



# Vermont Climate Council

**Building the Climate Action Plan**

**Initial Suite of Sectoral Pathways and Strategies**

**July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

# Global Warnings Solutions Act

## Vermont Climate Action Plan Requirements

1. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation, building, regulated utility, industrial, commercial, and agricultural sectors;
2. Encourage smart growth and related strategies;
3. Achieve long-term sequestration and storage of carbon and promote best management practices to achieve climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience on natural working lands;
4. Achieve net zero emissions by 2050 across all sectors;
5. Reduce energy burdens for rural and marginalized communities;
6. Limit the use of chemicals, substances, or products that contribute to climate change; and
7. Build and encourage climate adaptation and resilience of Vermont communities and natural systems.

# Global Warmings Solutions Act

## Clear Sequence of Work

1. Five Subcommittees Defined in Statute to Develop the Work
  - Rural Resilience and Adaptation, Agriculture and Ecosystems, Cross Sector Mitigation, Just Transitions and Science and Data
2. Each Subcommittee following Clear Sequence of Work
  - Inventory existing programs to meet GWSA requirements
  - Identify, analyze and evaluate new strategies/programs needed to meet GHG requirements
  - Develop financing strategies for actions ready to implement
3. Develop monitoring strategy for assessing
4. Identify rules to be adopted (by ANR) by 2022
5. Adopt the Vermont Climate Action Plan by Dec 1, 2021 and update the Plan every four years thereafter.

# Framework for Climate Action Plan

Pathways → Strategies → Actions

*Cross-Sector Mitigation, Agriculture and Ecosystems and Rural Resilience and Adaptation*

- A **pathway** is a high-level means of achieving GHG emissions reductions or adaptation, resilience, and sequestration goals. While written broadly, pathways should be stated specifically enough so that it is possible to assess whether progress has been made in achieving them.
- A **strategy** is a statement of measurable activity, a benchmark, to be reached in pursuit of the pathway. Strategies should be measurable and are a more specific subset of pathways.
- **Actions** are the “operational” tasks that the state will undertake to meet the pathways and strategies. Actions may be written around existing, or propose new, policies, programs, projects, initiatives, plans, etc. *These will be further developed in the coming months, informed by public engagement and technical analyses.*

## Leading with Equity as a Core Component

*The term “Just Transitions” is a way of framing for government and business action on climate change. Its work encompasses both public policies and business action to deal with the impacts of industry transition away from greenhouse gas emissions for jobs and livelihoods (the transition “out”) and aims to generate the low or zero greenhouse gas emission jobs and livelihoods of a sustainable society (the transition “in”).* [Guiding Principles for a Just Transition, June 2021](#)

# Guiding Principles for a Just Transition

Inclusive, Transparent & Innovative Engagement

Accountable & Restorative

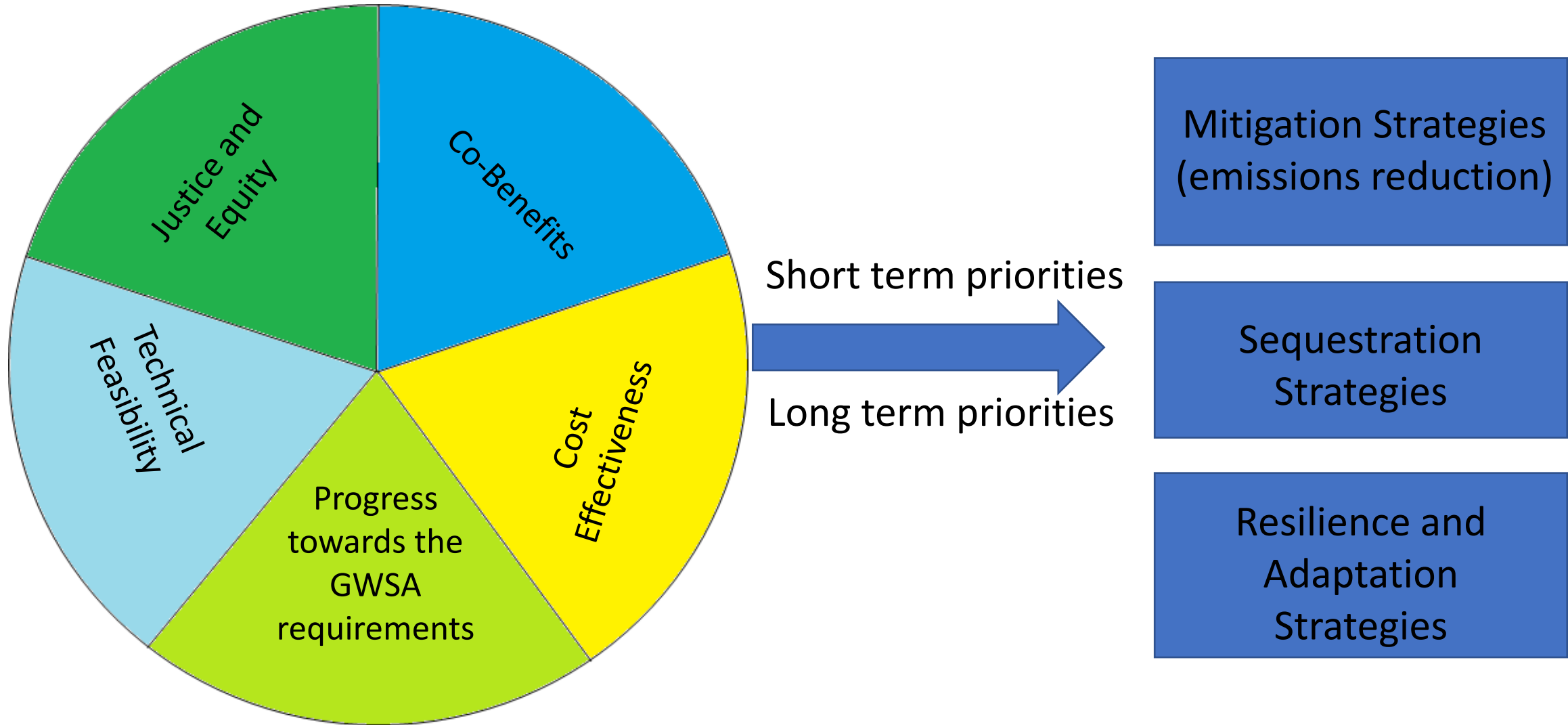
Moving at the Speed of Trust

Solidarity

The Most Impacted First

Supports Workers, Families & Communities

# Climate Action Plan



# Process to Date

1. Scope of Work Refined for Subcommittees
2. Subcommittee membership developed - technical expertise and diversity considered
3. Initial Ideas Explored by Task Leads
4. Presentation and Discussion
5. Pathways Presented





# Subcommittee Next Steps

July 26, 2021

Presentation of draft pathways and strategy examples to the Vermont Climate Council.

July 27 – August 4

Council feedback consolidated into suggested changes to pathways and strategies for subcommittees to consider and support staff to identify gaps and cross-cutting issues to further develop.

August 4 – August 6

Presentation of initial feedback results to subcommittees; time dedicated at all subcommittee meetings to incorporate additional feedback and edits; and stakeholder engagement needs identified by Agriculture and Ecosystems and Rural Resilience and Adaptation.

August

Development of Goals/Vision for All Subcommittees with specific emphasis at Agriculture and Ecosystems and Rural resilience and Adaptation Subcommittees; action development process refined and moved forward; and stakeholder engagement conducted.

# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT TIMELINE

