



# Global Warming Solutions Act Progress Report & ANR Budget Adjustment Request

Senate Natural Resources and Energy

February 8, 2021

ANR 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 six times:
  - November 20, 2020
    - *State Government 101*
  - December 21, 2020
    - *State of Vermont's Climate; Emissions Inventory and Current Strategies*
  - January 4, 2021
    - *Equity Considerations; Resilience Inventory and Current Strategies; Natural and Working Lands*
  - January 14, 2021
    - *Review draft report to GA*
  - January 25, 2021
    - *Lessons learned from MA, ME, NY; process design; Steering Cmte formed*
  - February 8, 2021
    - *Subcommittee membership*

# Council Steering Committee

## *Roles*

- Develop Council meeting agendas
- Develop common frameworks for Sub-Committee work (templates etc.)
- Serve as a clearinghouse for requests for technical help/contractor support
- Track progress and ensure an effective and efficient process.

**Its spirit:** To act in service of the Council, organizing the work, but not controlling it

## *Composition*

- Two from Executive Branch
  - Council Chair Secretary Susanne Young
  - ANR Secretary Julie Moore
- Four from Legislature's appointed members
  - Chris Company (WRC)
  - Liz Miller (GMP)
  - Jared Duval (EAN)
  - Lauren Oates (TNC)



# 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
- Anticipate Subcommittees will meet weekly March-June

# Subcommittees

## *Roles*

- Core function: Create recommended, draft initiatives, programs and strategies for the Council to review, refine and compile into Vermont's Climate Action Plan
  - Work will start with inventorying existing efforts

## *Composition*

- Council members and non-council members
- 8-10 members in total
- Criteria for selecting non-council members include:
  - Relevant expertise;
  - Sectoral, geographic and other balance
- Subcommittees will be supported by SoV agency staff

# Subcommittees

## *Leadership*

- Co-chairs:
  - One from Executive branch (or designee), one from the Legislative-appointed members.
  - In some cases, consider a third (perhaps even from outside council if needed)
  - Key attributes
    - Sufficient time availability
    - Substantive expertise
    - Willingness to work collaboratively

## *Selecting Members and Co-Chairs*

- Council members indicate preference
- Council members broadly solicit additional names to fill gaps
  - Nomination form currently open on AoA website
- Subcommittee makes a proposed slate
- Council confirms slate

# Subcommittees

SUBCOMMITTEE				
<i>Resilience &amp; Adaptation</i>	<i>Cross-Sector Mitigation</i>	<i>Just Transitions</i>	<i>Agriculture &amp; Ecosystems</i>	<i>Science &amp; Data</i>
Catherine Dimitruk*	Richard Cowart*	Sue Minter*	Abbie Corse*	Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux*
Erica Bornemann, VEM*	Peter Walke, DEC	Sarah Phillips, DCF	Billy Coster, ANR	TJ Poor, PSD
Lindsay Kurrle, ACCD*	Johanna Miller*	Kelly Klein*	Anson Tebbetts, AAFM* (Ryan Patch)	Jared Duval*
Chad Farrell*	June Tierney* (Ed McNamara)	Sean Brown* (Jennifer Myka)	Sophia Clark*	Julie Moore, ANR*
Joe Flynn, VTrans* (Joe Segale)	Liz Miller*	Chris Company*	Lauren Oates*	Brian Gray*
	Adam Knudsen*			

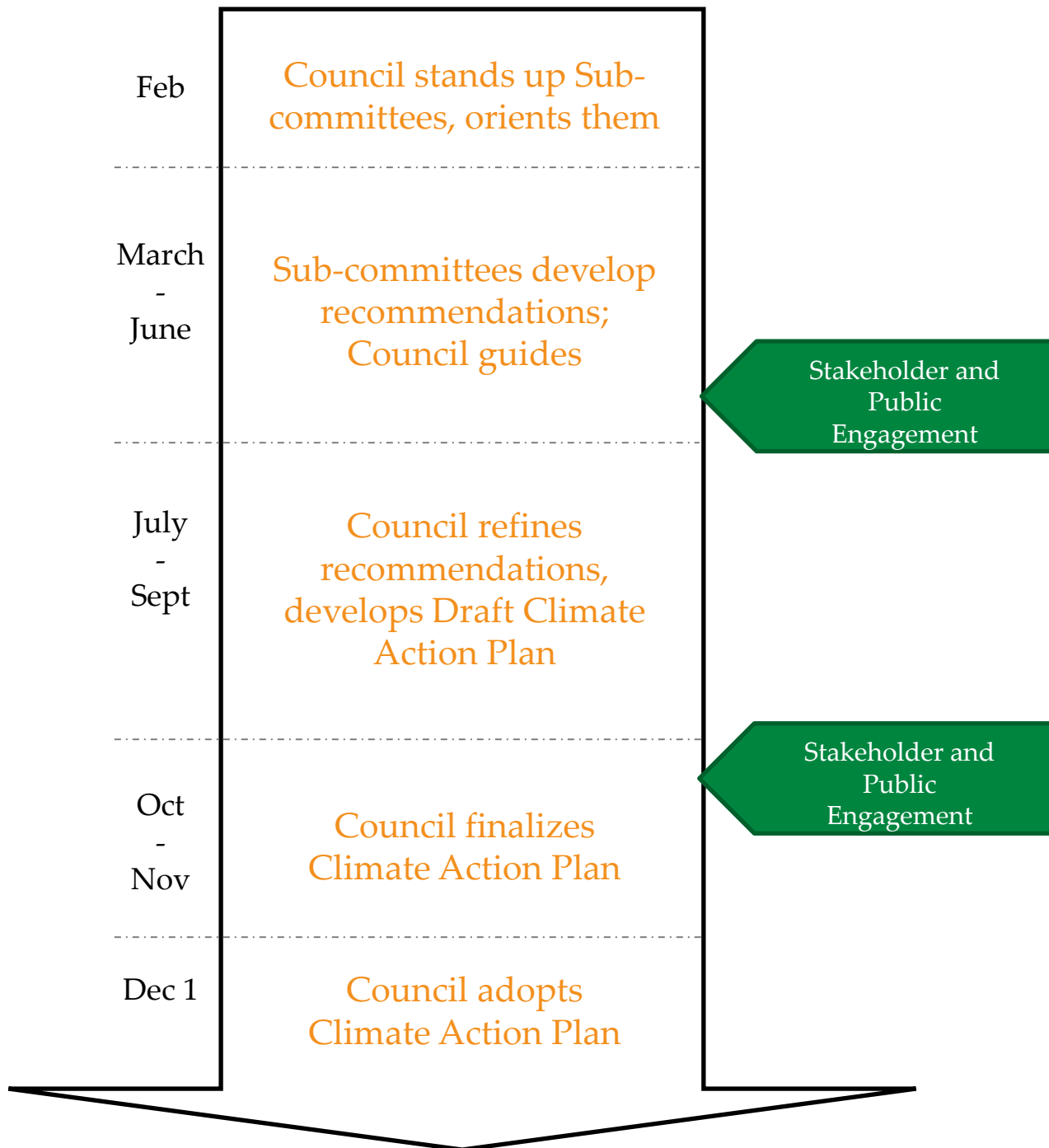
# Sequence of Work

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.

# Climate Council Process Timeline



# 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. In FY21 base funds utilized as follows:
  - \$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; 15 responses received)
    - Emissions modeling and development of analytical tools;
    - Economic modeling and cost-benefit analysis; and,
    - Framework for monitoring and program evaluation
  - \$19K for Jan/Feb meeting facilitation [*under contract*]
  - \$150K for on-going facilitation and process support (RFP issued; responses due 02/12)
    - Council and Subcommittees
  - \$190K 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	
Jan/Feb Process Meeting	19,750
On-going facilitation	150,000
Public Outreach	190,000
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
- On-going, annual appropriation of \$450K is anticipated to be sufficient to cover the staffing and operating needs to support completion of the Plan, annual report to the GA, regular Council meetings, and implementation next steps (i.e., rulemaking, program development) in FY 2022.