



Task 5e: Kitchen-Sink

- *Healthy soils,*
- *Healthy, local food access,*
- *Water quality, and*
- *Sustainable natural & working lands economy*

Task 5e Charge

Identify and develop climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts that improve healthy soils, create greater access to healthy, local foods for all Vermonters, and improve water quality, while enhancing Vermont's sustainable, local agricultural and forest sector economies.



Membership

- **Jake Claro**, VSJF
- **Abbie Corse**, The Corse Farm Dairy
- **Charlie Hancock**, North Woods Resource Group
- **Lauren Oates**, TNC
- **Alissa White**, UVM

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Task 5e Process

- Values conversation:
 - *What does a sustainable natural & working lands economy look like?*
 - *How do/can our natural & working lands support a healthy, local food system, healthy soils and clean water?*
- Inventory existing programs, plans, publications, regulations, TEK, non-state considerations
- Identify gaps, needs, impediments
- Develop DRAFT pathways and strategies, informed by the inventory



Draft Pathways

- I. Empower and enhance the capacity of Vermont's natural and working lands and waters to be resilient to the impacts of climate change and contribute to mitigating the impacts and drivers of climate change
- II. Empower and enhance the capacity of forest and farm land managers and land workers to make informed management decisions in anticipation of and response to climatic changes, sustain their livelihoods, and contribute to mitigating the impacts and drivers of climate change
- III. Ensure all Vermonters have the capacity to access healthy, local, and culturally-appropriate foods, and a healthy, natural environment in the face of climate change

Empower and enhance the capacity of Vermont's natural and working lands and waters to be resilient to the impacts of climate change and contribute to mitigating the impacts and drivers of climate change

- Increase the pace of and support for conservation of climate resilient and connected lands as identified by Vermont Conservation Design and TNC's Resilient and Connected Landscape (e.g. 30x30)
- Amend Act 250 to incorporate forest fragmentation and climate change criteria as well as changes to better support activities specific to working lands enterprises
- Increase incentives for Improved Forest Management (IFM) practices and adaptation strategies (e.g. ANR's creating and maintaining resilient forests in Vermont)
- Develop required climate-based framework and/or criteria for state grant and regulatory programs
- Support increased investment in healthy soils education and implementation of practices
- Update Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs) to extend beyond water quality and incorporate climate change criteria/considerations
- Expand support for riparian buffer enhancements to easements
- Develop dedicated funding to support climate-smart whole farm water resource management changes
- Per the formula in statute, fully fund Regional Planning Commissions (RPC) the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB); including \$3M for the Farm & Forest Viability Program
- Revive the State's Central Planning Office to better, more comprehensively address land use and land use changes that support healthy natural and human communities and align state programs.
- Support natural resource planner functions at each RPC (modeled after Transportation Planning Initiative)

Empower and enhance the capacity of forest and farm land managers and land workers to make informed management decisions in anticipation of and response to climatic changes, sustain their livelihoods, and contribute to mitigating the impacts and drivers of climate change

- Develop, expand, and sustain local markets specifically for food, agricultural, and forest products, including investment in infrastructure, distribution, and market development
- Strengthen all aspects of working lands' supply chains and the associated infrastructure to support them
 - Increase in-state sawmill capacity and access to three-phase power or combined heat power (CHP)
 - Improve and expand in-state meat processing/slaughterhouse facilities and/or on-farm processing infrastructure statewide
 - Develop supply chain substitutions which better support local products
 - Develop alternative markets for low-grade wood, focusing on cellulose insulation, bioplastic composites, or biofuels
- Enhance resilience funds to support the financial capacity of land managers to respond and adapt to natural hazard and climate impacts
- Develop & fund climate adaptation planning and training for all farmers and foresters
- Support robust funding for the Working Lands Enterprise Initiative
- Enhance and support technical assistance to municipalities to fully implement Act 171
- Develop a strategic plan for the forest economy, modeled on the Farm-to-Plate strategic plan
- Support new state tax policy incentives for forest landowners and farmers to adopt climate-friendly practices (e.g. create a tier within UVA)
- Support greater investment in enterprise finance options for working lands enterprises which leverage private capital to support diversification and/or growth
- Implement a Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) program
- Appropriately compensate and/or incentivize on-farm solar
- Develop, endorse and implement fair trade and equitable labor practices for the natural and working lands sector

Ensure all Vermonters have the capacity to access healthy, local, and culturally-appropriate foods, and a healthy, natural environment in the face of climate change

- Increase support, funding, and education for increased urban tree planting efforts and Municipal Forest expansion to increase access to natural spaces and improve carbon sequestration/storage
- Sustain and build local markets for local agriculture and forest products, including supply chain investment in infrastructure, distribution, and market development (institutions and retail), especially in impacted communities
- Support proven ways to alleviate food insecurity and create a Local Food Access Funding Program to support low-income consumers in purchasing or accessing more local food
 - Increase support and resourcing Farm-to-School programs including additional funding of Act 67, universal meals, gleaning programs, etc.
- Expand youth education around food systems, natural and working lands, and traditional ecological knowledge
- Promote workforce development in the working lands sector along all points of the supply chain
 - Increase funding for Vermont Youth Conservation Corps and other youth-based natural and working lands groups/organizations to expand connection to land and expand the workforce
 - Expand support for Vermont Technical College
- Build out infrastructure and education surrounding composting and recycling