

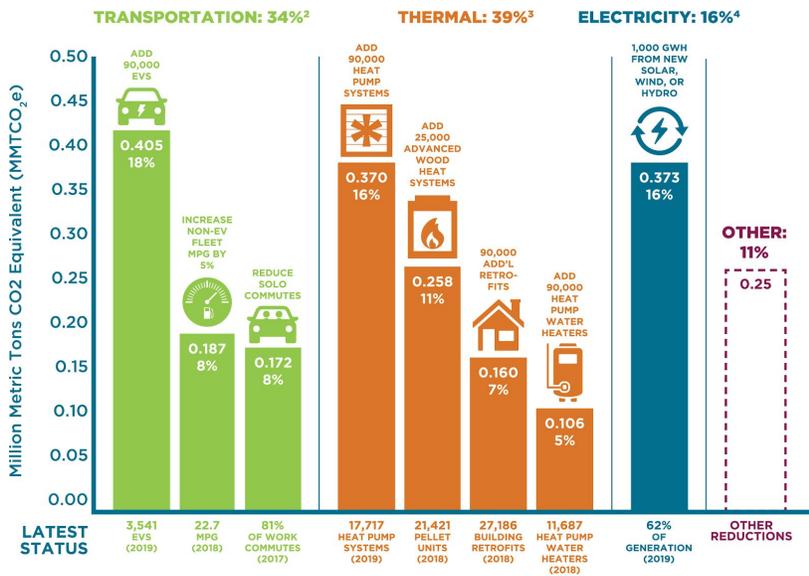
Taking Bigger Action on Thermal Energy

Are you feeling ready to take bigger action and make changes around heating/thermal energy-related Carbon Emissions in your community or state?

First, check out the data in the upper left quadrant of the 2020 VEEP/NHEEP poster, Energy, Economy, Climate and You ([VT/NH](#)), to get informed about current statewide heating emissions. Notice the size of heating emissions compared to other sectors.

In order to reach our energy goals as laid out in the [Paris Climate Agreement](#), here is a possible pathway of actions laid out by the [Energy Action Network](#); we would need to do all of these, or something equivalent, to meet our goals. (Notice the thermal sector.)

2.3 MMTCO₂e reduction by 2025 is required to meet the Paris Agreement¹



¹. Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, January 2020. ². Transportation data is the latest available from the Energy Information Administration (EIA) (2019), Vermont Agency of Transportation/LVM Transportation Research Center (2019), and Drive Electric Vermont (Oct 2019). ³. Thermal data from EIA, (2019), Efficiency Vermont (2019), Department of Public Service (2019), Biomass Energy Research Center (2019), Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation (2019). ⁴. Electric data from the Department of Public Service (2019) and ePUC (Certificates of Public Good: September 2019).

Now, where are you going to make changes?
Here are some ideas on places to start:

Community Action Ideas

Community Education on Weatherization Incentives

Did you know that overall Vermont and New Hampshire have older houses than many other parts of the country? This means they often “leak” a lot of heat quickly in the winter, leading to burning more fuel, and therefore more emissions, to warm them.

There are now a lot of incentives for low and middle-income households, businesses, and landlords for weatherizing buildings (adding insulation and sealing leaks), but lots of people don’t know about them.

- Research the current incentives for weatherization available to your community members aimed to support schools, businesses and municipalities on weatherizing buildings. Here are a few suggestions to get you started:
 - [Efficiency Vermont](#)
 - [NHSaves](#)
 - [VT Gas](#)
- Reach out to VEEP/NHEEP to help you come up with an outreach and an action plan and connect you with community partners.
- Use your action plan to promote and raise awareness on incentives and programs.
- Reach out to your town/energy committee to spread your reach and coordinate efforts.

To get more involved and connected in Energy/Climate Action, or for project consultations and ongoing project support, sign up for [Youth Climate Leaders Academy](#) or [Youth/Adult Energy Action!](#)

State-wide Action

Connect with VEEP/NHEEP (info@veep.org or info@nheep.org). We can help you understand, plan, and navigate the best path for you to approach state-wide action, and connect you with local organizations that may be doing similar work.

Communicate with your state representatives. Find out if the State House is in session and choose one of the following:

A. Advocate Between Sessions

- Find a bill from the most recent legislative session related to weatherization or heating that you think was a good idea.

- For Information on NH Legislation, check out this link in [Clean Energy NH](#)
- For Information on VT Legislation, check out this link to [Vermont Conservation Voters](#)
- Find your local representatives and find out how they voted on that bill.
 - To find your representatives in Vermont: Scroll down to the bottom of the [Vermont Conservation Voters](#) page and search in the green box. Clicking on a person will show you their “Legislative Scorecard” so you can see how they’ve voted on issues in the past.
 - To find your representatives in New Hampshire: Go to NH’s [House of Representatives](#) page and either enter your town or click on the map to find your representatives. Click on a person, then you can click on “Bills Sponsored this Session” or “Voting Record” to see what they are supporting.
- Communicate with them about whether you support or oppose their vote and why, and what you would like them to support or oppose in the future.
- Be sure to share not only your opinion, but some evidence to support your thinking about why this is important.

B. Advocate for Bills in Session

- Look at the proposed bills in the current legislative session that are related to heating and carbon emissions.
 - For Information on NH Legislation, check out this link in [Clean Energy NH](#)
 - For Information on VT Legislation, check out this link to [Vermont Conservation Voters](#)
- Learn about the bill and decide if you support the bill. Do you think the bill would be a good step to reducing carbon emissions? (You may also want to consider how justice, equity, and inclusion are included or missing, and other factors that you think are important.)
- Check with the [League of Conservation Voters](#) and compare your thinking with theirs.
- Find and contact your local representatives and even the Governor (if the bill passes) in support of the bill and follow what happens throughout the session...and see how many other people you can get to do the same!
 - To find your representative in Vermont: Scroll down to the bottom of the [Vermont Conservation Voters](#) page and search in the green

box. Clicking on a person will show you their “Legislative Scorecard” so you can see how they’ve voted on issues in the past.

- To find your representative in New Hampshire: Go to NH’s [House of Representatives](#) page and either enter your town or click on the map to find your representatives. Click on a person, then you can click on “Bills Sponsored this Session” or “Voting Record” to see what they are supporting.

To become more active and connected to others also doing this work, reach out to VEPP/NHEEP (info@veep.org or info@nheep.org).