

Speak up! There's No Time to Waste for Vermont Climate Action

This fall is a crucial time for plans to slow climate change in Vermont. That's because the Vermont Climate Council will soon produce its plan to implement the Global Warming Solutions Act, or GWSA. (Closer to home here in Addison County, CEAC is also working on a Climate Action Plan [for the county](#).)



As the state shapes a climate plan, which we hope will guide the legislature, it's essential that those of us who care about the climate — and recognize the need for urgent government action — make our voices heard now. For a schedule of public events where you can speak directly to the council, check [here](#). You can also [submit comments online](#).

GWSA info: The Solutions Act legally requires the state to meet its existing emission-reduction goals. The act created the Vermont Climate Council (VCC) to develop a plan to meet these mandates, one that must be adopted this December (hence the urgency to speak up now). The Vermont Natural Resources Council has a [good explainer](#) online, also noting the wide public support that led the Legislature to overwhelmingly approve the GWSA over the veto of Gov. Phil Scott.

The council has five subcommittees:

- 1) Rural Resilience and Adaptation
- 2) Cross-Sector Mitigation, which is doing much of the heavy lifting for developing actual pathways and strategies to reduce GHG production.
- 3) Just Transitions
- 4) Agriculture and Ecosystems
- 5) Science and Data (CEAC board member Richard Hopkins is on the Science and Data Subcommittee.)

Among organizations working to get the VCC to do the right thing are [350 Vermont](#), and Rights & Democracy. 350 Vermont emphasizes the need to count all greenhouse gas emissions (such as harmful fracking to acquire natural gas and ship it here, not just emissions from the actual burning of fossil fuels in Vermont).

The coalition also calls for more sustainable agriculture and a climate-justice and BIPOC focus to ensure no Vermonter is left behind as we rapidly get off climate-busting fossil fuels. There's more about all that [here](#).

The Climate Council needs to hear from you! Don't let things get worse and wish later that you'd spoken up. And as we noted above, For a schedule of public events where you can speak directly to the council, check [here](#). You can also [submit comments online](#).