

Our entire Energy Committee attended a climate action meeting at Emerald Lake State Park in East Dorset on Sept. 22 to discuss potential action steps to be included in the Vermont Climate Action Plan that is set to be released Dec. 1.

The Global Warming Solutions Act created and appointed the Vermont Climate Council, which is charged with drafting a climate action plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The law calls for a reduction of greenhouse gas levels to 26 percent below 2005 levels by 2025. Failure to meet that target or subsequent emissions targets would result in citizens being allowed to sue the state.

At the September 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, we were broken into groups and asked to consider questions such as “What actions are most important to you and why?” regarding climate change and potential action steps. We broke up into smaller groups and were asked to share our ideas and priorities.

Ideas/topics discussed included: Promoting regenerative farming; the State of Vermont joining the Transportation Climate Initiative, residents and businesses focusing on insulation to make buildings and homes more energy efficient, increasing renewable energy production, reducing waste and consumption, focusing on thoughtful and equitable management of human needs, making Vermont a leader in the Green Economy (e.g. green jobs), reducing sprawl and focusing on local, sustainable solar and other energy initiatives.

The Council will have multiple meetings where the state-wide consensus of prioritized actions will be reviewed. They will then provide open discussion and written feedback.

Once the council report is issued Dec. 1, it will be up to the Agency of Natural Resources and the Vermont Legislature respectively to implement the findings in rules and law.

Our next meeting was set for Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at Town Hall at 7PM.