

Climate Action Office

**Jane Lazorchak, Director
Climate Action Office
House Agriculture and Forestry
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VERMONT

AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Climate Action Plan Timeline

**First meeting of
the Vermont
Climate Council**
November 20, 2020

**Initial Climate
Action Plan Adopted
by the Vermont
Climate Council**
December 1, 2021

**Global Warming
Solutions Act
Enacted**
September 23, 2020

**Subcommittees
begin meeting**
February 2021

**Implementation of
Climate Action Plan**
Ongoing
**Future Iterations of the
Climate Action Plan**
Every four years

Climate Action Office - Vision

- ❖ The policies, programs and tools needed to implement climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience strategies will require a long-term intergovernmental structure to coordinate and manage this statewide effort.
- ❖ Will coordinate and provide significant expertise and capacity on state-led climate initiatives, as well as the monitoring, assessment and tracking of climate adaptation, mitigation, and resilience activities.
- ❖ Work closely within the Agency of Natural Resources, across state Agencies, and with state climatologist to understand the actions state government are taking to make measurable progress to meeting the requirements and goals of the Global Warming Solutions Act.
- ❖ Acknowledgment of the importance of the public's role, specifically those of frontline and impacted communities, in enabling climate action.

Supported through an Inter-Agency Advisory Board

The objectives of this group will be the following:

1. To provide a space for proactive coordination on climate action across state government.
2. Articulating where policy and financial implications overlap around climate action to ensure resources are maximized.
3. To support the monitoring of progress over time in meeting the state's climate goals.
4. Identification and framing up of gaps where the climate action office might prioritize support.
5. Development of state positions on issues related to climate change.

It will include the following governmental agencies:

- PSD
- AOT
- ANR
- VEM
- AAFM
- BGS
- AHS (DCF and VDH)
- ACCD
- State Climatologist

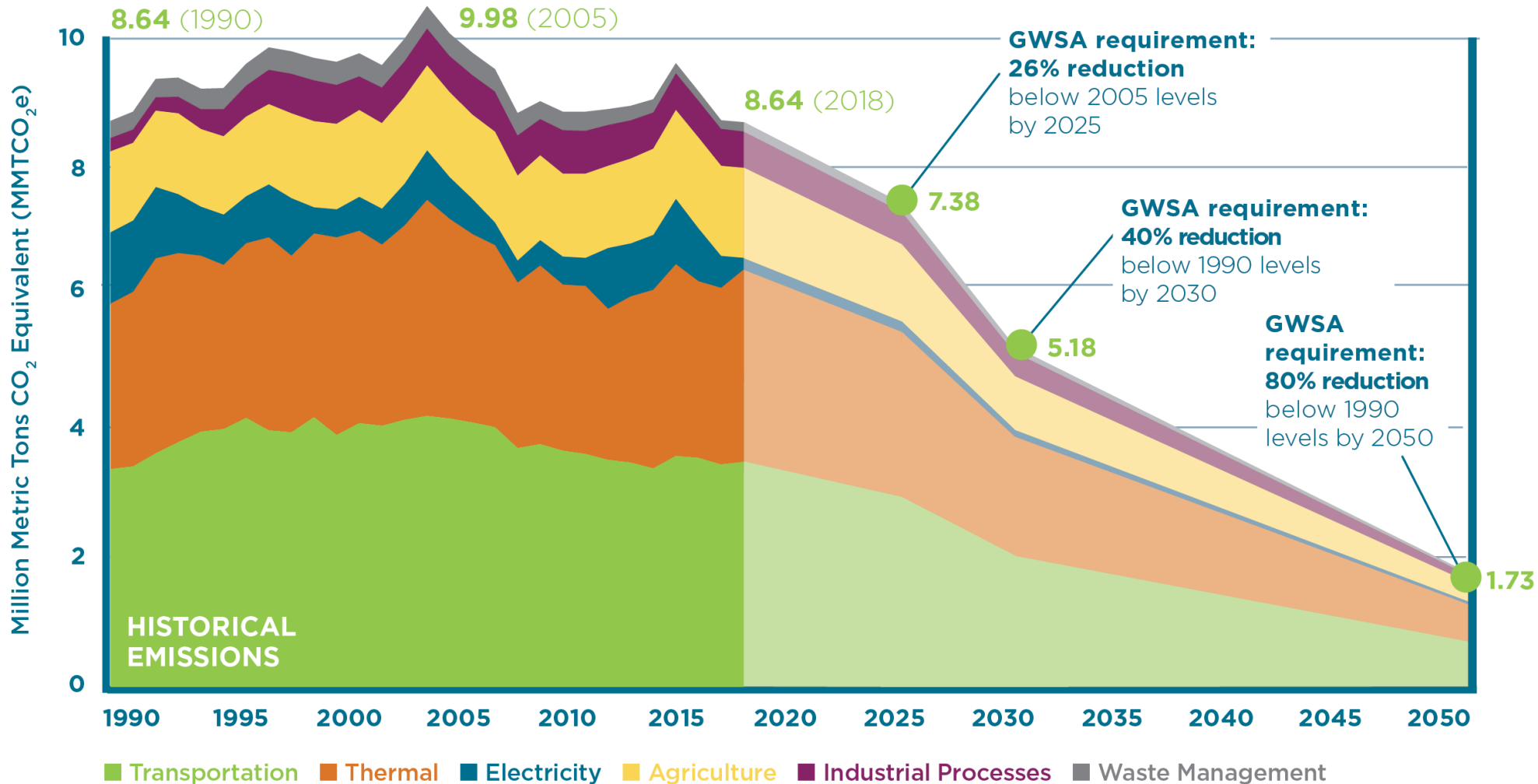


INITIAL VERMONT CLIMATE
ACTION PLAN

Vermont Climate Council
DECEMBER 2021

- Aims to cut climate pollution 40% below 1990 levels by 2030
 - ◆ approximately half of 2005 levels
- Prioritize those who are most affected
- Shaped by five subcommittees
 - ◆ with public input
 - ◆ in coordination with CEP
- Updated at least every 4 years
- Contains 24 pathways, 64 strategies and 234 actions
- Implementation section to inform decision-making
- Framework for measuring progress

Vermont's Historical Greenhouse Gas Emissions



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



Reduce
Emissions



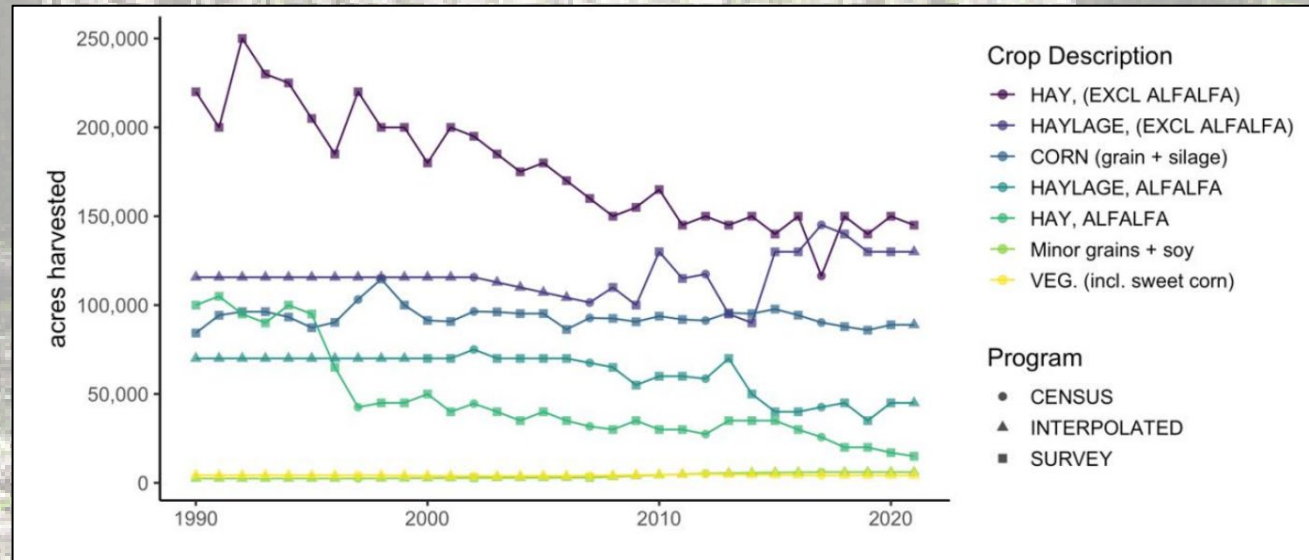
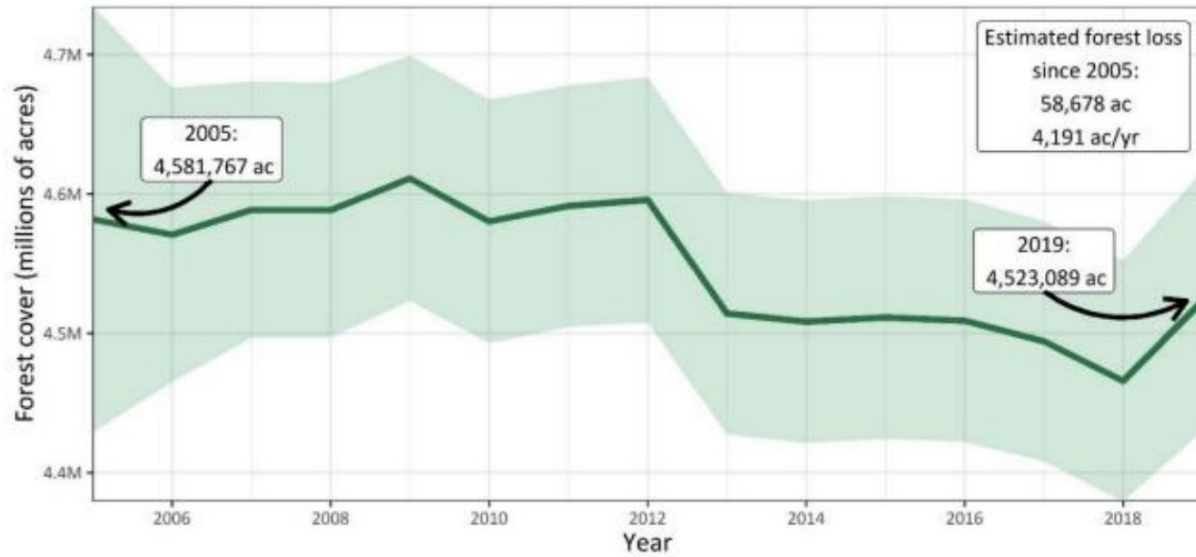
Sequester &
Store Carbon

***A Comprehensive
Approach to
Addressing
Climate Change***



Adapt & Build
Resilience

Resilient Natural and Working Lands



Resilient working and natural lands

- Invest in agricultural and working lands management practices that mitigate emissions and improve resilience
 - Many of the same practices that are important for clean water are also beneficial for climate (i.e., cover crops, reduced tillage, expanded buffers)
- Expand nature-based solutions and understanding of TEK
 - Invest in strategic conservation
 - Promote healthy, connected river corridors, floodplains, and wetlands
- Support and empower Vermont's natural and working landowners, managers, and caretakers, and expand local markets

Increasing Carbon Storage

- Develop and implement programs which incentivize management practices which maintain or increase carbon storage
 - Changes to Use Value Appraisal (UVA) program, Carbon markets, Payment for ecosystem services



Mitigation

Advancing Emissions Reductions into the Climate Action Office

KEY SUCCESSES:

- Adopted a suite of rules to reduce transportation emissions in Vermont:
 - Advanced Clean Cars II – New EV sales by 2035 100%
 - Advanced Clean Trucks – increased availability of medium- and heavy-duty EVs
 - Low NOx Omnibus – requires cleaner medium- and heavy-duty vehicles
 - Phase 2 GHG rules for trucks and trailers
- Adopted CAP Addendum for Transportation Sector

ONE MAJOR STRUGGLE:

- Need for a coordinated vision of policies and programs (including both requirements and incentives, at both the state and regional level) necessary to reduce emissions across all sectors to achieve the GWSA targets.

PRIORITY FOR 2023:

- Determine appropriate pathway towards economy-wide GHG emissions reporting to better inform policy development and decision-making and improve the consistency and accuracy of state-level data.
- Vermont-specific analysis for two largest sectors – transportation and buildings/thermal – to determine most cost-effective, equitable policy solutions.



Resilience and Adaptation

Integrating Resilience and Adaptation into the Climate Action Office

KEY SUCCESSES:

- Establishment of a Task Group with representation from state, non-profit, and municipal partners to design and build a Municipal Climate Toolkit that will provide a hub for existing tools and information relevant for designing and implementing climate action measures at a local level.

ONE MAJOR STRUGGLE:

- The lack of metrics for measuring the impact of resilience and adaptation actions continues to be a challenge in tracking and advocating for resilience and adaptation activities.

PRIORITY FOR 2023:

- Completion of the Municipal Vulnerability Index Tool that will support individuals and communities in assessing their preparedness for and resilience to the impacts of climate change.
- Completion of an Adaptation Abatement Cost Curve to measure the relative cost savings of implementing resilience and adaptation actions.



Natural and Working Lands

Integrating Natural and Working Lands into the Climate Action Office

KEY SUCCESSES:

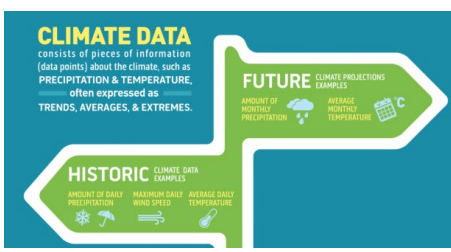
- Production and release of the Vermont Carbon Budget to provide information on the current balance of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and carbon stocks related to the agriculture, forestry, and other land uses (AFOLU) sector in Vermont.
- Ongoing work to draft recommendations around biomass for inclusion in CAP

ONE MAJOR STRUGGLE:

- Specific accounting for agricultural emissions and refinement of tools used in the inventory. Continues to be ongoing debate of net vs. gross emissions for this sector.

PRIORITY FOR 2023:

- Completion of net-zero framework for the Northeast and more specifically, VT.
- Completion of supplemental analysis for GHG inventory related to agricultural emissions and potential refinements to the tools in the inventory itself to more accurately reflect the emissions reductions in this sector.



Measuring and Tracking Progress

Integrating Data and Measuring Progress into the Climate Action Office

KEY SUCCESSES:

- Continued work on the quantification of statewide GHG emissions for the Vermont GHG Emissions Inventory report and publishing an update that catches up through 2020.

ONE MAJOR STRUGGLE:

- Ongoing work to better understand and reconcile the net versus gross GHG accounting issue and to explore and incorporate additional tools and data to provide a more holistic view of Vermont's GHG emissions and sinks.

PRIORITY FOR 2023:

- Advance the measuring and tracking progress tool and work to develop meaningful metrics to understand the adaptation, resilience, and mitigation strategies being implemented in Vermont.
- Complete additional supplemental analyses for the GHG inventory (e.g. Lifecycle analysis and Agricultural tools).



Community Engagement and Communications

Integrating Community Engagement and Communications into the Climate Action Office

KEY SUCCESSES:

- Developed a community engagement strategy focused on broad engagement, accessibility, and partner engagement and convened a bi-weekly task group to move the work forward.
- Held six events focused on the transition of the transportation sector and what Vermonters need to feel like this transition can be positive for everyone.

ONE MAJOR STRUGGLE:

- Systematic way to take in comments and demonstrate responsiveness.
- Long-term relationship building to support partner engagement in frontline and impacted communities.

PRIORITY FOR 2023:

- Coordinate closely with the Public Service Department to align community engagement capacity to support Vermonter's engagement in and around updates and changes to Vermont's renewable electricity programs and policies.
- Many ongoing contracts have built in engagement (life-cycle analysis, Municipal Vulnerability Index and Measuring Progress Tool)

State Climate Action Goals - 2023



Building Resilient Communities

Acting on climate change requires not only action on emissions reduction and carbon sequestration but increasing resilience. To help Vermonters and VT communities increase their resilience to the hazards posed by climate change, State government is building upon successful programs that provide tools and resources to help communities take adaptation actions to prepare for the current and future impacts of climate change.



Natural and Working Lands

Natural and working lands, including forests and farmland, are an annual source of carbon sequestration and contribute to greenhouse gas emissions reductions and midcentury net zero goals. Vermont is part of a regional collaboration to standardize greenhouse gas and carbon sequestration accounting and to increase both private and public investment in management for carbon sequestration on a natural and working lands.

Contact Us

www.climatechange.vermont.gov

Jane Lazorchak, (802) 505-0561, jane.lazorchak@vermont.gov