

For the past couple of years, I have been involved with climate change activism in Vermont, specifically working with the [350.org](http://350.org) campaign. To match the urgency of this global issue, and realizing the need for local responses, there have been rapid efforts to build a strong, statewide campaign around climate change. One component of this campaign in Vermont is the development of Climate Action Centers, physical spaces dedicated to building awareness, sparking political mobilization, and encouraging and supporting the transition away from fossil fuels.

While working with the 350-Vermont steering committee last summer, I engaged in conversations with people around the state about the potential for these centers, both gaining an understanding of what has and has not worked well in the past around various sustainability initiatives, as well as brainstorming new ideas. Through interviews with people from groups such as Efficiency Vermont, Burlington Permaculture, town energy committees, local businesses and other centers, it became clear that - though much is going on already - raising climate change awareness and increasing motivation to act is critical in Vermont. Many of the individuals I spoke with had creative insights on how to best engage people through coordinated efforts.

My Environmental Studies thesis is focused around communicating climate change, and the takeaways from my summer research allowed me to begin work on creating a smaller-scale project that could be completed by the time I plan to graduate in May 2012. With the help of my advisers, I've developed an interactive project to communicate climate change. The objective is for it to serve as an educational tool that encourages climate change adaptation and movement-building around mitigative strategies. It will be launched in various communities around the state, and eventually be scaled up to the larger-scale project of Climate Action Centers.