



Climate Education for All

To reach the Climate Action Plan's goals, Vermonters need to be informed about energy and climate and about opportunities for action to reduce emissions and save money. **The Climate Action Plan** lists education for all as the **first Non-Energy Emissions Pathway** for Mitigation, noting that **education "is a vital part of solving the climate crisis" and that it "strengthens the success of every other pathway towards resilient climate adaptation"** (p.228). The report specifically calls out *Strategy 1: Provide funding for climate-related education at all levels, outreach, research, and technical assistance programs.* (p.228)

Roughly 68% of Vermonters report being worried about climate change and 80% say schools should be teaching about climate change ([Yale Climate Opinion Maps 2021](#)). VEEP is ready to help, providing climate and energy education in Vermont schools for over 40 years! Vermont needs increased climate education TODAY to help all Vermonters to take part in mitigation practices, access incentives, save money and increase resiliency.

We're asking for \$458,000 in one-time funding to support Climate Education for All. This includes:

(1) An investment in our existing K-12 programming, including equipment and lessons for hands-on STEM lessons, professional development for teachers, including post-COVID outreach to and support for schools to tackle energy efficiency and climate resiliency in their communities. In 2022 we worked with 92 schools, loaning equipment to 77 classrooms and delivering workshops to 72 classrooms. We reached close to 3,000 students. This funding will focus on making teacher training available to any interested school (regardless of ability to pay) which will make this effort sustainable and avoid the need for future legislative funding.

(2) Launching a series of hands-on workshops for adults across the state in partnership with energy committees and efficiency services providers at libraries, municipalities and granges. These workshops will address "What can you do in your family and in your town to save money and reduce carbon emissions from heating and transportation?" The workshops would be paired with opportunities for community action, connecting with weatherization and heat pump providers, and incentive programs, and making changes in daily habits to decrease energy usage. Interested partners currently include Capstone, Button Up, Window Dressers, GoVT and Local Motion. This funding will focus on training community volunteers to sustain the effort without further State funding.