

1. **Pitch Submitted By (Your Name or Organization):** CONSERVATION LAW FOUNDATION

2. **Contact Email Address:** slevine@clf.org

3. **Contact Phone Number:** 802-223-5992 x.4013

4. **Pitch Title:** (one line) Vermont Global Warming Solutions Act

5. **Pitch Summary:** (one paragraph) & **Summary Sentence:**

Summary:

We've had a good, long "engagement" with cutting carbon emissions. Now it's time for Vermont to "tie the knot" and commit to actually reducing them. Vermont can join other New England states and pass a Global Warming Solutions Act that commits us to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and making measurable progress each year. A clear commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions will direct all state actions, including decisions about energy supply, state spending, and transportation, and will translate Vermont's strong goals into real action.

Summary Sentence:

Passage of a Vermont Global Warming Solutions Act to join other New England states in making a firm commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with Vermont's goals and take state action to make meaningful progress across all sectors.

6. **What energy sector(s) does this Pitch apply to? (Check all that apply):**

- Energy Efficiency
- Electricity
- Transportation
- Thermal Heating &/or Cooling
- All (Total Energy)
- None: Non-energy related carbon reduction proposal

7. **Which criteria category(ies) does it address? (Check all that apply):**

- Economic Activity
- Affordability
- Vulnerable Vermonters
- Other

8. **Scale of impact on Vermont’s energy and climate goals:** If this proposal came to fruition, how might it move the needle in helping to meet Vermont’s energy and climate goals by 2025 and/or 2050? Please outline assumptions and, if available, provide calculations.

A Vermont Global Warming Solutions Act would turn Vermont’s current greenhouse gas reduction goals, set forth in 10 V.S.A sec. 578, into clear requirements that reduce greenhouse gas emissions 50% from the 1990 baseline by 2028, and 75% by 2050, and require meaningful annual progress toward achieving these reductions. It would provide the benchmark and the yardstick that would guide state actions. This would demonstrate Vermont’s commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and set us on a clear path to do so. It would also foster innovation in renewable energy solutions, and provide an annual demonstration that Vermont is on target to achieve its carbon cutting goals.

9. **Benefits/costs of this proposal for Vermont and Vermonters:** Including, where possible, economic, financial, social, and environmental.
- The proposal costs nothing. It merely turns Vermont’s goals into a commitment to achieve them.
 - Economic benefits result from fostering the fastest growing sector of the economy and bringing more jobs and innovation to Vermont.
 - It helps the most vulnerable, because it will reduce climate pollution, as well as other harmful pollutants, particularly in poorer neighborhoods.
 - It will help Vermonters move away from fossil fuels by providing more and cleaner choices for energy supply.
 - It will reduce Vermont’s contribution to global warming.

10. **Decision-makers necessary for this proposal to be adopted or move forward (e.g., Legislature, Governor, a regulatory agency, a business, organization, media outlet, or financing institution, etc.)**

The Vermont Legislature needs to pass the law, and Governor Scott needs to sign it.

11. **Strategy and key considerations:** Outline the overall strategy, including gaps, barriers and opportunities for moving this proposal forward.



We would aim to pass this law in 2018. We will build on the strong support for action on climate change, and work with a wide array of environmental, business, energy and public health leaders, and low income advocates. We will highlight the broad economic, environmental, and health benefits from committing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with other New England states.

Barriers include overcoming inertia that the status quo is sufficient or that Vermont alone has little to contribute. Vermont has long been a leader on climate change, but our efforts have failed to achieve the greenhouse gas reductions goals we set over a decade ago.

Vermont agencies would have one year to develop regulations and incentives to facilitate the transformation to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, with the clear guidance that Vermont is committed to these reductions and the level of activity needed to achieve them.

12. Timeline: To meet our 2025 goals, we need some proposals that can be implemented in the next couple of years as well as some “game changers” that will bend the curve even further out. What timeline do you foresee for your proposal to be developed and implemented?

This proposal is ready for action in the upcoming legislative session. It will support and facilitate all other actions Vermont will take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Following this plan, within two years Vermont will join other New England states in having a solid commitment in place, and the actions already in motion, in each sector to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A Vermont Global Warming Solutions Act will enable our state to reduce our emissions in line with the goals we established over a decade ago. This is more than the first step. It is the map, the walking stick, the hiking boots and the overall fitness needed to achieve success.