

Vermont Global Warming Solutions Act

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**Charge:
GHG
Reduction
Requirements**

CHARGE of 23-MEMBER CLIMATE COUNCIL:

- Achieve Greenhouse Gas 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
- First Big Climate Council Task: Develop a Climate Action Plan by December 2021 designed to achieve pollution reduction requirements

Climate Council

Membership

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

Delivered by Dec. 1, 2021
In 4 years, progress required.

“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

Citizen Suit Provisions

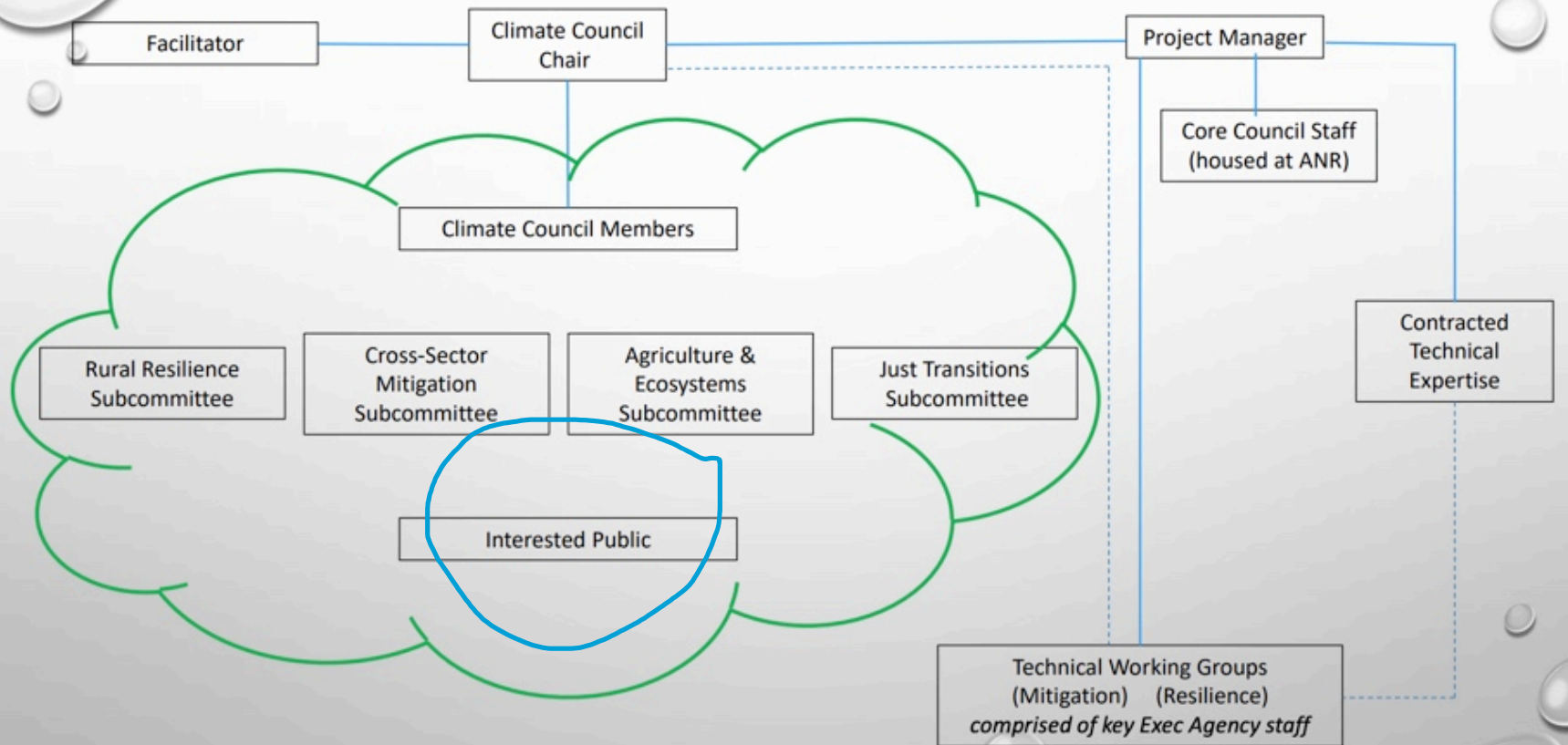
Failure to meet deadlines to adopt or update rules

State must make climate pollution reduction progress:

“Any person may commence an action based upon the failure of the Secretary of Natural Resources to adopt or update rules pursuant to the (2025, 2030, and 2050 pollution reduction) deadlines in section 593 of this chapter.” Section 594(a)

Time to get to work

POSSIBLE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



Comprehensive Energy Plan – updating for new 2022 plan

- The Comprehensive Energy Plan – updated last in 2015 – establishes a 90 percent by 2050 TOTAL renewable energy goal (covering transportation, thermal and electricity).
- The CEP is an important guide to ensure Vermont achieves this goal in a cost-effective, equitable way.
- The CEP update process runs nearly parallel to the timeline for delivering a Climate Action Plan.
- Necessarily, each effort incorporates public input and engagement opportunities.
- A final CEP is due by January 15, 2022.

CEP Public Engagement Opportunities

What do you think is important for the CEP to incorporate/consider?

- First public comment opportunity – This Friday, January 15, 2021.
- Public comments may be submitted via email to PSD.ComprehensiveEnergyPlan@vermont.gov, or by U.S. mail.
- Find more information and follow potential public engagement opportunities at: <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/2022-plan>