

January __, 2020

Community Outreach Summary

Before filing the Climate Plan, GMP engaged in community outreach with many residents, town and city leaders, lawmakers, emergency and road crews, and other stakeholders to share weather and outage data and initial Climate Plan goals. We sought feedback and ideas for how to proactively address community needs in facing the climate crisis in partnership with the customers we serve.

We held over a dozen meetings starting in late Fall 2019, and engaged with people in Bennington, Waterbury, Montpelier, Rutland, Royalton, Springfield, Strafford/Sharon, Londonderry, Wilmington/Whitingham, Norwich/Thetford, South Burlington, Peacham, Chester, Pownal, and with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns.

This outreach was productive, informative, and helpful in setting our priorities for the Climate Plan. We found the attendees at these meetings receptive and open regarding their own experiences in getting through increasingly severe storms. They shared ideas regarding ways we could further collaborate to help our customers and communities.

In particular, these meetings emphasized to us the need for deeper and targeted communications channels to share information, and a focus on broadband that may be aided by our rebuilds. The benefits of outage resiliency through storage and dynamic controls were also a common theme, and it helped our thinking regarding Resiliency Zones proposed in the Climate Plan.

Here is a list of the meetings and attendees:

Town	Attendees	Date
Bennington	Regional Planner/Emergency Management Local Emergency Planning Commission #7 Local Emergency Management Directors Regional Planning Commission Staff Leaders from the local Fire Departments Vermont State Police 211 Board Area business Area residents	11/7/2019
Waterbury	Town Manager Waterbury Public Works Director	11/14/2019
Montpelier	Mayor Director of Public Works	11/22/2019
Rutland	Mayor, RPD, RFD, DPW	11/25/2019
Springfield	Springfield Regional Development Corp. member State Representative Town Manager, Fire Chief, Policy Chief	11/25/2019
Strafford/Sharon	Selectboard & Town Clerk	12/5/2019

Londonderry	EMDs from Jamaica, Windham, and Londonderry Fire Chief (Jamaica) Londonderry Town Clerk/State Rep. VT Country Store (owner) Weston resident	11/25/2019
Wilmington / Whitingham	State Representatives Whitingham Zoning Administrator Windham Regional Commission member Dover & Wilmington Select Boards members Riggs Distler employee Residents of Whitingham, Wilmington, Halifax, and Readsboro	11/26/2019
Norwich, Thetford	Town Manager, Select Board chair, and Energy Committee member	1/17/2020
VLCT	ED of Vermont League of Cities and Towns	1/16/2020
Pownal	Pownal Emergency Management Director Pownal and other area fire fighters/first responders	12/16/2019
South Burlington	Town Manager	12/19/2019
Chester	Senior Planner, Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission (SWCRPC) Local Emergency Planning Commission #3 members	1/9/2020
Peacham	Select Board, Town Energy Committee, Planning committee	1/15/2020