



BUILDING RESILIENCE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES SPEAKER SERIES

# Mobilizing for Vermont's Extreme Weather

March 27, 2025



REBUILD  
BY  
DESIGN

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# EVENT AGENDA

- ① Welcome and Introductions
- ② Funding Climate Infrastructure Opportunities Presentation
- ③ Building Resilience in Rural Communities Series Key Takeaways
- ④ Breakout Group Activity

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# EVENT GOALS



## ALIGN

local leaders + legislators  
+ community members



## CREATE

a shared agenda +  
accountability towards action



## SEED

future collaborations  
between participants

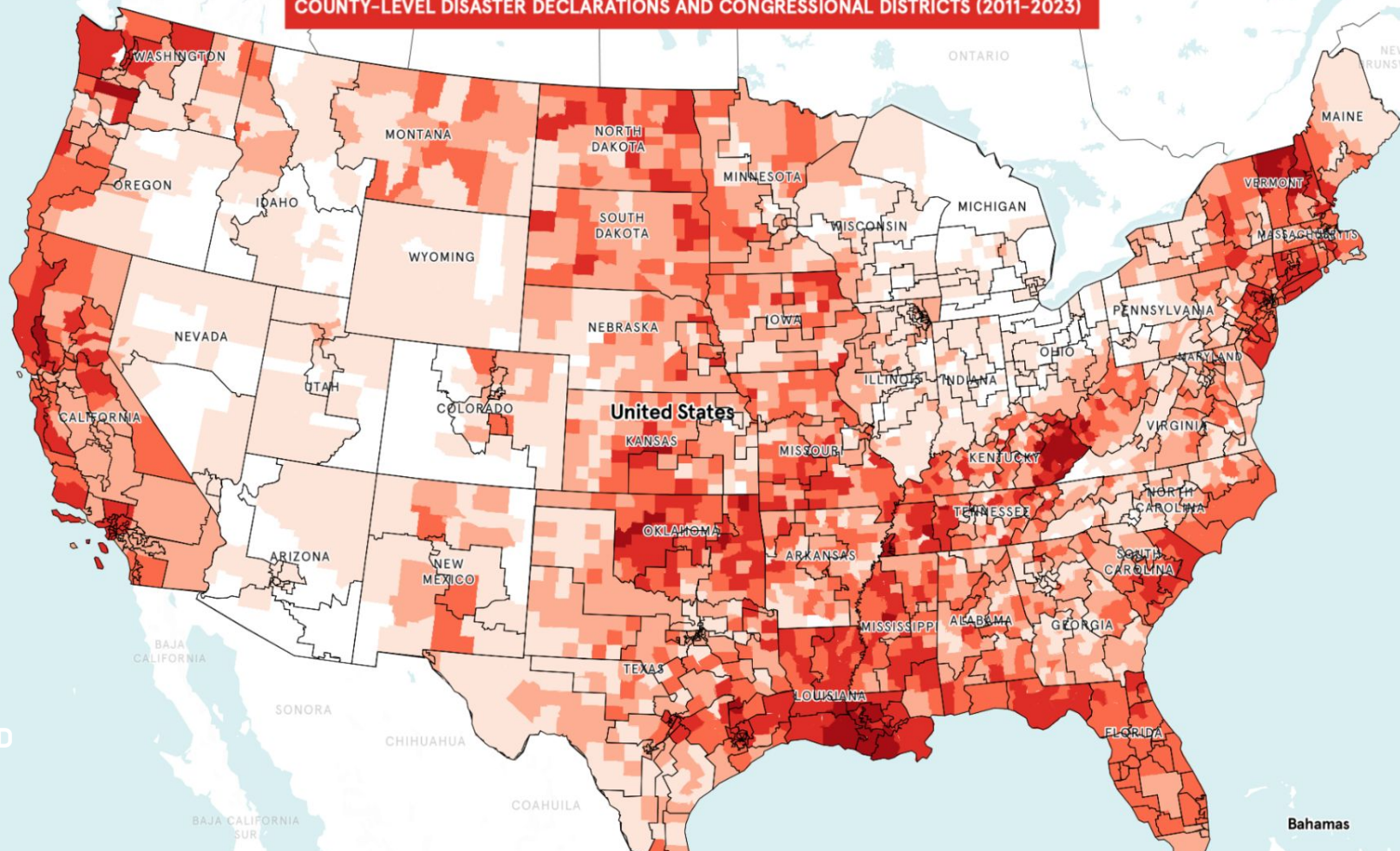
# FUNDING CLIMATE INFRASTRUCTURE OPPORTUNITIES





# ATLAS OF ACCOUNTABILITY

COUNTY-LEVEL DISASTER DECLARATIONS AND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS (2011-2023)



United States

REBUILD  
BY  
DESIGN

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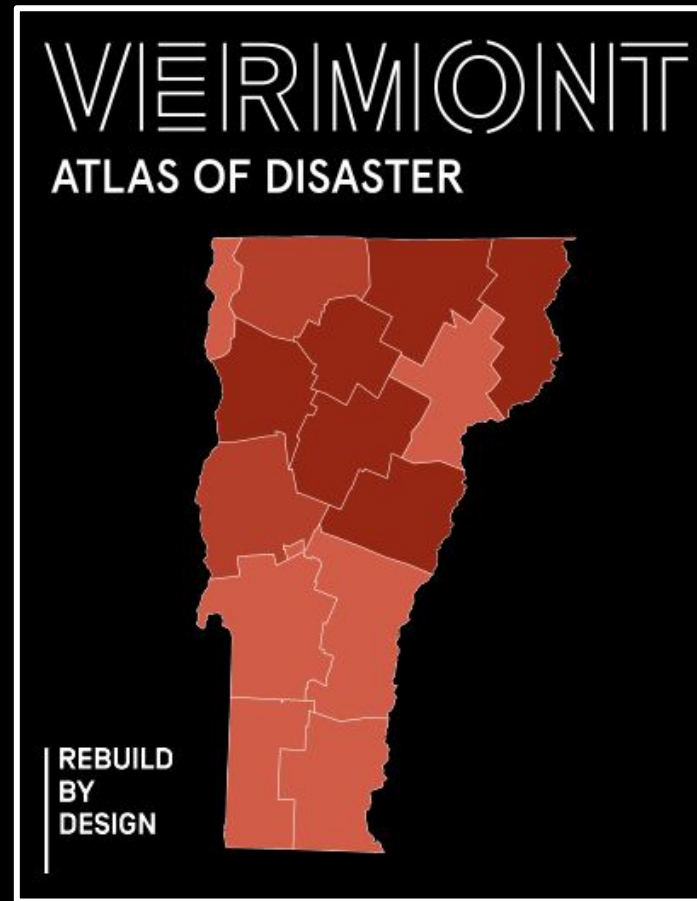
# COUNTIES WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION (2011-2024)

RANKING	COUNTY NAME	NUMBER OF MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATIONS	REPRESENTATIVE
1	Washington, VT	22	Becca Balint (D) *
2	Merrimack, NH	19	Maggie Goodlander (D)
3	Lamoille, VT	17	Becca Balint (D) *
4	Franklin, KY	16	James Comer (R)
5	Johnson, KY	16	Harold Rogers (R)
6	Essex, VT	16	Becca Balint (D)*
7	Orleans, VT	16	Becca Balint (D)*
8	Clay, KY	15	Harold Rogers (R)
9	Lawrence, KY	15	Harold Rogers (R)
10	Lee, KY	15	Steve Scalise (R)

# ATLAS OF DISASTER: VERMONT

## KEY FINDINGS 2011-2024

- Experienced **25 federally declared major disasters** due to **extreme weather** between 2011-2024.
- **Ranked 4th** in the country for **per capita post-disaster federal assistance**.
- **Ranked 7th** in the country for number of recent **disaster occurrences**
- **Every county has had 5 or more** recent major disasters, and **8 counties have had at least 11**.
- **Washington County** has had the **highest number of disaster declarations** in the state: **22** disasters.



# DISASTER OCCURRENCES 2011-2024

FEDERALLY DECLARED CLIMATE DISASTERS BY COUNTY

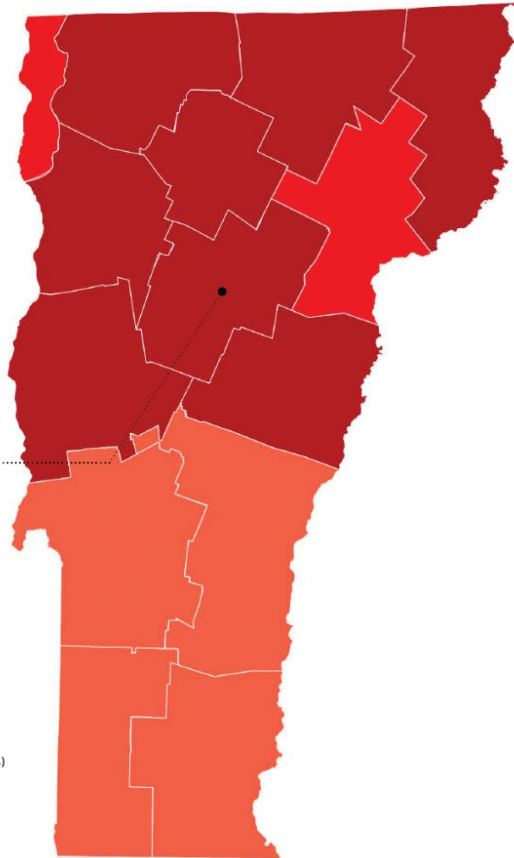
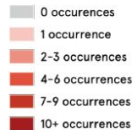
25  
disaster  
declarations

Every county in Vermont has had 5 or more recent climate disasters. 9 out of the 14 counties have had 10 or more disasters between 2011-2024.

Washington County has experienced 22 recent disaster declarations - the highest in the State.

## Number of Disaster Events

### Major Disaster Declarations (2011-2024)



MAP MADE BY REBUILD BY DESIGN  
FEMA DATA COURTESY OF IPARAMETRICS

# FEDERAL ASSISTANCE 2011-2024

POST-DISASTER PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND HAZARD MITIGATION FUNDS  
OBLIGATED BY COUNTY FOR CLIMATE DISASTERS

\$580M  
post-disaster  
assistance

\$540.6M FEMA obligations

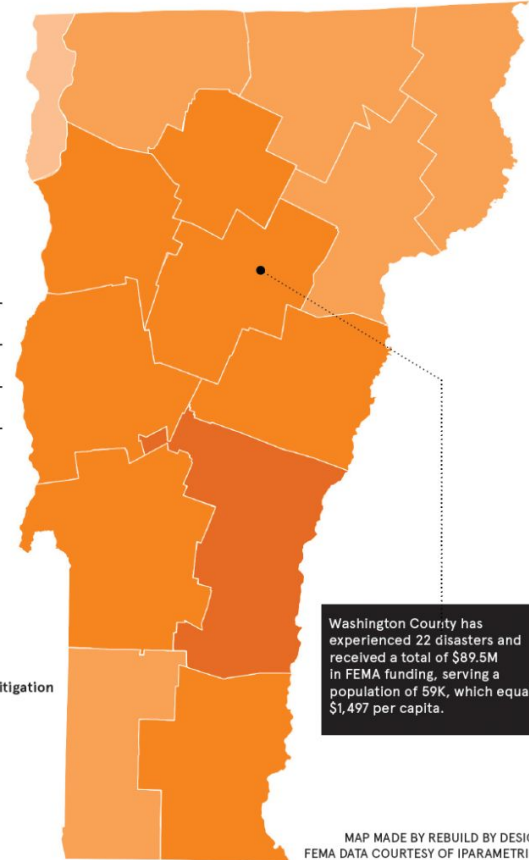
\$39.6M HUD CDBG-DR Funds

\$580.2M FEMA + HUD assistance

\$902 per capita cost

## FEMA Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation

### Federal Share Obligated (2011-2024)



Washington County has experienced 22 disasters and received a total of \$89.5M in FEMA funding, serving a population of 59K, which equals \$1,497 per capita.

MAP MADE BY REBUILD BY DESIGN  
FEMA DATA COURTESY OF IPARAMETRICS



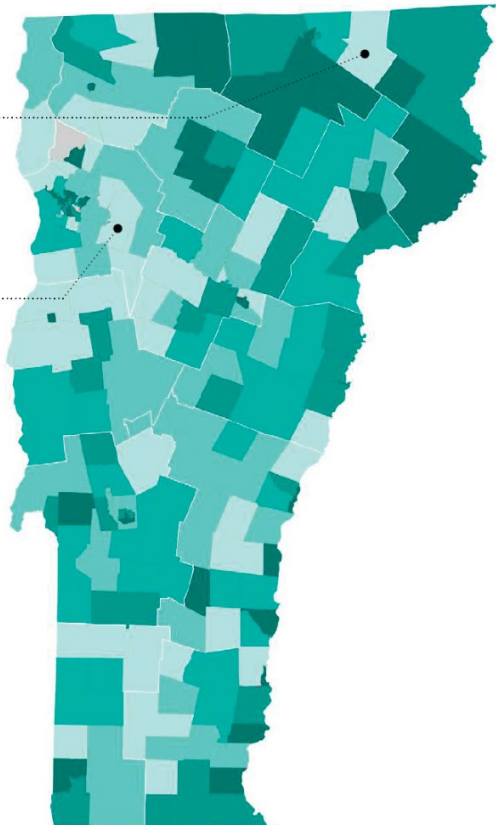
# SOCIAL VULNERABILITY INDEX 2022

AREAS OF GREATEST SOCIAL VULNERABILITY

Essex County, with 12 disasters and a population of just 6K in 2022, underscores how climate risks disproportionately affect rural areas with smaller populations.

Chittenden County, with 12 disasters and a 7% population increase from 157K in 2010 to 168K in 2022, faces increasing vulnerability as both disaster frequency and population density rise.

Social Vulnerability Index  
CDC (2022)



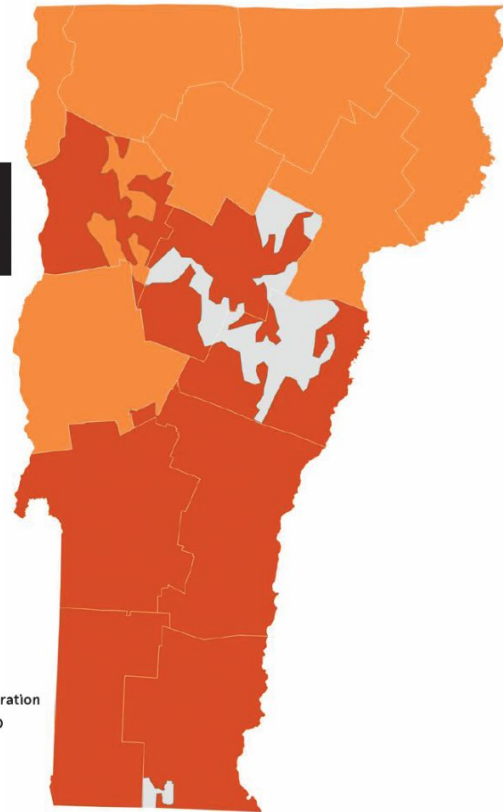
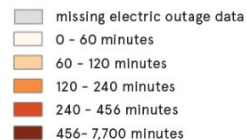
MAP MADE BY REBUILD BY DESIGN  
DATA SOURCE: CDC/ATSDR 2022 SVI

# ENERGY RELIABILITY 2011-2021

COUNTIES AT GREATEST RISK OF POWER OUTAGES

115,000 customers lost power during the Halloween storm of 2019 that drenched Vermont with 3-5 inches of rain in a day, causing over \$6 million in infrastructure damage.

Aggregated Annual Electric Outage Duration  
Including major events - SAIDI\_W\_MED



SOURCE: U.S. ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION  
MAPS COURTESY OF APTIM

## MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATIONS 2011-2021







# VERIMOUNT

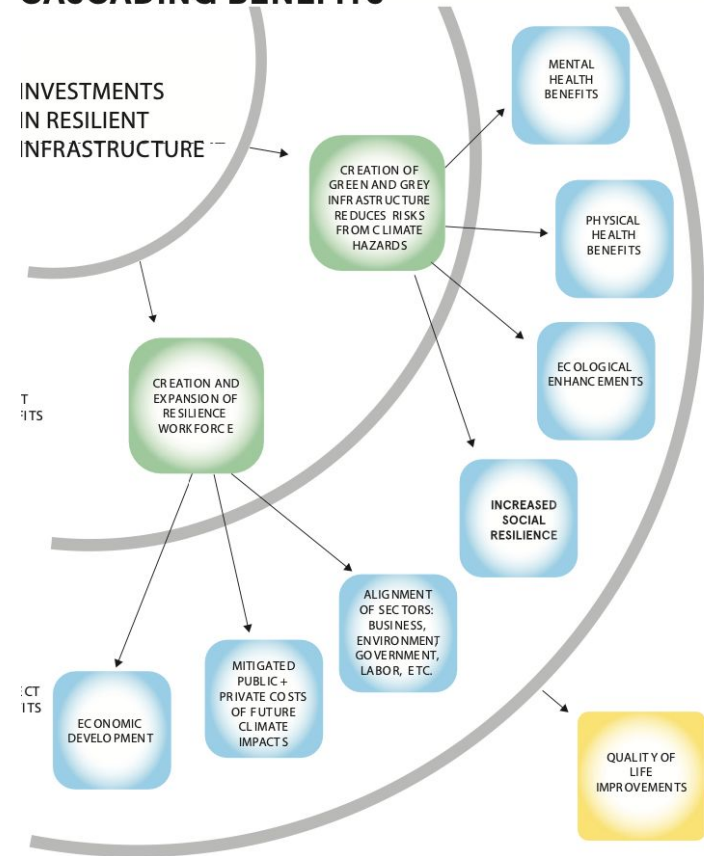
				Total	2011									
						1995: SEVERE STORMS AND FLOODING		4001: SEVERE STORMS AND FLOODING		4022: TROPICAL STORM IRENE		4043: SEVERE STORMS AND FLOODING		
GEOID	COUNTY NAME	# OF DISASTERS	FEMA TOTAL	PA Obligations	HM Obligations	PA Obligations	HM Obligations	PA Obligations	HM Obligations	PA Obligations	HM Obligations	PA Obligations	HM Obligations	
50000	50000: Statewide	22	\$151,577,075.93	\$146,855,179.29	\$4,721,896.64	\$6,777,748.62	\$11,338.00	\$546,863.80	\$19,715.00	\$0,818,193.36	\$3,242,619.40			
50001	50001: Addison County	11	\$15,315,339.10	\$13,442,989.63	\$1,872,349.47	\$288,312.48	\$236,548.00			\$3,628,573.07	\$1,447,926.47			
50003	50003: Bennington County	5	\$10,443,549.50	\$8,673,033.63	\$1,770,515.87					\$6,339,295.86	\$1,001,021.00			
50005	50005: Caledonia County	11	\$18,390,254.85	\$15,749,820.56	\$2,640,434.29			\$2,799,333.45	\$0.00	\$2,242,701.89	\$104,849.25			
50007	50007: Chittenden County	14	\$18,684,395.37	\$16,139,181.90	\$2,545,213.47	\$2,460,958.28	\$225,772.00			\$439,636.58	\$987,678.78			
50009	50009: Essex County	16	\$2,401,074.86	\$2,391,600.11	\$9,474.75	\$391,201.97	\$0.00	\$1,396,986.13	\$0.00	\$52,197.20	\$0.00			
50011	50011: Franklin County	11	\$9,375,959.26	\$6,395,386.32	\$2,980,572.94	\$290,862.31	\$0.00			\$300,874.19	\$2,397,563.25	\$600,020.21	\$0.00	
50013	50013: Grand Isle County	7	\$642,564.40	\$642,564.40	\$0.00	\$642,564.40	\$0.00			\$0.00	\$0.00			
50015	50015: Lamoille County	17	\$34,343,761.13	\$31,382,480.00	\$2,961,281.13	\$909,281.39	\$28,458.00			\$1,536,311.59	\$1,026,150.78			
50017	50017: Orange County	14	\$21,939,865.76	\$20,983,933.82	\$955,931.94			\$167,666.71	\$0.00	\$5,790,764.61	\$461,749.44			
50019	50019: Orleans County	16	\$16,929,883.61	\$15,386,238.95	\$1,543,644.66	\$1,111,247.93	\$0.00			\$1,920,785.11	\$405,908.83			
50021	50021: Rutland County	7	\$22,296,320.37	\$18,464,880.16	\$3,831,440.21					\$12,181,097.24	\$3,466,726.94			
50023	50023: Washington County	22	\$89,492,221.22	\$69,068,093.45	\$20,424,127.77	\$836,626.66	\$0.00	\$5,634,948.63	\$91,571.00	\$9,115,274.23	\$3,135,431.02	\$241,066.93	\$0.00	
50025	50025: Windham County	6	\$44,746,824.00	\$41,351,888.12	\$3,394,935.88					\$28,690,916.52	\$2,368,999.63	\$105,280.23	\$0.00	
50027	50027: Windsor County	7	\$84,051,799.49	\$77,166,111.58	\$6,885,687.91					\$43,722,812.95	\$5,214,674.54			
Total	Total	25	\$540,630,888.85	\$484,093,381.92	\$56,537,506.93	\$13,708,804.04	\$502,116.00	\$10,545,798.72	\$111,286.00	\$16,779,434.40	\$25,261,299.33	\$946,367.37	\$0.00	



# FUNDING VERMONT'S FUTURE

1. Develop a **statewide ballot measure** for climate adaptation funding
2. Leverage a **2% surcharge** on Property & Casualty (P&C) Insurance

## CASCADING BENEFITS



# RECENT VOTER-APPROVED BALLOT MEASURES

YEAR	LOCALITY	AMOUNT	PURPOSE	VOTER %
2024	CALIFORNIA	\$10 billion bond	Climate resilience, infrastructure, and adaptation	58%
2022	NEW YORK	\$4.2 billion bond	Ecological and climate resilience	68%
2022	RHODE ISLAND	\$50 million bond	Municipal climate resiliency and habitat protection	66%
2022	EL PASO, TX	\$272.5 million bond	Streets, parks, and climate projects	55%
2022	DENVER, CO	\$25 million bond	Outdoor learning spaces development	56%
2021	DENVER, CO	0.25% sales tax to raise \$40 million per year	Climate mitigation and adaptation for underserved communities	62%
2021	MAINE	\$100 million bond	Infrastructure adaptation for safety and resiliency	72%
2021	VIRGINIA BEACH, VA	\$567.5 million bond	Comprehensive flood protection measures	73%
2020	KEY BISCAYNE, FL	\$100 million bond	Sea level rise mitigation and infrastructure hardening	57%

# NEW YORK STATE 2022 ENVIRONMENTAL BOND ACT

Provides funding for ecological restoration and flood resilience

- Created the research, strategy, and coalition that led former Governor Andrew Cuomo to create the **\$3 Billion Environmental Bond Act**
- Governor Kathy Hochul, recognizing additional needs, increased the Bond Act to **\$4.2 billion**
- **NYS Voters approved the Bond Act Nov, 2022.**





# THE \$4.2 BILLION BOND ACT SUPPORTS:

## **\$1.1 Billion**

Restoration and Flood Risk Reduction, including:

- \$250 million for a voluntary buyout program
- \$100 million for coastal rehabilitation and shoreline protection
- \$100 million for inland flooding and local waterfront revitalization

## **\$650 Million**

Water Quality Improvement and Resilient Infrastructure, including:

- \$200 million for water infrastructure improvement act projects
- \$250 million for municipal stormwater

## **\$650 Million**

Open Space Conservation and Recreation, including:

- \$75 million for fish hatchery creation and upgrades
- \$300 million for open space land conservation
- \$150 farmland preservation

## **\$1.5 Billion**

Climate Change Mitigation, including:

- \$400 million for green building projects
- \$100 million for climate adaptation and mitigation projects
- \$500 million for zero emission school buses and supporting infrastructure
- \$200 million for air and water pollution elimination in EJ communities

## **\$300 Million**

Other projects



# CAPACITY OF A TWO PERCENT SURCHARGE P&C INSURANCE

	TOTAL INSURED P&C	TOTAL INSURED WITHOUT MED MAL AND WC	TWO PERCENT SURCHARGE WITHOUT BONDING	TWO PERCENT SURCHARGE WITH 10-YEAR BONDING(IN BILLIONS)
Total 50 States	\$695,509,700	\$629,385,861	\$12,587,717	\$287.1
Alabama	\$9,464,513	\$8,948,954	\$178,979	\$4.1
Alaska	\$1,655,434	\$1,402,346	\$28,047	\$0.6
Arizona	\$1,655,434	\$1,402,346	\$28,047	\$0.6
Arkansas	\$5,706,307	\$5,396,813	\$107,936	\$2.4
California	\$6,880,338	\$72,108	\$448,970	\$32.9
Colorado	\$1,500,000	\$1,400,000	\$100,000	\$0.5
Connecticut	\$8,992,575	\$8,131,839	\$162,637	\$3.7
Delaware	\$2,906,697	\$2,664,456	\$53,289	\$1.2
Florida	\$55,576,482	\$51,794,341	\$1,035,887	\$23.5
Georgia	\$22,954,861	\$20,953,153	\$419,063	\$9.5
Hawaii	\$2,701,615	\$2,381,500	\$140,000	\$1.1
Idaho	\$3,231,796	\$2,759,100	\$55,000	\$0.5
Illinois	\$27,060,540	\$24,181,953	\$483,639	\$11.0
Indiana	\$12,037,170	\$11,100,606	\$222,010	\$3.0
Iowa	\$6,790,563	\$6,069,738	\$121,395	\$2.0
Kansas	\$6,980,593	\$6,511,683	\$130,234	\$3.0
Kentucky	\$8,042,654	\$7,361,013	\$147,220	\$3.3
Louisiana	\$12,396,192	\$11,411,646	\$228,233	\$5.2
Maine	\$2,476,882	\$2,189,416	\$43,788	\$1.0
Maryland	\$12,684,730	\$11,527,865	\$230,557	\$5.2
Massachusetts	\$16,354,175	\$14,721,756	\$294,435	\$6.7
Michigan	\$20,817,467	\$19,547,615	\$390,952	\$8.9
Minnesota	\$12,462,639	\$11,416,765	\$228,335	\$5.2

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Mississippi	\$5,591,834	\$5,192,253	\$103,845	\$2.4
Missouri	\$12,677,046	\$11,576,608	\$231,532	\$5.3
Montana	\$2,603,859	\$2,293,122	\$45,862	\$1.0
New Hampshire	\$2,594,294	\$2,323,267	\$46,465	\$1.1
New Mexico	\$3,766,295	\$3,392,914	\$97,642	\$1.5
New York	\$47,566,816	\$42,538,109	\$850,762	\$19.3
North Carolina	\$17,059,009	\$15,440,215	\$308,804	\$7.0
North Dakota	\$2,616,611	\$2,600,180	\$52,004	\$1.2
Ohio	\$17,738,127	\$17,401,892	\$348,038	\$7.9
Oklahoma	\$3,231,796	\$2,759,100	\$55,000	\$0.5
Pennsylvania	\$26,196,056	\$22,812,640	\$456,253	\$10.4
Rhode Island	\$2,644,794	\$2,382,057	\$47,641	\$1.1
South Carolina	\$12,037,170	\$11,100,606	\$222,010	\$3.0
South Dakota	\$2,616,611	\$2,600,180	\$52,004	\$1.2
Tennessee	\$12,534,747	\$11,514,225	\$230,285	\$5.2
Texas	\$61,402,995	\$58,514,883	\$1,170,298	\$26.6
Utah	\$5,405,102	\$4,898,669	\$97,973	\$2.2
Vermont	\$1,506,858	\$1,302,233	\$26,045	\$0.6
Virginia	\$14,885,228	\$13,589,738	\$271,795	\$6.2
Washington	\$16,288,384	\$13,551,966	\$271,039	\$6.2
West Virginia	\$3,165,210	\$2,795,077	\$55,902	\$1.3
Wisconsin	\$11,213,538	\$9,196,595	\$183,932	\$4.2
Wyoming	\$1,288,005	\$1,263,939	\$25,279	\$0.6

What could a 2% surcharge do in 10 years  
for climate infrastructure investments?

Nationwide \$287 Billion  
VT \$600 Million

# 2% INSURANCE SURCHARGE (P&C)

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Arizona	\$12,414,975	\$11,338,136	\$226,763	\$5.1
Arkansas	\$5,706,307	\$5,396,813	\$107,936	\$2.4
California	\$84,880,338	\$72,448,508	\$1,448,970	\$32.9
Colorado	\$14,285,006	\$13,069,112	\$261,382	\$5.9
Connecticut	\$8,992,575	\$8,131,839	\$162,637	\$3.7
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Nebraska	\$5,246,314	\$4,842,941	\$96,859	\$2.2
Nevada	\$6,256,046	\$5,736,060	\$114,721	\$2.6
New Hampshire	\$2,594,294	\$2,323,267	\$46,465	\$1.1
New Jersey	\$22,875,472	\$19,993,159	\$399,863	\$9.1
New Mexico	\$3,749,295	\$3,392,114	\$67,842	\$1.5
New York	\$47,566,816	\$42,538,109	\$850,762	\$19.3
North Carolina	\$17,059,009	\$15,440,215	\$308,804	\$7.0
North Dakota	\$2,616,611	\$2,600,180	\$52,004	\$1.2
Ohio	\$17,738,127	\$17,401,892	\$348,038	\$7.9
Oklahoma	\$8,605,457	\$7,844,825	\$156,897	\$3.6
Oregon	\$7,732,347	\$6,947,913	\$138,958	\$3.2
Pennsylvania	\$26,196,056	\$22,812,640	\$456,253	\$10.4
Rhode Island	\$2,644,794	\$2,382,057	\$47,641	\$1.1
South Carolina	\$10,636,489	\$9,741,622	\$194,832	\$4.4
South Dakota	\$2,555,563	\$2,371,137	\$47,423	\$1.1
Tennessee	\$12,534,747	\$11,514,225	\$230,285	\$5.2
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# INSURANCE SURCHARGE BILLS

Location	Vermont	Washington	Massachusetts	Colorado	Connecticut	Rebuild by Design Recommendation
Bill no.	<a href="#">S.145</a> / <a href="#">H.105</a>	<a href="#">SB 5996</a>	<a href="#">S.472</a> / <a href="#">H.750</a>	<a href="#">HB21-1208</a>	<a href="#">SB 11</a>	<a href="#">Atlas of Disaster</a>
Name	Community Resilience and Disaster Mitigation Grant Program	Wildfire Prevention and Suppression Act	Establishing Sustainable and Equitable Funding for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation	Natural Disaster Mitigation Enterprise	Coordinating Connecticut Climate Resiliency Planning and Broadening Municipal Options for Climate Resilience	Resilient Infrastructure Fund
Funding Source <i>How much will the surcharge raise?</i>	<b>\$4.3M assessment</b> on certain insurance company premiums + \$15M government allocation	<b>\$62.5 million per year</b>  Creates a surcharge on property and casualty insurance premiums of .52%	<b>Up to \$100 million total</b> from Climate and Community Resilience Fund	<b>\$7.6 million</b> in its first year	TBD	<b>VT: \$600 million</b> over 10 years (with bonding) see chart <a href="#">here</a> .  2% surcharge of property & casualty insurance *minus workers compensation and medical malpractice

# KEY TAKEAWAYS:

## *Building Resilience in Rural Communities Speaker Series*

**BUILDING RESILIENCE  
IN RURAL COMMUNITIES  
SPEAKER SERIES**

**Thurs. 12/5  
12 – 1:30pm  
Zoom**

### Navigating VT Climate Risks & Building Resilience in Rural Communities

Join local and national partners to hear relevant case studies, take a deep dive into current resilience gaps and learn how our communities can address them. Topics include:

**VT Climate Risks**  
  
Johanna Laxton  
Rebuild by Design

**Centering Environmental Justice Communities**  
  
Lena Greenberg  
CROs

**Designing Collaborative Outreach Processes**  
  
Jess Laporte  
CROs

**Key Strategies for Rural Resilience**  
  
Amanda Gustin  
Barre City Councilor

**Moderated by:**  
  
Jessica Savage  
VCRP

  
Megan Lawson  
Headwaters Economics

**RSVP: [bit.ly/VTSpeakerseries](https://bit.ly/VTSpeakerseries)**

**BUILDING RESILIENCE  
IN RURAL COMMUNITIES  
SPEAKER SERIES**

### Flood Insurance and Housing

Join local and national partners to hear relevant case studies, take a deep dive into current resilience gaps and learn how our communities can address them. Topics include:

**Moderated by:**  
  
Jacob Hamrick  
VT Department of Housing & Community Development

**National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) 101**  
  
Rebecca Pfeiffer  
VT DEC Watershed Management Division

**Housing Affordability & Home Protections**  
  
Kelly Hamshaw  
University of Vermont

**Best Practices for Housing Buyouts**  
  
Anna Weber  
Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

**RSVP: [bit.ly/VTSpeakerseries2](https://bit.ly/VTSpeakerseries2)**

### Regional Planning and Leveraging Nature as Climate Infrastructure

Join local and national partners to hear relevant case studies, take a deep dive into current resilience gaps and learn how our communities can address them. Topics include:

**Managing Upstream Flooding & Regional Planning Efforts**  
  
Kevin Geiger  
Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission

**Supporting State-Level Flood Resilience Strategies**  
  
Glan Tavares  
American Flood Coalition

**Leveraging Nature as Climate Infrastructure in VT**  
  
Michele Braun  
Friends of the Winooski River

**Leveraging Nature as Climate Infrastructure Nationally**  
  
Vincent Lee  
Arup

**Moderated by:**  
  
Karina Dailey  
VWRC

**RSVP: [bit.ly/VTSPeAKERSERIES3](https://bit.ly/VTSPeAKERSERIES3)**





# BUILDING RESILIENCE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES SPEAKER SERIES

**Thurs. 12/5**  
**12 - 1:30pm**  
**Zoom**

## Navigating VT Climate Risks & Building Resilience in Rural Communities

Join local and national partners to hear relevant case studies, take a deep dive into current resilience gaps and learn how our communities can address them. Topics include:

### VT Climate Risks



**Johanna Lawton**  
*Rebuild by Design*

### Centering Environmental Justice Communities



**Lena Greenberg**  
*CROs*



**Jess Laporte**  
*CROs*

### Designing Collaborative Outreach Processes



**Amanda Gustin**  
*Barre City Councilor*

### Key Strategies for Rural Resilience



**Megan Lawson**  
*Headwaters Economics*

Moderated by:



**Jessica Savage**  
*VCRD*

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# KEY TAKEAWAYS #1

**Vermont's Climate Risks:** VT ranks 7th in disaster declarations, with \$540M in federal aid. A proposed insurance surcharge could raise \$600M to improve preparedness.

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**Centering Environmental Justice:** Solutions should be community-driven, with an emphasis on frontline communities and better collaboration between state and community disaster response. Decentralized resilience hubs can strengthen disaster recovery.

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**Collaborative Outreach:** Barre City's volunteer-led flood recovery highlights the need for flood resiliency plans, incorporating ongoing community input and accountability.

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**Rural Resilience Strategies:** Outdoor recreation communities are at heightened risk. Integrating recreation infrastructure into hazard mitigation and using tourism revenue can help fund resilience efforts.



# BUILDING RESILIENCE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES SPEAKER SERIES

## Flood Insurance and Housing

Join local and national partners to hear relevant case studies, take a deep dive into current resilience gaps and learn how our communities can address them. Topics include:

**Tues. 12/17**  
**12 - 1:30pm**  
**Zoom**

**Moderated by:**



**Jacob Hemmerick**  
*VT Department of Housing &  
Community Development*

**National Flood Insurance  
Program (NFIP) 101**



**Rebecca Pfeiffer**  
*VT DEC Watershed  
Management Division*

**Housing Affordability &  
Home Protections**



**Kelly Hamshaw**  
*University of Vermont*

**Best Practices for  
Housing Buyouts**



**Anna Weber**  
*Natural Resources  
Defense Council (NRDC)*

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## KEY TAKEAWAYS #2

**Flood Insurance:** The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) faces challenges in rural areas with limited resources for zoning and regulation. VT's new floodplain management policies aim to improve resilience.

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**Housing and Flood Risk:** Manufactured housing communities are vulnerable to flooding. The housing crisis exacerbates the difficulties for displaced residents, highlighting the need for more resources.

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**Housing Buyouts:** Buyouts should be part of long-term planning, not the last resort. Local and state capacity is needed to support these efforts effectively.

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**Other:** Managed retreat needs regional planning, and less risky areas should be prioritized for investment. VT's Rapid Refill Program helps relocate flood-impacted residents.





# BUILDING RESILIENCE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES SPEAKER SERIES

**Mon. 1/27**  
**12 - 1:30pm**  
**Zoom**

## Regional Planning and Leveraging Nature as Climate Infrastructure

Join local and national partners to hear relevant case studies, take a deep dive into current resilience gaps and learn how our communities can address them. Topics include:

**Managing Upstream Flooding  
& Regional Planning Efforts**



**Kevin Geiger**  
*Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee  
Regional Commission*

**Supporting State-Level  
Flood Resilience Strategies**



**Gian Tavares**  
*American Flood Coalition*

**Leveraging Nature as  
Climate Infrastructure in VT**



**Michele Braun**  
*Friends of the Winooski River*

**Leveraging Nature as  
Climate Infrastructure Nationally**

Moderated by:



**Karina Dailey**  
*VNRC*

**RSVP: [bit.ly/VTSPEAKERSERIES3](https://bit.ly/VTSPEAKERSERIES3)**

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## KEY TAKEAWAYS #3

**Upstream Flooding & Regional Planning:** Managing headwaters and natural features like wetlands and forests can help mitigate flood risks. Long-term, large-scale solutions are necessary.

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**State-Level Strategies:** Successful flood resilience efforts require state-level coordination and collaboration, using data-driven tools to prioritize actions.

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**Nature-Based Solutions in VT:** Floodplain restoration and stormwater management, such as culvert replacements and bio-retention basins, enhance flood resilience and water quality.

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**Nature-Based Solutions Nationally:** Large and small-scale interventions, supported by digital tools, can reduce flood risks and inform early-stage design.

# BREAKOUT GROUP ACTIVITY

**#1**

VT Climate  
Risks in Rural  
Communities

**#2**

Flood  
Insurance and  
Housing

**#3**

Leveraging  
Nature as  
Climate  
Infrastructure

**#4**

Funding  
Climate  
Infrastructure



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# BREAKOUT GROUP ACTIVITY

1. What are some challenges within this topic?
2. What are the barriers?
3. How can we address these barriers? What efforts are already being done?
4. Who can carry this forward?
5. How can we fund it?



The Climate Action Plan is being updated now by the Vermont Climate Council with a focus on mitigation, adaptation, and resilience.

Join an upcoming public input session to give feedback and engage in this important process!

# Vermont's Climate Action Plan 2025 Update

*the time is now*

April 10, 5:30-7 pm: Virtual  
April 14, 6-8 pm: Hardwick  
April 15, 6-8 pm: Hinesburg  
April 16, 6-8 pm: St. Albans  
April 17, 6-8 pm: Bennington  
April 23, 5:30-7:30 pm: Bellows Falls  
April 28, 5:30-7:30 pm: Barre  
April 30, 5:30-7:30 pm: Rutland  
May 1, 12-1:30 pm: Virtual

**Don't miss your chance to weigh in on Vermont's Climate Action Plan!**

Voice your climate priorities through diverse engagement activities. Climate Councilors will listen, and then consider public input when revising the Plan (due July 1, 2025)

Visit [climatechange.vermont.gov/cap2025](https://climatechange.vermont.gov/cap2025) to find all event details, read the draft priority actions, or write a comment.



**THANK YOU!**

**Tell us how we did!:**

