



Global Warming Solutions Act Progress Report & ANR Budget Adjustment Request

House Energy and Technology

January 20, 2021

Secretary Julie Moore, P.E.

Vermont Climate Action Plan

The Plan shall include specific initiatives, programs, and strategies that will:

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, adaptation, and resilience on natural working lands;

Vermont Climate Action Plan

Requirements (cont.)

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.

Vermont Climate Action Plan:

In addition, the specific initiatives, strategies and programs identified in the Plan must further the following objectives:

1. Prioritize the most cost-effective, technologically feasible, and equitable GHG emissions reduction pathways, adaptation and preparedness;
2. Provide for GHG emissions reductions that reflect the relative contribution of each source of emissions;
3. Minimize negative impacts on marginalized and rural communities and individuals with low and moderate incomes;
4. Ensure that all regions of the State benefit from GHG emissions reductions;

Vermont Climate Action Plan:

Objectives (cont.)

5. Support economic sectors and regions of the State that face the greatest barriers to emissions reductions (rural and economically distressed regions and industries);
6. Support industries, technology, and training that will allow workers and businesses in the State to benefit from GHG reduction solutions;
7. Support the use of natural solutions (inc. working lands) to reduce GHG, sequester carbon and increase resilience; and
8. Maximize the State's involvement in interstate and regional initiatives and programs designed to reduce regional GHG emissions and build upon state, national, and international partnerships and programs.

GWSA Key Dates

- General Assembly (GA) had 60 days from enactment (**Sept 23, 2020**) to make appointments
- Administration had 30 days from receiving final appointment (**Oct 23, 2020**) to convene first meeting of the Council
 - First meeting was held **November 20, 2020**
- Council's first annual progress report to GA – **Jan 15, 2021**
- Draft Climate Action Plan available for public comment – **Oct 1, 2021**
- Council adopts Climate Action Plan – **Dec 1, 2021**

Climate Council Meetings

- The Council has met four times:
 - November 20, 2020
 - *State Government 101*
 - December 21, 2020
 - *State of Vermont's Climate; Emissions Inventory and Current Strategies*
 - January 4, 2020
 - *Equity Considerations; Resilience Inventory and Current Strategies; Natural and Working Lands*
 - January 14, 2020
 - *Review draft report to GA*
- Next meeting scheduled for January 25, 2021, and the 4th Monday of the month thereafter

Sequence of Work

1. Inventory existing programs to reduce GHG emissions
2. Identify, analyze and evaluate new strategies/programs needed to meet GHG targets
 - Evaluate cost effectiveness
3. Develop financing strategies
4. Inventory existing programs to build resilience
5. Identify, analyze and evaluate new strategies/programs needed to improve resilience

Sequence of Work (cont.)

6. Develop monitoring strategy for assessing:
 - GHG emissions
 - Program effectiveness
 - Impacts of climate change on Vermont's climate, wildlife and natural resources
 - Community resilience
7. Identify rules to be adopted (by ANR) and necessary
8. Adopt the Vermont Climate Action Plan by Dec 1, 2021, and update the Plan every four years thereafter.

Subcommittees (in statute)

- Rural Resilience and Adaptation Subcommittee
- Cross-Sector Mitigation Subcommittee
- Just Transitions Subcommittee
- Agriculture and Ecosystems Subcommittee
- Any other Subcommittees identified by the Council
 - “Science and Data Subcommittee” has been discussed

Base Funds for GWSA - \$450K

- In order to meet the goals of the GWSA and deliver the Climate Action Plan contracted services are needed
 - Technical
 - Facilitation
 - Communications and outreach
- In Act 153, the General Assembly appropriated \$450K to support implementation of the GWSA:
 - \$194K for 3 FTEs for half the fiscal year and associated operating
 - \$46K for per diems for the Climate Council
 - Remaining \$210K available for contracted services

FY 2021 Budget Adjustment

Request:

**\$1M for Global Warming
Solutions**

Act Support



Contractual Needs for Development of the Climate Action Plan

- Estimated total one-time need: \$1.21M
 - \$850K for technical support (RFI issued; responses due 02/06)
 - Emissions modeling and development of analytical tools;
 - Economic modeling and cost-benefit analysis; and,
 - Framework for monitoring and program evaluation
 - \$10K for January process design meeting facilitation *[under contract]*
 - \$150K for on-going facilitation and process support
 - Council and Subcommittees
 - \$200K for public engagement

Global Warming Solutions Act Budget

Agency Costs FY 2021

Staff	
Project Manager	67,026
Lawyer	54,601
Research Analyst	46,800
Total Staff Support	168,427
Operating Costs & Overhead	25,264
Per Diems	46,560
Total Agency Costs	240,250

One-time Expenses

Contracts *	
Facilitator	
January Process Meeting	9,750
On-going facilitation	150,000
Public Outreach	200,000
Technical Support	850,000
Total Contracts	1,209,750

Total GWSA Budget 1,450,000

** One time contracts will be executed in FY 2021, actual spending will not be complete until FY 2022*



On-Going Needs for GWSA

- Funds for contractual services appropriated in FY 2021 (base and BAA) will be carried forward to cover contractual expenses through Dec 1, when the Climate Action Plan will be adopted
 - ANR does not (currently) anticipate additional contractual needs beyond Dec 1
- ***Will be final when the Governor's Budget is presented*** but... likely the on-going, annual appropriation of \$450K will be sufficient to cover the staffing and operating needs to support completion of the Plan and annual report to the GA, regular Council meetings, and implementation next steps (i.e., rulemaking, program development) in FY 2022