NEARLY 100% OF CLIMATE SCIENTISTS AGREE:
Greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel combustion in cars, power production, and manufacturing are causing the temperature of the earth to rise.

Climate change is real and has already affected Vermont.

IN THE PAST 50 YEARS:

- Average AIR TEMPERATURES have increased by:
  - 2°F in summer
  - 4°F in winter
- SPRING now arrives two weeks earlier
- WINTER starts one week later
- ANNUAL PRECIPITATION in Vermont has increased by almost 7 inches.

CLIMATE CHANGE INCREASES HEALTH RISKS FOR VERMONTERS

- **Summer heat** can cause sickness and death. On days when the average statewide temperature reaches at least 87°F, EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS for heat-related complaints are 8 times more likely.

- **Heavy rains** can send contaminated runoff into drinking and recreational waters. From 2005–2014, Vermont averaged 500+ reported CASES OF WATER OR FOODBORNE ILLNESS each year, with more cases reported after heavy rains, although it’s assumed that many more cases are never reported.

- Warmer conditions have contributed to increased black-legged (deer) TICK POPULATIONS and lengthened their active season.
  - In 2015, Vermont had the highest number of LYME DISEASE cases per capita in the U.S.

- A longer growing season and more carbon dioxide in the air increases pollen, which can cause seasonal allergies and ASTHMA ATTACKS. 11% of adults in Vermont report having asthma and 8% suffer from hay fever.

Vermont is expected to continue warming in the future, leading to hotter summers, shorter and milder winters, stronger storms, and more frequent droughts.
WHO IS AT RISK?

In Vermont, everyone is at risk for climate-related health effects. Severe weather, illness, stress and anxiety can affect anyone in any location. There are some groups in Vermont whose health is especially vulnerable.

- People who spend a lot of time outdoors
  - Outdoor workers, athletes, and hobbyists
  - Homeless people
  - Those living in flood prone locations or valleys with poor air quality

- People with health sensitivities
  - Elderly adults
  - Infants and children
  - Those with chronic medical conditions

- People with limited financial and social resources for reducing risk

To learn more about these and other actions you can take to prevent climate-related health impacts, please visit http://healthvermont.gov/environment/climate/take-action

By taking action to reduce climate change and to prevent health impacts associated with climate change, you can improve your health today and help ensure a healthier future for all Vermonters!

We’ll be continuing the conversation about environmental health issues in the coming months. If you have questions, visit http://healthvermont.gov/environment/climate or contact ClimateHealth@vermont.gov.