

Rural Resilience and Adaptation Subcommittee

Vision and Goals Presentation to the
Vermont Climate Council

August 23, 2021

Vision

Vermont's people, communities, ecosystems, and infrastructure are prepared for and increasingly resilient to the impacts of climate change.

Pathways

1. Increase local and regional capacity, including community and civic networks (local volunteer efforts, non-government organizations, faith-based groups, etc.), for resilience planning and implementation, and address inequities of under-resourced communities.
2. Proactively and strategically invest to enhance resilience in transportation, communications, water/wastewater, and energy infrastructure statewide.
3. Support the reduction of municipal, school district and residential fossil fuel use in rural areas through equitable best practices that address the unique challenges of rural communities.
4. Change Vermont's land-use policies so current and future land development will be adaptive and resilient to climate change impacts by promoting compact development, enhancing the capacity of natural and working lands, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
5. Ensure that all people have access to safe, accessible, energy efficient, and affordable housing in location-efficient, compact, and mixed-use neighborhoods areas with diverse housing types and equitable access to jobs, services, schools, recreation and diverse transportation options.

Pathway 1. Increase local, regional, including community and civic networks (local volunteer efforts, non-government organizations, faith-based groups, etc.), and state agency capacity, for resilience planning and implementation, and address inequities of under-resourced communities.

2025: Tools and resources for assessing community vulnerability to climate change impacts have been created and made available to RPCs, local planning commissions, civic networks, and state agencies.

2030: xx% of municipalities have sufficient human resources to have a completed vulnerability assessment and preparedness plan.

2050: All Vermont's communities have prepared for the impacts of climate change; they adapt daily functions and needs to be responsive to unavoidable climate impacts, and maintain critical services, and minimize disruption, during major weather events.

Pathway 2. Proactively and strategically invest to enhance resilience in transportation, communications, water/wastewater, and energy infrastructure statewide.

2025: Climate threat and threat aspects have been assessed, and climate-resilient design standards for infrastructure projects have been created and are incorporated into planning of publicly funded critical infrastructure projects.

2030: Infrastructure projects are designed, evaluated, and constructed to meet climate resilient design standards. A metrics framework is in place to measure the impact of these projects.

2050: Rural communities are minimally disrupted by climate impacts to infrastructure.

Pathway 3. Support the reduction of municipal, school district and residential fossil fuel use in rural areas through equitable best practices that address the unique challenges of rural communities.

These goals will continue to be developed by the subcommittee with additional working taking place this week.

Goals were identified as needed to set benchmarks for fossil fuel use reduction, to compliment the greenhouse gas reduction requirements identified in the Global Warming Solutions Act.

2025:

2030:

2050:

Pathway 4. Change Vermont's land-use policies so current and future land development will be adaptive and resilient to climate change impacts by promoting compact development, enhancing the capacity of natural and working lands, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

2025: The portion of residential and non-residential development and redevelopment that is **within (within or near?)** an eligible state designated area has increased.

2030: The portion of residential and non-residential development and redevelopment that is **within (within or near?)** an eligible state designated area has increased over 2025, and no new development or redevelopment occurs, when feasible, in the river corridor.

2050: Vermont's people and communities work in harmony to support the adaptive capacity of Vermont's natural, working, and settled lands with no net increase in greenhouse gas emissions from new development.

Pathway 5. Ensure that all people have access to safe, accessible, energy efficient, and affordable housing in location-efficient, compact, and mixed-use neighborhood areas with diverse housing types and equitable access to jobs, services, schools, recreation and diverse transportation options.

2025: Total, livable housing units has increased and diversified in cost and size to meet the needs of Vermont's population.

2030: 80% of Vermont households earning the AMI by county spend less than 45% of their income on total cost of housing and transportation (including energy expenditures) combined.

2050: 100% of Vermont households earning the AMI by county spend less than 45% of their income on total cost of housing and transportation (including energy expenditures) combined.