

Task 5 – Identification and analysis of new strategies and programs (utilizing contractor support, if needed), with completed equity impact assessment, presented to VCC.

Task 5A– Develop a current carbon budget for the State of Vermont that quantifies existing carbon storage in land and biomass (e.g. organic matter) and carbon fluxes (emissions and sequestration) associated with natural and working lands, including biomass (e.g. organic matter) growth, management and utilization (human impacts), and natural processes.

Task 5B – Identify and develop initiatives, programs and strategies that **reduce gross and net annual greenhouse gas emissions from Vermont’s natural lands (e.g., wetlands, riparian areas, waters, etc.), working forests and forestry operations.** This includes strategies to maintain or increase carbon sequestration and storage in Vermont’s natural lands and working forests, and the prevention of maladaptive practices that release carbon, including conversion to other land uses.

Task 5C – Identify and develop initiatives, programs and strategies that **reduce gross and net annual greenhouse gas emissions from Vermont’s agricultural land and agricultural operations.** This includes strategies to maintain or increase carbon sequestration and storage in Vermont’s agricultural lands, and the prevention of maladaptive practices that release carbon, including conversion to other land uses.

Task 5D – Identify and develop initiatives, programs and strategies to **improve adaptation of Vermont’s natural and working lands. This work should also consider nature-based solutions – and human impediments to those solutions – that build resilience in Vermont’s communities.** ‘Resilience’ means the capacity of individuals, communities, and natural and built systems to withstand and recover from climatic events, trends, and disruptions. Assess overlaps with the programs and strategies identified above.

Task 5E – Identify and develop climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives, programs and strategies 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.**

[Tasks 5A-E may occur concurrently and will require intentional dialog and coordination amongst task leads to maximize outcomes and co-benefits, as well as coordination and communication with other subcommittees, as necessary.]