

1. **Pitch Submitted By (Name(s) or Organization(s)):** Conservation Law Foundation
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4. **Pitch Title:** (one sentence)

Vermont Global Warming Solutions Act

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

Lofty goals to reduce emissions are not enough. We must take action to dramatically cut carbon emissions to avoid the catastrophic consequences of the climate crisis. With progress halted at the federal level, Vermont must lead. We can join our neighbors—Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maine, and New York—and pass a Global Warming Solutions Act that commits us to action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Act includes a mandate to reduce carbon emissions across all sectors through a transparent and public process and an accountability framework to ensure the State makes measurable progress each year. A framework for all climate action along with a clear mandate to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will drive all state actions, including decisions about energy supply, state spending, and transportation, and turn Vermont’s goals into meaningful action.

6. **What Energy Sector(s) Does this Pitch Apply to? (Check all that apply):**

- ✓ Energy Efficiency
- ✓ Electricity
- ✓ Transportation
- ✓ Thermal Heating and/or Cooling

7. **Which Criteria Category(ies) Does it Address? (Check all that apply):**

- ✓ Significant reductions in fossil fuel use and GHG pollution from energy
- ✓ Clean energy jobs
- ✓ Energy security and resilience
- ✓ A stronger and more just Vermont economy
- ✓ Sustainable energy landscape

8. **Which Leverage Areas Would It Attempt to Shift? (Check all that apply):**

- ✓ Policy & Regulatory Reform
- ✓ Public Engagement
- ✓ Workforce Development/Workforce Transition
- ✓ Technology Innovation
- ✓ Capital Mobilization

**9. Scale of Impact on Vermont's Energy and Emissions Goals:** If this proposal came to fruition, how would it help meet Vermont's energy and emissions goals by 2025 and/or 2050? Please outline assumptions and, if available, provide calculations-- especially for emissions reduction estimates.

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 by 25% from the 1990 baseline by 2025; 50% by 2035; and 75% by 2050. In addition, the Act would require the State to demonstrate meaningful and measurable progress towards achieving these emission reduction requirements through the rulemaking process and annual progress reports. The Act would provide a clear framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, while fostering technological innovation across all sectors, engage the public, incentivize workforce development, and ensure climate change is prioritized in state decision-making.

**10. Benefits/Costs of this Proposal for Vermont and Vermonters:** Including, where possible, economic (local economic development and jobs), financial (consumer savings), social, public health, and environmental.

- The proposal costs nothing. It turns Vermont's goals into mandatory emission reduction requirements and sets deadlines for the State to promulgate rules to achieve these reductions.
- Economic benefits will 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 create accountability; moving the state beyond rhetorical support for action on climate change to actual reductions in Vermont's contribution to global warming.

**11. Collaboration:** Who have you collaborated with to develop this proposal and who else would need to be engaged for it to succeed?

Vermont Public Interest Research Group, Vermont Natural Resources Council, Vermont Conservation Voters, and other organizations and stakeholders. We have also collaborated with legislative allies and leadership of the Climate Solutions Caucus. A broad coalition of environmental, business, energy, public health, and social justice organizations must be engaged in order to pass this law.

**12. Decision-Makers:** Who is necessary to move this proposal forward (e.g., Legislature, Governor, a regulatory agency, a business, organization, a media outlet, etc.)

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

**13. Strategy and Key Considerations:** Outline the overall strategy, including any gaps, barriers, and opportunities for moving this proposal forward.

We are working to pass this law in 2020. We will build on the strong support for action on climate change, and work with legislative champions and 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.

**14. Timeline:** To meet our 2025 goals, we need some proposals that can be implemented in the next year. How “ripe” is this idea and what timeline do you foresee for this proposal to be developed and implemented?

This proposal is ready for action in the upcoming legislative session. The Act was introduced last session and we have conducted extensive outreach to legislators and a diverse set of stakeholders including members of the business, low income, public health, faith and legal communities.

We will work to pass this law in 2020, which will put in place greenhouse gas emission reduction requirements and statutory deadlines for rulemaking to achieve these reductions. Within one year of the effective date of the Act, the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) must promulgate rules to achieve a 25% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2025 and review and revise those rules at least once every two years to ensure the State stays on track. In 2024, ANR must issue rules to achieve a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2035 and review and revise those rules at least once every two years. In 2034, ANR must issue rules to achieve a 60% reduction by 2045. In 2044, ANR must promulgate rules to achieve a 75% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and review and revise those rules at least once every two years.

This Act puts in place the necessary framework for accountability and action across sectors that will ensure we meet the emissions reductions goals we established over a decade ago.

**15. Budget:** If this is a program or project for which you are seeking funding to implement, please outline a basic budget here, including both expenses and funding sources.

The organizations noted above are committed to seeing a Global Warming Solutions Act move forward this session and are putting capacity behind it to keep Vermont on track to meeting our climate goals. In implementing this, there is need for funding additional outreach to make sure all Vermonters know about the opportunities to meet our climate change goals and to be part of this exciting solution. The budget needed to support this outreach: \$15,000