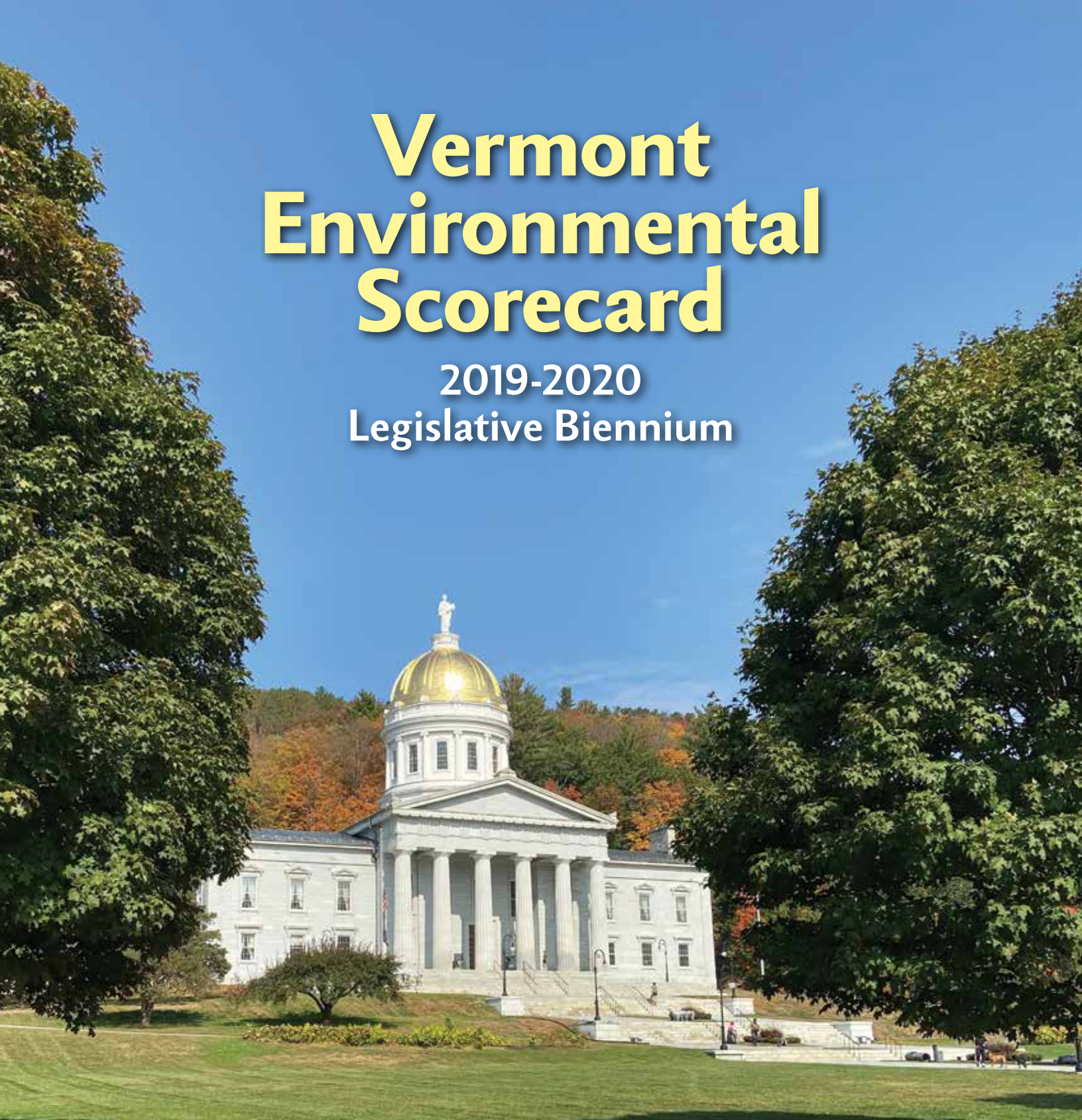


# Vermont Environmental Scorecard

2019-2020  
Legislative Biennium





**Vermont Conservation Voters**

(VCV) is the non-partisan political action arm of Vermont’s environmental community. Since 1982, our mission has been to defend and strengthen the laws that safeguard our environment. We work to elect candidates who share our vision and values, and then hold lawmakers accountable for their actions. Our vision for a bright future for Vermont includes working to advance and defend policies that protect the environment and promote health, while advancing civil rights, social, economic, and racial justice, and strengthening our democracy.

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**Vermont Conservation Voters**  
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Dear Reader,

This legislative session was unprecedented in countless ways as Vermont dealt with the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as simultaneous economic, racial, and climate crises. Nonetheless, important policies moved forward that we believe will help the state rebuild and recover in ways that will make our communities healthier, stronger, and more resilient. We have prepared the *Environmental Scorecard* to let you know how legislators voted on key issues in the 2019-2020 legislative session. Our objective with the *Scorecard* is to distill the results of the complex legislative process so that you, as a voter, can see how lawmakers are voting on issues that matter to Vermonters.

Each year, VCV publishes the *Environmental Common Agenda* – a list of priority policy goals we develop in collaboration with the state’s leading environmental groups. The major priorities this biennium included: the Global Warming Solutions Act to hold state government accountable for meeting our climate pollution reduction targets; long-term funding for clean water; holding polluters accountable and protecting Vermonters from toxic chemicals; maintaining intact, healthy forests; and ensuring safe elections.

The Legislature enacted the Global Warming Solutions Act, overriding a disappointing veto from Governor Scott. The Legislature also made meaningful progress on securing long-term clean water funding, and enacted several nation-leading policies to better protect Vermonters from toxic chemicals – including lead in drinking water in schools and childcare facilities, and regulating PFAS chemicals in drinking and surface waters.

Unfortunately, some important progress was stalled because Governor Scott vetoed priority bills, including policies to better protect our forests, and to hold large corporate polluters accountable for medical monitoring expenses due to toxic contamination.

Please note that the votes included in this *Environmental Scorecard* are those that were substantive, rather than procedural, and that had the greatest effect on the outcome of our priority bills. We count absences as a negative vote because that’s the impact they have on the outcome of the vote. The *Scorecard* does have limitations. For instance, we can only score “roll call” votes where individual lawmakers go on the record as voting yes or no on a given bill – which doesn’t happen for every vote. And many decisions are made in committee before a bill ever reaches the floor. Nonetheless, the *Scorecard* provides a helpful snapshot of whether or not lawmakers are voting to support important environmental legislation.

During these challenging times, it’s more important than ever to have elected leaders representing your values. Please take a moment to contact your legislators to share your appreciation or disappointment with their voting records. Find out more at: [VermontConservationVoters.org](http://VermontConservationVoters.org).



Take care,

Lauren Hierl  
*Executive Director*

# House Bill Descriptions

## **H.688 – Global Warming Solutions Act**

(Vote scored: Veto override)

*Pro-Environment vote: YES*

The Global Warming Solutions Act turns Vermont's climate goals into requirements. The Solutions Act establishes a Climate Council and requires the state to develop and implement a plan that will reduce climate-damaging pollution, grow jobs, help rural and low-income people, and build more resilient communities across Vermont.

*Status: Enacted; House voted 103-47 to override Gov. Scott's veto.*

## **H.926 – Protecting Forests and Outdoor Recreation**

(Vote scored: Concur with Senate proposal of amendment)

*Pro-Environment vote: YES*

This bill is a pared-down version of Act 250 modernization that passed the House earlier in the year, but contained important provisions to better protect forest blocks and wildlife habitat for projects going through Act 250, help maintain working lands, and create a new program that aims to improve environmental review, planning, and maintenance of trail networks.

*Status: Passed the House 93-56; bill was ultimately vetoed by Gov. Scott.*

## **H.926 – Act 250 Modernization**

(Vote scored: Third reading)

*Pro-Environment vote: YES*

This bill would have strengthened environmental protections in Act 250 by better protecting forest blocks, ecologically-sensitive areas, river corridors, and by better addressing climate change. The bill promotes smart growth by reducing sprawling development while supporting development in our compact downtowns, villages, and neighborhoods.

*Status: Passed the House 88-52; bill was ultimately vetoed by Gov. Scott.*

## **S.348 – Safe Elections**

(Vote scored: Shall the bill pass)

*Pro-Environment vote: YES*

This bill grants full authority to the Secretary of State to mail all registered voters a ballot for this year's General Election in November, while maintaining in-person voting options. The legislation will help ensure that all Vermonters can safely, securely, and easily vote this year, despite the ongoing pandemic.

*Status: Enacted; House vote 115-29.*

## **H.439 – Increased Investment in Low-Income Weatherization**

(Vote scored: Amending the bill as recommended by the Committee on Ways & Means)

*Pro-Environment vote: YES*

This bill would have increased the long-term investment in existing, highly successful low-income weatherization programs, which help Vermonters save money, while having more comfortable and healthier homes. The bill would have increased the existing fuel tax on heating oil, propane, kerosene, and dyed diesel fuel, and the revenue generated would have helped some of Vermont's most vulnerable families weatherize their homes.

*Status: Passed the House 81-60; but an alternative short-term funding proposal was enacted instead.*

## **S.37 – Amendment to Make it Harder to Hold Toxic Polluters Accountable**

(Vote scored: Amendment offered by Rep. Beck and others)

*Pro-Environment vote: NO*

This amendment would have added unnecessary barriers to legislation that would allow Vermonters to hold a polluter accountable for the costs of medical monitoring they require due to toxic exposure. Corporate lobbyists pushed hard for this language, since it would have tilted the legislation toward protecting polluters rather than victims of toxic contamination. The amendment failed.

*Status: Amendment failed; House vote 55-87; bill was ultimately vetoed by Gov. Scott.*

### **S.37 – Holding Toxic Polluters Accountable**

(Vote scored: Concurrence with proposal of amendment)

*Pro-Environment vote: YES*

This bill would have held large corporate polluters accountable for the harm caused by toxic chemical releases. The bill provides two important legal tools to address toxic pollution. The first legal remedy allows Vermonters to hold polluters accountable for the costs of medical monitoring required as a result of exposure to toxic chemicals.

The second legal remedy in S.37 would allow the state government to hold the companies that make dangerous chemicals liable for the harm they cause to Vermont's air, land, and water. This bill passed the Legislature, but was unfortunately vetoed by Governor Scott.

*Status: Passed the House 100-42; bill was ultimately vetoed by Gov. Scott.*

### **S.40 – Lead Contamination in Children's Drinking Water**

(Vote scored: Concurrence with proposal of amendment)

*Pro-Environment vote: YES*

This bill requires testing for lead contamination in drinking water in all Vermont schools and childcare facilities. The bill sets a standard for acceptable lead levels (4 parts per billion) that is more protective than the levels set by the federal EPA, and requires remediation of any lead contamination found above that level. Importantly, the Legislature also allocated funding to ensure that initial testing and remediation happens quickly and consistently across the state.

*Status: Enacted; House vote 138-3.*

### **S.49 – Regulating PFAS Contamination of Water Supplies**

(Vote scored: Second reading)

*Pro-Environment vote: YES*

This bill requires the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources to develop drinking water and surface water standards for PFAS chemicals, to ensure that Vermonters' water is healthy and safe. PFAS is the class of toxic chemicals that have been discovered in Vermonters' drinking water wells, and pose significant threats to public health and the environment.

*Status: Enacted; House vote 135-1.*

### **S.55 – Protecting Children from Toxic Chemicals**

(Vote scored: Second reading)

*Pro-Environment vote: YES*

This bill updates the Toxic-Free Families Act (Act 188) to collect more consumer-friendly information on which toxic chemicals are being used in children's products, while also improving the process for identifying harmful chemicals and phasing them out of use in children's products sold in Vermont.

*Status: Enacted; House vote 137-4.*

### **S.96 – Long-Term Clean Water Funding**

(Vote scored: Concurrence with proposal of amendment)

*Pro-Environment vote: YES*

This bill significantly increases the resources available for clean water projects across the state. It dedicates a portion of the existing rooms and meals tax to the Clean Water Fund, estimated at raising an additional \$12 million per year when fully implemented. It also creates a new regional distribution model that aims to incorporate local knowledge and expertise, and improved on-the-ground oversight of projects.

*Status: Enacted; House vote 126-14.*

### **S.113 – Reducing Single-Use Plastic Products**

(Vote scored: Second reading)

*Pro-Environment vote: YES*

This bill restricts single-use plastic bags at the point of sale; bans plastic stirrers such as those used for coffee or tea; requires that plastic straws only be offered on demand; and bans the use of expanded polystyrene foam (what is often called Styrofoam). The bill also establishes a Working Group to look at other single-use plastic products that are polluting our environment and posing a risk to public health.

*Status: Enacted; House vote 120-24.*

# Vermont House of Representatives Scorecard

- ✓ Pro-environment vote
- ✗ Anti-environment vote
- A Absent (counts as a negative)
- P Presiding
- NIO Not in Office

- 1. H.688: Global Warming
- 2. H.926: Protecting Forests
- 3. S.348: Safe Elections
- 4. H. 926: Act 250
- 5. H.439: Weatherization
- 6. S.37: Polluter Accountability
- 7. S.37: Amendment to Weaken Bill
- 8. S.96: Clean Water
- 9. S.40: Lead Contamination
- 10. S.49: PFAS Contamination
- 11. S.55: Protecting Children
- 12. S.113: Single-Use Plastics

Representative	Town	Party	2020 Score		Lifetime Score (2001 to present)												
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
Ancel, Janet	Calais	D	92	96	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓
Anthony, Peter	Barre City	D	92	92	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Austin, Sarita	Colchester	D	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bancroft, Robert	Westford	R	42	40	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bartholomew, John	Hartland	D	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Batchelor, Lynn	Derby	R	33	38	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Bates, Christopher	Bennington	D	58	58	X	X	✓	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Beck, Scott	St. Johnsbury	R	42	48	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Birong, Matthew	Vergennes	D	75	75	✓	X	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bock, Thomas	Chester	D	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Brennan, Patrick	Colchester	R	33	24	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Briglin, Timothy	Thetford	D	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Brownell, Nelson	Pownal	D	83	83	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Browning, Cynthia	Arlington	D	67	69	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓
Brumsted, Jessica	Shelburne	D	75	81	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓
Burditt, Thomas	West Rutland	R	50	29	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Burke, Mollie S.	Brattleboro	P	92	97	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓
Campbell, Scott	St. Johnsbury	D	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Canfield, William	Fair Haven	R	33	46	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Carroll, James	Bennington	D	92	92	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chase, Seth	Colchester	D	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chesnut-Tangerman, Robin	Middletown Springs	P	92	97	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓
Christensen, Annmarie	Weathersfield	D	92	96	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Christie, Kevin "Coach"	Hartford	D	100	92	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cina, Brian	Burlington	P/D	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Coffey, Sara	Guilford	D	92	92	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Colburn, Selene	Burlington	P	92	89	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓
Colston, Harold "Hal"	Winooski	D	92	92	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Conlon, Peter	Cornwall	D	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Conquest, Charles "Chip"	Newbury	D	92	94	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Copeland Hanzas, Sarah	Bradford	D	100	90	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Corcoran, Timothy R.	Bennington	D	92	82	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cordes, Mari	Lincoln	D	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Vermont Environmental Scorecard

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Cupoli, Larry "Cooper"	Rutland City	R	33	38	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Demrow, Carl	Corinth	D	83	83	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dickinson, Eileen "Lynn"	St. Albans Town	R	25	24	X	X	X	X	X	A	A	✓	✓	✓	A	X
Dolan, Kari	Waitsfield	D	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Donahue, Anne B.	Northfield	R	42	59	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	A	✓	✓
Donovan, Johannah Leddy	Burlington	D	83	93	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓
Durfee, David	Shaftsbury	D	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Elder, Caleb	Starksboro	D	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Emmons, Alice M.	Springfield	D	92	97	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fagan, Peter J.	Rutland City	R	33	45	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Fegard, Charen	Berkshire	D	83	83	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Feltus, Martha	Lyndon	R	50	64	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	X	✓
Forguites, Robert	Springfield	D	100	100	NIO	NIO	NIO	NIO	✓	NIO	NIO	NIO	NIO	NIO	NIO	NIO
Gamache, Marianna	Swanton	R	17	35	X	X	X	A	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X
Gannon, John	Wilmington	D	83	77	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓	✓	✓	A	✓
Gardner, Marcia	Richmond	D	92	96	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Giambatista, Dylan	Essex	D	92	96	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gonzalez, Diana	Winooski	P	23	72	✓	✓	✓	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Goslant, Kenneth	Northfield	R	25	25	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	A	✓	✓	✓	A
Grad, Maxine Jo	Moretown	D	75	80	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	A	✓	✓
Graham, Rodney	Williamstown	R	25	28	X	X	A	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	X
Gregoire, James	Fairfield	R	33	33	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	X
Haas, Sandy	Rochester	P	100	98	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hango, Lisa	Berkshire	R	42	42	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Harrison, James	Chittenden	R	42	42	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hashim, Nader	Dummerston	D	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Helm, Robert	Castleton	R	17	27	X	X	A	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X
Higley, Mark A.	Lowell	R	25	30	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	X
Hill, Matthew	Wolcott	D	67	83	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	A	A	✓	✓	A
Hooper, Mary S.	Montpelier	D	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hooper, Philip Jay	Randoloh	D	83	92	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hooper, Robert	Burlington	D	92	92	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓
Houghton, Lori	Essex	D	92	96	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Howard, Mary	Rutland City	D	92	96	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
James, Kathleen	Manchester	D	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

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Jerome, Stephanie	Brandon	D	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jessup, Kimberly	Middlesex	D	92	96	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓
Jickling, Benjamin	Randolph	I	63	67	NIO	NIO	NIO	NIO	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Johnson, Mitzi	South Hero	D	100	94	✓	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Killacky, John	South Burlington	D	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kimbell, Charles	Woodstock	D	83	77	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kitzmiller, Warren F.	Montpelier	D	100	86	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kornheiser, Emilie	Brattleboro	D	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Krowinski, Jill	Burlington	D	90	98	✓	✓	✓	✓	P	✓	✓	✓	P	A	✓	✓
LaClair, Robert	Barre Town	R	42	32	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
LaLonde, Martin	South Burlington	D	100	95	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lanpher, Diane	Vergennes	D	100	91	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lefebvre, Paul	Newark	R	67	66	X	X	✓	✓	A	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Leffler, Felisha	Enosburgh	R	25	25	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	X
Lippert, William J.	Hinseburg	D	92	87	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Long, Emily	Newfane	D	100	97	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Macaig, Terence	Willison	D	100	98	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Marcotte, Michael J.	Coventry	R	42	40	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	A	✓
Martel, Marcia	Waterford	R	17	20	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	A	✓	✓	X
Masland, James	Thetford	D	100	97	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mattos, Christopher	Milton	R	33	27	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
McCarthy, Michael	St. Albans City	D	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
McCormack, Curt	Burlington	D	100	98	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
McCoy, Patricia	Poultney	R	33	39	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
McCullough, James	Williston	D	100	98	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
McFaun, Francis "Topper"	Barre Town	R	42	53	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Morgan, Leland	Milton	R	42	42	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Morris, Kristi	Springfield	D	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	NIO	NIO	NIO	NIO	NIO	NIO	NIO	NIO
Morrissey, Mary A.	Bennington	R	50	34	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mrowicki, Michael	Putney	D	100	97	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Murphy, Barbara	Fairfax	I	67	71	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Myers, Linda K.	Essex	R	50	45	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nicoll, Logan	Ludlow	D	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Norris, Terry	Shoreham	I	42	42	X	X	A	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Notte, William	Rutland City	D	75	75	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Vermont Environmental Scorecard

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- 1. H.688: Global Warming
- 2. H.926: Protecting Forests
- 3. S.348: Safe Elections
- 4. H. 926: Act 250
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- 7. S.37: Amendment to Weaken Bill
- 8. S.96: Clean Water
- 9. S.40: Lead Contamination
- 10. S.49: PFAS Contamination
- 11. S.55: Protecting Children
- 12. S.113: Single-Use Plastics

Representative	Town	Party	2020 Score		Lifetime Score (2001 to present)												
			2001	2020	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Noyes, Daniel	Wolcott	D	92	96	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
O'Brien, John	Tunbridge	D	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
O'Sullivan, Jean	Burlington	D	92	76	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓
Ode, Carol	Burlington	D	100	93	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Page, Woodman	Newport City	R	50	50	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pajala, Kelly	Londonderry	I	67	73	✓	X	✓	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Palasik, John	Milton	R	33	33	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A
Partridge, Carolyn W.	Windham	D	83	86	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓	✓	✓	✓
Patt, Avram	Worcester	D	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Potter, Dave	Clarendon	D	83	89	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pugh, Ann D.	So. Burlington	D	92	89	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓
Quimby, Constance	Concord	R	17	19	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	A	✓	✓	✓	X
Rachelson, Barbara	Burlington	D	92	90	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ralph Watson, Zach	Hartland	P	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Redmond, Marybeth	Essex	D	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reed, Peter	Braintree	I	75	75	✓	X	✓	✓	NIO	NIO	NIO	NIO	NIO	NIO	NIO	NIO	NIO
Rogers, Lucy	Waterville	D	83	83	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rosenquist, Carl	Georgia	R	25	20	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X
Savage, Brian K.	Swanton	R	33	33	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Scheu, Robin	Middlebury	D	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Scheuermann, Heidi E.	Stowe	R	42	46	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Seymour, Patrick	Sutton	R	42	42	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shaw, Butch	Pittsford	R	50	48	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sheldon, Amy	Middlebury	D	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sibilia, Laura	Dover	I	42	63	✓	X	✓	X	X	A	A	X	✓	✓	✓	A	✓
Smith, Brian	New Haven	R	33	31	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Smith, Harvey	Derby	R	50	31	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Squirrel, Trevor	Underhill	D	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Stevens, Tom	Waterbury	D	100	98	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Strong, Vicki	Albany	R	25	26	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Sullivan, Linda Joy	Dorset	D	83	77	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sullivan, Mary	Burlington	D	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Szott, Randall	Barnard	D	75	75	✓	X	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Taylor, Curt	Colchester	D	83	92	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
Terenzini, Thomas	Rutland Town	R	25	23	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	X	✓	A	✓	✓	X



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- 10. S.49: PFAS Contamination
- 11. S.55: Protecting Children
- 12. S.113: Single-Use Plastics

Representative	Town	Party	2020 Score		Lifetime Score (2001 to present)												
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
Till, George	Jericho	D	92	94	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Toleno, Tristan	Brattleboro	D	92	94	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Toll, Kitty Beattie	Danville	D	75	87	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	A	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Toof, Casey	St. Albans Town	R	25	25	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Townsend, Maida	South Burlington	D	100	92	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Trieber, Matthew	Rockingham	D	75	84	NIO	NIO	NIO	NIO	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
Troiano, Joseph "Chip"	Stannard	D	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tully, Kelley	Rockingham	D	67	67	X	✓	✓	NIO	NIO	NIO	NIO	NIO	NIO	NIO	NIO	NIO	NIO
Walz, Tommy	Barre City	D	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Webb, Kathryn	Shelburne	D	100	98	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
White, Rebecca	Hartford	D	83	83	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wood, Teresa	Waterbury	D	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Yacovone, David	Morristown	D	100	93	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Yantacka, Michael	Charlotte	D	100	98	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Young, Samuel	Greensboro	D	83	82	✓	✓	✓	A	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



As COVID-19 took the Vermont Legislature online, lawmakers met in Zoom sessions like this September convening of the House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife. You can find recordings on YouTube.

## Senate Bill Descriptions

### H.688 – Global Warming Solutions Act

(Vote scored: Veto override)

*Pro-Environment vote: YES*

The Global Warming Solutions Act turns Vermont’s climate goals into requirements. The Solutions Act establishes a Climate Council and requires the state to develop and implement a plan that will reduce climate-damaging pollution, grow jobs, help rural and low-income people, and build more resilient communities across Vermont.

*Status: Enacted; Senate voted 22-8 to override Gov. Scott’s veto.*

### H.926 – Protecting Forests and Outdoor Recreation

(Vote scored: Third reading)

*Pro-Environment vote: YES*

This bill is a pared-down version of Act 250 modernization that passed the House earlier in the year, but contained important provisions to better protect forest blocks and wildlife habitat for projects going through Act 250, help maintain working lands, and create a new program that aims to improve environmental review, planning, and maintenance of trail networks.

*Status: Passed the Senate 26-3; bill was ultimately vetoed by Gov. Scott.*

### S.348 – Safe Elections

(Vote scored: Second reading)

*Pro-Environment vote: YES*

This bill grants full authority to the Secretary of State to mail all registered voters a ballot for this year’s General Election in November, while maintaining in-person voting options. This legislation will help ensure that all Vermonters can safely, securely, and easily vote this year, despite the ongoing pandemic.

*Status: Enacted; Senate vote 21-7.*

### S.37 – Holding Toxic Polluters Accountable

(Vote scored: Concurrence with House version)

*Pro-Environment vote: YES*

This bill would have held large polluters accountable for the harm caused by toxic chemical releases. The bill provides two important legal tools to address toxic pollution. The first legal remedy allows Vermonters to hold polluters accountable for the costs of medical monitoring required as a result of exposure to toxic chemicals. The second legal remedy allows state government to hold the companies that make dangerous chemicals liable for the harm they cause to Vermont’s air, land, and water. Unfortunately, despite the bill passing the Legislature, it was vetoed by Governor Scott.

*Status: Senate vote 19-11; but bill ultimately vetoed by Gov. Scott.*

### S.337 – Energy efficiency updates

(Vote scored: Third reading)

*Pro-Environment vote: YES*

This bill takes steps toward updating our energy efficiency utilities so they can focus more resources on cutting climate pollution — and therefore help more Vermonters access efficient, affordable, and clean heating and transportation options.

*Status: Enacted; Senate vote 28-2.*

### S.40 – Lead Contamination in Children’s Drinking Water

(Vote scored: Third reading)

*Pro-Environment vote: YES*

This bill requires testing for lead contamination in drinking water in all Vermont schools and childcare facilities. The bill sets a standard for acceptable lead levels (4 parts per billion) that is more protective than the levels set by the federal EPA, and requires remediation of any lead contamination found above that level. Importantly, the Legislature also allocated funding to ensure that initial testing and remediation happens quickly and consistently across the state.

*Status: Enacted; Senate vote 29-0.*

## S.49 – Regulating PFAS Contamination of Water Supplies

(Vote scored: Third reading)

*Pro-Environment vote: YES*

This bill requires the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources to develop drinking water and surface water standards for PFAS chemicals, to ensure that Vermonters' water is healthy and safe. PFAS is the class of toxic chemicals that were discovered in Vermont drinking water wells, and pose significant threats to public health and the environment.

*Status: Enacted; Senate vote 29-0.*

## S.55 – Protecting Children from Toxic Chemicals

(Vote scored: Second reading)

*Pro-Environment vote: YES*

This bill updates the Toxic-Free Families Act (Act 188) to collect more consumer-friendly information on which toxic chemicals are being used in children's products, while also improving the process for identifying harmful chemicals and phasing them out of use in children's products sold in Vermont.

*Status: Enacted; Senate vote 25-5.*

## S.113 – Reducing Single-Use Plastic Products

(Vote scored: Third reading)

*Pro-Environment vote: YES*

This bill restricts single-use plastic bags at the point of sale; bans plastic stirrers such as those used for coffee or tea; requires that plastic straws only be offered on demand; and bans the use of expanded polystyrene foam (what is often called Styrofoam). The bill also establishes a Working Group to look at how to better address other single-use plastic products that are polluting our environment and threatening public health.

*Status: Enacted; Senate vote 30-0.*

## H.63 – Increased Investment in Low-Income Weatherization

(Vote scored: Concurrence with House version)

*Pro-Environment vote: YES*

This bill invests several million additional short-term dollars into weatherizing more low- and moderate-income Vermonters' homes, helping improve the comfort, health, and energy efficiency of those homes. The bill also requires analysis by the Public Utility Commission to look at a longer-term approach to expanding the scope of energy efficiency programs – a key component of achieving the state's climate commitments.

*Status: Enacted; Senate vote 29-0.*



# Vermont Senate Scorecard

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- 2. H.926: Protecting Forests
- 3. S.348: Safe Elections
- 4. S.37: Polluter Accountability
- 5. S.337: Energy Efficiency
- 6. S.40: Lead Contamination
- 7. S.49: PFAS Contamination
- 8. S.55: Protecting Children
- 9. S.113: Single-Use Plastics
- 10. H.63: Weatherization

Senator	District	Party	2020 Score		Lifetime Score (2001 to present)									
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
Ashe, Tim	Chittenden	D/P	100	93	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Balint, Becca	Windham	D	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Baruth, Philip	Chittenden	D/P	100	92	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Benning, Joe	Caledonia	R	60	49	X	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Bray, Christopher	Addison	D	100	97	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Brock, Randy	Franklin	R	40	43	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Campion, Brian	Bennington	D	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Clarkson, Alison	Windsor	D	100	96	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Collamore, Brian	Rutland	R	30	17	X	X	X	X	X	A	✓	X	✓	✓
Cummings, Ann	Washington	D	100	96	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hardy, Ruth	Addison	D	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hooker, Cheryl	Rutland	D/P	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ingram, Debbie	Chittenden	D	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kitchel, Jane	Caledonia	D	90	69	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lyons, Virginia "Ginny"	Chittenden	D	100	99	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MacDonald, Mark	Orange	D	100	95	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mazza, Dick	Grand Isle	D	90	76	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
McCormack, Dick	Windsor	D	100	96	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
McNeil, James	Rutland	R	60	60	X	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Nitka, Alice	Windsor	D	80	70	✓	A	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Parent, Corey	Franklin	R	40	41	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	A
Pearson, Christopher	Chittenden	P/D	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Perchlik, Andrew	Washington	D/P	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pollina, Anthony	Washington	P/D	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rodgers, John	Essex-Orleans	D	70	44	X	✓	A	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sears, Dick	Bennington	D	90	76	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sirotkin, Michael	Chittenden	D	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Starr, Robert	Essex-Orleans	D	70	45	X	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Westman, Richard	Lamoille	R	60	50	X	✓	X	X	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓
White, Jeanette	Windham	D	100	95	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

# Beyond the Roll Call – Leaders and Laggards

## Environmental Laggards

2019-2020 Environmental Scores of 33% or Less

### Senators

Brian Collamore

### Representatives

Lynn Batchelor

Patrick Brennan

William Canfield

Larry Cupoli

Lynn Dickinson

Peter Fagan

Marianna Gamache

Kenneth Goslant

Rodney Graham

James Gregoire

Robert Helm

Mark Higley

Felisha Leffler

Marcia Martel

Christopher Mattos

Patricia McCoy

John Palasik

Constance Quimby

Carl Rosenquist

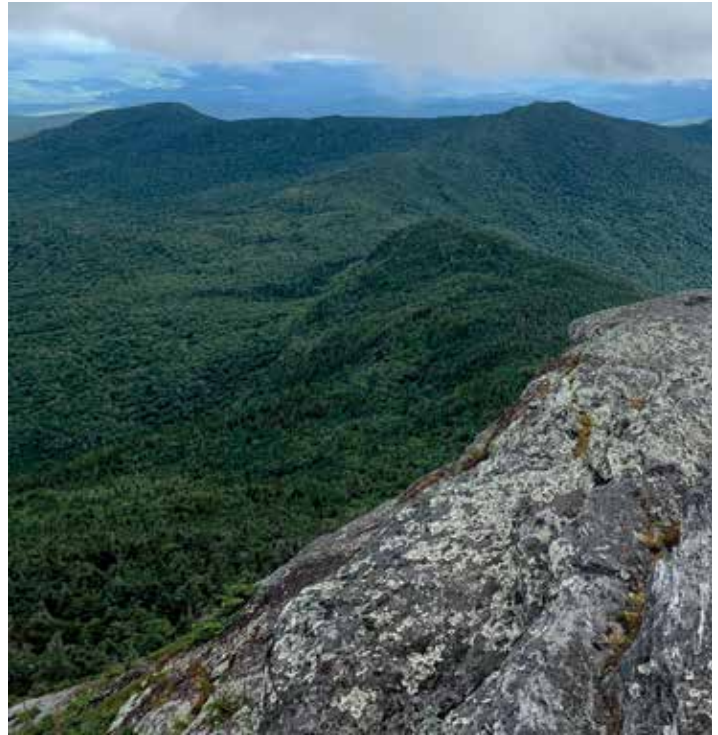
Brian Savage

Brian Smith

Vicki Strong

Thomas Terenzini

Casey Toof



## Vermont Conservation Voters thanks legislators with 100% Environmental Scores in the 2019-2020 Legislative Session

### Senators

Tim Ashe

Becca Balint

Philip Baruth

Christopher Bray

Brian Champion

Alison Clarkson

Ann Cummings

Ruth Hardy

Cheryl Hooker

Debbie Ingram

Virginia Lyons

Mark MacDonald

Dick McCormack

Christopher Pearson

Andrew Perchlik

Anthony Pollina

Michael Sirotkin

Jeanette White

### Representatives

Sarah Austin

John Bartholomew

Thomas Bock

Timothy Briglin

Scott Campbell

Seth Chase

Kevin Christie

Brian Cina

Peter Conlon

Sarah Copeland Hanzas

Mari Cordes

Katherine Dolan

David Durfee

Caleb Elder

Robert Forguites

Sandy Haas

Nader Hashim

Mary Hooper

Kathleen James

Stephanie Jerome

Mitzi Johnson

John Killackey

Warren Kitzmiller

Emilie Kornheiser

Jill Krowinski

Martin LaLonde

Diane Lanpher

Emily Long

Terence Macaig

James Masland

Michael McCarthy

Curt McCormack

James McCullough

Kristi Morris

Michael Mrowicki

Logan Nicoll

John O'Brien

Carol Ode

Avram Patt

Zachariah Ralph

Marybeth Redmond

Robin Scheu

Amy Sheldon

Trevor Squirrell

Thomas Stevens

Mary Sullivan

Maida Townsend

Chip Troiano

Tommy Walz

Kathryn Webb

Theresa Wood

David Yacovone

Michael Yantachka

## 2020 Environmental Rising Stars

Each legislative biennium, Vermont Conservation Voters awards first-term legislators with our Environmental Rising Star Award. The 2020 award winners were Representatives **Mari Cordes** (Lincoln) and **Kathleen James** (Manchester Center) and Senator **Andrew Perchlik** (Washington County), all of whom were first elected in 2018.

After entering the House of Representatives, **Mari Cordes** quickly stepped up to become a leader of the legislative Climate Solutions Caucus, helping the team build and execute strategies for connecting with Vermonters statewide about climate solutions. Rep. Cordes is a registered nurse, a labor negotiator, and has volunteered extensively in her community and abroad, including offering medical care for Vermonters after Tropical Storm Irene.

Following her election to the House of Representatives, **Kathleen James** joined the Climate Solutions Caucus and was elected to the Caucus leadership team as House co-Vice Chair. Along with Rep. Cordes, she was instrumental in leading ambitious efforts in 2019



*Representative Kathleen James and VCV Executive Director Lauren Hierl*

that reached more than 1,000 Vermonters at climate events around the state. Rep. James is also active on the Rural Economic Development Working Group and the new Tourism Caucus, and in 2019 was appointed by Speaker Mitzi Johnson to the New England Board of Higher Education.

**Andrew Perchlik** was elected to the State Senate representing Washington County on a platform focused on climate change and clean energy. He has since been active in clean transportation policy in the Transportation Committee and was elected by the Climate Solutions Caucus as the Vice

Chair for the Senate. Sen. Perchlik has a long history of environmental leadership that includes directing the Vermont Clean Energy Development Fund and creating Renewable Energy Vermont (REV), which he directed for the organization's first ten years.

"The legislators we honored in 2020 are helping shape better climate policies for the state through their expertise and leadership, and we look forward to continuing to work with them on these critical issues," said VCV Executive Director Lauren Hierl.



*Lauren Hierl, Representative Mari Cordes, and VCV Political Outreach Associate Shelden Goodwin*



*Lauren Hierl, Senator Andrew Perchlik, and Marianne Donahue Perchlik*

## Advocating for a Safe and Equitable Recovery

Vermont Conservation Voters and partner organization Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC) were among eight environmental and public health advocates who sent a letter in April to Governor Phil Scott, urging him to uphold environmental and public health protections during the COVID-19 crisis, along with public accessibility and transparency. The letter came on the heels of the EPA undermining enforcement of environmental rules that are designed to hold polluters in check and protect public health.

VCV also participated in a May letter asking Vermont legislators to proactively address equity issues in the state's COVID-19 response and recovery, given the intersection of the pandemic with persisting racial, economic, and other inequities in Vermont. Find both letters at [VermontConservationVoters.org](http://VermontConservationVoters.org).

## Speaking Out for Mail-In Voting

As the COVID-19 crisis worsened, it became clear that voting in person would not be a safe, viable option for many Vermonters this year. That's why VCV began working with diverse allies to advocate for the expansion of mail-in voting, which allows voters to fill out their ballots from the comfort of their home.

In April we held a webinar, *Voting in a Pandemic*, with Oregon League of Conservation Voters to explore the efficacy of vote-by-mail (Oregon has been a national leader on this issue) and to share lessons learned on how Vermont can put in place safe, fair and accessible elections in 2020 and beyond. VCV also began educating Vermonters on how to vote this year, so as many people as possible — including people experiencing homelessness — could reliably participate in our democracy.

Vermont Secretary of State Jim Condos, who oversees our state elections, was authorized this spring by the Vermont Legislature to develop new procedures to protect the health and safety of voters, election workers, and candidates during the pandemic. While initially the Legislature sought agreement on the Secretary's election plans from Governor Phil Scott, Scott failed to endorse a vote-by-mail program and instead called for a wait-and-see approach.

Knowing the state must act swiftly to put in place the systems and contracts needed for a successful and secure voting program in 2020, in June the Vermont Legislature passed a bill giving Condos the authority to implement vote-by-mail during the pandemic. In late September, all Vermont voters were mailed a ballot. Learn more about vote-by-mail, and watch the webinar, at [VermontConservationVoters.org](http://VermontConservationVoters.org).



*Left: Voting by mail in the primary election. Above, Lauren Hierl votes (safely) in person in August with Jared Duval of the Energy Action Network (EAN)*



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## Vermont Environmental Scorecard

### Now that you know the score, *take action!*

#### 1. Tell your legislators you know the score.

One of the best ways to influence your elected officials is through regular communication with them. If your legislators scored well, thank them. If they scored poorly, let them know you are disappointed and encourage them to support policies that address climate change and ensure clean air, clean water, and healthy communities. You can find your legislators' contact information on our website: **VermontConservationVoters.org**.

#### 2. VOTE on or before Election Day – November 3rd!

This is the most important election in our lifetimes, so make sure you vote. For the first time, all registered voters in Vermont have been mailed their ballots. If you

received your ballot, make sure you fill it in with your preferred candidates, seal it in the envelope provided, sign the envelope, and send it back in. There are ballot drop boxes, and you can vote in person at your town clerk's office ahead of time. Or drop off your ballot or vote in person at your polling place on Election Day, November 3rd. You can register to vote, or track your ballot at [mvp.vermont.gov](http://mvp.vermont.gov).

#### 3. Contribute to Vermont Conservation Voters.

Vermont Conservation Voters is working hard to ensure that pro-environment candidates are elected, and to bring your environmental values to the tough fights at the State House. Please join other Vermonters by becoming a supporter today. Find out more at: **VermontConservationVoters.org**.