

Vermont Global Warming Solutions Act

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Solutions Act

- Greenhouse Gas Reduction Requirements
- Climate Council » Climate Action Plan
- Rulemaking
- Citizen Suit Provision

GHG Reduction Requirements

- 2025: 26% (2005 Emissions)
- 2030: 40% (1990 Emissions)
- 2050: 80% (1990 Emissions)
 - Climate Action Plan must include strategies to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050

Climate Council

Membership

<https://aoa.vermont.gov/content/vermont-climate-council>

Governor

Administration

Natural Resources

Agriculture

Commerce & Community Dev

Human Services

Transportation

Public Safety

Public Service

House

Emission Reduction

Rural Communities

Municipal Gov

Distribution Utilities

Environmental Org

Fuel Sector

Climate Change Science

Manufacturing

Senate

Resilience

Clean Energy Sector

Small Business

Community Action Partnership

Farm & Forest Sector

Youth Member

Energy & Data Analysis

Climate Council

Subcommittees

Rural Resilience and Adaptation

- Municipal vulnerability index
- Best practice recommendations for rural communities: reduce fossil fuel consumption, strengthen infrastructure, distributed local electrical system

Cross-Sector Mitigation

- Identify the most feasible solutions that will result in the largest possible emission reductions in the most cost-effective manner

Just Transitions

- Solutions do not disproportionately impact marginalized, rural, or low-income communities
- Benefits designed to be accessible to all Vermonters
- Adopt measurement tool to assess the equitability of solutions

Agriculture and Ecosystems

- Protect and restore wetlands
- Increase carbon storage on natural and working lands
- Support healthy agricultural soils and local food systems

Climate Action Plan

Dec. 1, 2021 · 4 years

“The Plan shall set forth the specific initiatives, programs, and strategies that the State shall pursue to . . . achieve the State’s **reduction requirements** . . . and **build resilience** to prepare the State’s communities, infrastructure, and economy to adapt to the current and anticipated effects of climate change.”

The Plan must include climate solutions that:

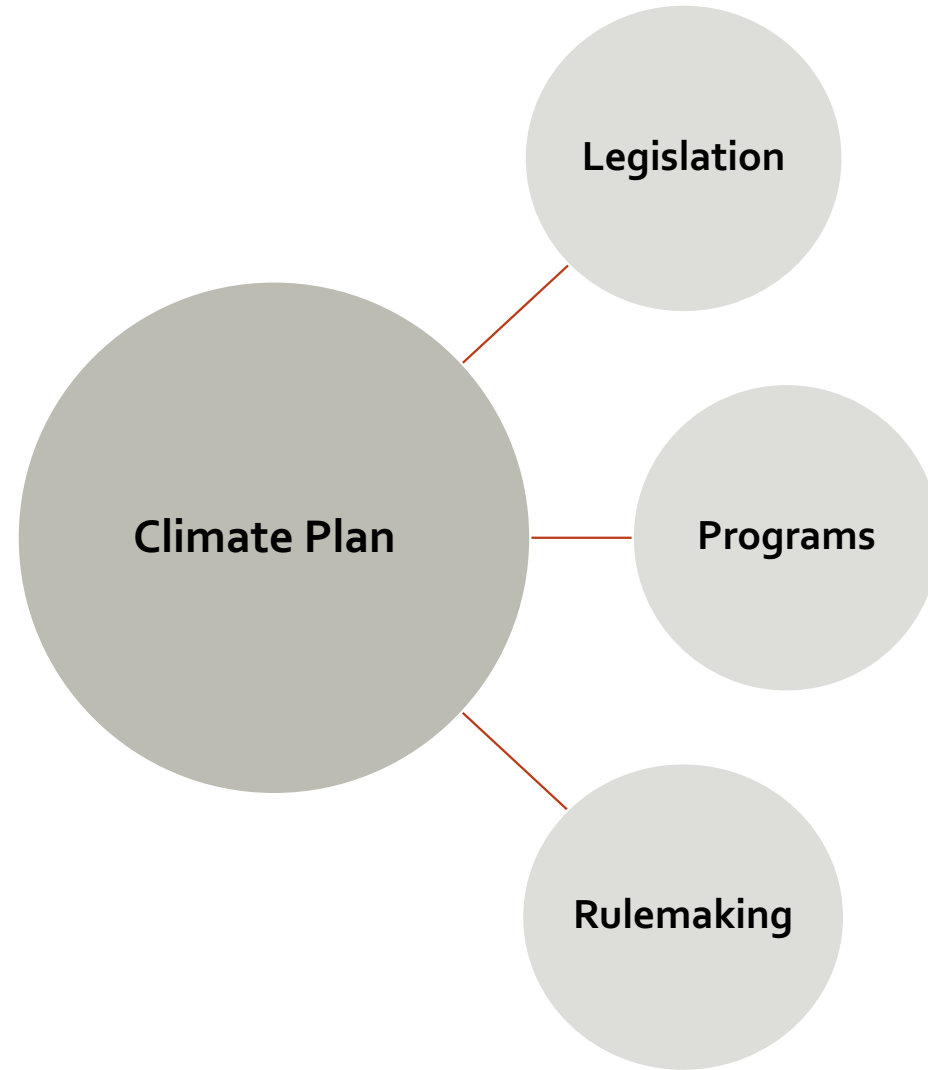
- achieve net zero emissions by 2050 across all sectors
- reduce emissions from transportation, building, regulated utility, industrial, commercial, and agricultural sectors
- encourage smart growth and related strategies
- promote best management practices to achieve mitigation, adaptation, and resilience on natural and working lands
- reduce energy burdens for rural and marginalized communities
- limit the use of chemicals, substances, or products that contribute to climate change
- build and encourage the climate resilience of communities and natural systems

Climate Action Plan

The Plan must advance the following objectives:

- prioritize the most cost-effective, technologically feasible, and equitable emission reductions and adaptation strategies
- reductions should reflect the relative contribution of sector emissions
- minimize negative impacts on rural and marginalized communities and individuals with low and moderate income
- ensure that all regions of the State benefit
- support economic sectors and regions that face greatest barriers
- support industries, technology, and training that allow workers and businesses to benefit from climate solutions
- support the use of natural solutions to reduce emissions and build resilience
- maximize State's involvement in interstate and regional initiatives

Climate Action Plan



Rulemaking

Rules must be consistent with the Climate Action Plan

Deadlines

- Rulemaking to achieve 2025, 2030, and 2050 requirements
- Regular review and revision of rules

Backstop Provision

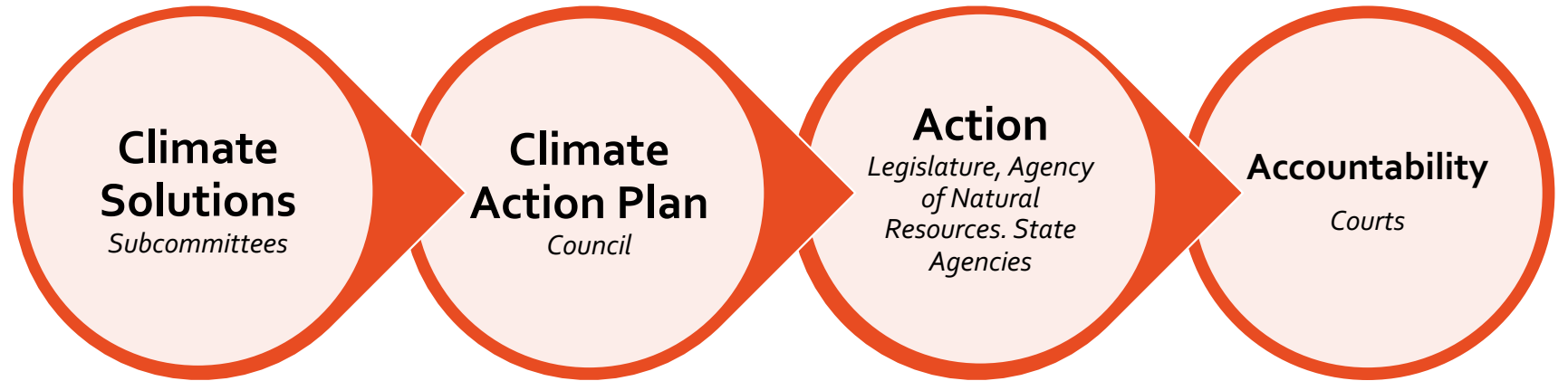
- If no Climate Action Plan, rulemaking required to achieve reductions

Accountability Provisions

Vermonters can hold the State accountable in court if:

- The Agency of Natural Resources fails to meet deadlines to adopt or update rules
- Rules fail to achieve emission reduction requirements

Solutions Act



Public Participation and Community Outreach



Get Involved

- Get to know the Climate Council members
- Join the Climate Council meetings
- Stay tuned for details re public participation and community outreach
- Sign up for the weekly “Climate Dispatch” at www.vnrc.org
- Sign up for news and updates at www.clf.org

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Questions?

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