

# Vermont's Opportunity for Federal Climate Funding

# Today's Agenda

5:35-5:45 pm

Overview of the opportunity and the process

5:45-6:00 pm

Share information about what action could be taken with this funding opportunity

6:00-6:50 pm

Discussion and comment on planning for federal funding and how it could impact you

# Process for Climate Planning

**Vermont  
Climate Council**  
*November 2020*

**Climate Action  
Office**  
*July 2023*

*Implementation of CAP Ongoing*

**Global Warming  
Solutions Act**  
*September 2020*

**Initial Climate Action  
Plan (CAP) Adopted**  
*December 2021*

**Next CAP Due**  
*July 1, 2025 and every  
four years after*

## INITIAL VERMONT CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Vermont Climate Council  
DECEMBER 2021

## What is the Climate Action Plan?

- Aims to cut climate pollution 40% below 1990 levels by 2030
- Addresses resilience and adaptation
- Prioritizes those most affected
- Contains more than 230 actions
- Informs decision-making
- Framework for measuring progress
- Ongoing community engagement

## INITIAL VERMONT CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

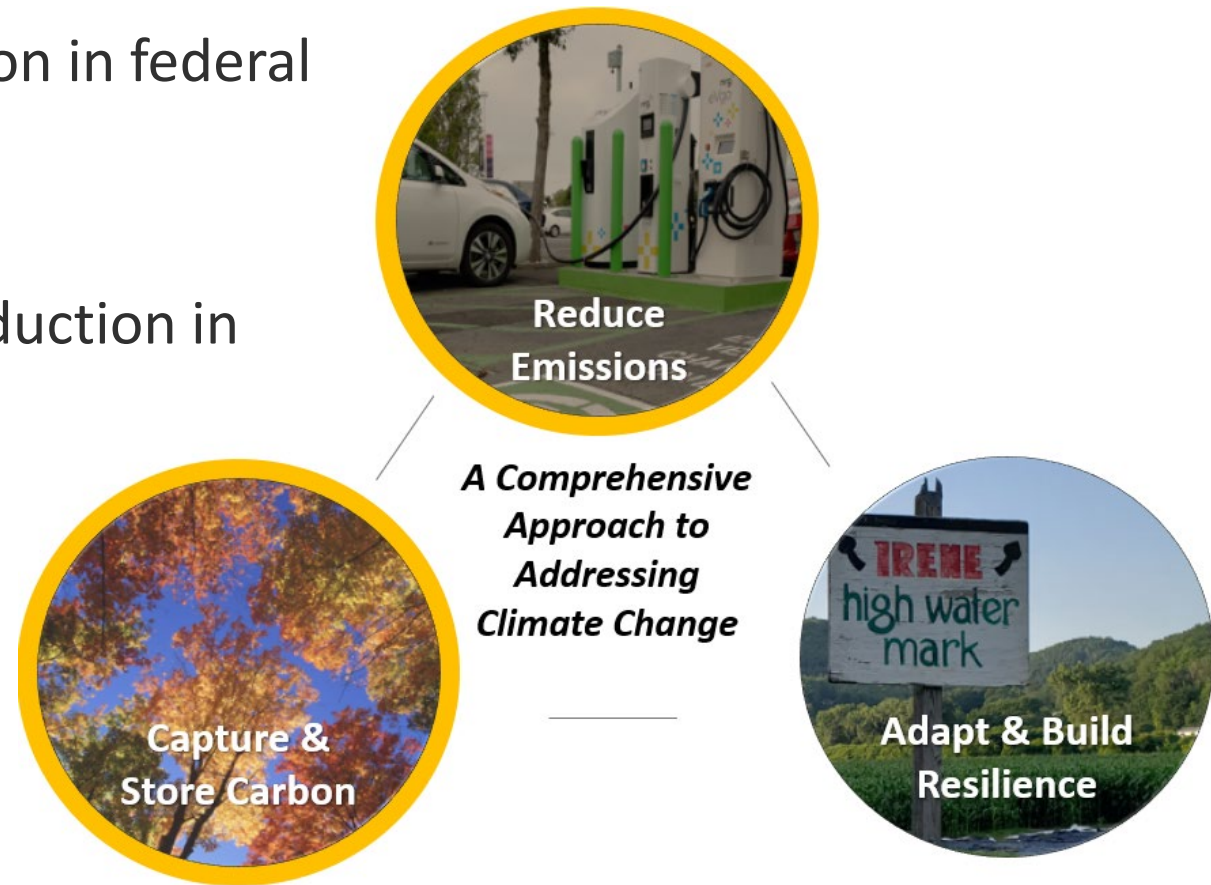
Vermont Climate Council  
DECEMBER 2021

### How are we doing?

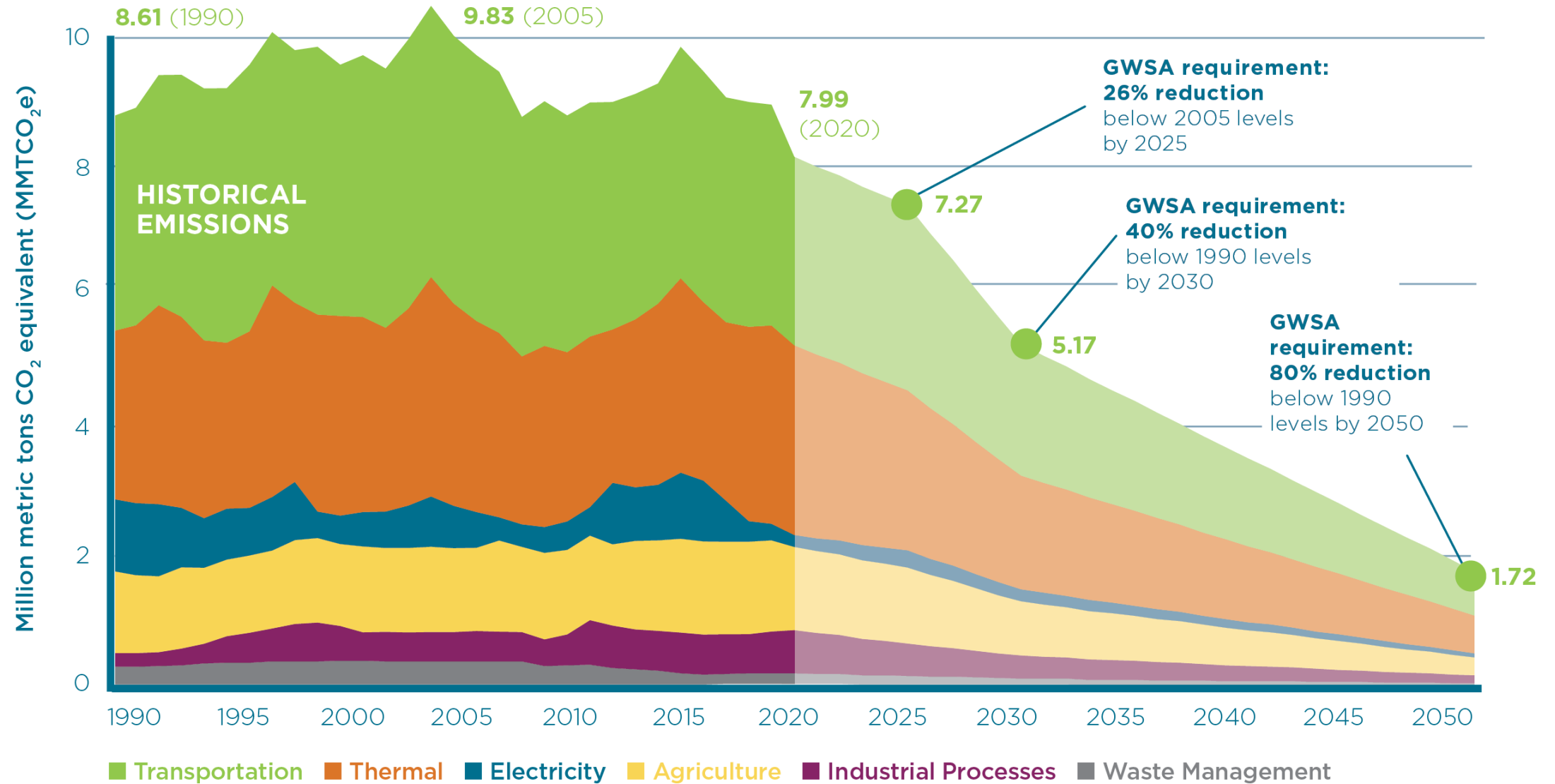
- Plan largely being implemented across state government
- Opportunity to review progress
- There are additional programs that complement the Plan
- Climate Action Office coordinates across government to align priorities with funding opportunities

# What is the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant?

- One-time, competitive process for \$4.6 billion in federal Inflation Reduction Act funds
  - Vermont likely to apply for ~\$90 million
- Eligible actions must show a measurable reduction in climate pollution
- Actions solely focused on adaptation and resilience (preparing for the harmful effects of climate change) are not eligible
- Many actions have co-benefits



# Vermont's historical GHG emissions and future requirements



**Source:** Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Vermont GHG Emissions Inventory and Forecast: 1990-2020, 2023. **Notes:** There is a small amount of emissions from the “fossil fuel industry” category (i.e. fugitive emissions from fossil gas pipelines in VT), accounting for 0.3% of Vermont’s overall emissions in 2020, that does not show up on this graph. The ANR projections for 2025 and 2030 are from Vermont’s 1990-2020 GHG inventory, published in 2023, and reflect a business-as-usual scenario, including the impact of ACCII.



## How should we prioritize actions for this funding?

1. Is there a lack of funding for this action?
2. Will this benefit Vermonters in an equitable way?
3. Does the action align with Vermont's Climate Action Plan?
4. Does the action help to reduce emissions that cause climate change?





## Where is funding currently going?

- Incentives for electric passenger cars
- Some weatherization and switching from fossil fuels to electricity
- Municipal building assessments and improvements
- Electric vehicle charging
- Public and school transit
- Wetland restoration
- Agricultural practices

# Where can this funding make a significant difference and fill gaps?



**Natural &  
Working Lands**



**Transportation**



**Buildings &  
Heating**



**Solid Waste**

# Natural & Working Lands



- Increase farming practices that reduce and capture emissions

- Protect and manage land in ways that enhance climate benefits

# Transportation



- Up-front incentives that immediately reduce the cost of new and used electric vehicles
- Technical support and training
- Land use planning to reduce travel
- Idle-reduction technology
- EV charging for renters/multi-unit dwellers



# Buildings & Heating



- Weatherization & switching from fossil fuels to electricity for low- and moderate-income Vermonters
- Energy coaching to access these services
- Municipal Energy Resilience Program: support towns to meet their energy improvement goals



**Reducing fossil fuel heat and improving insulation fights climate pollution, saves money, and improves indoor health and comfort.**



# Solid Waste

We can 1) reduce the amount of waste produced, and 2) reduce emissions caused by waste disposal.

- School recycling and composting
- Safe disposal of equipment with harmful gases
- Reduce emissions at transfer stations and solid waste management facilities



## Natural & Working Lands

- Expanded wetland restoration
- Land conservation focused on increasing natural land cover
- Giving farmers and forestland owners tools and funding to reduce and capture emissions

## Transportation

- Heavy truck purchase rebates complemented with technical assistance
- Reduce idling of trucks and fleet vehicles like police cars
- Focus on housing development that reduces travel

## Buildings & Heating

- Thermal Energy Coaching
- More funding for weatherization and switching from fossil fuels to electricity
- Helping towns and cities make more upgrades to public buildings

## Solid Waste

- Increase recycling and composting at schools
- Reduce high-impact emissions from systems and appliances
- Help solid waste facilities recycle more and operate more efficiently

# We want to hear from you!

**What does the state need to hear right now to make this specific funding opportunity meaningful to you and your community?**





# What's Next from the Climate Action Office

## Climate Pollution Reduction Grant

**Winter 2023/24** Continued community engagement

**February 2024** Draft available for public input

**March 1, 2024** Plan due (preliminary requirement for funding)

**April 1, 2024** Application for funding due

**July 1, 2024** Funding decisions announced! Funds would be available to Vermont in Fall 2024, for a five-year period.



# Continuing the Climate Conversation...

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**Calendar:** <https://climatechange.vermont.gov/getinvolved/calendar/month>