reduction in seasonal snow cover, and variable and</p>

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			<p>rising average temperatures that result in uncertain and less snowfall."</p> <p>Just to name a few upcoming consequences; Vermont forest products including Maple Syrup are in danger of becoming unsustainable, as is the Alpine and Nordic ski industry. Vermont will see more severe weather events and the subsequent damages and costs. Clean water and clean air, both of which are virtually taken for granted in Vermont, are in danger. Etc., etc.</p> <p>Vermont needs a Climate Action Plan that meets the requirements of The Global Warming Solutions Act.</p> <p>Thank you, Carl Anderson Enosburg Falls, VT</p>
Elizabeth Bechard	Essex	VT	<p>Hello,</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments about this important issue in writing. My name is Elizabeth Bechard, and I'm from Essex, Vermont. In my day job, I am a Public Health Manager for Moms Clean Air Force, a national advocacy group that mobilizes parents and caregivers to act on climate change and air pollution given their clear threat to children's health. I appreciate your work and commitment to helping Vermonters' environmental and economic well-being through climate action.</p> <p>Climate change is already impacting the everyday lives of Vermonters. Nearly all of us have a story to share about the devastating flooding over the past few years; I live half a mile from the Winooski River, and remember all too well how terrifying it was when the river overflowed its banks near our home in the 2023 floods. We were lucky not to have sustained any damage to our property, but we know so many who weren't as lucky, including the farm stand at the end of our road that has flooded two years in a row.</p> <p>And flooding is far from the only climate threat. I'm very concerned about the increase in tick-borne illnesses as temperatures warm. Both my husband and 9-year-old daughter have become seriously ill with tick-borne illnesses in the last few years, and my daughter's twin brother has a serious autoimmune condition that could be triggered if he were to come down with a</p>

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			<p>tick-borne illness too. We anxiously do tick checks every day in the warmer months, and though I'm not from Vermont myself, natives tell me that ticks are worse than they've ever been.</p> <p>Your work with the Vermont Climate Action Plan is so important to ensuring a healthy, livable future for Vermonters. We know the current administration is attacking climate progress in every conceivable way, and has even targeted Vermont's state climate laws. It's critical that we hold the line and stand up for our state's ability to enact robust climate action even in the face of federal attacks.</p> <p>Vermont is not on track to meet the requirements of the Global Warming Solutions Act, and the Scott administration and legislature haven't enacted policies that will help our state meet critical climate goals. We need the plan that you're writing to give policymakers and politicians a clear, detailed roadmap about how to get back on track with the robust climate action that Vermonters deserve.</p> <p>Specifically, I strongly support measures to reduce our reliance on greenhouse gases for fuel, such as reducing GHG emissions from vehicles by supporting vehicle electrification through funding, infrastructure investments, and maintaining Vermont's adoption of the California ACCII and Advanced Clean Trucks programs. In addition, I strongly support measures to improve energy efficiency through home weatherization programs, particularly for low- and middle-income households.</p> <p>In closing, I want to reiterate my thanks for the work you are doing and ask you to act courageously as you work on our CAP. I'm thinking especially of what Vermont's children deserve from adults and leaders at this moment in time, as they will be forced to live with the consequences of policymakers' decisions for much longer than we will. The quality of their futures depends on our courage in the present.</p> <p>With gratitude, Elizabeth Bechard</p>
Richard Dube	Huntington	VT	<p>When discussing the effects of CO2 it is essential to consider it's critical benefits for life on this planet. Consider that greenhouses typically add carbon dioxide (CO2) to increase plant production by</p>

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			<p>supplementing the naturally occurring CO2 levels. By increasing the CO2 concentration, plants can perform photosynthesis more efficiently, leading to faster growth, more resilience and higher yields. The amount of CO2 added varies, but many crops benefit from levels between 700 and 1,500 parts per million (ppm). Compare this to the current concentration of 442 ppm in our atmosphere.</p> <p>In November of 2023 the CO2 Coalition prepared and filed an expert opinion in a case at The Hague in The Netherlands , recommending a rejection of the claims of great harm caused by CO2 emissions.</p> <p>Renowned physicists Richard Lindzen Professor of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences, Emeritus Massachusetts Institute of Technology; William Happer Professor of Physics, Emeritus Princeton University; Steven Koonin University Professor, New York University, Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institute, wrote in the filing that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contrary to what is commonly reported, CO2 is essential to life on earth. Without CO2, there would be no plant food and thus no human or animal life. - “Net zeroing” CO2 will reduce the amount of food available for all people worldwide, especially the poor. Without fossil fuels, there will be no nitrogen fertilizer, and thus mass starvation, and no low-cost energy. - “Net zeroing” will undermine human rights with which the Climate Case is concerned, crippling the realization of the first three U.N. sustainable development goals: eradication of poverty, elimination of hunger and achieving universal good health and wellbeing. <p>The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), whose conclusions served as a basis for the action against CO2 emissions, is government controlled and thus provides government opinions, not science. Thus, the IPCC provides no scientific basis for the Court’s opinion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Science demonstrates that fossil fuels and CO2 will not cause “dangerous” climate change and extreme weather. <p>The entire Expert Opinion can be downloaded here. https://co2coalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Lindzen-Happer-Koonin-Affidavit-30-Nov-2023-1.pdf</p>
Gaen Murphree	Middlebury	Vermont	First, my point of view is as a climate activist: As a lay person and volunteer, I am co-chair of the Zero Emissions Task Force for the

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			<p>Episcopal Diocese of Vermont; the Episcopal Church, both nationwide and at the Diocese of Vermont level, have called our congregations to eliminate fossil fuel from our buildings by 2034. Our task force just got started in early 2025, so there is more to learn, but here's what I've learned in talking with individual congregations thus far about what kinds of Vermont Climate Actions would make it easier for them to eliminate fossil fuel by 2034:</p> <p>Green Bank</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We need a state-run Green Bank, like the one in Minnesota or other states, to make low-interest loans for green HVAC projects; given the chaos over federal green energy dollars and programs deliberately created by the Trump administration, we need a source of low interest loans for green energy and green HVAC projects that is stable & dependable. I believe NY has a green bank; can we join them? <p>Geothermal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We need FAR MORE state of Vermont support for geothermal, especially financial incentives and other state-level measures that would encourage third-party investment in geothermal loops, town installation of geothermal loops, and individual homes & businesses installing geothermal - Geothermal is a better fit for our climate than solar power; it's far easier and more consistent to general locally; it comes from here not Canada (so it's more stable to "source" and it's not subject to tariffs); and it doesn't destroy or occupy green, open, or wild space - More support by the state of VT and by towns for geothermal as a town-run utility, including town implementation of geothermal loops - More support by the state of VT to attract geothermal investors to Vermont so they could set up third-party structures to install geothermal loops, including investment partnerships that cover the costs of the installed geothermal equipment at each site, the wells, and the loop itself - More state of Vermont financial support for individual businesses, nonprofits, homes to install geothermal; with the chaos and confusion around the clawing back of legally mandated green energy funds at the federal level, state funding is more important than ever

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			<p>S65</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Passage of this year's S 65 bill to change Efficiency Vermont's mandate to reduction and elimination of fossil fuels not just greater efficiency in our homes and businesses <p>Use "Greenhouse Gas" Not "Carbon" terminology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clarify in ALL of the above that we mean not just "carbon" reduction but "elimination of fossil fuels" in all sectors, as natural gas can claim (falsely) to lower CO2 and emphasis on "carbon" reduction creates a loophole for the far more potent methane in natural gas to go unaccounted for. (And a clarification here that in talking about methane, I mean natural gas, not methane from agriculture; I am unconvinced that the methane from agriculture has been properly accounted for when one looks at the carbon stored in open spaces like grazing fields on farmland so am unconvinced for the moment with the "cows are evil" argument.) <p>Natural Gas Is a Fossil Fuel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - End the use of fracked gas in Vermont; we were the first state to vote against fracking within our borders, yet allow VGS to import fracked gas from elsewhere. If we can't end it, then fracked natural gas should be penalized with some additional fee for being fracked. - Outlaw or make more difficult town easements for natural gas and other fossil fuel projects. - If natural gas is to be made from agriculture or waste sites, make it legal to be distributed locally only in a dedicated pipeline only and NOT legal to be mixed with or accounted for in VGS's overall claims of renewable natural gas. Meaning: If you want RNG, you must buy RNG from an RNG only pipeline, literally, not "purchase" it to be delivered through VGS's regular pipeline distribution system. This latter has been shown in state after state to become a shell for greenwashing only and NOT an actual renewable natural gas energy stream. The devil is in the details. <p>Incentives Incentives Incentives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Incentivize by all means available transition to non-fossil fuel green HVAC systems (solar/air source heat pumps & geothermal) and the changes to buildings (tightening up of building envelopes and greater insulation) that make it feasible to change to those heat sources. - Tax rebates for households with electric vehicles, solar panels, geothermal

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			<p>Solar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amplify and increase measures, such as those in your draft Climate Action Plan, to make it easier to build community solar arrays, including support for nonprofits to build solar fields. This is with the STRONG CAVEAT that placement follows the logic of what the power grid needs where, that local communities have appropriate say in where such solar fields can be placed (and that community energy plans are supported), and that solar arrays aren't created purely as tax breaks for folks outside of our state who don't care about how the placement of solar fields impacts our environment. - Incentives so that solar fields go on brown spaces like reclaimed landfills, tops of large commercial buildings, tops of parking garages and on parking lots, etc. Incentivize ALL rooftop solar. <p>VERMONT FOR VERMONT NOT AS A HIGHWAY FOR NEW ENGLAND ENERGY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When I worked as a reporter for the Addison Independent, energy was one of beats and I covered New Haven, which has been a magnet for outside energy transmission projects because of its location. What I saw was that lots of energy wants to come from Canada through Vermont to the rest of New England and New York, especially NYC, digging up our little state and putting noxious mega power lines overhead in our little state to carry energy elsewhere to metropolitan areas elsewhere in New England. This is a misuse of our lands. It should be stopped and discouraged by every means. At the very least, if it must happen our entire state should be compensated with geothermal loops everywhere paid for by those who are desecrating our lands and landscapes to power their ravenous energy appetites. <p>Finally, let me add my overall point of view to all of the above: Are we not in a climate crisis? Have we not already blown past what scientists tell us was our best case scenario for mitigating the effects of climate change? Why do we continue business as usual? Why do we continue to do business as usual when just the three floods we've had since 2011 have cost us billions of dollars? Why are we paying for climate devastation but taking insufficient steps to eliminate fossil fuels and stop global warming.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and attention and for this opportunity to provide comments.</p>

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Pat Sagui	Westfield	VT	<p data-bbox="581 275 1333 310">What is the Council’s process to update relevant data?</p> <p data-bbox="581 352 1479 583">On today’s public engagement call, someone employed in the solar sector mentioned –without citing data – that we will need land based solar arrays. Several years ago I testified to Senate Natural Resources Cmte and presented research data specific to Vermont that, at that time, our solar needs could be met on existing structures. Which is true?</p> <p data-bbox="581 625 1490 737">What is the process to add data previously not included that could impact recommendations for this iteration of the Climate Action Plan?</p> <p data-bbox="581 779 956 814">Here are some to consider:</p> <p data-bbox="581 856 1479 932">Safe siting of solar panels re leaching toxins used to manufacture them: solarscorecard.org</p> <p data-bbox="581 974 1292 1047">Solar panels disposal – Who bears the financial and environmental cost?</p> <p data-bbox="581 1089 1446 1283">Will the Council consider the history of energy consumption to inform its recommendations? Energy historian, Professor Jean-Baptiste Fressoz is one source of information. Many links if you google his name or recent book on the topic More and More. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kt4OQbq1Ezk</p> <p data-bbox="581 1325 1479 1549">Regenerative agriculture on our farmland is perhaps one of the most valuable local climate action contributions Vermont can make along with vastly reducing consumption: https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/detail/B0DSQ9CCJK/ref=atv_dp_amz_c_TS5124c5_1_12?jic=16%7CCgNhbGwSA2FsbA%3D%3D</p> <p data-bbox="581 1556 1479 1667">How to better engage/reach the general public: The neuroscience of behavior change. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xp0O2vi8DX4</p> <p data-bbox="581 1675 1479 1898">https://drawdown.org/insights/fixing-foods-big-climate-problem “Project Drawdown has found that reducing food loss and waste is one of the largest climate solutions across all sectors, not just in the food system. Plus, it could provide additional benefits to land, water, and biodiversity while also improving food availability and food security worldwide.”</p>

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			<p>According to ANR website Vermont produces 70,000 T food waste/yr. In addition the Coventry landfill accepts waste from out of state, and some of Vermont's waste goes to other states. Are we importing more emissions than we export?</p> <p>Reframe the conversation: It's not about emissions, it's about living beyond the carrying capacity of the biosphere. Billions will die.</p> <p>How will uncertainty be weighed in making next step recommendations?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More rain and warmer weather means more cloud cover. <p>How should that influence investment in solar? Same is true for wind. See news story about recent drop in wind production in Germany.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The timeline for mining materials for wind/solar/battery technology can't happen fast enough to avoid the anticipated worst of climate change. It's already happening. That alone is reason to rethink Vermont's Climate Action Plan: make adaptation, resilience and overall reduction in consumption the top priorities. <p>Over a million people have been displaced in DRC to get to 'green tech' minerals. Are we really okay with 21st century colonialism to maintain a way of life?</p> <p>Rwanda – text link: https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2025/apr/05/democratic-republic-congo-goma-shame-subhuman-neglect-displaced-civilians-norwegian-refugee-council-egeland</p> <p>Video link: https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2025/apr/05/democratic-republic-congo-goma-shame-subhuman-neglect-displaced-civilians-norwegian-refugee-council-egeland</p> <p>It would take four planets worth of resources for everyone to live like an 'average' American. Is it okay to continue this way? Make incentives for using less across sectors the number one consumption objective. E.g., reducing energy use – lifestyle, weatherization, miles traveled. The low hanging transportation emissions reduction is reducing highway speed. Since a national lower highway speed is unlikely, does technology exist to track driver speed and 'reward' drivers to travel at 55 mph or less on the interstate? To reward low non-work related mileage? The EPA collected highway emissions data around the time of the oil embargo when the national highway speed was lowered, then raised.</p>

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			<p>There is no 'clean energy'. Wind/Solar/Battery technology is not renewable. Please stop compounding the challenges of the conversation by implying they are. These provide carbon emissions free generation, with a long list of environmental degradation.</p> <p>Tax luxury consumption: vacation air and car travel, graduated tax based on home square footage are my top choices. Ask Vermonters.</p> <p>Promote alternative housing options – Perhaps a task force for this?</p> <p>Thank you for considering my comments.</p>