



Resilience Implementation Strategy

House Committee on Environment

March 20, 2025

Resilience Implementation Strategy:

- Joint initiative lead by the Governor and Treasurer; announced on January 3, 2024, to be completed on July 1, 2025.
- Build off work done to date across State Government to identify and prioritize climate resilience needs.
- Complements existing State plans, and the development of the Climate Action Plan.
- Will evaluate funding, recommend criteria for allocating state support for resilience projects, and prioritize approaches for funding implementation efforts on an on-going basis.



Act 122 – Climate Superfund Act

Establishes the Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program. Purpose of the Program is to hold fossil fuel extractors or crude oil refiners responsible for covered greenhouse gas emissions over one billion million metrics tons of greenhouse gas emitted between January 1, 1995, and December 31, 2024, for the entity's share of the State's costs due to climate change.

Act 122 Identifies the Resilience Implementation Strategy as the mechanism to identify and prioritize climate change adaptation projects to fund using the Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program Fund established under 10 V.S.A. chapter 24A § 597.

Government Systems



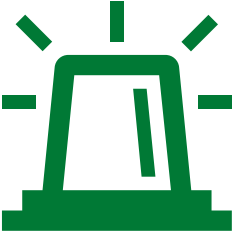
Community-Centric Approach



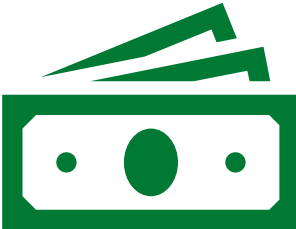
Nature-Based Solutions



Infrastructure Design & Reinforcement



Early Warning Systems & Emergency Response



Economic & Environmental Sustainability

Timeline

Phase 1 April – November 2024

Inventory existing plans, programs, policies, and funding

Identify opportunities

Establish statewide climate resilience vision informed by Vermonters

Phase 2 September 2024 – April 2025

Categorize and prioritize opportunities

Work with stakeholders to identify actions to meet opportunities

Phase 3 March – July 2025

Understand the costs & prioritize funding approach

Recommend changes to existing programs, processes, and policies to meet identified opportunities



Defining Climate Resilience

Climate resilience: The ability of interconnected ecological, social, and economic systems to anticipate, adapt, withstand, respond, and thrive in the face of current and future conditions and disasters made worse by climate change.

These complementary systems form the foundation for thriving communities where ecosystems, economies, and societies support and reinforce one another.

Ecological resilience: A natural community's ability to absorb shocks and recover from disturbances. Ecosystems can maintain their pieces, patterns, and processes, which allow plants, animals, and fungi to thrive, migrate, and move.

Community resilience: A human community's ability to anticipate, withstand, and adapt to climate-exacerbated disasters and learn from past events to improve response and recovery. Resilient communities rely on systems that support human health and well-being, social and economic equity, sustainable infrastructure, and coordinated communication and planning.

Economic resilience: An economic region's ability to endure and sustain stability when faced with economic disruptions or pressures. Resilient economies support essential services, enable diverse livelihoods, and foster equitable and sustainable access to resources that respect environmental limits.

State Actions Inventory

- Program Name and Type
- Lead **Department** or **Agency**
- **Hazards** addressed
- Resilience **phase**
- Existing **Authority** or **Rule**
- Explicitly **Identify Resilience**
- **Equity** Considered
- **Scale** of Program and Regional **Collaboration**
- Decision **Criteria**
- Budget and **Funding**
- Identified **Opportunities**



Opportunity Assessment

Reviewed through the following lenses:

- Whether all major **climate hazards** were addressed by State activities
- Whether **phases of resilience** are addressed: reduce vulnerability; increase ability to withstand; increase ability to anticipate; facilitate short-term recovery (0-6 months); facilitate long-term recovery (6 months – 3 years); facilitate the ability of flora/fauna to access new habitats
- Whether all **activity types** are used: plans, policies, procedures; conservation and land management; funding; regulatory and incentives; technical assistance and education; tools and datasets.
- At which **scale** activities are implemented: Individual, Municipal, Watershed, State, Other
- Whether **funding or capacity gaps** were noted in the State Actions Inventory
- Whether **other opportunities** were noted in the State Actions Inventory

Action Development to Meet Opportunities



- What specific, concrete actions can we take to begin addressing challenges and leveraging identified opportunities?
- Are there existing State government initiatives that are working well and could be expanded in scope or scaled up to meet this need?
- Has this opportunity been identified in other plans or ongoing conversations?

Treasurer's Resilience Investment Working Group

Charge: *“To identify & advise the Treasurer about potential funding and financing strategies to support priority investments in climate resilience investments across Vermont.”*

- Resilience Investment Working Group is helping identify potential funding or financing strategies that could maximize the value of available resources to mitigate significant climate-related risks.
- Looking at two broad categories:
 - (i) post-crisis financial flexibility to meet acute disaster needs
 - (ii) proactive adaptation measures to reduce future expected costs from events like floods, ice storms, wildfires, high winds, or drought

Thank you!

Marian Wolz

Resilience & Adaptation Coordinator
ANR Climate Action Office
Marian.wolz@vermont.gov

Evan Horne

Resilient Lands Coordinator
ANR Climate Action Office
Evan.horne@vermont.gov