

Essex Junction

2027 Comprehensive Plan Update

Public Engagement Plan

Background & Context

In Vermont, municipal plans are the community’s primary policy documents for guiding growth, development, and investment. They shape land use, housing, transportation, energy, natural resources, and other local priorities, and serve as the basis for zoning, capital planning, and project review by local, regional, and state bodies. State law ([24 V.S.A. § 4387](#)) requires towns to readopt or update their plans at least once every eight years, creating a regular opportunity to assess progress, respond to new challenges, and ensure local goals align with statewide planning requirements.

Essex Junction is updating its [2019 Essex Junction Comprehensive Plan](#), set to expire in August 2027, with funding from a Municipal Planning Grant (MPG) from the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and with support from the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) through the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

CCRPC provided an Initial Town Plan Review in January 2025 with comments on how to improve the plan and meet state requirements and has been contracted to design and carry out community engagement and to update the plan to reflect the needs and interests of Essex Junction residents. This engagement plan outlines CCRPC’s strategy for supporting that process.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following principles outlined in [Strengthening and Sustaining Public Engagement in Vermont](#) helped inform CCRPC’s engagement approach. CCRPC strives to uphold these principles in its engagement efforts, recognizing that unproductive engagement is damaging and often results in decreased trust in government and decision-makers. Productive engagement, when done respectfully and thoughtfully, results in better and more resilient policies, robust local citizenship networks, and stronger communities.

ENGAGEMENT WORKS BEST WHEN IT IS:

	INTERACTIVE	Everyone has a chance to contribute.
	TIMELY	It happens at a point when people can have an influence on important decisions.
	INCLUSIVE	It brings together a wide range of people, including people who may have been excluded or not engaged before.
	AUTHENTIC	People value one another's input and know the process will have meaningful results.
	TRANSPARENT	It is open, honest, and understandable.
	INFORMED	Everyone has access to the knowledge and data they need, and there is balanced information describing the pros and cons of different opinions.
	ACCESSIBLE	The barriers to participation, including location, time, language and other factors that might deter people, are as low as possible.
	RESPONSIVE	What people say is documented and decision-makers report back to participants on the outcomes of engagement.
	NETWORK-BUILDING	Engagement helps to build relationships and networks over the long term.
	EVALUATED	People are able to track and measure how engagement is working.

To uphold these principles throughout engagement, CCRPC will:

- Offer multiple opportunities to engage, directly and indirectly.
- Provide clarity at the start with communities about what can and cannot change about the plan, so that community input focuses on the elements where it would hold influence.
- Present and discuss the information in understandable, simple, and visual terms whenever possible, and share all relevant information with community members before asking for input.
- Emphasize and prioritize relationship building in and throughout engagement.
- Share all collected information back to participants to offer opportunities for corrections, additional comments, and accountability to build trust.
- Connect community members, municipalities, and organizations to one another when and where it makes sense to support their own work.
- Respect community members' time and lived experience by providing stipends, language services, food, childcare when requested, and other support to reduce participation barriers.

GOALS OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

1. **Enhance awareness** of the Comprehensive Plan: what it is and why it matters.
2. **Center the voices and viewpoints** of Essex Junction communities in the Plan, with a focus on communities' voices historically not included in decision-making and on issues not recently asked of the community.

3. **Build relationships and trust** between community members and City staff and the community through a transparent and collaborative process.

Methodology

COMMUNITY CONTEXT

The COVID-19 pandemic that began in 2020 and subsequent events ignited significant changes in the social and political fabric of Chittenden County. Communities fractured as social isolation became a norm, and inequities deepened, especially for communities already struggling. Since then, the climate crisis has continued to visibly shape our landscapes, as the State has seen record flooding, drought, and poor air quality due to wildfires. Meanwhile, income inequality has continued to rise, political divides worsened, and Vermont has become the site of one of the nation's greatest housing crises.

Essex Junction reflects many of the same statewide and regional dynamics as other Chittenden County communities, while also having a distinct history and urban character. Located in the center of the county, Essex Junction functions as a historic railroad village and a regional employment and transportation hub. With a population of roughly 10,000 residents within just over four square miles, it is one of the most densely populated municipalities in Vermont. The Junction is characterized by a compact downtown, established residential neighborhoods, a strong street grid, and proximity to major employment centers. Its development pattern reflects its origins as a rail center and mill village, resulting in a more urban form than many neighboring communities. Today, Essex Junction is known for its walkable downtown, Five Corners, local parks and trails, civic institutions, and community events that contribute to a strong sense of place.

Essex Junction's population is younger and more diverse than much of Chittenden County. The median age is slightly lower than the county average, with a higher share of residents under 18 and working-age adults, reflecting the community's role as a residential and employment center. The Junction is one of the more racially and ethnically diverse municipalities in the county. A meaningful portion of households speak a language other than English at home. Median household income is lower than the county average, and the community has a much higher proportion of renters, including many households facing housing cost burdens. While Essex Junction hosts substantial employment nearby, many residents still commute out of the municipality for work, while workers from across the region commute in. These dynamics underscore the importance of housing affordability, transportation access, and inclusive economic development strategies tailored to Essex Junction's urban context.

Essex Junction has already conducted several community outreach efforts in recent years to lay out a vision for the City's future, both in its governance and its built environment.

ASSESSMENT OF PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS

To repair past harms, prevent future ones, and center local knowledge in policy, CCRPC recognizes the critical importance of organizational equity and community engagement. CCRPC is also

mindful of the growing fatigue among community members driven by unmet basic needs and the high volume of overlapping engagement initiatives. To avoid placing additional burdens on already overextended individuals and organizations, CCRPC staff reviewed engagement activities conducted in Essex Junction since 2020 and incorporated existing community-informed insights into engagement results, including efforts conducted at a statewide, regional, and local level. This approach emphasizes clarity in outreach by focusing engagement on filling identified gaps and not replicating previous efforts. Insights from these efforts relevant to the Essex Junction Comprehensive Plan Update are summarized in Appendix A.

- Statewide
 - [State of Vermont Climate Action Office Engagement](#)
- Regional
 - [2024 Chittenden County Regional Plan Update Engagement](#)
 - [2025 Chittenden / Grand Isle County Community Health Needs Assessment](#)
 - [2022 Chittenden County Active Transportation Survey Report](#)
 - [2025 Chittenden County Regional Future Land Use Map Update Engagement](#)
- Local
 - 2024 Community Vision and Strategic Action Plan
 - Connect the Junction Transit-Oriented Development Master Plan
 - 2025 Essex Junction Rebranding Project & Community Survey

CCRPC staff also reviewed the FY2026 Prioritization List & Department Work Plans (Budget Day Packet) specifically for current actions being undertaken by City government.

For a full and ongoing database of community engagement efforts conducted within Chittenden County, please see this [Community Engagement Tracker](#).

ENGAGEMENT THEMES & APPROACH

After conversations with local community leaders and planning commission members, it is apparent that Essex Junction has already conducted extensive engagement around key planning issues and established a vision for the future.

The 2024 Strategic Vision and Action Plan sets clear goals for the community around the six thematic pillars:

1. Housing and Urban Design
2. Public Services and Facilities
3. Economic and Business Development
4. Transportation and Connectivity
5. Environmental Stewardship
6. Community Engagement and Decision Making

CCRPC staff will incorporate the Key Actions into the plan alongside new statutory requirements and discussion of current trends (as noted in [CCRPC's initial review of the 2019 plan](#)). However, the specific actions that will advance the Key Actions need significant updates. While some of

these are already identified by the City in the [2026 Prioritization List and Departmental Work Plans](#), others have no associated actions, or actions that are vague. In particular, the Economic and Business Development, Environmental Stewardship, and Transportation and Connectivity pillars would benefit from additional public engagement around crafting specific actions.

Before embarking on plan drafting, CCRPC staff will seek input from community focus groups on key topics related to these Strategic Pillars to craft actions that are SMART: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Bound. CCRPC has developed discussion guides with context narratives, potential focus group membership, and guiding questions for these three pillars.

In addition to these themes and questions, CCRPC staff will ask residents broader visioning questions about their community to highlight what residents love the most about the Junction and hopes they have for the future, including:

- What do you value most about living in Essex Junction? If you moved to the Junction recently, why did you move here?
- What are your favorite places in the Junction? Why?
- What are the biggest challenges you face living in Essex Junction?
- What are the areas of the city you'd like to see improvements to?
- What should be the City's #1 priority?
- List three small actions your local government could take to improve the quality of life in your community.
- It's the year 2050. What do you hope is different about Essex Junction?

INTERESTED & AFFECTED PARTIES (IAP)

To identify impacted communities and community assets, CCRPC staff used the [Chittenden County Community Asset Map](#) and collaborated with local partners to identify communities and voices who should be included in outreach and engagement efforts. This includes consulting with the CCRPC Community Engagement Advisory Committee to identify other potential IAPs and voices that may be missing from the conversation. CCRPC will use this list to recruit members to the three topical focus groups and to ensure that broader community engagement reaches all community stakeholders.

- Working Parents + Families / Youth
 - Tamara Eklof, EWSD EL Program Coordinator / Mckinney-Vento Liaison and Erin Maguire, Director of Equity & Inclusion / Co-Director of Student Support Services
 - School events (Hiawatha, Thomas Fleming, Albert D Lawton, Essex High School)
 - Essex Junction Recreation & Parks events
- Low(er)-Income (Renters, Affordable Housing Residents, Houseless Population, etc.)
 - Heavenly Pantry
 - Brownell Library

- Residents of subsidized housing communities (Monarch Apartments, Whitcomb Woods / Whitcomb Terrace)
- BIPOC Communities
- New Americans / English Language Learners
- LGBTQ+ Communities
- (Dis)Ability Community
- Elderly
 - Essex Senior Center
 - HomeCare Assistance of Greater Burlington
 - Essex Rotary
- Communities of Faith
 - Holy Family Church Community Center
 - First Congregational Church
 - Calvary Baptist Church
 - St. Lawrence Catholic Church
 - Essex Alliance Church
 - St. James Episcopal
 - Grace United Methodist Church
 - All Nations for Jesus Christ Church
 - Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
 - Other (non-Christian) religious communities
- Small / Locally Owned or Franchised Businesses
- Farming & Agriculture
 - Whitcomb’s Land of Pumpkins and Corn Maze
- Environmental groups – connect with Siler Climate Consulting / residents interested in energy / climate topics
- Tourists/Visitors
 - People attending events at Fairgrounds
 - People eating at restaurants
 - Amtrak & GMT users
- Other

Engagement Plan: Timeline & Activities

STEP 1 | Situation Assessment (January 2026)

- **Research the community context** in Essex Junction leading up to this comprehensive plan update and review previous engagement efforts with Essex Junction communities since 2020 to avoid duplication and inform engagement priorities.

STEP 2 | Collaborative Design with Community & Planning Commission (February – March 2026)

- **Develop an engagement strategy** in collaboration with the Essex Junction Planning Commission, City Staff, CCRPC’s Community Engagement Advisory Committee (CEAC), and local partners.
 - This may include meeting with all City department heads to understand engagement context, confirm department priorities and challenges, and coordinate upcoming engagement activities.

STEP 3 | Planning & Coordination (January – March 2026)

- **Coordination** with Planning Commission, Staff, and partners.
- Develop engagement materials. Depending on the strategy identified in Step 2, this may or may not include:
 - Comprehensive plan overview for education (what is a town plan, what is included in the town plan, what does it do/why does it matter?)
 - Discussion guides for focus groups and interviews
 - Presentations for focus groups and events
 - Printed maps of Essex Junction (for dot activities)
 - Flyers for events
 - Tabling materials
 - Bar coasters
 - Community survey text / questions

STEP 4 | Engagement Activities (Spring – Fall 2026)

- **Ongoing Partnerships** with key organizations and community members.
- **Focus Group Conversations** | Organize and facilitate 3 focus groups that will meet 2-3 times each around the identified Strategic Action Plan pillars. Invite priority populations to all, but in particular to the Economic and Business Development sessions which will focus on economic mobility.
 1. Housing and Urban Design
 2. Business and Economic Development
 3. Energy and Climate Resilience
- **One-on-One Interviews** | Offer one-on-one interviews with additional interested and affected parties (e.g., small business owners, indigenous community members, City Council members, first responders, etc.) on topics of interest to them.
- **Public Meeting** | Host one open house / public meeting for any member of the public to participate in.
- **Community Events + Gatherings** | Table at / attend up to 10 community events with engagement activities to assess support for SMART actions identified in focus group sessions and by City staff or the Planning Commission. Activities may include:

1. Dot Activities can be used both for ranking priority actions and for community values mapping (i.e. identify your favorite places in town, areas you'd like to see improvements, areas you feel unsafe walking or biking in town, areas you feel unsafe driving, areas you'd like to see more housing, etc.)
2. Money in a Jar: every participant gets a set amount of "Monopoly" money to add to jars representing how they'd like to invest public dollars.
3. Targeted conversations.

Events may include:

- Library Events
- Memorial Day Parade
- 4th of July at the Expo
- National Night Out on Tuesday, August 4, 2026, from 5:00PM to 7:00PM at Essex High School
- Champlain Valley Fair?
- Meet Me on Main
- Train Hop
- School sports events
- Small Business Saturday
- Annual Meeting (4/14/2026)
- **Public Surveys** | Consider using targeted surveys to reach specific groups or ask questions around specific topics, if appropriate.
- **Other Activities** | Offer additional, creative, forms of engagement to target additional populations and feedback.
 1. Support elementary youth through partnering with the public schools to draw their future Essex Junction.

STEP 5 | Results & Recommendations (Fall / Winter 2026)

- **Synthesize feedback** gathered through engagement.
- **Develop recommendations** to integrate feedback into the Comprehensive Plan.
- **Report changes** back to interested and affected parties to ensure accountability.
- The finished Comprehensive Plan will go to the City Council for adoption in August 2027.

Appendix A: Results from Previous Engagement Efforts

Essex Junction Community Vision & Strategic Action Plan (2024)

In August 2023, the City of Essex Junction embarked on the City of Essex Junction Community Vision and Strategic Action Plan process to deliver a 5-year Strategic Action Plan. The following is a summary of the results from the final plan, specifically the community engagement results.

- A repeated theme is the desire to retain a “neighborhood village” feel while planning responsibly for growth.
- Many residents support growth that is community-led, inclusive, and aligned with local values, while others are concerned about the impacts and change to community identity that growth will bring.
- Strong interest in improving transparency, civic engagement opportunities, and trust in decision-making.
- Many residents noted confusion about City governance following independence and want clearer civic information.
- Public amenities, community events, and shared spaces are seen as critical to civic pride and social connection.

Essex Junction Community Survey Summary Results

The City worked with Place Creative on a rebranding initiative following the City’s separation from Essex Town and the creation of its new identity. The following is a summary of the Community Survey taken by approximately 200 people (mostly but not all residents).

- Respondents generally report satisfaction with living and working in Essex Junction and see potential for future growth and opportunity.
- Many respondents emphasized the importance of maintaining a family-friendly, walkable, livable community.
- There is support for thoughtful growth (especially among newer / younger residents) paired with concern about the pace of change (especially among older / established residents).

Connect the Junction (Transit-Oriented Development Plan, 2025–2026)

This transit-oriented development (TOD) master plan, developed by the City of Essex Junction, works toward the vision of a more pedestrian-friendly City Center with more diverse housing options, vibrant public spaces, and safe and accessible options for walking, biking, and busing. The following are key engagement results:

- Common concerns include traffic congestion, lack of safe pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, and limited affordable housing options.

- There is a desire for a denser, more walkable 5 Corners and Pearl Street corridor, with the biggest challenge being seen as funding and the second being resistance to change.
- There is a desire for more green space, including programming and activities in that green space.
- More pedestrian and bike lanes, especially those that feel protected/safe, are desired. However, changes to vehicle circulation should be supported by studies to minimize further impacts to traffic problems.
- There is attention to preserving the character of the City while allowing for increased density and height.
- Businesses are highly valued, and more restaurants are desired.

Chittenden County 2026 Regional Plan Update Engagement – Phase 1

The first phase of regional plan community engagement focused on elevating the voices of those whose needs, priorities, and experiences were not adequately reflected in previous versions of the ECOS Plan. Feedback was summarized by regional plan chapter; the following selection includes those that align with the Essex Junction Strategic Vision and Action Plan pillars.

- **Ecological Systems and Climate Change:** Participants emphasized urgent action on climate change and environmental protection. Specific needs identified were: greater collaboration and transparency among decision-makers, affordable renewable energy for all income levels, and comprehensive climate education. Addressing the immediate needs of vulnerable populations and the inequitable impacts of climate change was highlighted as critical.
- **Land Use:** Participants supported denser downtowns with greater access to services, focusing on infrastructure and public transit while preserving Vermont’s natural landscapes. With denser downtowns, participants emphasized the importance of including urban green spaces and trees to mitigate the heat island effect.
- **Transportation:** There were major concerns about the inadequacy of public transportation, especially its failure to reach rural areas effectively and the lack of connectivity to essential services and town centers. Participants called for expanded routes and more frequent services to accommodate community needs, particularly for lower-income residents pushed out of town centers due to high housing costs.
- **Housing:** Many concerns were centered on the lack of affordable housing and tenants' rights. Maintenance issues were rampant, with reports of slow responses to repair requests, impacting living conditions. The need for housing that accommodates larger families was a recurring theme, highlighting the mismatch between available housing types and community needs, particularly among immigrant communities. Feedback highlighted a critical need for housing development strategies that cater to larger family units and consider cultural sensitivities, such as private cooking spaces. Participants also stressed the importance of safe neighborhood locations for new housing and the utilization of vacant lots for community housing projects.

- **Economy & Household Financial Security:** Input indicated that current wage levels do not meet the cost of living. Participants called for more job training programs and access to part-time work opportunities, reflecting the diverse needs of the community, especially among those who cannot commit to full-time employment due to family obligations.
- **Civic Engagement:** Feedback showed a desire for more accessible civic education programs that reduce bureaucratic jargon and make governance understandable and engaging for all community members. This includes providing education on how local and regional governments function and how residents can participate effectively in decision-making processes.

2025 Chittenden County Regional Future Land Use Map Update Engagement **– Phase 2 – Essex Junction**

The second phase of regional plan engagement focused on working with municipalities and partners to collaboratively re-create a Regional Future Land Use Map that aligns with Act 181 requirements and reflects the diverse needs and aspirations of all 19 Chittenden County municipalities. The following summarizes common themes heard specifically in Essex Junction.

- There was support for growth in the TOD study area and regionally-mapped Planned Growth Area to support housing availability, along with a desire for consistent walkability, transit access, and neighborhood services throughout the City. At the same time, there were concerns about building height, maintaining neighborhood character, managing growth, and traffic, particularly in existing residential neighborhoods.
- There was strong support for municipal housing targets as a meaningful, long-term planning goal, particularly when paired with infrastructure investment and permitting reform.
- There were concerns about equity, particularly from regional focus groups, about exclusionary zoning, housing affordability, and the need for supporting communities in achieving homeownership.
- Desire for increased certainty and predictability in the development process for both community members and developers.

2022 Chittenden County Active Transportation Survey Report

The purpose of this survey was to capture key insights from a statistically representative sample of Chittenden County residents that will inform decisions regarding walk/bike policies, conditions, and improvements.

- Most people rely on a personal vehicle for transportation, but people of color, those with lower incomes, and young people are generally twice as likely to carpool, bus, bike or walk compared with their counterparts.

- Older residents are less likely to use alternative forms of transportation and may not have access to secondary options if their main option is not available. They are also more likely to support improved bike / walk facilities than any other age group.
- Respondents generally rated transportation infrastructure as average or poor in terms of condition, efficiency, and safety. The top investment priority was maintaining existing infrastructure, followed by efficiency improvements, expanding capacity, and improving safety. Expanded public transit, improvements to bike / walk facilities, and TDM incentives ranked the lowest. Still, respondents are strongly supportive of bike / walk infrastructure.
- The top two design priorities for commercial streets among survey respondents were “safety of all users” and “creating a place where people want to spend time and money.” Still, respondents were mixed in their support for reducing vehicle parking and travel lanes in favor of protected bike lanes.

Chittenden 2025 Chittenden / Grand Isle County Community Health Needs Assessment

Health is a foundational need for individuals that can be influenced, positively or negatively, by public policy decisions. A Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) is a process that non-profit hospitals complete every three years in partnership with community-based organizations to learn more about the significant health needs in the greater community. The following is a summary of some key findings relevant to the City’s Comprehensive Plan Update from the CHNA for UVM Medical Center, whose service territory includes Essex Junction.

- **Mental Health:** Loneliness and social isolation were highlighted by focus groups as root causes of poor mental health and barriers to wellbeing. Health indicator data show an increase in the number of adults experiencing mentally unhealthy days, and 46.1% of adult survey respondents age 65 and older in Chittenden County live alone.
- **Youth and Schools:** Expanding youth mental health programs was the top choice among survey respondents for improving schools. 1 in 4 high school students in the UVM Medical Center Health Service Area reported experiencing bullying in 2023.
- **Built Environment:** In the Community Survey, 20% of respondents selected “more safety options for walkers and bikers” as their top choice for improving their community. More than 60% of Community Survey respondents said increasing affordable housing units is essential to improve health and wellbeing
- **Economic Mobility:** Gaps in median income by race, ethnicity, and gender continue to undermine economic security and equitable health outcomes. Over half of respondents reported that affordable childcare is not available in their community, limiting families’ stability and workforce participation

State of Vermont Climate Action Office Engagement

Vermont Voices on Climate quarterly reports share climate stories of those who call Vermont home. They are generated through conversations between Vermonters and the Climate Action Office, supported by Consensus Building Institute. The focus is to communicate the perspectives of those whose voices haven't historically been represented in government processes. The following is a selected summary of themes that align with the Essex Junction Strategic Vision and Action Plan pillars.

1. Equity and Accessibility

- Strong concerns about the cost burden of climate solutions (EVs, heat pumps, weatherization) on low- and moderate-income Vermonters.
- Rebates/tax credits don't reach the lowest-income residents; upfront costs are a barrier. Calls for direct, accessible funding and support.
- Climate programs should be simple, transparent, and easy to navigate; too much bureaucracy excludes those most in need.
- Need for plain language materials and communications.
- Renters and mobile home residents face specific barriers (split incentives, outdated infrastructure, lack of landlord investment).

2. Housing & Resilience

- Strong connections made between housing insecurity and climate vulnerability (mobile homes in floodplains, lack of weatherization for renters, post-flood displacement).
- Calls for better building codes, zoning, and land use regulation to prevent siting of affordable housing in high-risk areas.
- Requests for more resilient, affordable housing and climate-responsive infrastructure.
- Many Vermonters tied climate resilience to basic needs: safe housing, food security, healthcare, and community support systems.

3. Transportation

- Skepticism about EVs as the sole solution; concerns about affordability, waste, and global supply chains.
- Strong calls for expanded public transit, better bike/pedestrian infrastructure, and multimodal options.
- Rural residents stress the challenge of long commutes and lack of transit alternatives.

4. Energy & Utilities

- Desire for expanded weatherization and energy efficiency programs, with simpler processes and more local support.
- Interest in solar panels on every building, geothermal networks, and alternative clean energy systems.
- Frustration with complicated application processes; calls for "one-stop" resource hubs.
- Skepticism about biomass; interest in renewables that are accessible and equitable.

5. Agriculture, Food, & Land Use

- Recognition that farms and farmworkers are highly vulnerable to flooding and climate change.

- Calls for support for farmers using climate-friendly practices and for stronger regulation of pesticides and runoff.
 - Indigenous voices highlighted the importance of seed sovereignty, native knowledge, and protection of traditional practices (e.g., Abenaki basketmaking trees, resilient corn varieties).
 - Food systems seen as central to resilience: hunger councils, community gardens, and access to local food.
6. Resilience, Disaster Response, and Community Health
- Trauma from flooding and extreme weather is widespread. Calls for better state disaster response that reduces bureaucratic hurdles and provides direct support.
 - Resilience is framed broadly: includes mental health, disability inclusion, youth engagement, and immigrant support.
 - Strong appreciation for community-based organizations (CBOs) and desire to fund them directly as trusted messengers.
7. Trust & Governance
- Many expressed skepticism about government and corporate interests; climate solutions should not be driven by profit.
 - Strong desire for community-led, locally based solutions.
 - Importance of consistent presence—“show up, and keep showing up”—to build trust.
8. Youth, Education, and Future Generations
- Youth want more involvement in climate conversations.
 - Calls for better climate education in schools and youth leadership programs.
 - Youth Climate Leaders Academy created momentum for integrating youth voices in state processes.