



State Climate Assessment Act

Introduced By: Senators Peter Welch (D-Vt.); Ed Markey (D-Mass.)

Background:

Climate assessments are crucial tools that can help communities become more resilient to impacts of climate change, including extreme weather events. Every four years, the U.S. Global Change Research Program publishes a report on climate change risks, impacts, and responses. The [Fifth National Climate Assessment](#), published in 2023, shares cutting-edge climate research on topics ranging from agriculture and transportation to public health and the economy. The report also explores the risk landscape at a regional level, highlights mitigation strategies, and dives deeper into pressing climate issues, such as drought and wildfires.

While this report provides valuable information about how climate change will affect our nation, some states, including Vermont, have performed their own climate assessments. These assessments apply the latest in climate science to understand the unique impacts of climate change on their communities, informing State and local officials, small business owners, farmers, and homeowners as they seek to adapt and respond to a changing climate. As climate-driven extreme weather events become more frequent, supporting climate assessments at every level of government will help bolster resilience, recovery, and response.

Legislation:

The *State Climate Assessment Act* would facilitate information sharing between federal experts at the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and states to conduct voluntary climate assessments to better mitigate the impacts of climate change in both the near- and long-term. The legislation also directs NOAA to offer technical support for states to analyze the effects of climate change on the natural environment and resources, agriculture, energy systems, transportation, and human health in that state.

Additionally, the legislation would provide each state with an assigned point of contact within the National Weather Service, which operates 122 local offices across the country, to coordinate this partnership. This legislation also allows states to partner with institutions of higher education and private entities to assist in producing these reports.