

TESTIMONY: HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE & HOUSE ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMITTEE

3 January 2024

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Fellow - African Scientific Institute

Fellow - Vermont Academy of Science & Engineering

Lead author - Northeast chapter - Fourth National Climate Assessment

Vermont State Climatologist

Past President - American Association of State Climatologists

Our conversation today

natural hazards in Vermont

variability

- climate change AND climate variability

vulnerability

- human
- socioeconomic
- landscape

voice

- Who is at the 'table' & who is missing?

What sectors are vulnerable to climate change?

infrastructure

emergency management

human health

forestry

agriculture

tourism & recreation

Hydroclimatic hazards in Vermont

severe storms

winter storms

drought

flooding

fires

air pollution

temperature extremes

wind

- microbursts

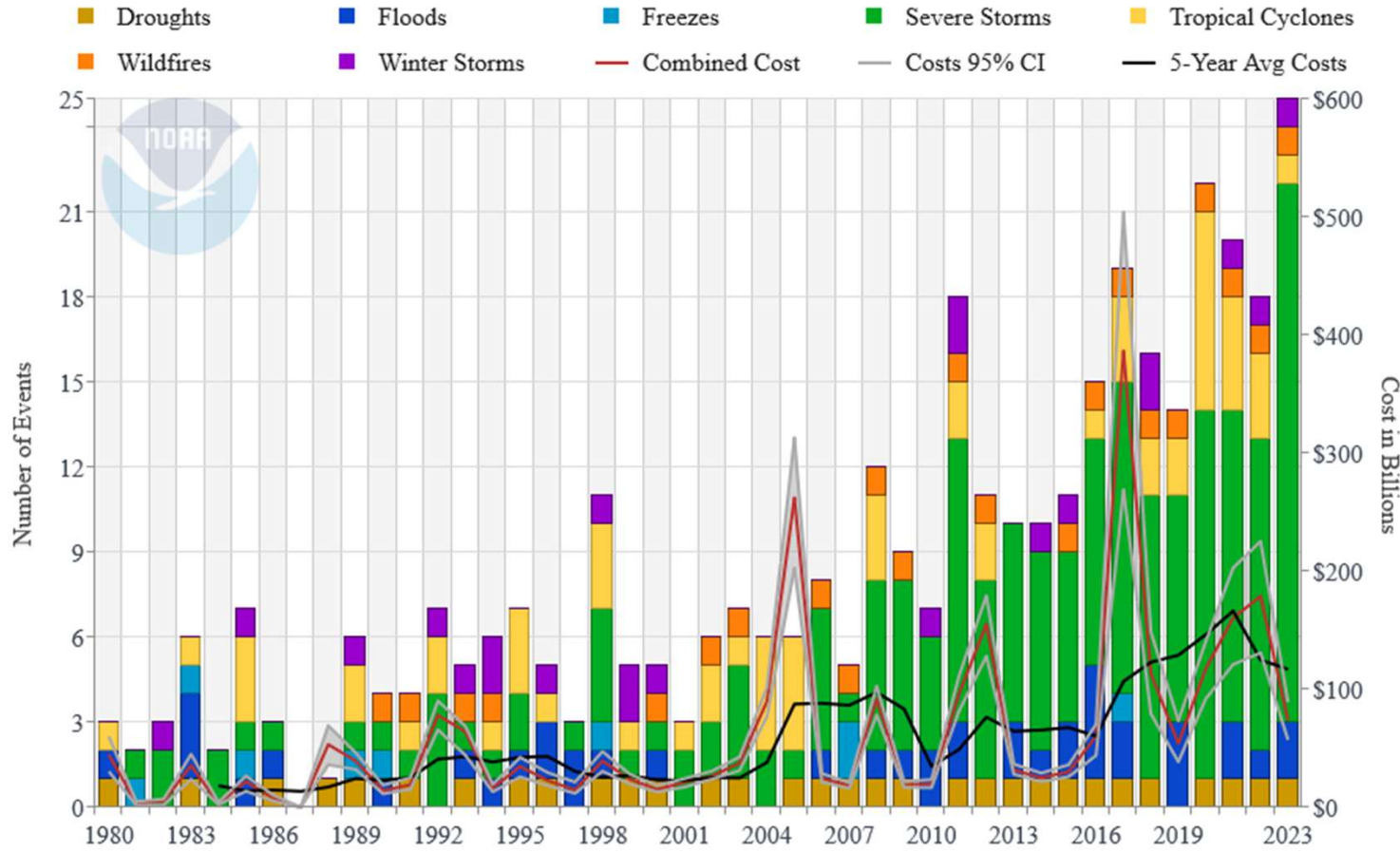
- shirkshires

biotic

- insects

- disease

United States Billion-Dollar Disaster Events 1980-2023 (CPI-Adjusted)

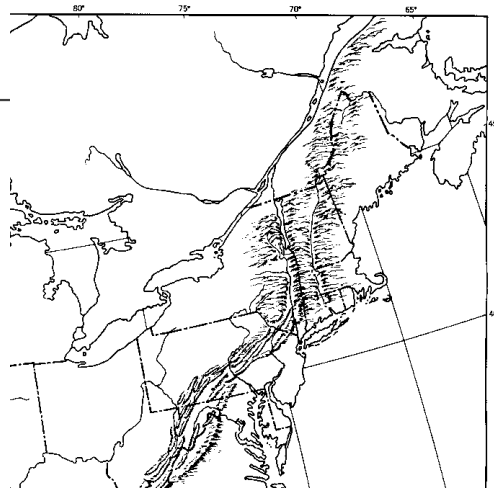


Updated: November 8, 2023

“In 2018, there were 14 separate billion-dollar weather and climate disaster events across the United States, with a total cost of \$91 billion. The total cost over the last 3 years (2016-2018) exceeds **\$450 billion**- averaging **\$150 billion/year**. The total cost over the last 5 years (2014-2018) is approximately **\$500 billion** - averaging **\$100 billion/year**, as indicated by the black line below.”

Why is Vermont so hazard-prone?

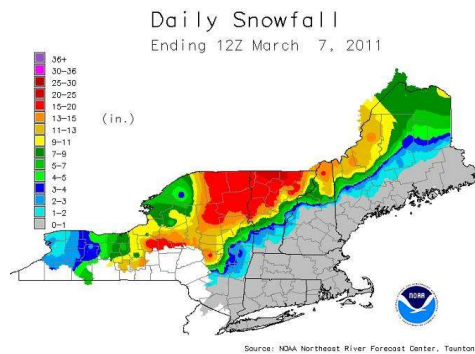
Topography plays a major influence



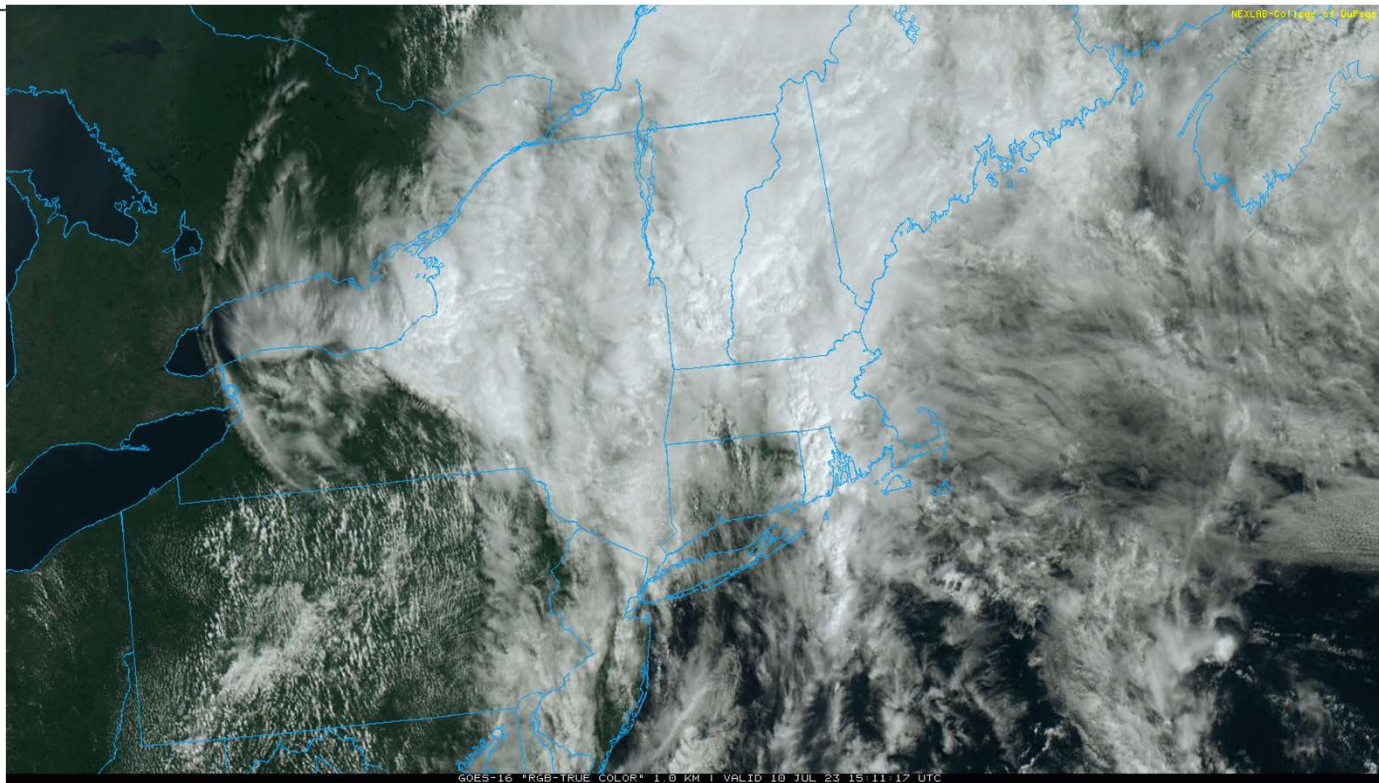
moisture diverted along the western flank of the Appalachian mountains

Green Mountains allow cold, dense air to accumulate in valleys

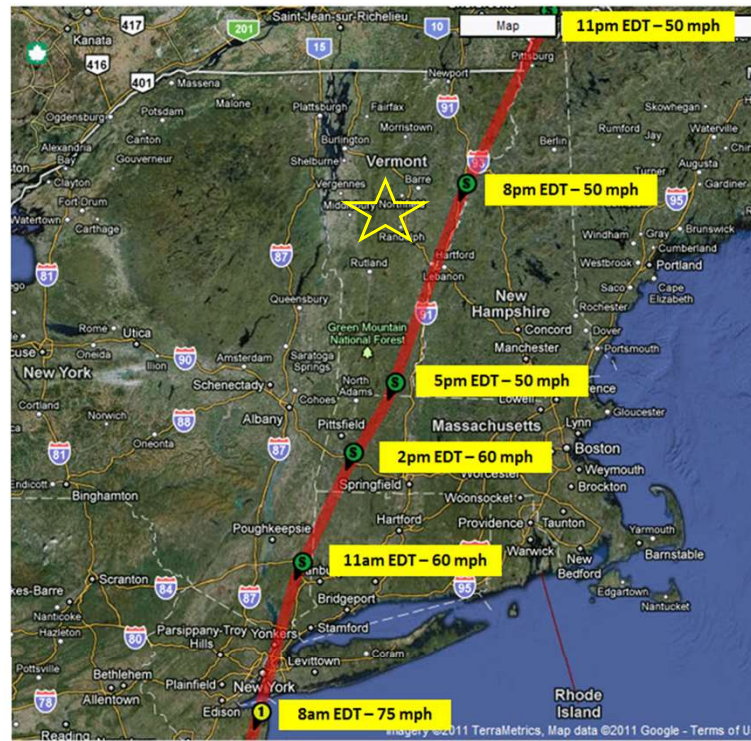
- Champlain
- St. Lawrence



10 July 2023



Irene's Path – 28 August 2011

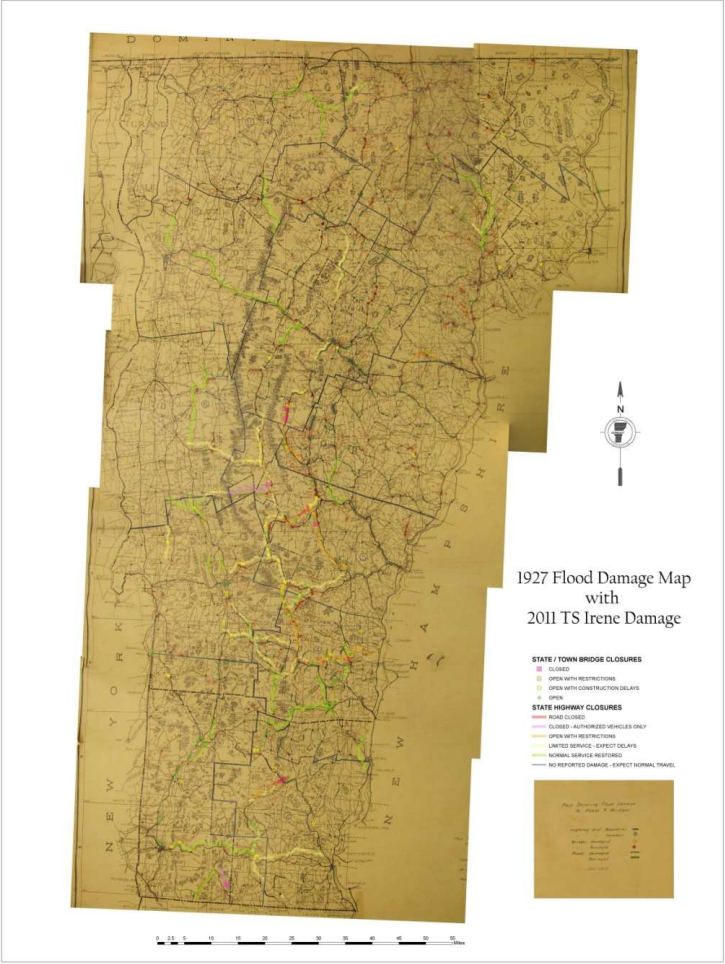


COURTESY: PAUL SISSON (HWS/BTV) WWW.WEATHER.GOV/BTV LAKE CHAMPLAIN FLOOD CONFERENCE 4 JUNE 2012

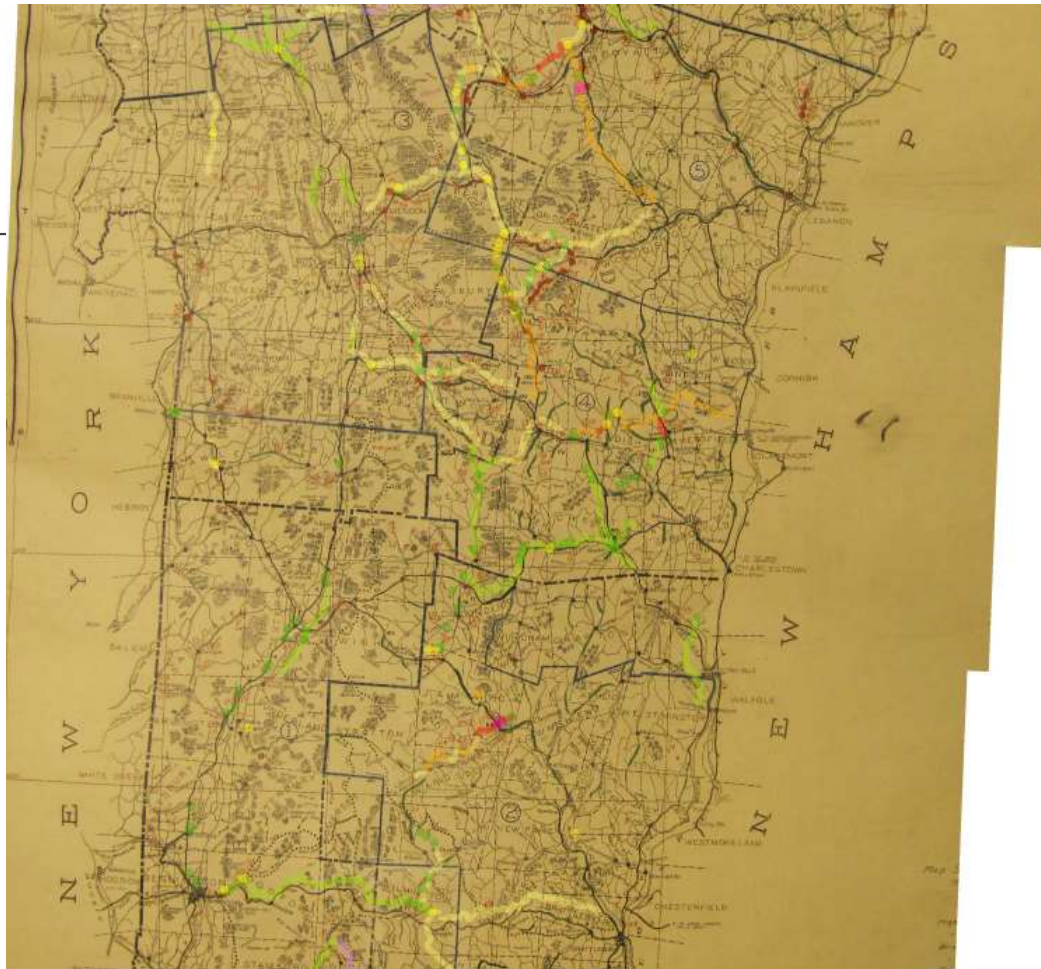


IRENE 2011 Flood Aftermath (Paul Sisson – NWS/BTV)





Courtesy: Johnathan Croft, VTrans



1927 Flood Damage Map with 2011 TS Irene Damage

STATE / TOWN BRIDGE CLOSURES

- CLOSED
- OPEN WITH RESTRICTIONS
- OPEN WITH CONSTRUCTION DELAYS
- OPEN

STATE HIGHWAY CLOSURES

- ROAD CLOSED
- CLOSED - AUTHORIZED VEHICLES ONLY
- OPEN WITH RESTRICTIONS
- LIMITED SERVICE - EXPECT DELAYS
- NORMAL SERVICE RESTORED
- NO REPORTED DAMAGE - EXPECT NORMAL TRAVEL



Courtesy: Johnathan Croft, VTrans

Juxtaposition of rivers & roads takes a toll on infrastructure

Dr. L-A. Dupigny-Giroux

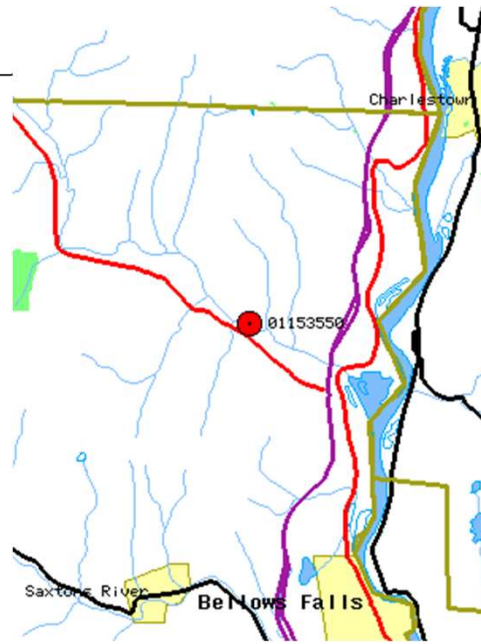
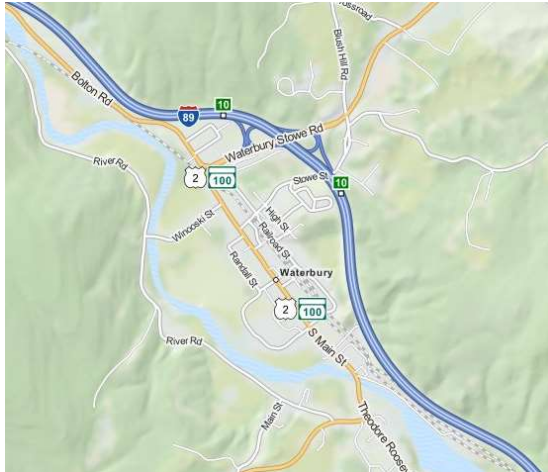


Photo credit: NWS/BTV



Montgomery flooding - July 1997

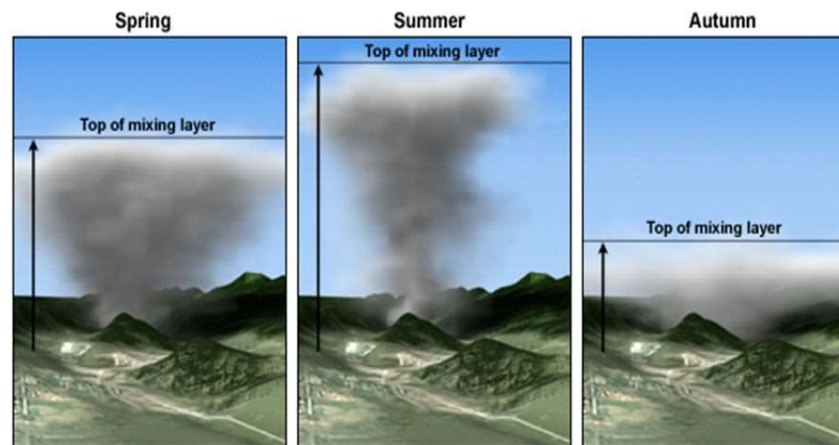
repeat occurrences in preferred locations

- Jay Peak, Route 100

Air quality

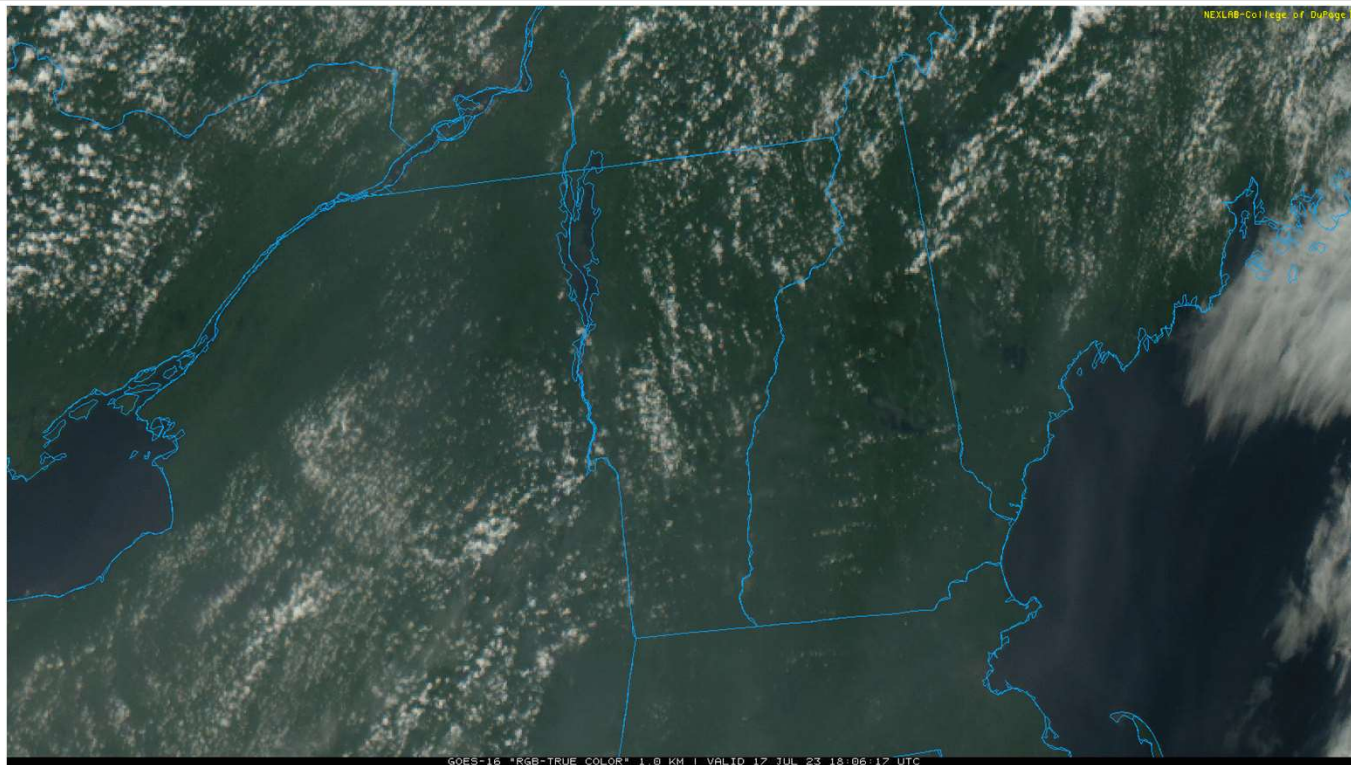
Our geography matters (Green Mountains)

Seasonal Variation in the Height of the Mixing Layer



©The COMET Program

Wildland fire smoke – 17 July 2023

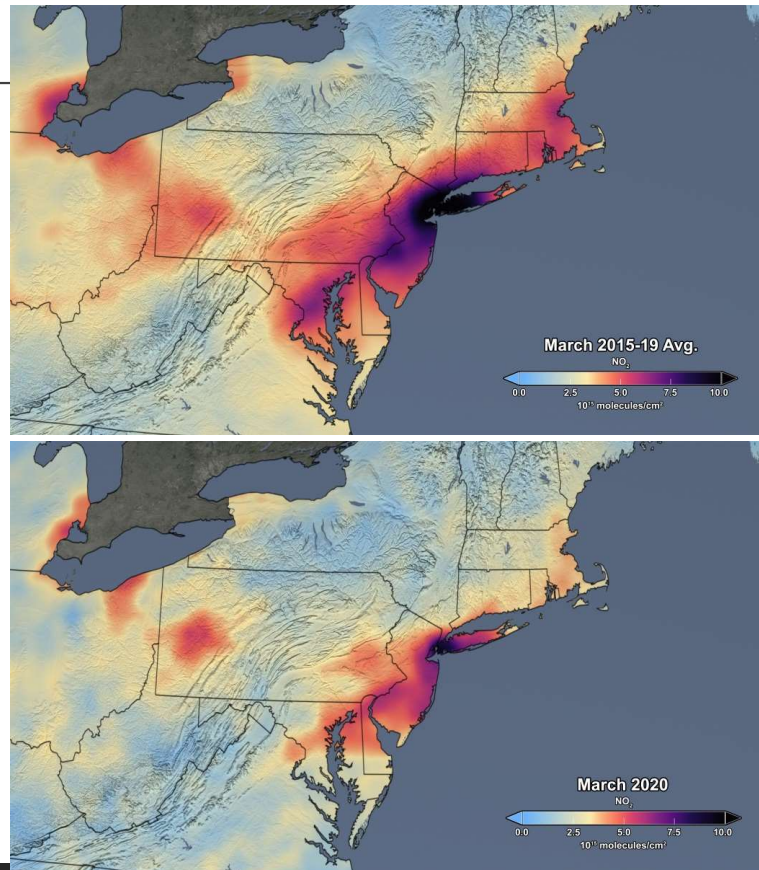


April 9, 2020

NASA Satellite Data Show 30 Percent Drop In Air Pollution Over Northeast U.S.

Over the past several weeks, NASA satellite measurements have revealed significant reductions in air pollution over the major metropolitan areas of the Northeast United States. Similar reductions have been observed in other regions of the world. These recent improvements in air quality have come at a high cost, as communities grapple with widespread lockdowns and shelter-in-place orders as a result of the spread of COVID-19.

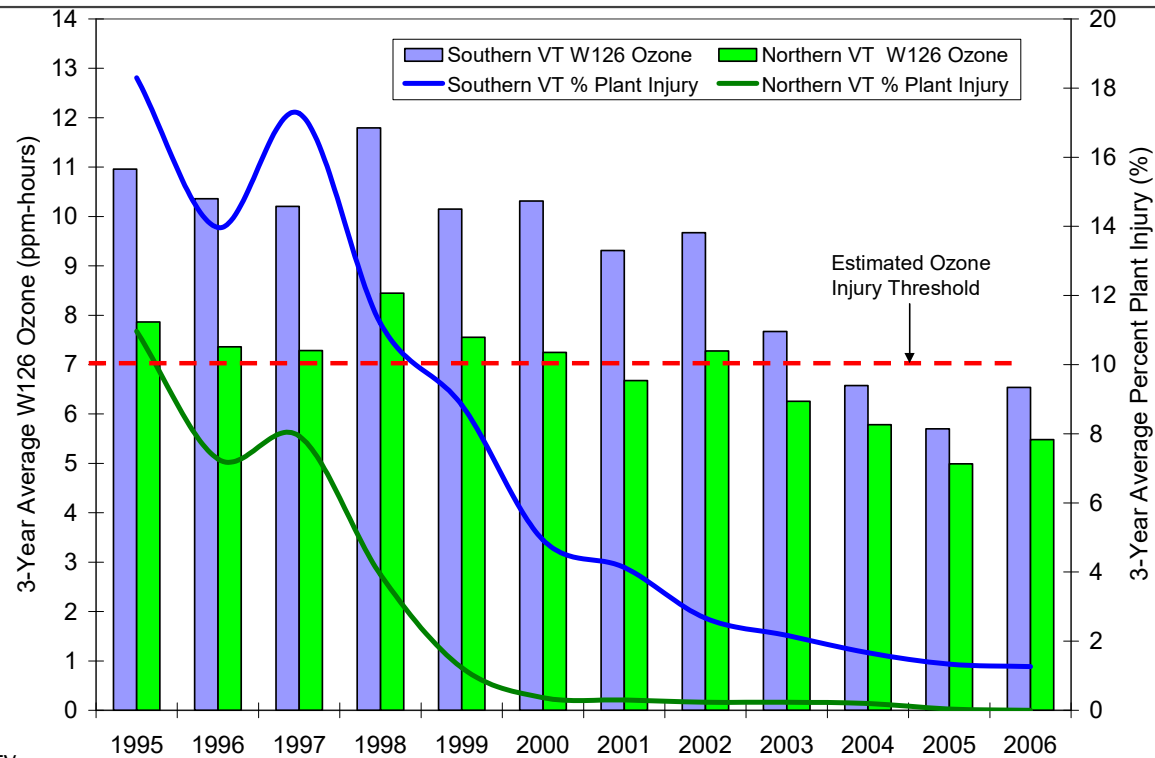
<https://www.nasa.gov/feature/goddard/2020/drop-in-air-pollution-over-northeast>



“March 2020 shows the lowest monthly atmospheric nitrogen dioxide levels of any March during the OMI data record, which spans 2005 to the present. In fact, the data indicate that the nitrogen dioxide levels in March 2020 are about 30% lower on average across the region of the I-95 corridor from Washington, DC to Boston than when compared to the March mean of 2015-19. Further analysis will be required to rigorously quantify the amount of the change in nitrogen dioxide levels associated with changes in emissions versus natural variations in weather.”

Courtesy:
NASA OMI

Three-Year Average Trends in Ozone Pollution & Plant Injury in Northern & Southern VT



Courtesy R. Poirot - VT ANR/Air Quality

Human health

hot weather (87 °F)

vulnerable populations

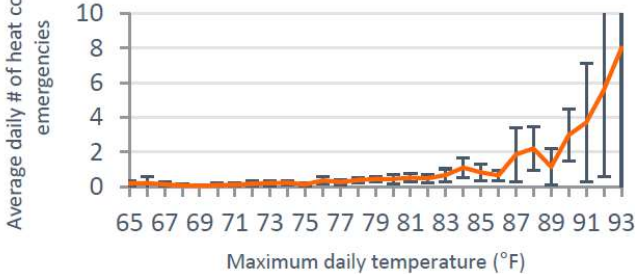
rising low temperatures

Lyme disease

ground-level ozone

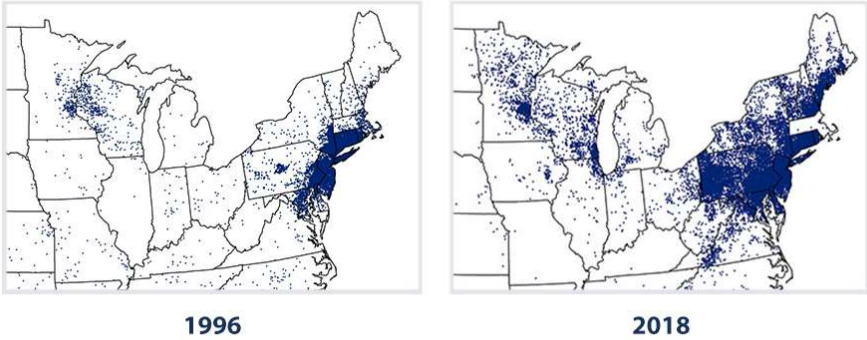
climate refugees

Average daily emergency department visits for heat complaints in Vermont, by maximum daily temperature, 2004 - 2013



Data sources: temperature data - PRISM Climate Group, in partnership with the Vermont State Climate Office; emergency department data - Early Aberration Reporting System (EARS).

Reported Lyme Disease Cases in 1996 and 2018



Data source: CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). 2019. Lyme disease maps: Historical data. Updated November 22, 2019. Accessed January 2021. www.cdc.gov/lyme/stats/maps.html.

For more information, visit U.S. EPA's "Climate Change Indicators in the United States" at www.epa.gov/climate-indicators.

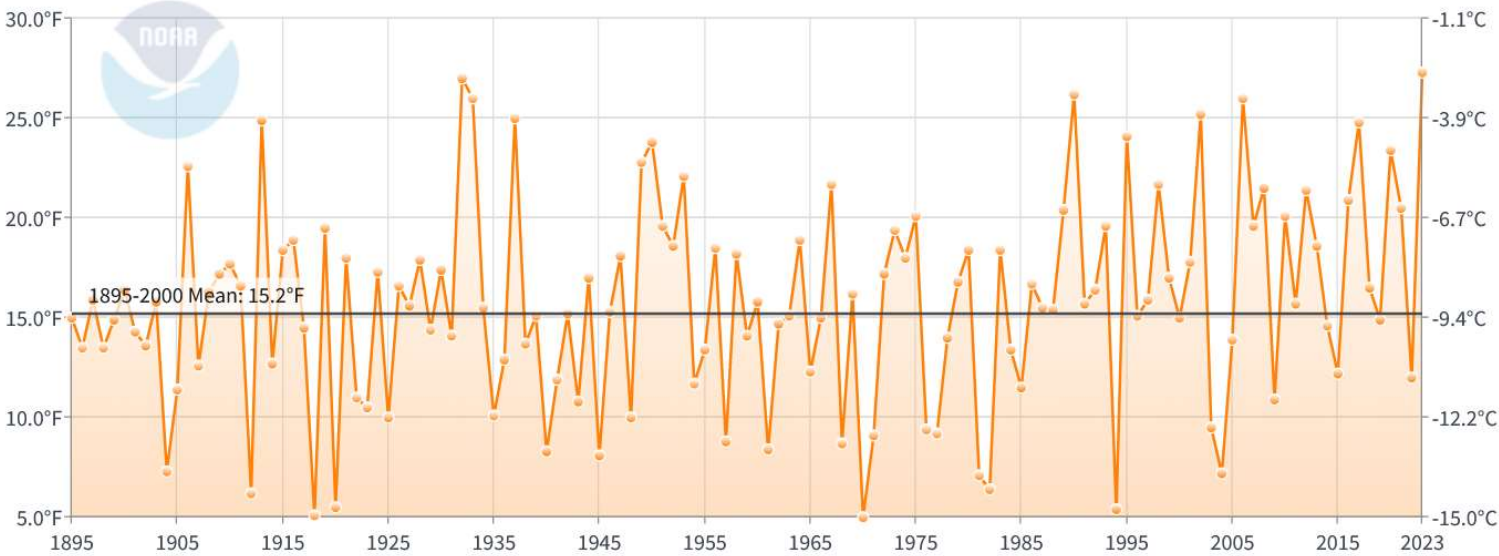
https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2021-04/lyme_download-map_2021.png

Warm AND cold temperatures are
important

January 2023 was the warmest January since 1895

Vermont Average Temperature

January



Powered by ZingChart

https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/monitoring/climate-at-a-glance/statewide/time-series/43/tavg/1/1/1895-2023?base_prd=true&begbaseyear=1895&endbaseyear=2000

Climate change for Montpelier



<https://crt-climate-explorer.nemac.org/>

Photo credit: L-A. & M. Dupigny-Giroux

Backward spring



low temperatures in January – June

land-locked stations colder

winter freeze/thaw cycles – predictor

snow, freezing rain – April to June

summer killing frosts

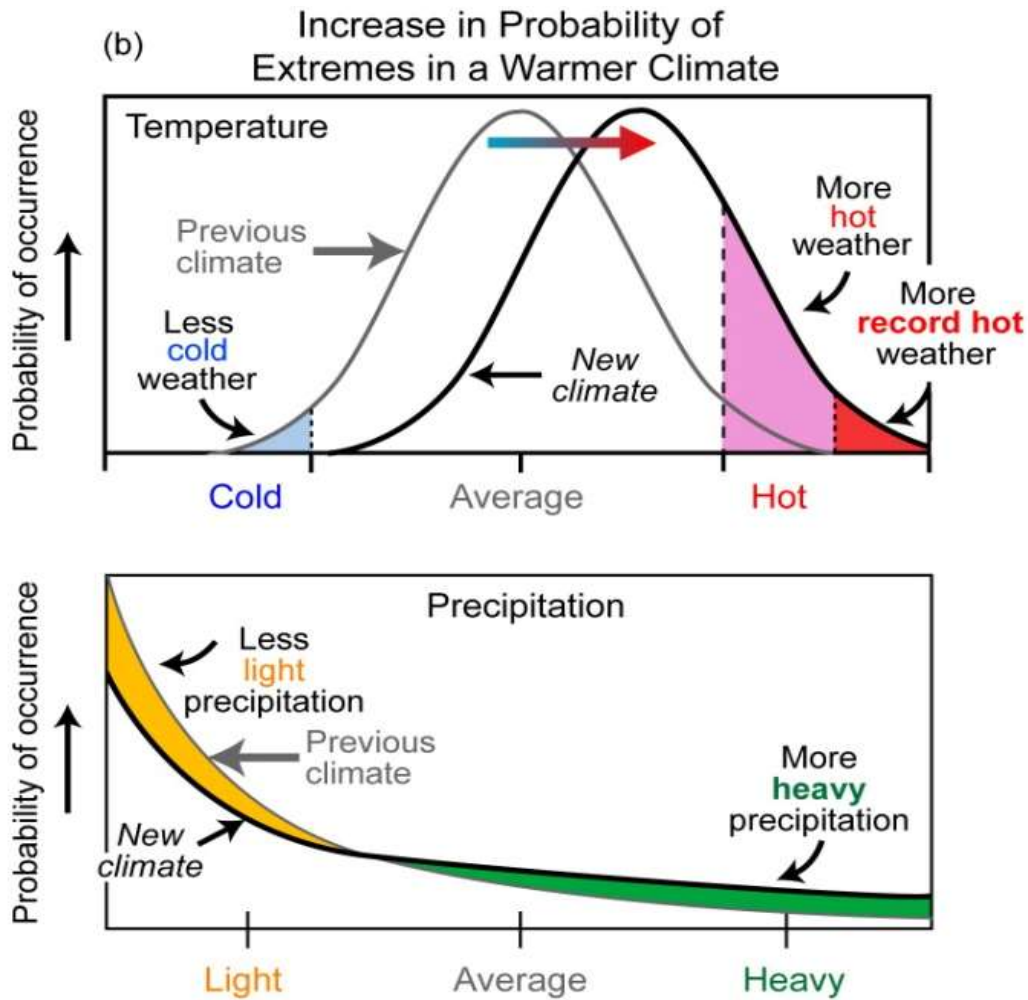
summer drought

NW flow

Dupigny-Giroux, L.-A. (2009) “Backward seasons, droughts and other bioclimatic indicators of variability,” in Historical climate variability and impacts in North America. Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux and Cary Mock (Editors), Springer Publishers, pp.231-250.

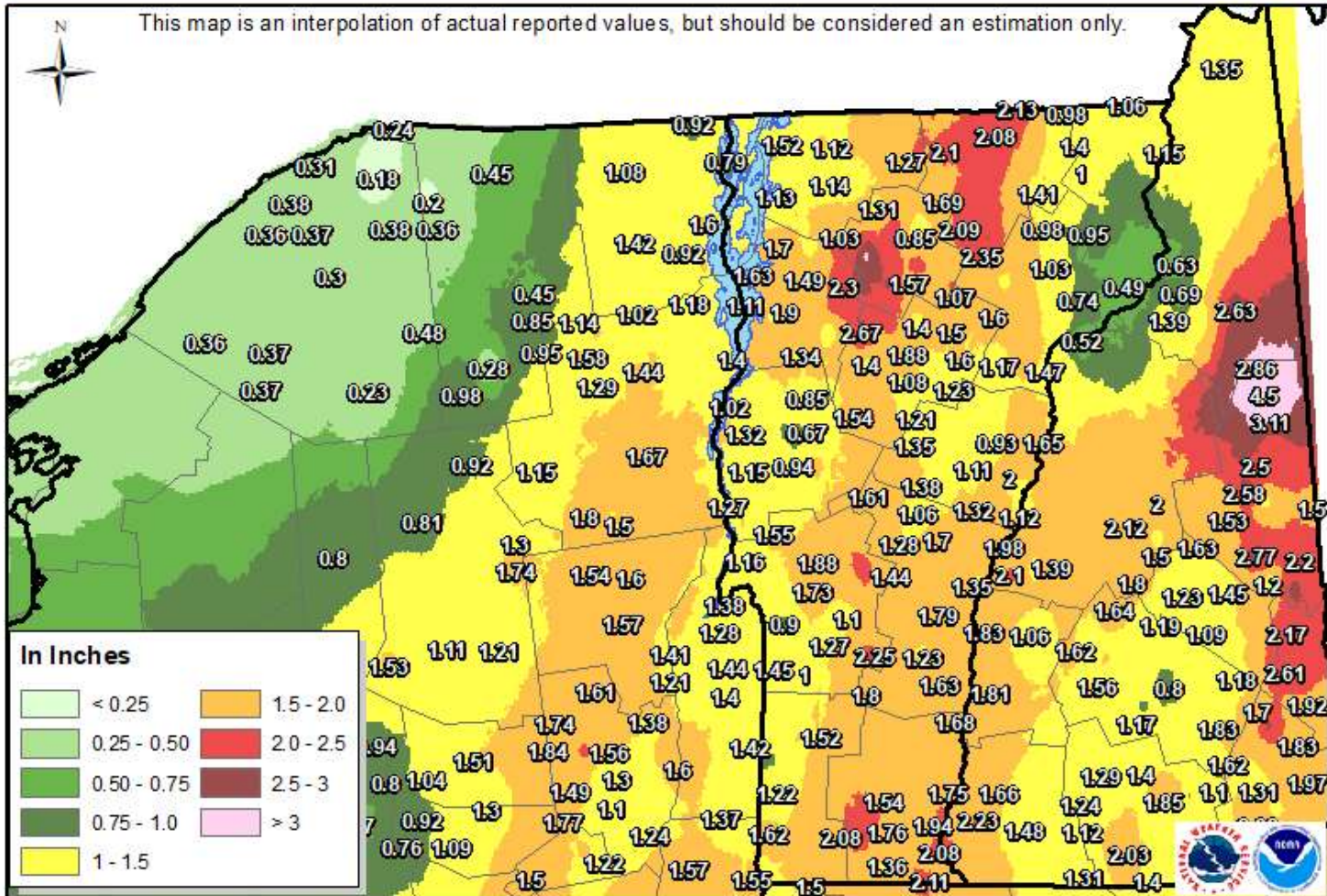


Too much moisture AND too little



A warmer world increases the probability of extreme events

North Country Storm Total Rainfall Ending October 14, 2022



Created by the National Weather Service Forecast Office Burlington, Vermont
 Sources: NWS observers & spotters, media, public, state & local officials

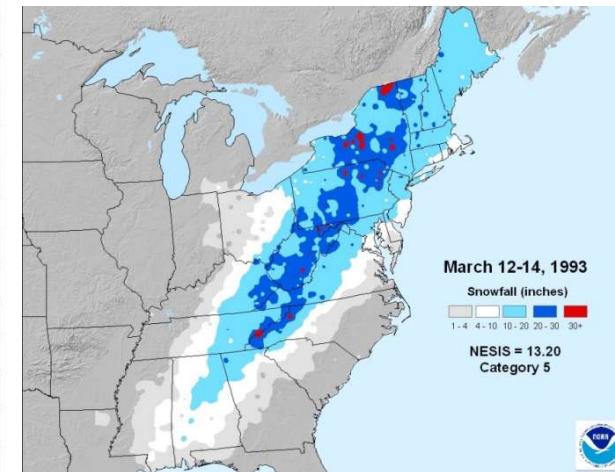
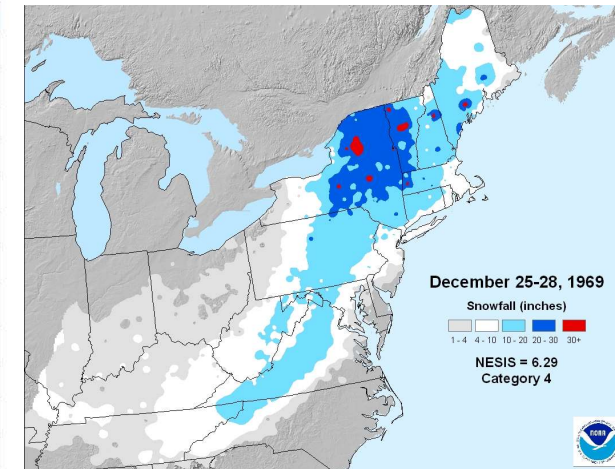
Created: 10/14/2022 11:55 AM

Northeast Snowfall Impact Scale (NESIS)

<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/monitoring-content/snow-and-ice/rsi/nesis/19930312-19930314-13.20.jpg>

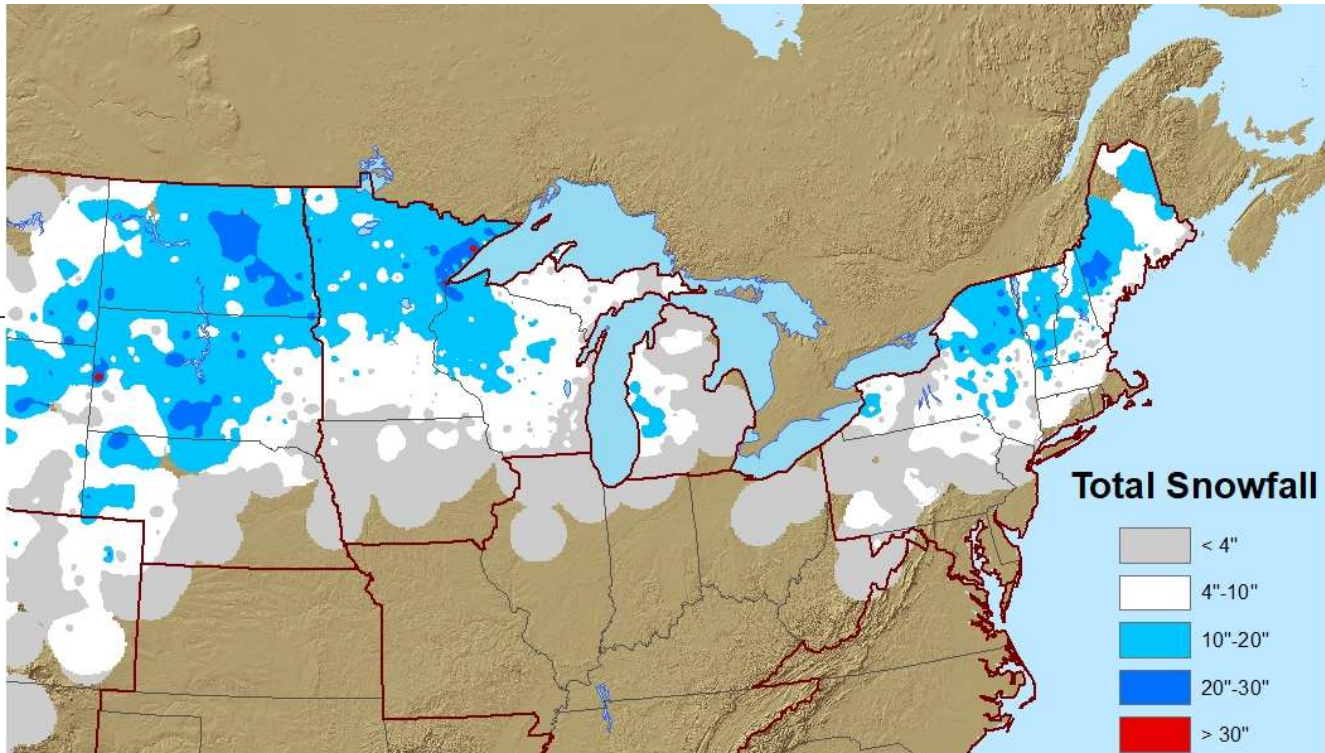
Table 2: Ranks 88 high-impact snowstorms that affected the Northeast urban corridor.

Rank	Start	End	NESIS	Category	Description	Map
1	1993-03-12	1993-03-14	13.20	5	Extreme	March 12-14, 1993
2	1996-01-06	1996-01-08	11.78	5	Extreme	January 6-8, 1996
3	1960-03-02	1960-03-05	8.77	4	Crippling	March 2-5, 1960
4	2022-12-13	2022-12-20	8.52	4	Crippling	December 13-20, 2022
5	2016-01-22	2016-01-24	7.66	4	Crippling	January 22-24, 2016
6	2003-02-15	2003-02-18	7.50	4	Crippling	February 15-18, 2003
7	1961-02-02	1961-02-05	7.06	4	Crippling	February 2-5, 1961
8	1964-01-11	1964-01-14	6.91	4	Crippling	January 11-14, 1964
9	2005-01-21	2005-01-24	6.80	4	Crippling	January 21-24, 2005
10	1978-01-19	1978-01-21	6.53	4	Crippling	January 19-21, 1978
11	1969-12-25	1969-12-28	6.29	4	Crippling	December 25-28, 1969
12	1983-02-10	1983-02-12	6.25	4	Crippling	February 10-12, 1983
13	1958-02-14	1958-02-17	6.25	4	Crippling	February 14-17, 1958
14	1966-01-29	1966-01-31	5.93	3	Major	January 29-31, 1966
15	1978-02-05	1978-02-07	5.78	3	Major	February 5-7, 1978
16	2007-02-12	2007-02-15	5.63	3	Major	February 12-15, 2007
17	2010-02-23	2010-02-28	5.46	3	Major	February 23-28, 2010
18	2015-01-29	2015-02-03	5.42	3	Major	January 29 - February 3, 2015
19	1987-01-21	1987-01-23	5.40	3	Major	January 21-23, 1987
20	1994-02-08	1994-02-12	5.39	3	Major	February 8-12, 1994
21	2011-01-09	2011-01-13	5.31	3	Major	January 9-13, 2011
22	2011-02-01	2011-02-03	5.30	3	Major	February 1-3, 2011
23	2014-02-11	2014-02-14	5.28	3	Major	February 11-14, 2014
24	2017-03-12	2017-03-15	5.03	3	Major	March 12-15, 2017
25	2021-01-30	2021-02-03	4.93	3	Major	January 30 - February 3, 2021
26	2010-12-24	2010-12-28	4.92	3	Major	December 24-28, 2010



www.weather.gov/btv

<https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/snow-and-ice/rsi/nesis>



December 13 - 20, 2022
NESIS = 8.52
Category 4



<https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/monitoring-content/snow-and-ice/rsi/nesis/20221213-20221220-8.52.jpg>

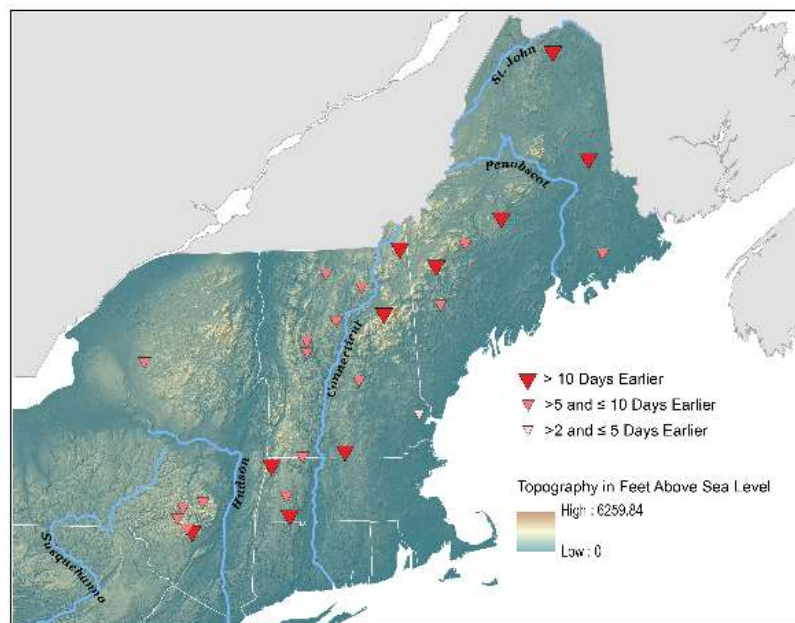


Fig. 18.2: Historical Changes in the Timing of Snowmelt-Related Streamflow

This map of part of the Northeast region shows consistently earlier snowmelt-related streamflow timing for rivers from 1960 to 2014. Each symbol represents the change for an individual river over the entire period. Changes in the timing of snowmelt potentially interfere with the reproduction of many aquatic species¹¹³ and impact water-supply reservoir management because of higher winter flows and lower spring flows.¹¹⁴ The timing of snowmelt-related streamflow in the Northeast is sensitive to small changes in air temperature. The average winter–spring air temperature increase of 1.67°F in the Northeast from 1940 to 2014 is thought to be the cause of average earlier streamflow timing of 7.7 days.¹¹² The timing of snowmelt-related streamflow is a valuable long-term indicator of winter–spring changes in the Northeast. *Source: adapted from Dudley et al. 2017;¹¹² Digital Elevation Model CGIAR–CSI (CGIAR Consortium for Spatial Information). Reprinted with permission from Elsevier.*

Droughts in Vermont - 1895 to present

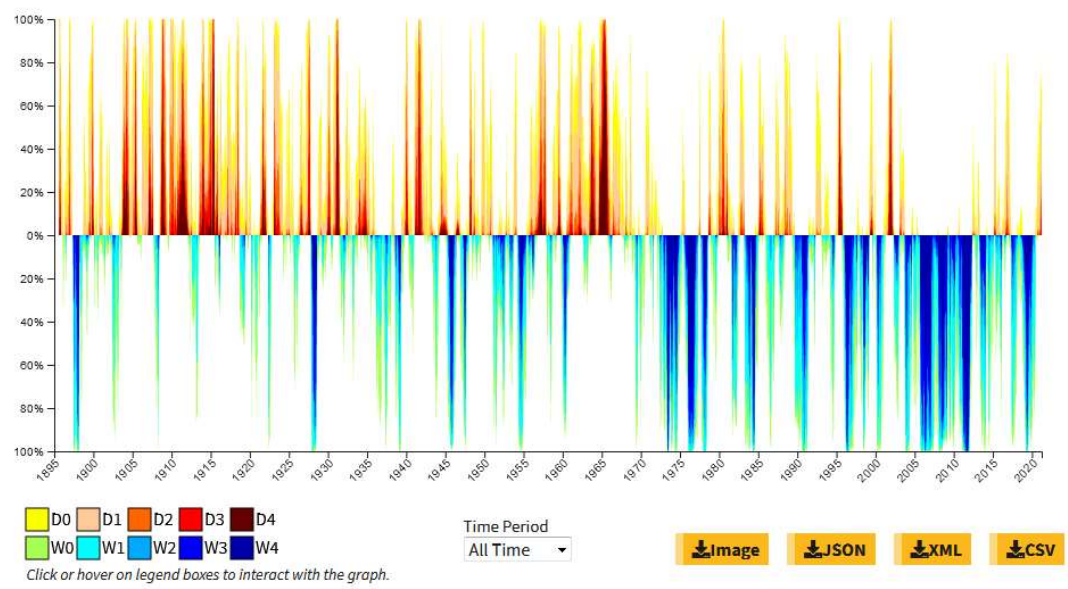
Drought in Vermont from 2000–Present

The U.S. Drought Monitor started in 2000. Since 2000, the longest duration of drought (D1–D4) in Vermont lasted 45 weeks beginning on June 21, 2016, and ending on April 25, 2017. The most intense period of drought occurred the week of September 29, 2020, where D2 affected 29.39% of Vermont land.

[2000 - Present \(Weekly\)](#) [1895 - Present \(Monthly\)](#) [0 - 2017 \(Yearly\)](#)

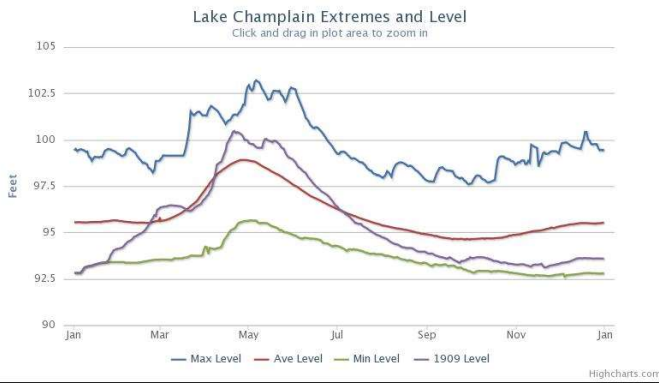
[Explore Historical Drought Maps](#)

The Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) is an index to characterize meteorological drought on a range of timescales, ranging from 1 to 72 months. The SPI is the number of standard deviations that observed cumulative precipitation deviates from the climatological average. NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information produce the 9-month SPI values below on a monthly basis, going back to 1895. [Learn more.](#)

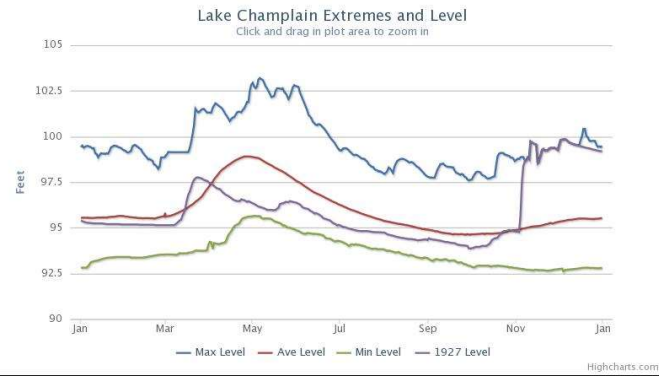


Floods & droughts

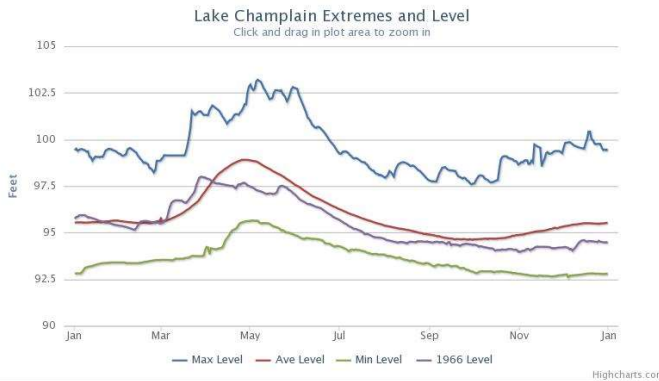
1909



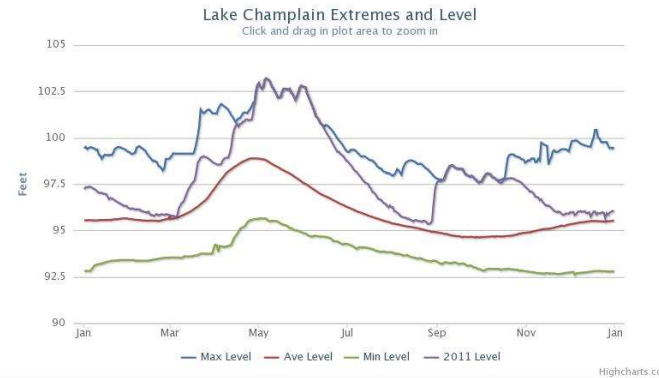
1927



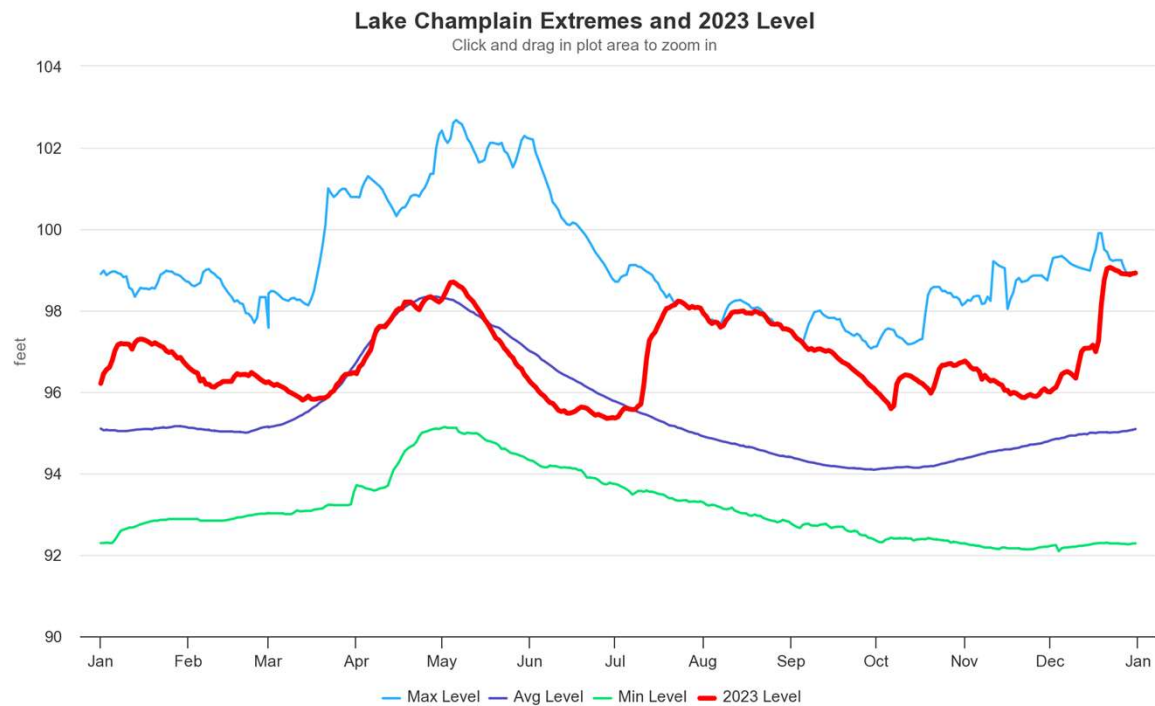
1966



2011



Lake Champlain daily levels in 2023



Highcharts.com

<https://www.weather.gov/btv/lakeLevel?year=2023>

Current U.S. Drought Monitor Conditions for Vermont

Get Alerts When Local Conditions Change

[Current](#) [Last Week](#) [Last Month](#)

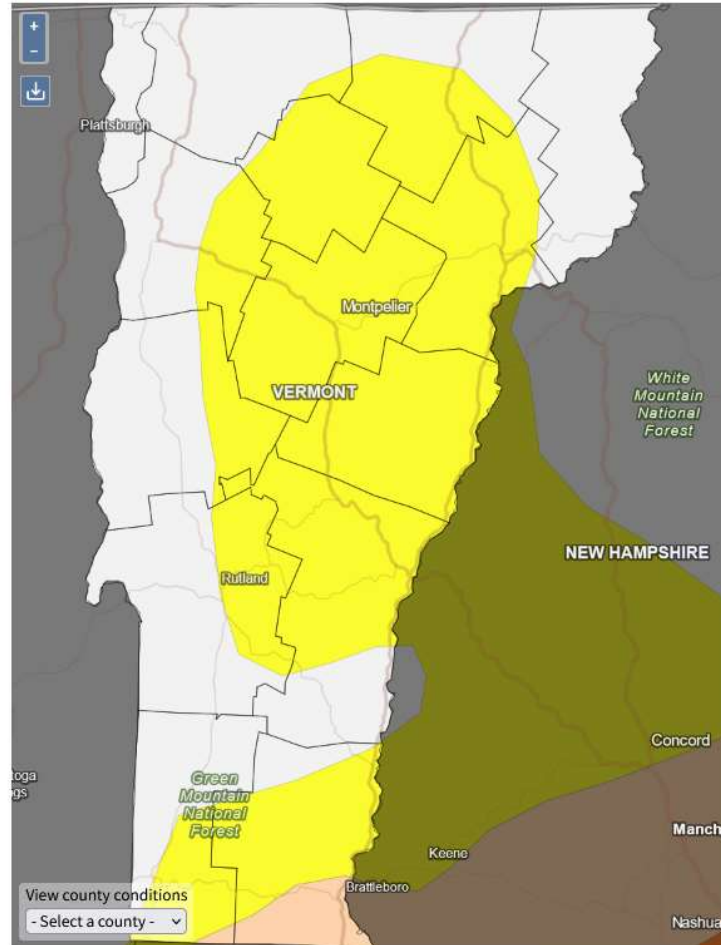
The U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM) is updated each Thursday to show the location and intensity of drought across the country. This map shows drought conditions across Vermont using a five-category system, from Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions to Exceptional Drought (D4). The USDM is a joint effort of the National Drought Mitigation Center, USDA, and NOAA. [Learn more.](#)

The following state-specific drought impacts were compiled by the [National Drought Mitigation Center](#). While these impacts are not exhaustive, they can help provide a clearer picture of drought in Vermont.

	D0 - Abnormally Dry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crop growth is stunted; planting is delayed • Fire danger is elevated; spring fire season starts early • Lawns brown early; gardens begin to wilt 	54.0% of VT (D0-D4)
	D1 - Moderate Drought <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irrigation use increases; hay and grain yields are lower than normal • Honey production declines • Wildfires and ground fires increase 	2.1% of VT (D1-D4)
	D2 - Severe Drought <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialty crops are impacted in both yield and fruit size • Producers begin feeding cattle; hay prices are high • Warnings are issued on outdoor burns; air quality is poor 	0.0% of VT (D2-D4)
	D3 - Extreme Drought <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crop loss is widespread; Christmas tree farms are stressed; dairy farmers are struggling financially • Well drillers and bulk water haulers see increased business • Water recreation and hunting are modified; wildlife disease outbreak is observed 	0% of VT (D3-D4)
	D4 - Exceptional Drought <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vermont has experienced little or no exceptional (D4) drought, so there are no D4-level drought impacts recorded in the Drought Impact Reporter. 	0% of VT (D4)

Map and legend colors may be altered when using dark or high-contrast mode.

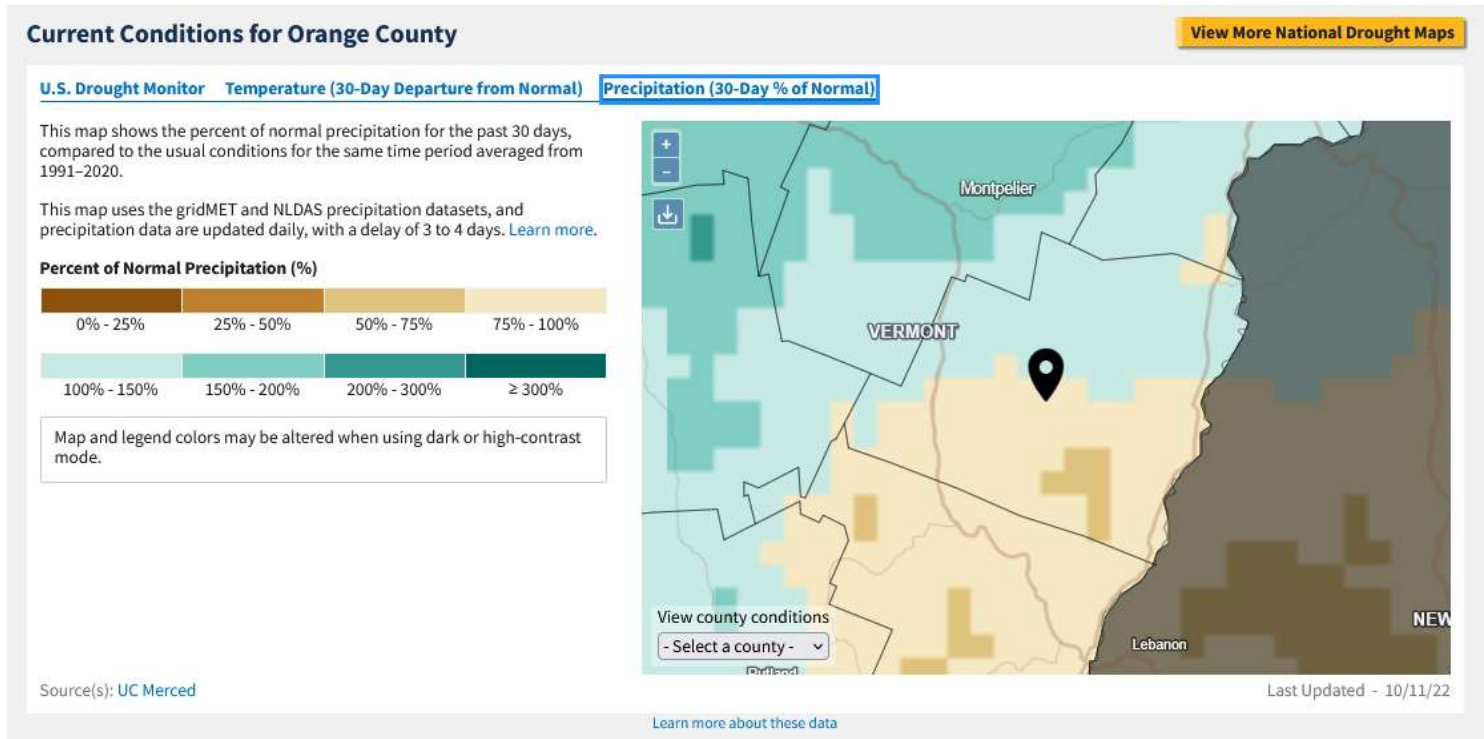
Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA



Updates Weekly - 10/11/22

<https://www.drought.gov/states/vermont>

Weather, climate and climate change are local



Fire Weather Concerns For Today



Burlington, VT
WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE

OVERVIEW:

- The combination of low relative humidity, gusty northwest winds, and dry fuels will create fire weather concerns over northern New York and the northwest, central, and southern portions of Vermont this afternoon and early evening.

TIMING	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The lowest relative humidity values and strongest northwest winds will occur between Noon and 7 PM Today.
HAZARDS & IMPACTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Any fires that were to start in these critical fire weather conditions could quickly get out of control and be difficult to contain. <i>This applies to most areas outside of the Red Flag Warning as well.</i>▪ Follow state guidelines in Vermont regarding open burning and remember a Burn Ban exists in New York through May 14th, which means no open burning is allowed.
NWS ALERTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ A Red Flag Warning is in effect for the western portions of Franklin, Chittenden, Addison, and Rutland counties in Vermont as well as all of Orange, Windsor, Bennington, and Windham counties of Vermont. The warning is valid from Noon until 7PM. Expect relative humidity values as low as 25 percent and northwest wind gusts in the 25 to 30 mph range.
POST-EVENT OUTLOOK	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ We are anticipating an extended period of dry weather through the remainder of the week, which will help to further dry out the fuels. A gradual warming trend is expected, but winds will not be as strong as today and relative humidities not as low as today either.
NEXT BRIEFING	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ This will be the last briefing unless conditions change.



VERMONT'S WILDLAND FIRE SEASONS



Every year wildland fires burn grass, brush, and forest fuels in Vermont. The majority of these fires burn in the spring. Occasionally, summer or fall fires occur in a dry year.

Spring Fire Season

Generally spring fire season begins shortly after snowmelt when weather conditions are favorable for drying wildland fuels, dead grasses, leaves and twigs. Clean-up after a long winter season generates a great deal of debris burning activity. Most Vermont wildland fires occur between the end of March and the beginning of June.

Southern counties, low-elevation areas, and exposed south-facing slopes generally experience dry conditions earlier during spring, while northern counties and higher elevations have dry conditions later in the season. During the spring fire season, access to fire areas can be extremely hampered due to mud conditions.

Spring is the time of year that most involves changing weather patterns. Low relative humidity and gusty winds, combined with dry fuel conditions and tough terrain, can make controlling wildland fires difficult and hazardous. Fortunately, spring fires seldom burn deeply into the ground litter, which makes clean up easier and less expensive.



Summer Fire Season

After green-up has occurred and the spring rainy periods have subsided, the summer months can become hot and dry. Even though wildland areas may look green and damp, the forest ground fuels and litter may be dry enough to sustain fire. Campfires, logging operations, and lightning are common causes of summer fires. Most summer fires occur from mid- to late August into September. Depending primarily on the amount of rain received, a summer fire season may or may not occur.



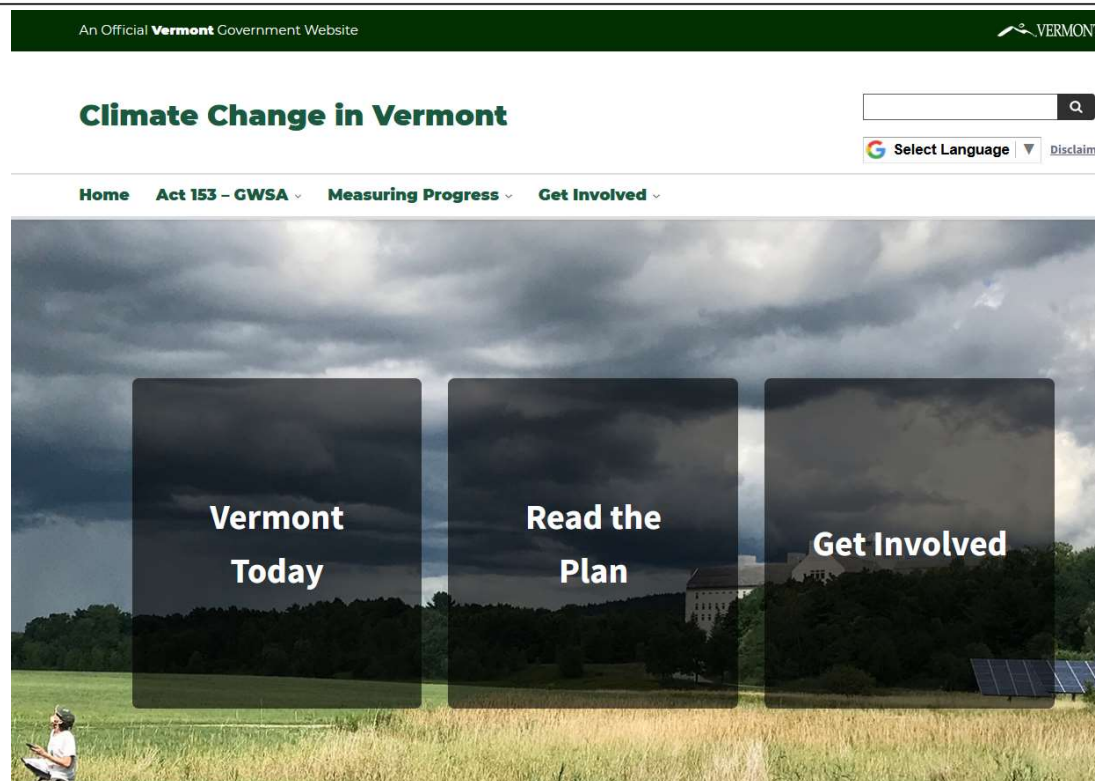
Photo: L-A. Dupigny-Giroux



2021 Vermont Climate Action Plan

https://climatechange.vermont.gov/sites/climatecouncilsandbox/files/2021-12/Initial%20Climate%20Action%20Plan%20-%20Final%20-%202012-1-21.pdf

Vermont Climate Action Plan



Just Transitions subcommittee

GUIDING PRINCIPLES **FOR A JUST TRANSITION**

Vermont Climate Council, Just Transitions Subcommittee
August 2021

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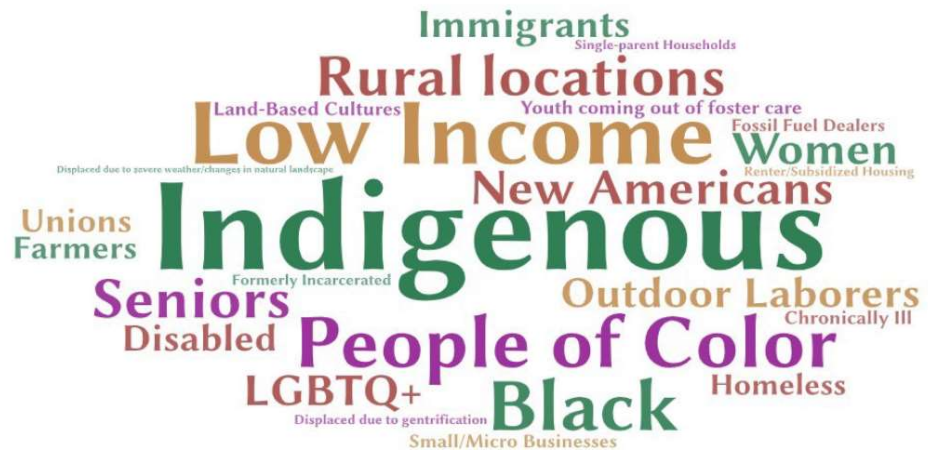
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From Kiah Morris:

Vermont's Impacted & Frontline Communities

As global warming accelerates, the Council and its Subcommittees must engage with those on the “frontlines” of the climate crisis.

- Studies continue to show that low-income communities, indigenous peoples, and black and other communities of color are among those who are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.
- In addition, as industry and jobs transition away from greenhouse gas emissions and towards “greener” jobs and livelihoods, particular focus must be given to the labor sector.
- Finally, some Vermonters may also be necessarily focused on achieving immediate goals of food, shelter, safety and health, which can impact ability to focus on long-term adaptation to climate and economic changes.



Vermont Climate Action Plan

Climate Change in Vermont

Lesley-Ann L. Dupigny-Giroux, Jason Shafer, Owen Pollio, Ken Jones

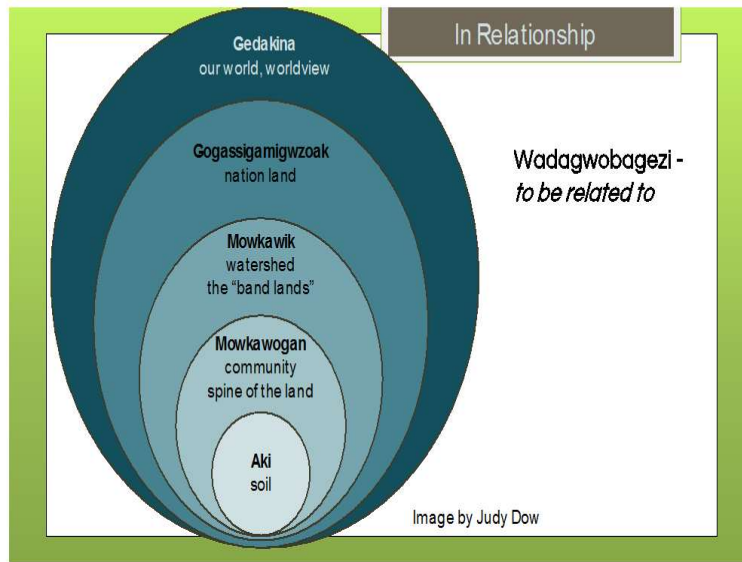
1.0 Preface

This section of the Climate Action Plan presents the drivers and processes of climate change in the Vermont by focusing on the natural hazards that affect multiple socioeconomic sectors and which directly influence on our resilience as a state. In presenting resilience through the dual lenses of inclusion and vulnerability (of peoples, the natural environment and human infrastructure), we honor Abenaki knowledges (Figure 1a) and all ways of knowing (Betts, 2021), as we seek to do no harm (Figure 1b).

For consistency with other state-level Climate Action Plans, this section used data and statistical methods developed in support of the Fifth National Climate Assessment (NCA5)¹ by the National Center for Environmental Information (NCEI), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Northeast Regional Climate Center (NRCC). One such document is the 2021 Vermont State Climate Summary² which is included with permission as Appendix 1 and which will be released by NCEI by January 2022. County level climate projections of future thresholds were summarized from the NOAA Climate Explorer³ and included in Appendix 1. Sectoral impacts of climate change across Vermont can be found in the 2021 Vermont Climate Assessment. Existing tools for monitoring and quantifying vulnerabilities will be woven throughout this section.

Abenaki scholar Judy Dow

We Are All Related
By Judy Dow



Mowkawogan represents the spine of the land. The Community is everything from insects, plants, birds, fish and humans, as well as those beings in between. The Community works to protect the land and keep the spine connected in every way. This connection of the spine will

keep the soil strong to allow the place of birthing to continue to give birth and contribute to the health and well-being of the community. Woigan is the spine; mowi means "to move;" mowkannoak means "they travel in a group together;" and mowigoboak means "they stand together," or "they stand as a group." All of these words imply the community will move and stand strong together to protect aki (the soil). The community will work to protect and care for aki at all costs. After all, it is their place of birth.

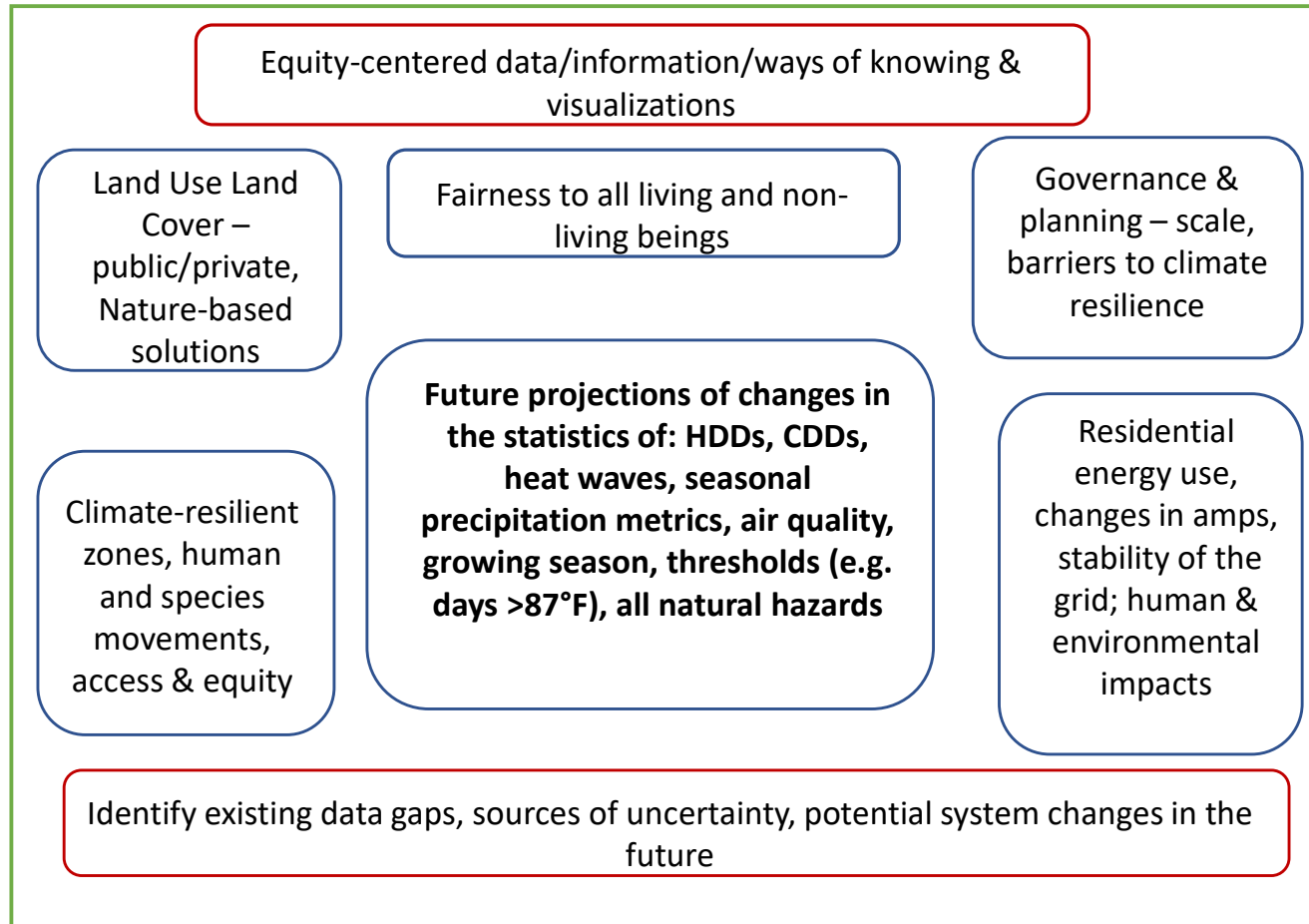
Mowkawik means the band's land. This is the place within which the community or band travels together to protect community and aki. This is the watershed, the place where the community works to protect the waters that feed the spine that loves and cares for aki. A community never stays in one place long enough to damage aki or bakabagw (clear water). The group moves throughout the watershed to preserve the clear water for the community. This is true conservation at its best.

Gogassigamigwoak literally translates to "there are many families living together." This is the Nation, the place where everyone speaks the same language. Gogassomkwaki means so many thousands, referring to the many thousands of people that work to care for water, community, and aki. This is the place where Mowkawogan continues to grow.

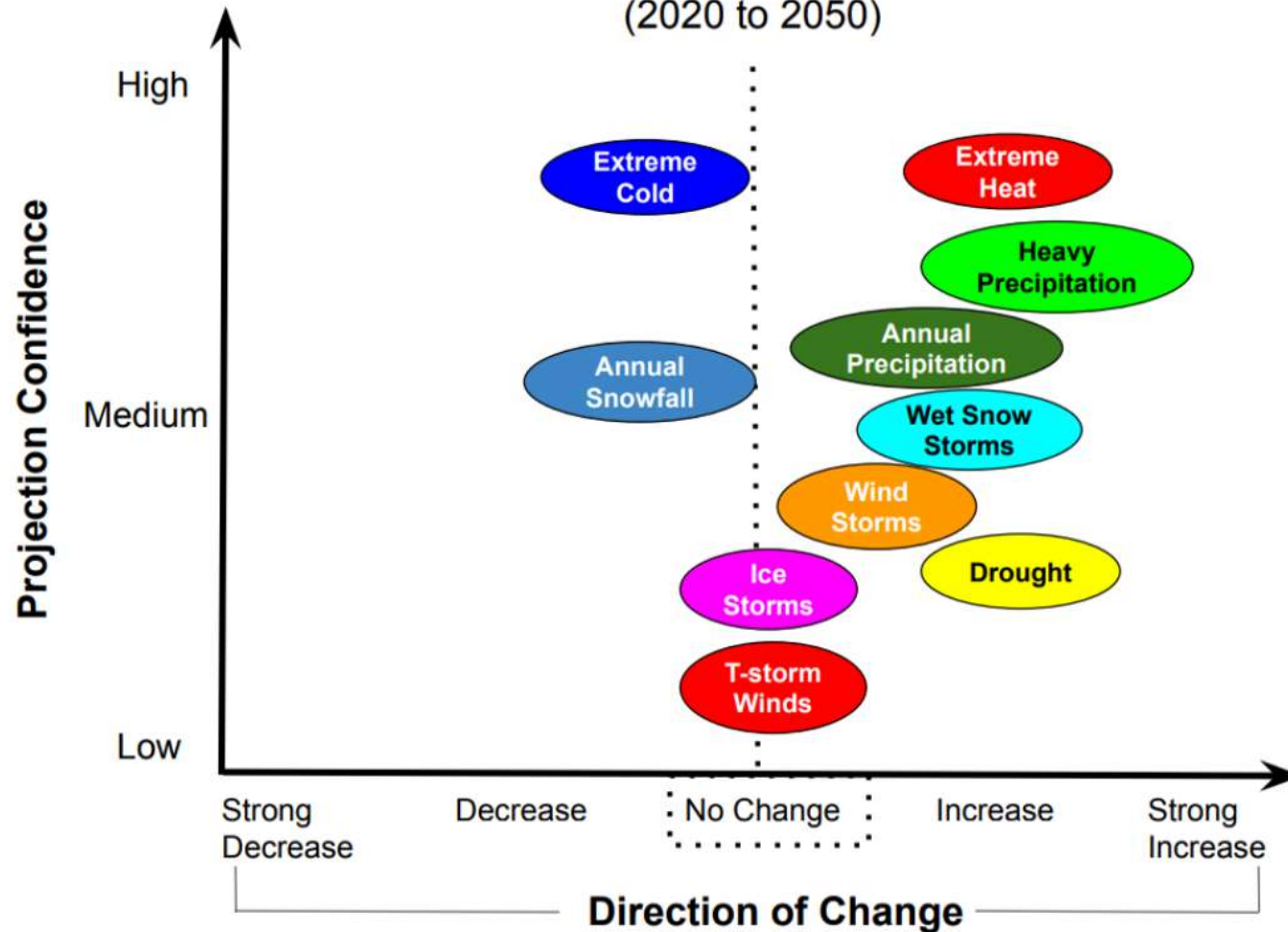
Gedakina means our world or our worldview. This is the place where one will reach an understanding of the cycle of life within their own community and those of others. This is the place one reaches when they make connections to form new relationships. These new relations will learn together. It is their responsibility to show respect and reverence to aki and that aki is our relation. Once these values are learned, the community will know how to reciprocate to aki in a proper way. The community will now know Wadagwobagezi, we are all related to one another.

Submitted to the Vermont Climate Council – 26 April 2021

DO NO HARM – PEOPLES, COMMUNITIES, THE LAND



Vermont Climate Projections: Hazard Risks (2020 to 2050)



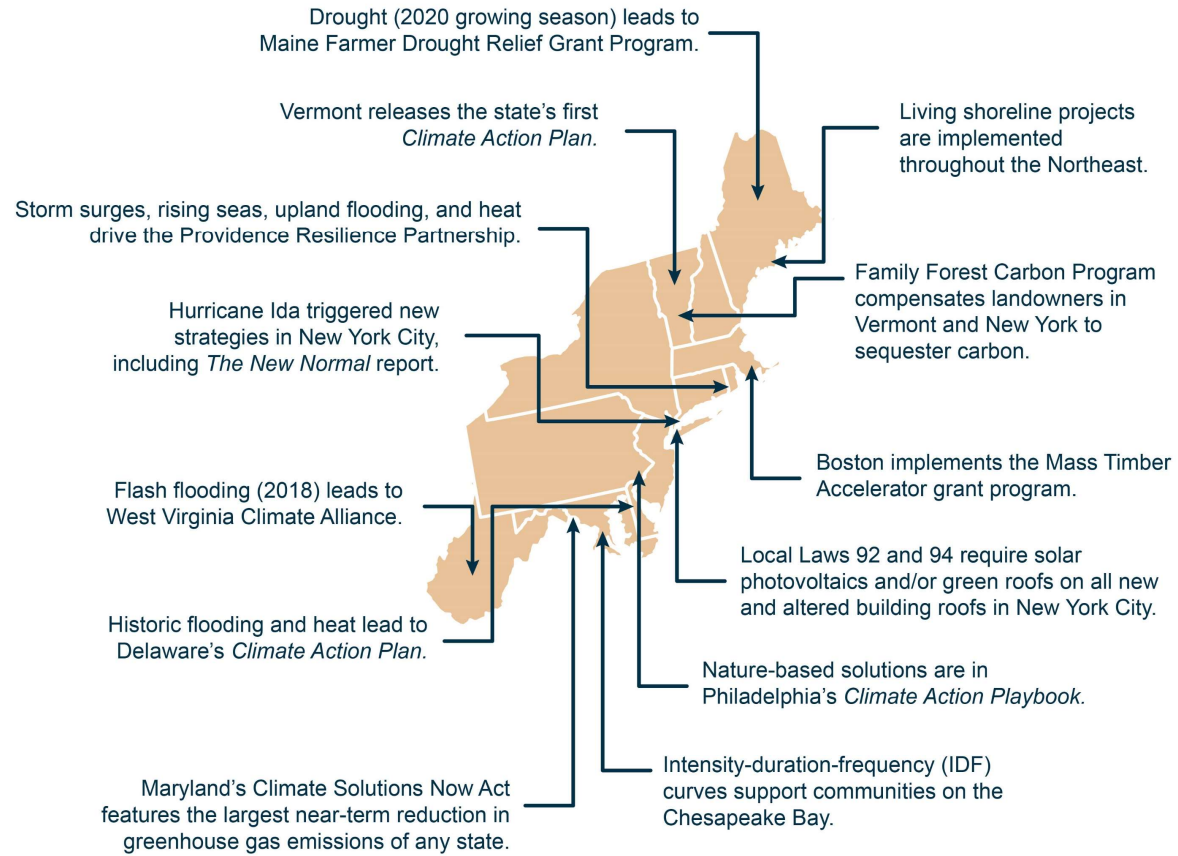
<https://nca2023.globalchange.gov/>

Fifth National Climate Assessment



 U.S. Global Change
Research Program

Examples of State and Local Responses to Extreme Weather



NCA5 NORTHEAST CHAPTER

21.2: Examples of State and Local Responses to Extreme Weather

NOAA State Climate Summary for Vermont

Home States Supplemental Materials Downloads Credits

NOAA NATIONAL CENTERS
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

STATE CLIMATE SUMMARIES 2022

VERMONT

Key Messages Narrative Downloads

▼

<https://statesummaries.ncics.org/chapter/vt/>

What can we do?

Items for consideration - peoples

multi-jurisdictional approach

ensuring that ALL peoples are at the table from the beginning

changes in high heat, health impacts

in-migration (income levels, languages, cultures)

communal multi-use spaces in existing and planned communities – ease of access

connectivity of our biking networks (ease of access, safety)

improvements to existing mass transit (routes, frequency, connectivity)

Items for consideration – the land

mixture of working lands and natural lands

preservation of our wetlands & nature-based solutions

active promotion of design projects that slow and filter runoff

CHAPTER 18: NORTHEAST

KEY MESSAGES

1 2 3 4 5

Key Message 1: Changing Seasons Affect Rural Ecosystems, Environments, and Economies

The seasonality of the Northeast is central to the region's sense of place and is an important driver of rural economies. Less distinct seasons with milder winter and earlier spring conditions (very high confidence) are already altering ecosystems and environments (high confidence) in ways that adversely impact tourism (very high confidence), farming (high confidence), and forestry (medium confidence). The region's rural industries and livelihoods are at risk from further changes to forests, wildlife, snowpack, and streamflow (likely).

Major uncertainties

Warmer fall temperatures affect senescence, fruit ripening, migration, and hibernation, but are less well studied in the region⁹⁸ and must be considered alongside other climatic factors such as drought.

Projections for summer rainfall in the Northeast are uncertain,⁴ but evaporative demand for surface moisture is expected to increase with projected increases in summer temperatures.^{3,4} Water use is highest during the warm season;^{141,400} how much this will affect water availability for agricultural use depends on the frequency and intensity of drought during the growing season.³⁰²

Items for consideration – the land

mixture of working lands and natural lands

preservation of our wetlands & nature-based solutions

active promotion of design projects that slow and filter runoff

Erosion along historically channelized streams is the predominant form of road damage in VT

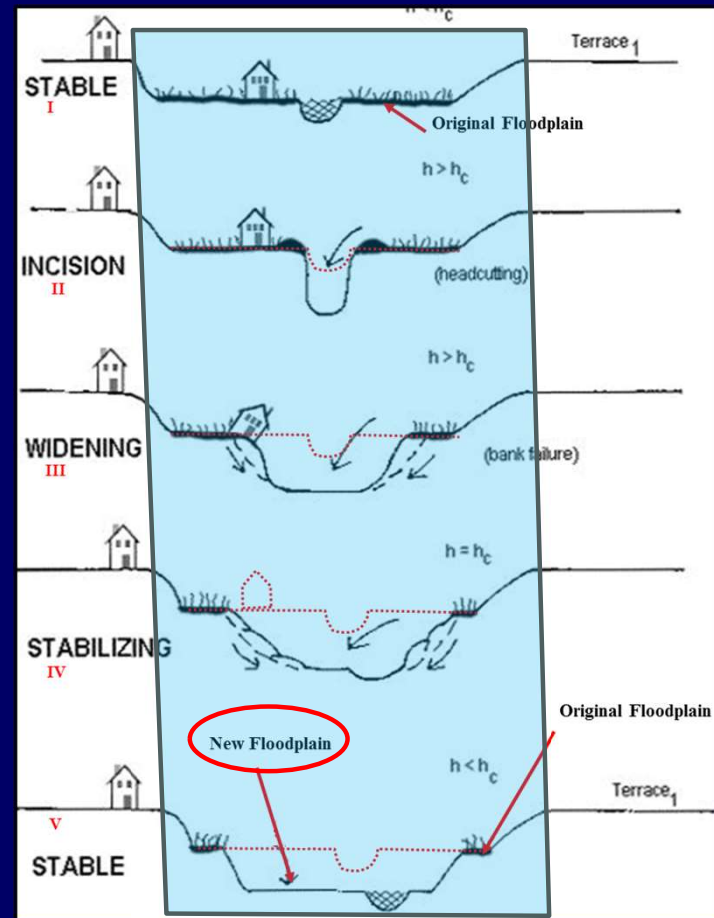


Courtesy: Mike Kline

Preserve new river-formed floodplains as much as possible, and the next flood will result in less erosion and downstream flooding.

Act 138 (2012) promotes the protection of **River Corridors** to reduce erosion and increase storage over time.

River Corridor means the land area adjacent to a river that is required to accommodate the dimensions, slope, planform, and buffer of the naturally stable channel and that is necessary for the natural maintenance or natural restoration of dynamic equilibrium conditions and for minimization of fluvial erosion hazards. **10 V.S.A. § 1422**



River Corridor

Recommendations / requests

1. Implementing priorities from the 2021 Climate Action Plan
2. Supporting the development of the Municipal Climate Toolkit & the Municipal Vulnerability Index
3. Supporting climate resilience and community engagement that are taking place across State of Vermont Agencies and Commissions
4. Prioritizing an all-hazards, systems approach to resource allocation
5. Statewide, all-agency (SOV & Federal) summit on lessons learned from 2023

Budgetary requests for building climate resilience

1. Funding a Hazard Coordinator in the Office of the Vermont State Climatologist to work directly with towns and municipalities to enhance their capacity to better prepare for existing and future events \$80,000
2. Funding a hazard internship program in the Office of the Vermont State Climatologist to serve as legislative liaisons and support the role of the Hazard Coordinator (above). \$15,000
3. Funding the purchase of more rainfall measuring devices across the state so that a more complete picture of rainfall patterns is obtained. This can lead to better forecasts and ground checking. \$25,000
4. Collaborating with the Research Futures group (UK) to disseminate the results of the Lessons Learned Summit to all Vermonters and beyond. \$4000

Thank you!

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