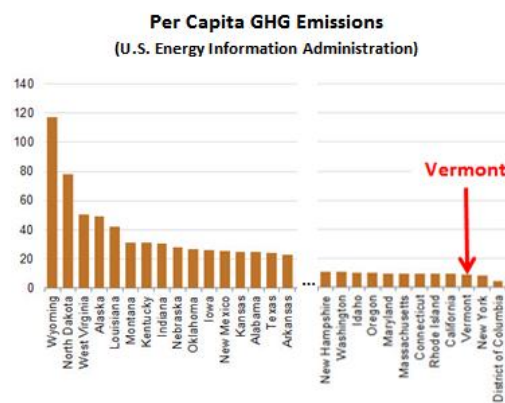


*Energize Vermont promotes sustainable energy development that protects our environment and respects our communities.*

NOAA’s Susan Solomon: “The climate change that takes place due to increases in carbon dioxide concentration is **largely irreversible** for 1,000 years after emissions stop.”



Vermont lacks the capacity to influence either global temperatures or atmospheric GHG concentrations. Therefore our primary responsibility must be to **ensure climate resilience**: we must protect and enhance the physical and biological systems that make up our native defenses against the impacts of a changing climate.

**We are seeing impacts of climate change now.** In the future, Vermont will see extinctions, loss of food security, degradation of our water resources, and increased vulnerability to severe weather events.



Vermont’s current climate policy emphasizes development, not resilience. We need to change our priorities: we can develop energy, but **we cannot continue to degrade our defenses against climate impacts**. We must be particularly wary of the degradation of our mountains and agricultural lands.

Lowell Mountain demonstrates how well-intentioned policies can do more harm than good. We have **industrialized an intact ecosystem**— internationally recognized for its importance—in exchange for small amounts of intermittent electricity and minor carbon savings. (*Green Mountain Power claims Lowell avoids the emission of 74,000 tons of carbon per year. This is the amount of carbon emitted by Metro NYC traffic in less than 12 hours. We achieved these inconsequential results in exchange for a Vermont mountain.*)



Governor Shumlin’s Act 174 implementation **institutionalizes the shortcomings of Vermont’s climate and energy policies**. The bill—supposed to give planners more influence—is restricting them. Many towns have postponed energy planning—they are waiting for Governor Scott to fix the Act 174 implementation.

The current Act 174 standards offer planners “substantial deference,” but they are restricted to a single path (out of dozens of alternatives) to the aspirational 90/50 goal; they are required **meet the 2050 goal with antique (2016) technology**.



Energize Vermont is expressing the sentiments of **growing majority of Vermonters** who know climate change is upon us, who know we need to protect our resources to mitigate its effects, and who know we need to do our part to meet our 90/50 goal while preserving what is the best of Vermont: our environment and our communities.

**Energize Vermont wants to work with the administration and the legislature to:**

- **Broaden the range of options available to reach our energy and emissions goals**
- **Anticipate advances in technology (e.g., solar, storage)**
- **Give planners flexibility to contribute in ways that fit their communities best**
- **Allow Vermonters to protect/enhance their defenses against the impacts of a changing climate**