

The People's Demands for a Just Flood Recovery

Grassroots organizations and community mutual aid groups are the first to mobilize when disaster strikes—drawing on relationships, local knowledge, and that combination of grit and care that makes us Vermonters. In a time of ever-unfolding disaster, we recognize the need to **balance short term needs and long term transformation**.

As informed by our identities, lived experiences, and expertise, **we demand that the State of Vermont deliver on key pillars of a just recovery**—recovery that goes beyond repairing flood damage to address underlying inequity. Investing in this work will not only make it possible to rebuild from now-recurring flooding, but will set our communities up for **a safe, thriving future** as the climate crisis continues to unfold.

Housing

Create anti-displacement policies and local emergency housing plans

Vermonters have the right to remain in their towns and neighborhoods as the changing climate increases the frequency of disasters and the loss of housing for poor and working class people. Avoiding displacement increases resilience, health, and capacity of small towns. Create local emergency housing plans that guarantee people will not be displaced in disasters, and enact policies that protect people from unjust removal from their homes.

Invest in housing construction and repair

Build affordable, climate resilient housing for current and future Vermonters. New housing development will offset loss of flood-impacted buildings and tax base. Tax high earners and second-homeowners and invest in workforce development that can shorten wait lists for housing repair programs.

Administration

Appoint staff to support local emergency preparedness and response

Create permanent positions to respond to the needs of Vermonters impacted by climate-fueled disasters like flooding, landslides, heat waves, and more. Add state-supported capacity to implement all stages and functions of climate disaster response, tailored to meet the specific needs of our state's rural population, and available to support volunteer emergency responders.

Invest in emergency management and planning systems

Connect towns with federal funding sources that can be used for emergency planning, such as Municipal Technical Assistance Program and Community Development Block Grant funds. Support the Vermont Voluntary Organizations in Active Disaster affiliate to more effectively coordinate volunteers throughout the state. Create innovative funding mechanisms for farms, businesses, and individuals to provide immediate support after climate disaster.

Climate adaptation

Ecological restoration of floodplain and management of river corridors

Develop watershed-wide river management and ecosystem restoration plans that account for and minimize flood impacts. Adjust statewide development standards and incentives to prevent new building in floodplains, and incentivize climate-resilient construction. Buy out homeowners who are willing to move.

Investment in infrastructure that will withstand climate disaster

Ensure all new infrastructure is built to withstand flooding and other climate disasters. Invest in roads, wastewater treatment, water systems, and food infrastructure that is reliable under climate stressors and ensures people can meet basic needs during crisis.

[Sign onto the demands here.](#)

The undersigned organizations support this call for a just recovery from flooding:

ACLU of Vermont	Montpelier Disaster Recovery Network
Addison County Relocalization Network (ACORN)	Northeast Kingdom Organizing (NEKO)
Barton Community Giving Garden	NOFA-Vermont
Calabash Gardens	Resource Generation, Vermont chapter
Center for an Agricultural Economy (CAE)	Rights and Democracy VT (RAD)
Center for Whole Communities	Rural Vermont
Community Resilience Organizations (CROs)	Slingshot
Community Resilience for the Waterbury Area (CReW)	South Hero Land Trust
Conservation Law Foundation	Tamarack Hollow Farm
Cooperation Vermont	350 Vermont
Cooperation Vermont Community Land Trust	United Way of Lamoille County
Dad Guild	VT Community Supported Kitchen
Education Justice Coalition of Vermont	Vermont Connector
EmpowR Transformation	Vermont Conservation Voters
The Everything Space	Vermont Green Football Club
Every Town VT	Vermont Land Trust
FreeHer	Vermont Public Interest Research Group
Glover Barton Senior Services Inc.	Vermont Racial Justice Alliance
Glover Equity	Vermont Releaf Collective
Jewish Voice for Peace VT/NH	Vermont River Conservancy
Kingdom United Resilience & Recovery Effort	Vermont Village School
Lamoille Area Recovery Network	Vermont Workers' Center
Land Access and Opportunity Board	Waterbury Area Anti-Racism Coalition (WAARC)