

Vermont's GHG Inventory and the GWSA: History and background

- Act 168 (2005) – The legislature codified GHG emission reduction goals
- Act 209 (2007) – ANR required to inventory GHG emissions, update inventory, and forecast emissions
- Act 170 (2011) – ANR required to develop method of accounting for GHG life cycle emissions
- Act 153 (2020) – Global Warming Solutions Act amends GHG reduction requirements

10 V.S.A. § 578 – Greenhouse gas reduction requirements (as amended)

§ 578. GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION GOALS REQUIREMENTS

(a) ~~General goal of greenhouse~~ Greenhouse gas reduction requirements. It ~~is the goal of the State to~~ Vermont shall reduce emissions of greenhouse gases from within the geographical boundaries of the State and those emissions outside the boundaries of the State that are caused by the use of energy in Vermont ~~in order to make an appropriate contribution to achieving the regional~~ goals of reducing emissions of greenhouse gases from the 1990 baseline, as measured and inventoried pursuant to section 582 of this title, by:

10 V.S.A. §582 – Greenhouse gas inventories; registry; accounting

(a) The Secretary... shall establish a periodic and consistent inventory of GHG emissions.

(b) To develop the Inventory under this section, the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretaries of Administration, of Transportation, of Agriculture, Food and Markets, and of Commerce and Community Development, and the Commissioner of Public Service, shall aggregate all existing statewide data on greenhouse gas emissions currently reported to State or federal entities, existing statewide data on greenhouse gas sinks, and otherwise publicly available data ... The information shall be standardized to reflect the emissions in tons per CO₂ equivalent, shall be set out in the inventory by sources or sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, automobile emissions, heating, and electricity production, shall be compatible with the inventory included with the Governor's Commission on Climate Change final report and shall include, the following sources:

- (1) information collected for reporting in the National Emissions Inventory, which includes air toxics, criteria pollutants, mobile sources, point sources, and area sources;
- (2) in-state electricity production using RGGI and State permit information;
- (3) vehicle miles traveled and vehicle registration data; and
- (4) agricultural activities, including livestock and crop practices.

10 V.S.A. §582 – Greenhouse gas inventories; registry; accounting

- “(g) Greenhouse gas accounting. In consultation with the Department of Public Service ... the Secretary shall research and adopt by rule greenhouse gas accounting protocols that achieve transparent and accurate life cycle accounting of greenhouse gas emissions, including emissions of such gases from the use of fossil fuels and from renewable fuels such as biomass. On adoption, such protocols shall be the official protocols to be used by any agency or political subdivision of the State in accounting for greenhouse gas emissions.”
- Added in 2011 via Act 170, which also required accounting for GHG impacts, including life cycle impacts, of renewable energy projects

10 V.S.A. §591(b)(3)

(b) The Council shall:

...

(3) **Identify the means** to accurately measure:

(A) the State's greenhouse gas emissions and progress towards meeting the reduction requirements pursuant to section 578 of this title, including publishing emissions data in a timely manner;