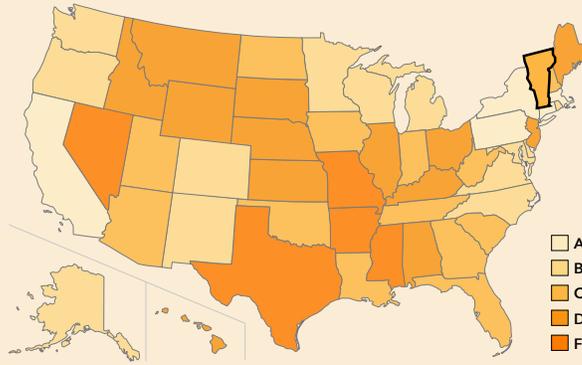


OVERALL GRADE:
C+



OVERALL: C+

EXTREME HEAT: B-

DROUGHT: -

WILDFIRE: -

INLAND FLOODING: -

COASTAL FLOODING: -

Vermont faces a considerable and significantly increasing threat level for only one of the five climate threats between now and 2050: extreme heat. Vermont scores an overall grade of C+ on the Report Card, despite earning a grade of B- for its only assessed threat, because the overall grade is relative to other states' performance with regard to all threats, and the extreme heat grade is relative only to other states' performance with extreme heat. All grades are also relative to the magnitude of the climate threat itself. Vermont has taken *strong action* to address its current risks from extreme heat, including a comprehensive *State Hazard Mitigation Plan*, and *limited action* to address its future risks including a discussion of climate change adaptation measures through state-sponsored adaptation white papers. However, the state could do more to prepare for future extreme heat risks by officially adopting an adaptation plan and by conducting a statewide climate change vulnerability assessment. Vermont is also taking many actions to boost inland flooding resilience following disastrous flooding from Hurricane Irene, but these actions are not formally assessed here because Vermont does not face a considerable and significantly increasing threat level from inland flooding by our methodology.

ACTION TAKEN:

Extensive				
Strong	☀️			
Fair		☀️		
Limited			☀️	
None				☀️
	Addressing Current Risks	Conducting Vulnerability Assessments	Planning for Adaptation	Implementing Resilience Actions

- ☀️ Extreme Heat
- 🌵 Drought
- 🔥 Wildfire
- 💧 Inland Flooding
- 🌊 Coastal Flooding

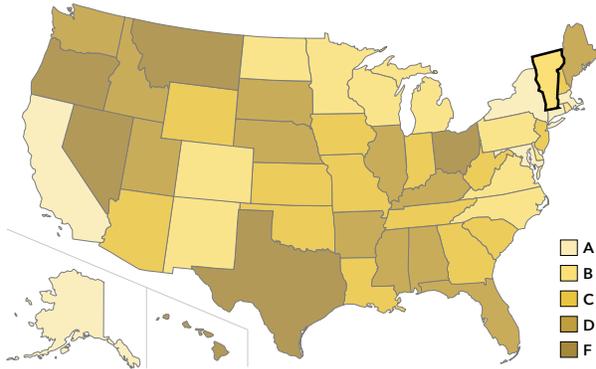
SOME ACTIONS ALREADY TAKEN

- The state's *Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan*, technical assistance programs, disaster response plans, and emergency communications materials are helping Vermont to prepare for its current climate risks.
- The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources sponsored a *Climate Change Adaptation Framework* that discusses projected climate change-related risks and impacts to the state.
- The sector-level *Adaptation White Papers* discuss climate changes across the state and address adaptation measures for transportation, water, and health.
- Vermont Environmental Health Tracking System tracks multiple health impacts from extreme heat events.

WEAKNESSES

- No evidence of detailed statewide climate change vulnerability assessments across the sectors examined.
- No evidence of a detailed statewide climate change adaptation plan across the sectors examined.
- No evidence of official state funding, policies, or guidelines to improve resilience to climate change-related extreme heat.
- No evidence of action to incorporate climate change projections associated with extreme heat into state-level programs, investments, and activities.
- No evidence of public outreach about climate change-related extreme heat risks.

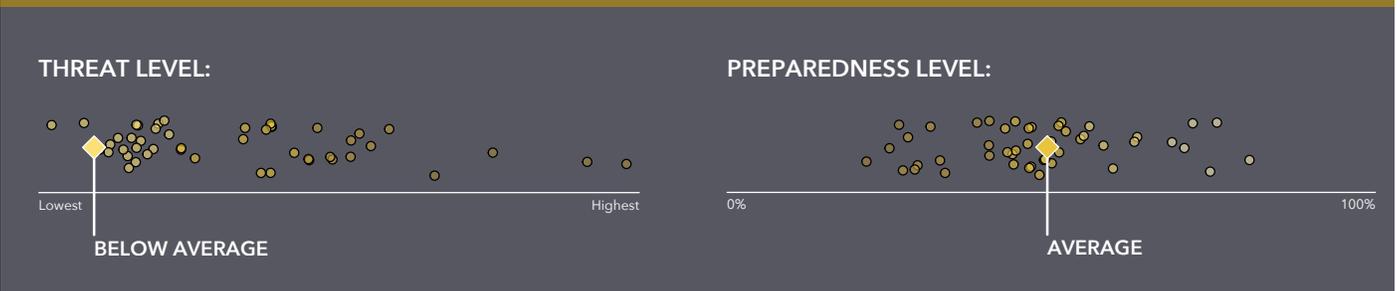
EXTREME HEAT: B-



OVERALL:	C+
EXTREME HEAT:	B-
DROUGHT:	—
WILDFIRE:	—
INLAND FLOODING:	—
COASTAL FLOODING:	—

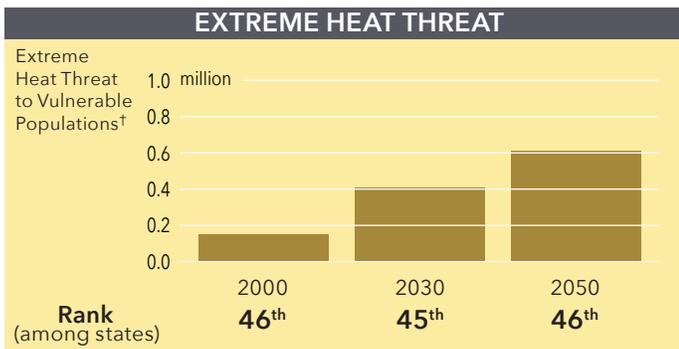
Vermont earns a B- for its average level of preparedness in the face of a below average overall extreme heat threat. Currently, Vermont faces an below average threat, largely because it has such a small vulnerable population. Like most states, it has taken strong action to prepare for its current heat risks through its State Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Emergency Operations Plan. For example, Vermont has extensive communication materials for residents about extreme heat preparation. By 2050, Vermont's threat level is projected to see a below average increase, and continue to be below average. The state has taken a fair amount of action to assess its future heat risks, but almost no action to plan for them or implement adaptation measures. The Vermont Climate Assessment, the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources' Climate Change Framework, and several sector-specific reports assess heat impacts on health and transportation. However, the state has not developed a statewide climate change adaptation plan, nor has it accounted for future heat risks in state programs, investments, and activities.

VERMONT COMPARED TO OTHER STATES:



The preparedness grade represents how well a state is preparing for its threat level, relative to all states evaluated for that threat. It compares a state's position in the distribution of threat levels to its position in the distribution of preparedness scores. Thus two states with the same absolute preparedness score might receive different grades, depending on their levels of threat—a state with a higher threat level would receive a lower grade. For details, see the methodology.

KEY FINDINGS:



† Average number of heat wave days per year times total vulnerable population. A score of 1 represents 1 vulnerable person exposed to 1 heat wave day.

► Average annual number of heat wave days: Average number of days each year on which the maximum temperature exceeds the 95th percentile of daily maximum temperature in the baseline period (1991-2010) for at least three consecutive days.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Currently, Vermont rarely experiences days classified as dangerous or extremely dangerous according to the NWS Heat Index. By 2050, the state is projected to have about 5 a year.
- By 2050, the typical number of heat wave days in Vermont is projected to increase from slightly more than 10 to nearly 50 days a year.
- Vermont has more than 13,000 people aged 65 and older, or less than 5 years old, living below the poverty line. These groups are considered to be particularly vulnerable to extreme heat.

EXTREME HEAT: B-

EXAMPLE CRITERIA

A subset of the criteria used to develop Vermont's extreme heat preparedness grade.

	Transportation	Energy	Water	Health	Communities
ADDRESSING CURRENT RISKS					
Does the State Hazard Mitigation Plan cover extreme heat?	n/a	✓	✓	✓	n/a
Does the state have an extreme heat emergency response plan that is updated routinely?	✓	✓	✓	✓	n/a
Does the state provide extreme heat emergency communication materials for citizens?	✓	✓	✓	✓	n/a
CONDUCTING VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS					
Has the state published information on how the frequency or severity of extreme heat events may change in the future?	✓	✓	✓	✓	n/a
Has the state conducted extreme heat vulnerability assessments for each sector?	NO	NO	NO	NO	n/a
Is the state tracking extreme heat impacts?	NO	n/a	NO	✓	n/a
PLANNING FOR ADAPTATION					
Is there a statewide climate change adaptation plan covering extreme heat?	NO	NO	NO	NO	n/a
Is there a statewide implementation plan for climate change adaptation?	NO	NO	NO	NO	n/a
Does the state have sector-specific extreme heat adaptation plans?	✓	NO	NO	✓	n/a
IMPLEMENTING RESILIENCE ACTIONS					
Are there optional state guidelines for resilient activities (e.g., construction)?	NO	NO	NO	NO	n/a
Are there state requirements for resilient activities (e.g., construction)?	NO	NO	NO	NO	n/a
Is there evidence that the state is implementing extreme heat adaptation policy/guidelines?	NO	NO	NO	NO	n/a

"n/a" indicates that the sector is either insensitive to the threat or the state does not have a significant role.