

The Vermont Global Warming Solutions Act



The Global Warming Solutions Act is an effective path to cut climate pollution and build resilient communities in Vermont.

Why Do We Need It?

Climate change and its effects—severe storms, punishing heat waves, growing tick populations—are here now, affecting the lives and livelihoods of Vermonters. Climate-damaging emissions have gone up 13% in Vermont since 1990, when they should be decreasing instead. Vermont has a responsibility to do our part to avoid catastrophic damage. Cutting climate pollution and creating resilient communities also has significant economic, public health, and environmental benefits for Vermonters.

What Will It Do?

This bill transforms our existing emission reduction goals into requirements. It establishes a Vermont Climate Council and directs the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources to put regulations and policies in place to achieve the required cuts and build the resilience of Vermont communities and natural systems.

In doing so, it fosters innovation and resilience. The bill requires climate solutions that reduce energy burdens for rural and marginalized communities, build rural resilience, and promote the use of natural and working lands to capture and store carbon. It also creates a framework for ongoing climate action.

How Will It Succeed?

The GWSA builds on the success of other New England states that have cut climate pollution while growing their economies. The bill ensures that Vermont takes coordinated and strategic action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050 and build climate resilient communities. It also allows Vermonters to hold the state accountable to ensure real action is taken to reduce our state's polluting emissions.

LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE

H.688: Vermont Global Warming Solutions Act

- 1. Gets us back on track.** The bill requires we cut carbon emissions 80% by 2050, and includes benchmarks along the way.
- 2. Ensures a just transition.** The bill requires that climate solutions reduce energy burdens and minimize negative impacts on rural and marginalized communities.
- 3. Brings the best solutions forward.** The bill ensures solutions that grow the economy while protecting public health. It creates an open, inclusive process that gives everyone, from farmers to builders to local communities, a voice in crafting the state's path forward.
- 4. Uses natural systems to fight the climate crisis.** The bill promotes the use of natural systems and working lands to capture and store carbon, protect against severe weather events, and build community resilience.
- 5. Is clear and ensures accountability.** The bill sets deadlines for climate action and requires regular progress reporting. It also allows Vermonters to hold the State accountable if the climate pollution requirements are ignored.

Jen Duggan
Director, CLF Vermont
jduggan@clf.org

