


Climate Investments and Next Steps

JULIE MOORE, ANR
JANE LAZORCHAK, ANR

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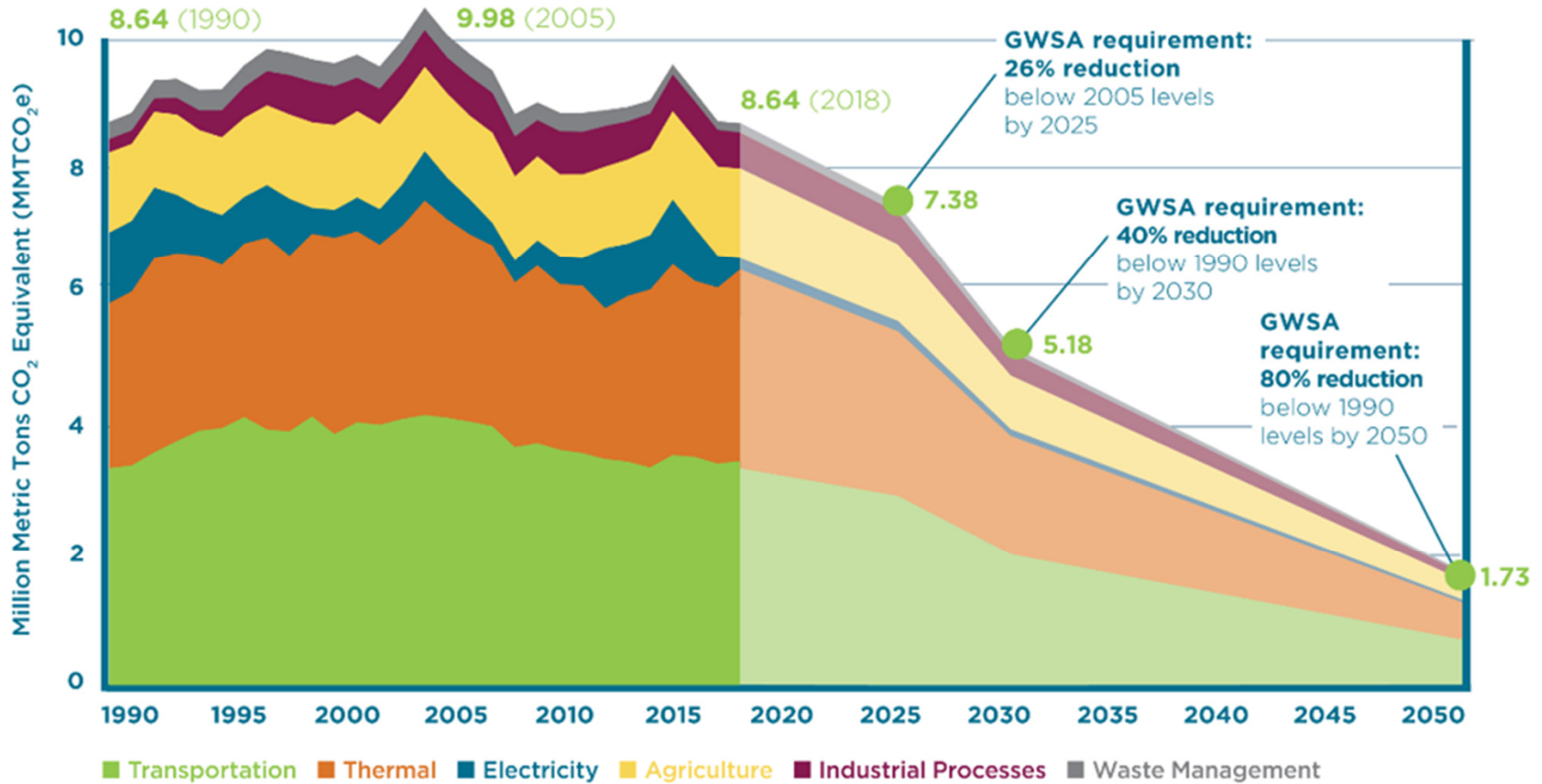
GWSA Charge to the Climate Council

1. **Reduce greenhouse gas emissions** from the transportation, building, regulated utility, industrial, commercial, and agricultural sectors;
2. Encourage smart growth and related strategies;
3. **Achieve long-term sequestration and storage of carbon** and promote best management practices to achieve climate mitigation, adaption, and resilience on natural [and] working lands;
4. **Achieve net zero emissions by 2050 across all sectors;**
5. Reduce energy burdens for rural and marginalized communities;
6. Limit the use of chemicals, substances, or products that contribute to climate change; and
7. **Build and encourage climate adaptation and resilience** of Vermont communities and natural systems.

The Vermont Climate Action Plan

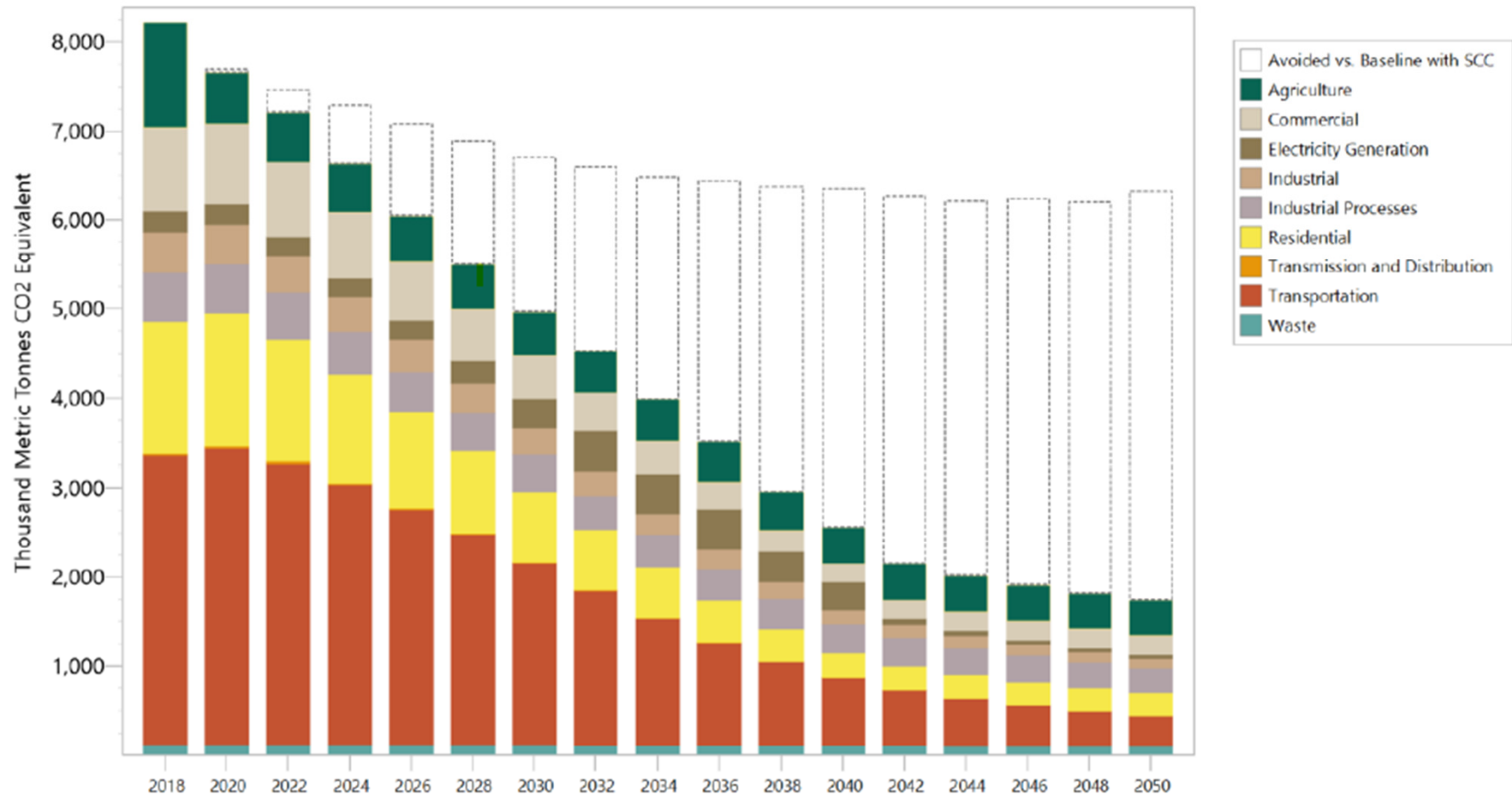
- Contains recommendations to the General Assembly for action, as well as direction to ANR for rules, to meet the GHG emission reduction requirements of the Global Warming Solutions Act. Specifically:
 - ◆ To cut climate pollution 40% below 1990 levels by 2030, which is approximately half of 2005 levels
- Prioritizes those who are most affected
- Must be updated at least every 4 years
- Requires a framework for measuring progress

GWSA Emission Reduction Requirements



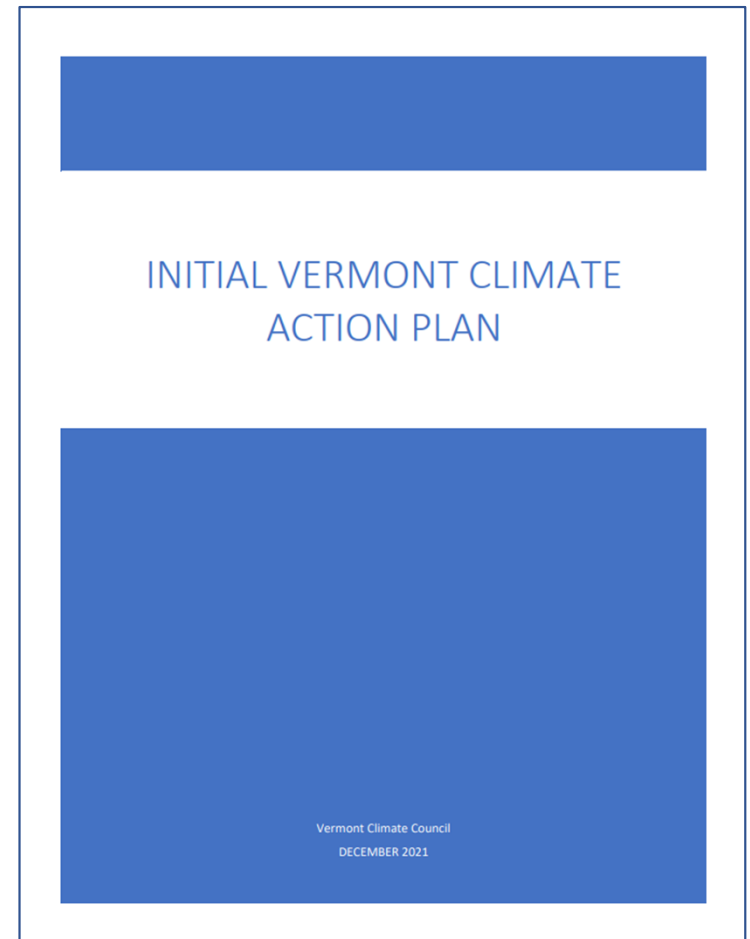
Source: Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Vermont GHG Emissions Inventory and Forecast (1990-2017), 2021.

GWSA Requires Aggressive Scale and Pace



What Will You Find in the CAP?

- The GWSA established a suite of ambitious goals and requirements
- VCC developed a broad and far-reaching set of recommendations
- Initial Climate Action Plan identifies:
 - 26 pathways
 - Written broadly; high-level
 - 64 strategies
 - Statements of measurable activity
 - 234 specific action steps
 - Operational tasks



Five Impact Areas



Cutting Climate Pollution

Reducing emissions from transportation, buildings, energy and products.



Capturing Carbon

Removing carbon from the air and storing it in soil or plants.



Resilient Working and Natural Lands

Preparing farms, forests and ecosystems for climate change.



Cross-Cutting Solutions

Investing in communities and workforce development.



Vital Communities

Protecting people and infrastructure from climate impacts.

With the CAP Adopted, What is Happening Now?

General Assembly

- Current legislative activities with ties to the Climate Action Plan:
 - H.715 – An act relating to Clean Heat Standard
 - H.518 – An act relating to the creation of the Municipal Fuel Switching Grant Program
 - S.148 – An act relating to environmental justice in Vermont
 - S.234 – An act relating to proposed changes to Act 250
 - H.552 – An act relating to transportation initiatives to reduce carbon emissions
 - H.653 - An act relating to the creation of an ecological management qualification for the Use Value Appraisal program
 - H.606 - An act relating to community resilience and biodiversity protection
 - H.740 - Creation of a Climate Action Office
- Fully appropriate ARPA funds for climate action

FY23 Budget: Climate Initiatives

Governor's FY23 Recommend proposed more than \$215M of investments in climate action

- Base GF (Climate Office): \$1.1M
- One-time GF (Climate Office): \$75K
- ARPA: \$161.5M
- One-time GF (FEMA Hazard Mitigation match): ~~\$10M~~ \$8M
- Federal Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund: \$44M (H.518?)

With the CAP Adopted, What is Happening Now?

Vermont Climate Council

- Created smaller working groups to:
 - Evaluate strategies for transportation sector GHG emissions reductions
 - Revisit tabled biomass actions
 - Work to develop Municipal Vulnerability Index and Climate Toolkit
- Providing public engagement opportunities
 - Virtual public forums scheduled for April 12 and 13
- Prioritizing work needed to build equity into climate action and ensure a just transition

With the CAP Adopted, What is Happening Now?

Executive Branch

- Recently completed work on Pathways Analysis
- Initiated rulemaking process re: CA Clean Car & Truck Standards
- Preparing/issuing RFPs for technical analyses
 - Tool for measuring and tracking progress
 - Municipal Vulnerability Index
 - Life-Cycle Carbon Analyses
- Applying for grants
 - U.S. Climate Alliance
 - Agricultural emissions analysis
 - Transportation
- Supporting Council and working groups

What Happens Next?

General Assembly

- Identify and develop policy priorities, with funding, that support CAP implementation for next biennium
- Ensure diverse appointments to the Council as vacancies arise, and support those appointees with just compensation

What Happens Next?

Executive Branch

- Adopt CA Clean Car & Truck Standards
- Establish Climate Office
 - Coordinate and lead in the implementation of state-led climate initiatives
 - Conduct monitoring, assessment and tracking the climate adaptation, mitigation, and resilience activities to evaluate progress over time
- Issue RFPs/manage contracts

What Happens Next?

Vermont Climate Council

- Provide input on ANR's rule-making for CA Clean Car & Truck Standards
- Review and provide feedback on contracted deliverables
- Support on-going public engagement
- Prioritize future actions
 - Consider possible revisions to the CAP re: transportation
- Develop budget recommendations to support further technical analyses/study and public engagement