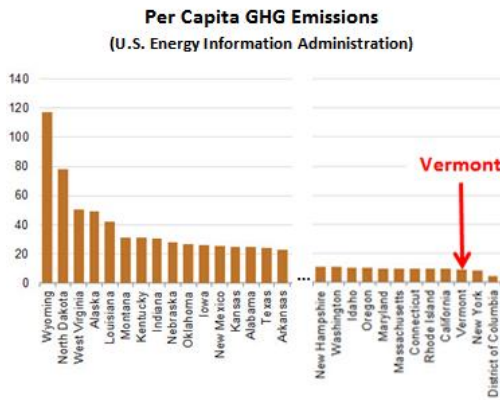


Ridgeprotectors is dedicated to the long-term conservation of Vermont's ridgelines.

Energize Vermont promotes sustainable energy development that protects our environment and respects our communities.

NOAA's Susan Solomon: "The climate change that takes place due to increases in carbon dioxide concentration is **largely irreversible** for 1,000 years after emissions stop."



Vermont lacks the capacity to influence either global temperatures or atmospheric GHG concentrations. Therefore our primary responsibility must be to **ensure climate resilience**: we must protect and enhance the physical and biological systems that make up our native defenses against the impacts of a changing climate.

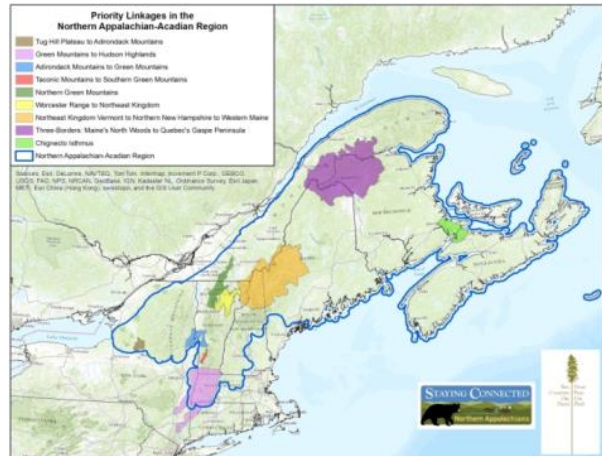
Climate impacts on Vermont include extinctions, loss of food security, degradation of our water resources, and increased vulnerability to severe weather events. We are seeing some of these impacts now.





Vermont’s current climate policy emphasizes development, not resilience. We need to change our priorities: energy development must not be permitted to degrade our defenses against climate impacts. We must be particularly wary of the degradation of our mountains and agricultural lands.

Lowell Mountain demonstrates how well-intentioned policies can do more harm than good. We have industrialized an intact ecosystem in the internationally-recognized “Staying Connected” linkage in exchange for small amounts of intermittent electricity and minor carbon savings.



According to Green Mountain Power, the Lowell turbines avoid the emission of 74,000 tons of carbon per year. While this may sound impressive, it is the amount of carbon emitted by Metro NYC traffic in less than 12 hours. We achieved these inconsequential results in exchange for a Vermont mountain.

Ridgeprotectors and Energize Vermont support actions to protect and enhance Vermont’s existing defenses against the impacts of climate change. These defenses include critical habitat, intact forests, aquatic systems, and agricultural lands.

Ridgeprotectors and Energize Vermont join with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns in calling for renewable energy siting to be placed under Act 250.