



VERMONT
CLIMATE
COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 17, 2020



GLOBAL WARMING SOLUTIONS ACT



VERMONT CLIMATE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Cabinet Members:

- Susanne Young, Chair, Agency of Administration, Secretary
- Julie Moore, Agency of Natural Resources, Secretary
- Anson Tebbetts, Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets, Secretary
- Lindsay Kurrle, Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Secretary
- Sean Brown, Agency of Human Services, Commissioner of Department of Children for Families, designee
- Joe Flynn, Agency of Transportation, Secretary
- Erica Bornemann, Department of Public Safety, Director of Vermont Emergency Management, designee
- June Tierney, Department of Public Service, Commissioner

Members Appointed by the Senate Committee on Committees

- Abbie Corse, The Corse Farm Dairy, member to represent the farm and forest sector
- Chad Farrell, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Encore Renewable Energy, member to represent the clean energy sector
- Jared Duval, Executive Director of Energy Action Network, member to represent energy and data analysis
- Kelly Klein, Founder and CEO of Groennfell Meadery and Havoc Mead, member to represent the small business community
- Lauren Oates, The Nature Conservancy, member to represent the resilience and disaster response
- Sophia Clark, Hyde Park, youth member
- Sue Minter, Executive Director of Capstone Community Action, member to represent the Vermont Community Action Partnership

Members Appointed by the House of Representatives

- Adam Knudsen, Dynapower, member to represent Vermont manufacturers
- Catherine Dimitruk, Northwest Regional Planning Commission, member to represent rural communities
- Chris Campany, Windham Regional Commission, member to represent the municipal governments
- Johanna Miller, Vermont Natural Resources Council, member to represent a statewide environmental organization
- Dr. Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, Vermont State Climatologist, UVM Professor of Climate and Climate Change, member with expertise in climate change science
- Michael Schmell, Junction Fuels, member to represent the fuel sector
- Liz Miller, Green Mountain Power, member to represent distribution utilities
- Richard Cowart, Regulatory Assistance Project, member with expertise and professional experience in the design and implementation of programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

VERMONT CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

THE PLAN SHALL INCLUDE SPECIFIC INITIATIVES, PROGRAMS, AND STRATEGIES THAT WILL:

- REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FROM THE TRANSPORTATION, BUILDING, REGULATED UTILITY, INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL, AND AGRICULTURAL SECTORS;
- ENCOURAGE SMART GROWTH AND RELATED STRATEGIES;
- ACHIEVE LONG-TERM SEQUESTRATION AND STORAGE OF CARBON AND PROMOTE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES TO ACHIEVE CLIMATE MITIGATION, ADAPTION, AND RESILIENCE ON NATURAL WORKING LANDS;
- ACHIEVE NET ZERO EMISSIONS BY 2050 ACROSS ALL SECTORS;
- REDUCE ENERGY BURDENS FOR RURAL AND MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES;
- LIMIT THE USE OF CHEMICALS, SUBSTANCES, OR PRODUCTS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO CLIMATE CHANGE; AND
- BUILD AND ENCOURAGE CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE OF VERMONT COMMUNITIES AND NATURAL SYSTEMS.

VERMONT CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

THE PLAN SHALL FURTHER THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES:

- PRIORITIZE THE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE, TECHNOLOGICALLY FEASIBLE, AND EQUITABLE GHG EMISSIONS REDUCTION PATHWAYS, ADAPTATION AND PREPAREDNESS;
- PROVIDE FOR GHG EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS THAT REFLECT THE RELATIVE CONTRIBUTION OF EACH SOURCE OF EMISSIONS;
- MINIMIZE NEGATIVE IMPACTS ON MARGINALIZED AND RURAL COMMUNITIES AND INDIVIDUALS WITH LOW AND MODERATE INCOMES;
- ENSURE THAT ALL REGIONS OF THE STATE BENEFIT FROM GHG EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS;
- SUPPORT ECONOMIC SECTORS AND REGIONS OF THE STATE THAT FACE THE GREATEST BARRIERS TO EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS (RURAL AND ECONOMICALLY DISTRESSED REGIONS AND INDUSTRIES);
- SUPPORT INDUSTRIES, TECHNOLOGY, AND TRAINING THAT WILL ALLOW WORKERS AND BUSINESSES IN THE STATE TO BENEFIT FROM GHG REDUCTION SOLUTIONS;
- SUPPORT THE USE OF NATURAL SOLUTIONS (INC. WORKING LANDS) TO REDUCE GHG, SEQUESTER CARBON AND INCREASE RESILIENCE; AND
- MAXIMIZE THE STATE'S INVOLVEMENT IN INTERSTATE AND REGIONAL INITIATIVES AND PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO REDUCE REGIONAL GHG EMISSIONS AND BUILD UPON STATE, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND PROGRAMS.

KEY DATES

- GENERAL ASSEMBLY (GA) HAD 60 DAYS FROM ENACTMENT (SEPT 23) TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS
- ADMINISTRATION HAD 30 DAYS FROM RECEIVING FINAL APPOINTMENT TO CONVENE FIRST MEETING (NOV 20)
- COUNCIL SUBMITS FIRST ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT TO GA – JAN 15, 2021
- DRAFT CLIMATE ACTION PLAN AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT – OCT 1, 2021
- COUNCIL ADOPTS CLIMATE ACTION PLAN – DEC 1, 2021
- COUNCIL SUBMITS SECOND ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT TO GA – JAN 15, 2022
- PROPOSED ANR RULES PROVIDED TO THE COUNCIL – MAY 15, 2022
- PROPOSED ANR RULES SHARED WITH THE COMMITTEES OF JURISDICTION – JUNE 1, 2022
- PROPOSED ANR RULES FILED WITH ICAR – JULY 1, 2022
- ANR ADOPTS AND IMPLEMENTS RULES – DEC 1, 2022

SEQUENCE OF WORK

- INVENTORY EXISTING PROGRAMS TO REDUCE GHG EMISSIONS
- IDENTIFY, ANALYZE AND EVALUATE NEW STRATEGIES/PROGRAMS NEEDED TO MEET GHG TARGETS
 - EVALUATE COST EFFECTIVENESS
- DEVELOP FINANCING STRATEGIES
- INVENTORY EXISTING PROGRAMS TO BUILD RESILIENCE
- IDENTIFY, ANALYZE AND EVALUATE NEW STRATEGIES/PROGRAMS NEEDED TO IMPROVE RESILIENCE
- DEVELOP MONITORING STRATEGY FOR ASSESSING:
 - GHG EMISSIONS
 - PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS
 - IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON VERMONT'S CLIMATE, WILDLIFE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
 - COMMUNITY RESILIENCE
- IDENTIFY RULES TO BE ADOPTED (BY ANR) AND NECESSARY
- ADOPT THE VERMONT CLIMATE ACTION PLAN BY DEC 1, 2021 AND UPDATE THE PLAN EVERY FOUR YEARS THEREAFTER

SUBCOMMITTEE STRUCTURE

(IN STATUTE)

- **RURAL RESILIENCE SUBCOMMITTEE:**
 - FOCUS ON THE PRESSURES THAT CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION WILL IMPOSE ON RURAL TRANSPORTATION, ELECTRICITY, HOUSING, EMERGENCY SERVICES, AND COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE, AND THE DIFFICULTY OF RURAL COMMUNITIES IN MEETING THE NEEDS OF ITS CITIZENS.
- **CROSS SECTOR MITIGATION SUBCOMMITTEE:**
 - FOCUS ON IDENTIFYING THE MOST SCIENTIFICALLY AND TECHNOLOGICALLY FEASIBLE STRATEGIES AND PROGRAMS THAT WILL RESULT IN THE LARGEST POSSIBLE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS IN THE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE MANNER.
- **JUST TRANSITIONS SUBCOMMITTEE:**
 - FOCUS ON ENSURING THAT STRATEGIES TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND TO BUILD RESILIENCE TO ADAPT TO THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE BENEFIT AND SUPPORT ALL RESIDENTS OF THE STATE FAIRLY AND EQUITABLY.
- **AGRICULTURE AND ECOSYSTEMS SUBCOMMITTEE:**
 - FOCUS ON THE ROLE VERMONT'S NATURAL AND WORKING LANDS PLAY IN CARBON SEQUESTRATION AND STORAGE, CLIMATE ADAPTATION, AND ECOSYSTEM AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE. THIS SUBCOMMITTEE WILL SEEK TO UNDERSTAND CURRENT INITIATIVES IN THE AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY SECTORS AND THE BUSINESSES THAT DEPEND ON THEM AND TO DEVELOP ACTIONS AND POLICIES THAT RESTORE WETLANDS; INCREASE CARBON STORED ON AGRICULTURAL AND FOREST LAND AND IN FOREST PRODUCTS; AND SUPPORT HEALTHY AGRICULTURAL SOILS AND LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS.
- **OTHER SUBCOMMITTEES MAY ALSO BE FORMED TO ADVISE THE COUNCIL**

PROPOSED APPROACH

(VCC MEETINGS #2 AND 3)

TECHNICAL FOUNDATION

- STATE OF VERMONT'S CLIMATE – DR. LESLEY-ANN DUPIGNY-GIROUX, STATE CLIMATOLOGIST
- VERMONT'S CURRENT GHG EMISSIONS PROFILE – ANR
- INVENTORY OF VERMONT'S ON-GOING GHG EMISSIONS REDUCTION PROGRAMS – ANR, PSD, VTRANS PANEL
- INVENTORY OF VERMONT'S CURRENT RESILIENCE PROGRAMS – VEM, ANR, VTRANS PANEL
- ROLE OF VERMONT'S NATURAL AND WORKING LANDS – ANR, AAFM PANEL
- IMPORTANCE OF EQUITY IN DEVELOPING VERMONT'S CLIMATE ACTION PLAN – XUSANA DAVIS, EDRE
- DISCUSSION OF COUNCIL ORGANIZATION AND NEXT STEPS

COUNCIL ORGANIZATION

- SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
- CONTRACTOR SUPPORT
- FUTURE MEETING TOPICS/FORMAT

POSSIBLE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

