



# Vermont Climate Economy Action Team

## A Vision for Vermont's Economic Renewal

Vermonters are creating answers to climate change that will be foundations for the economic renewal of the state. The Climate Economy is the economy of the future, informed by Vermont's history of independence, frugality, resiliency, and innovation.

*The Vermont Climate Economy Action Team sees a future where...*

...Vermont's history of creativity, ingenuity, tenacity, and grit lays a foundation for a vital and growing economy. Vermont is the most attractive, easiest, and friendliest state for climate economy business development. **We are the beckoning country and a national center of green innovation and entrepreneurship**, providing an economic, intellectual, and technological haven for businesses leading the country in solving, mitigating, adapting to, and reversing climate change. Vermont serves as rich soil where climate economy businesses can take root and grow; both those that develop local solutions and those that focus on exporting innovative products and models that can help communities worldwide. This helps the state attract youth, investment and economic opportunity in communities throughout the state and for all Vermonters.

...Vermont is ahead of the transition away from fossil fuels, leading the nation and modeling rural renewal. **We are driving the solutions and seizing the most significant economic development opportunity of our time.**

...**The Climate Economy works for all Vermonters.** Climate and energy solutions and innovation are threads that connect across communities – *from places of worship and schools, to businesses and homes* – and are fundamental to how we build, move, transport, and produce goods in Vermont. In this economic future, opportunity and energy choices are affordable and accessible to Vermonters at all income levels.

...The economy is built on a foundation of hard-working and skilled Vermonters. From electricians to contractors, plumbers, engineers, tech experts, excavators, farmers, and foresters – **the climate economy is keeping people in jobs and putting Vermonters to work.**

...**It is easy and affordable to travel, transport, and move around in Vermont.** Electric vehicles and other efficient cars and trucks are affordable and accessible for all. Charging stations are available at homes, apartments, workplaces, and in every downtown and village center. Shared transportation and public transit options are inexpensive and readily available. Bike and walk commuting is a realistic, attractive option rather than an exception.

...**Everyone has access to a comfortable, safe, and well-heated home with reliable, renewable, and affordable electricity.** Vermonters draw on their frugality, ingenuity, hard work and resourcefulness to make it easy, affordable, and efficient to live in Vermont. Building on and benefiting from individual and community prosperity, it is never a struggle to heat and power our homes, and low energy or net zero homes are common.

...Reducing emissions and improving access to clean energy helps to maintain a clean and healthy Vermont. **We advance economic opportunity while valuing and maintaining a scenic working landscape.** Vermont demonstrates what it means to have a sustainable lifestyle and an interconnected and well-funded economy that supports Vermonters while maintaining jobs, vibrant downtowns, clean waters, the natural and working landscape, and the well-being of its citizens. We “walk the talk.”

...Vermont is a fun, safe, and resilient place to visit, live, and play. Dynamic communities welcome individual visitors, families, and businesses to Vermont to add to our prosperity, culture, and creativity for the future. **People visit, stay, and move to Vermont because of where we live, and how we live.**

...**Vermont is strong, resilient, self-reliant, and independent.** We are rooted in our proud rural history, but look forward with adaptability, resourcefulness and confident optimism toward a bright future.



**Vermont Council on Rural Development**

Unleashing the power of Vermonters to create a better future