



Policy Priorities 2019

TNC: Collaborative, Science-Based and Innovative

The Nature Conservancy is a global conservation organization dedicated to conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends. Guided by science, we create innovative solutions to our world's toughest environmental challenges so that nature and people can thrive together. For the past 59 years in Vermont, we have helped conserve over 300,000 acres and 1500 miles of shoreline, and we own and manage 55 natural areas totaling 30,000 acres across the state.

In the policy arena, TNC brings a distinctive science-based, non-partisan, and solutions-focused approach to our 21st century environmental challenges. We advocate for sound public policies that address our water quality, forest health, and climate change concerns, as we strive to shape a resilient Vermont for future generations and sustain our natural systems for all the benefits they provide.

Priority Areas

Land

- Full statutory funding for VHCB (50% of Property Transfer Tax revenues - \$21.8M for FY20)
- Stronger protection for Vermont's forests (blocks and connecting lands) through Act 250
- New financial mechanisms for accelerating land conservation

Water

- Increased, sustainable funding to address Vermont's water quality challenges
- An effective mechanism for distributing these funds statewide
- Robust funding for natural resources projects/nature-based solutions for clean water
- Strong protection and restoration of Vermont's wetlands
- Enhanced protection for Vermont's water resources through Act 250

Climate Mitigation & Clean Energy

- Enactment of a Vermont Global Warming Solutions Act that requires progress toward established climate goals
- Progress on policy to cut carbon emissions economy-wide while growing jobs and protecting Vermonters
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector
- Increased carbon storage/sequestration in forests and agricultural lands

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