

VECAN End of Legislative Session Recap: Summary of Climate Investments & Resources

June 2022

[The FY '23 Budget, H.740](#) – The FY23 budget invests more than \$200 million in unprecedented funding in climate priorities, including \$80 million to support increased access to clean and affordable heating and weatherization services for low- and moderate-income Vermonters, help to ready homes and our state's energy grid for electrification, investments in our climate workforce, and aid to municipalities to reduce their energy costs and carbon footprint. [Read more of VNRC's statement on the unprecedented climate investments in the FY23 Budget here.](#)

- ***Resources for tapping into FY23 Budget funding:***

- \$45 million for low-income weatherization assistance to Vermont's [Weatherization Assistance Program](#), which can be accessed via your local Community Action Agency
- \$35 million for moderate-income weatherization can be accessed via [Efficiency Vermont](#)
- \$25 million to the [Clean Energy Development Fund](#) at the Department of Public Service:
 - \$20 million for financial and technical assistance for low- and moderate-income Vermonters to upgrade home electrical systems
 - \$5 million to create a ["Switch & Save" program](#) to allow low- and moderate-income Vermonters to install heat pump water heaters at low- or no-cost

[Transportation Bill, H.736](#) – The Transportation Bill, coupled with transportation investments in the FY23 Budget, enacts a suite of policies and appropriations to transform Vermont's transportation choices, especially for vehicle electrification. The bills appropriate nearly \$40 million to meet our carbon reduction targets, including increased funding for electric vehicle incentives, deployment of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and the continuation of zero-fare transit to assist low and moderate-income Vermonters to access clean transportation sources. [Read more of VNRC's statement on the critically needed transportation bill investments here.](#)

- ***Resources for tapping into Transportation Bill funding:***

- Electric and High-Efficiency Vehicle Incentives - expands the suite of vehicle incentives by investing:
 - \$15 million in [Statewide Vehicle Incentives](#), including the nascent Replace Your Ride program and incentives for new PEVs
 - \$2 million to [Drive Electric Vermont](#)
 - \$3 million to [MileageSmart](#)
- [Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment \(EVSE\) Grants](#) - expands existing EVSE Grants by investing:
 - \$10 million for Level 1 & 2 EVSE at workplaces and multi-unit dwellings (must be at least 30% of the total \$10 million), and Level 1-3 EVSE at public venues and attractions
 - \$2 million for public EVSE along public highway networks

[Municipal Energy Resilience Initiatives, H.518](#) – Vermont communities interested in reducing their energy bills and cutting climate pollution have something to celebrate! The Municipal Energy Resilience Initiatives bill is now law, setting the stage for \$45 million to flow to municipalities for investments in

weatherization, fuel switching, and other potential cost- and carbon-cutting resilience measures in community buildings. Interested communities can undertake energy assessments and apply for direct grants of up to \$500,000 from Vermont Department of Buildings and General Services to fund this work. [Read more of VNRC's statement on the enactment of H.518 here.](#)

- ***Resources for tapping into Municipal Energy Resilience Funding:***
 - \$2.4 million for Regional Planning Commissions to provide technical assistance and support for municipalities interested in applying for this funding – [find yours here!](#)
 - \$42.6 million, including \$36.6 million for direct grants to municipalities, to the [Vermont Department of Buildings and General Services](#), where you can find all future guidance and resources on the Municipal Energy Expansion program.
 - [Find information from VECAN on maximizing state and federal funding to support strategic energy investments](#), including resources and recommendations for working with municipalities here.

[The Environmental Justice Bill, S.148](#) – The Legislature passed and the Governor signed Vermont's first statewide Environmental Justice bill – a critical step forward in addressing a long history of undue environmental injustice and a first step to bring Vermont in line with the majority of other states working to design meaningful solutions for justice through public engagement and partnership with those most impacted by undue environmental harm. The bill created the first statutory definition of environmental justice in Vermont and will begin to build a framework for the state to better address structural inequities.

[The Clean Heat Standard, H.715](#) – The Clean Heat Standard is a core emissions reduction recommendation of the Climate Action Plan, designed to help Vermonters access more affordable, cleaner energy solutions in our second largest emissions sector. Unfortunately, after important work in the Senate on the equity and accountability of the policy and a check back requirement that the Legislature vote yet again before the program goes into effect, Governor Scott vetoed the bill and the Legislature fell one vote short of overriding the veto - so Vermont must continue on without a sector-wide strategy for reducing thermal emissions. [Read more of VNRC's stance on the failed veto override here.](#)