



For a thriving New England

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H. 462 -- Vermont Global Warming Solutions Act:

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An effective, bold path to cutting climate pollution in Vermont

Need to Cut Polluting Emissions

- Climate change is here now, and affects the lives and livelihoods of Vermonters.
- Severe storms, punishing heat waves, growing tick populations are some of the impacts.
- Cut dangerous climate pollution in line with what science requires to avoid catastrophic damage

Transform Emission Goals into Requirements

- H. 462 turns existing goals to cut emissions into requirements.
- Vermont adopted bold goals early to reduce pollution and done well to track emissions.
- Unfortunately, not meeting goals. Emissions increased 16 percent since 1990 in VT, while declining nationally and across the region.
- H. 462 sets policy that Vermont is serious about reducing emissions.
- Not prescriptive about how it gets done. Directs Vermont Agency of Natural Resources to put regulations and policies in place to achieve the required reductions.
- Ensures Vermont's state government takes the action needed to get us back on track.

Practical and Proven Success

- Builds on the success of other New England states, including Massachusetts and Connecticut.
- States cut climate pollution while growing their economies, attracting businesses & workers.
- Rhode Island similar bill to VT. Massachusetts has new bill to address implementation.

Framework for All Climate Action

- All current and future actions – renewable energy, electric vehicles, energy efficiency – would be counted toward meeting emission reductions.
- Action taken at national or federal level would also count and would replace state requirement.

Foster Innovation

- Specifically allows creation of offsets.
- Provide revenue for the good work of farmers and foresters to reduce pollution and keep carbon in trees and plants

Enforcement

- Allows enforcement through court action if requirements ignored.
- Important to ensure policies and regulations are put in place
- Similar to Massachusetts and Rhode Island



Summary

The Vermont Global Warming Solutions Act (H. 462) will:

1. **Get us back on track.** The bill has requirements to cut carbon emissions 75 percent by 2050, with benchmarks and reporting along the way to make sure we are on track to meet our goals.
2. **Bring Best Solutions Forward.** The bill ensures we put the best measures in place to reduce climate pollution. It creates a transparent, open, and inclusive process that gives everyone, from farmers to builders to local communities, a voice in crafting the state's path forward. Solutions that grow the economy while protecting the environment and public health will succeed.
3. **Be Clear and Enforceable.** The bill requires reporting every two years on the progress achieved, the actions taken, and what is planned. It makes sure Vermont's Agency of Natural Resources meets the requirements and allows Vermonters to hold them accountable if the climate pollution requirements are ignored.