

**JOINT ENERGY COMMITTEE**  
**OCT. 26, 2017**  
**STATUTES ON GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION GOALS AND INVENTORY**

**10 V.S.A. § 578. GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION GOALS**

(a) General goal of greenhouse gas reduction. It is the goal of the State to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases from within the geographical boundaries of the State and those emissions outside the boundaries of the State that are caused by the use of energy in Vermont in order to make an appropriate contribution to achieving the regional goals of reducing emissions of greenhouse gases from the 1990 baseline by:

- (1) 25 percent by January 1, 2012;
- (2) 50 percent by January 1, 2028;
- (3) if practicable using reasonable efforts, 75 percent by January 1, 2050.

(b) Vermont climate collaborative. The Secretary will participate in the Vermont climate collaborative, a collaboration between State government and Vermont's higher education, business, agricultural, labor, and environmental communities. Wherever possible, members of the collaborative shall be included among the membership of the program development working groups established by the climate change oversight committee created under 2008 Acts and Resolves No. 209, Sec. 14. State entities shall cooperate with the climate change oversight committee in pursuing the priorities identified by the committee. The Secretary shall notify the general public that the collaborative is developing greenhouse gas reduction programs and shall provide meaningful opportunity for public comment on program development. Programs shall be developed in a manner that implements State energy policy, as specified in 30 V.S.A. § 202a.

(c) Implementation of state programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In order to facilitate the State's compliance with the goals established in this section, all State agencies shall

consider, whenever practicable, any increase or decrease in greenhouse gas emissions in their decision-making procedures with respect to the purchase and use of equipment and goods; the siting, construction, and maintenance of buildings; the assignment of personnel; and the planning, design and operation of programs, services and infrastructure.

(d) Advocacy for cap and trade program for greenhouse gases, including those caused by transportation, heating, cooling, and ventilation. In order to increase the likelihood of the State meeting the goals established under this section, the Public Utility Commission, the Secretary of Natural Resources, and the Commissioner of Public Service shall advocate before appropriate regional or national entities and working groups in favor of the establishment of a regional or national cap and trade program for greenhouse gas emissions, including those caused by transportation, heating, cooling, and ventilation. This may take the form of an expansion of the existing regional greenhouse gas initiative (RGGI), or it may entail the creation of an entirely new and separate regional or national cap and trade initiative that includes a 100 percent consumer allocation system. (Added 2005, No. 168 (Adj. Sess.), § 1; amended 2007, No. 209 (Adj. Sess.), § 3a.)

**10 V.S.A. § 582. GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORIES; REGISTRY**

(a) Inventory and forecasting. The Secretary shall work, in conjunction with other states or a regional consortium, to establish a periodic and consistent inventory of greenhouse gas emissions. The Secretary shall publish the Vermont Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory and Forecast by no later than June 1, 2010, and updates shall be published annually until 2028, until a regional or national inventory and registry program is established in which Vermont participates, or until the federal National Emissions Inventory includes mandatory greenhouse gas reporting.

(b) Inventory updates. To develop the Inventory under this section, the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretaries of Administration, of Transportation, of Agriculture, Food and Markets, and of Commerce and Community Development, and the Commissioner of Public Service, shall aggregate all existing statewide data on greenhouse gas emissions currently reported to State or federal entities, existing statewide data on greenhouse gas sinks, and otherwise publicly available data. Greenhouse gas emissions data that is more than 36 months old shall be updated either by statistical methods or seeking updated information from the reporting agency or department. The information shall be standardized to reflect the emissions in tons per CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent, shall be set out in the inventory by sources or sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, automobile emissions, heating, and electricity production, shall be compatible with the inventory included with the Governor's Commission on Climate Change final report and shall include, the following sources:

- (1) information collected for reporting in the National Emissions Inventory, which includes air toxics, criteria pollutants, mobile sources, point sources, and area sources;
- (2) in-state electricity production using RGGI and State permit information;
- (3) vehicle miles traveled and vehicle registration data; and

(4) agricultural activities, including livestock and crop practices.

(c) Forecast. The Secretary shall use best efforts to forecast statewide emissions for a five- and ten-year period based on the inventory data and other publicly available information.

(d) Registry. The Secretary shall work, in conjunction with other states or a regional consortium, to establish a regional or national greenhouse gas registry.

(1) Any registry in which Vermont participates shall be designed to apply to the entire State and to as large a geographic area beyond State boundaries as is possible.

(2) It shall accommodate as broad an array of sectors, sources, facilities, and approaches as is possible, and shall allow sources to start as far back in time as is permitted by good data, affirmed by third-party verification.

(e) Rules. The Secretary may adopt rules to implement the provisions of this section and shall review existing and proposed international, federal, and State greenhouse gas emission reporting programs and make reasonable efforts to promote consistency among the programs established pursuant to this section and other programs, and to streamline reporting requirements on greenhouse gas emission sources. Except as provided in subsection (g) of this section, nothing in this section shall limit a State agency from adopting any rule within its authority.

(f) Participation by government subdivisions. The State and its municipalities may participate in the inventory for purposes of registering reductions associated with their programs, direct activities, or efforts, including the registration of emission reductions associated with the stationary and mobile sources they own, lease, or operate.

(g) Greenhouse gas accounting. In consultation with the Department of Public Service created under 30 V.S.A. § 1, the Secretary shall research and adopt by rule greenhouse gas accounting protocols that achieve transparent and accurate life cycle accounting of greenhouse gas

emissions, including emissions of such gases from the use of fossil fuels and from renewable fuels such as biomass. On adoption, such protocols shall be the official protocols to be used by any agency or political subdivision of the State in accounting for greenhouse gas emissions.

(Added 2007, No. 209 (Adj. Sess.), § 4; amended 2011, No. 170 (Adj. Sess.), § 14.)