



**State of Vermont**  
**Office of the Secretary**  
103 South Main Street, Center Building  
Waterbury, VT 05671-0301

[phone] 802-241-3600  
[fax] 802-244-1102

*Agency of Natural Resources*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 9, 2009

Contact:

Sabina Haskell  
802-241-1562

[Sabina.Haskell@state.vt.us](mailto:Sabina.Haskell@state.vt.us)

Doug Kievit-Kylar

802-241-3628

[Doug.Kievit-Kylar@state.vt.us](mailto:Doug.Kievit-Kylar@state.vt.us)

**New Year's resolution for Vermont schools:**

**Take the Carbon Challenge**

*Three Vt. schools in top 10 nationally*

WATERBURY, Vt. – Three schools competing in the Vermont School Carbon Challenge have leaped into the top 10 schools nationally at [www.Carbonrally.com](http://www.Carbonrally.com), which hosts the statewide contest sponsored by the Agency of Natural Resources.

Half-way through the Vermont School Carbon Challenge, 20 schools have already cut almost 51 tons of carbon – but there's still plenty of time to try to win \$5,000 for your school. (See attached Vermont School Carbon Challenge map).

Essex High School and the Center for Technology in Essex, Hazen Union School and Richmond Middle School are engaged in an intense battle for most members and most tons of carbon saved.

Other participating schools are: Cornerstone School in St. Johnsbury; Sharon Elementary; Milton High School; Brattleboro Union High School; Centerpoint School in South Burlington; Mount St. Joseph High School in Rutland; Woodstock Union High School; Salisbury School; Elm Hill School in Springfield; Oak Grove School in Brattleboro; Sunderland Elementary School; Stowe Elementary School; Stockbridge Central School; Northfield High School; Brown's River Middle School; Bethel Elementary School; Kindle Farm School in Newfane and Saxton's River.

The top high school, middle school and elementary school will each win \$5,000 for a future energy efficiency project. The school with the top team will also win another \$1,000.

"We're particularly excited about how Vermonters are setting an example for school communities across the country," said Jason Karas, founder of Carbonrally.com and a graduate of the University of Vermont.

“And it’s not too late to get involved in the competition. We’ve seen large teams of schoolmates, families and friends gather quickly and take challenges to cut carbon emissions and energy costs.”

The Vermont School Carbon Challenge is sponsored by the following Vermont businesses and organizations: Beverage Association of Vermont, Biomass Energy Resource Center, Inc., Cabot Creamery, Casella Waste Management Systems, Inc., Central Vermont Public Service, Efficiency Vermont, Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, Green Mountain Power Co., VELCO, Vermont Country Store, Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund, and Vermont Energy Partnership.

Schools can sign up for the Carbon Challenge by visiting the Agency’s Web site:

<http://www.anr.state.vt.us/carbonchallenge/>. There, students and teachers learn more about climate change, find useful links and educational aids and will be directed to Carbonrally.com where they will create their teams, take challenges or propose ideas for new challenges.

Some of the most popular challenges in the competition include:

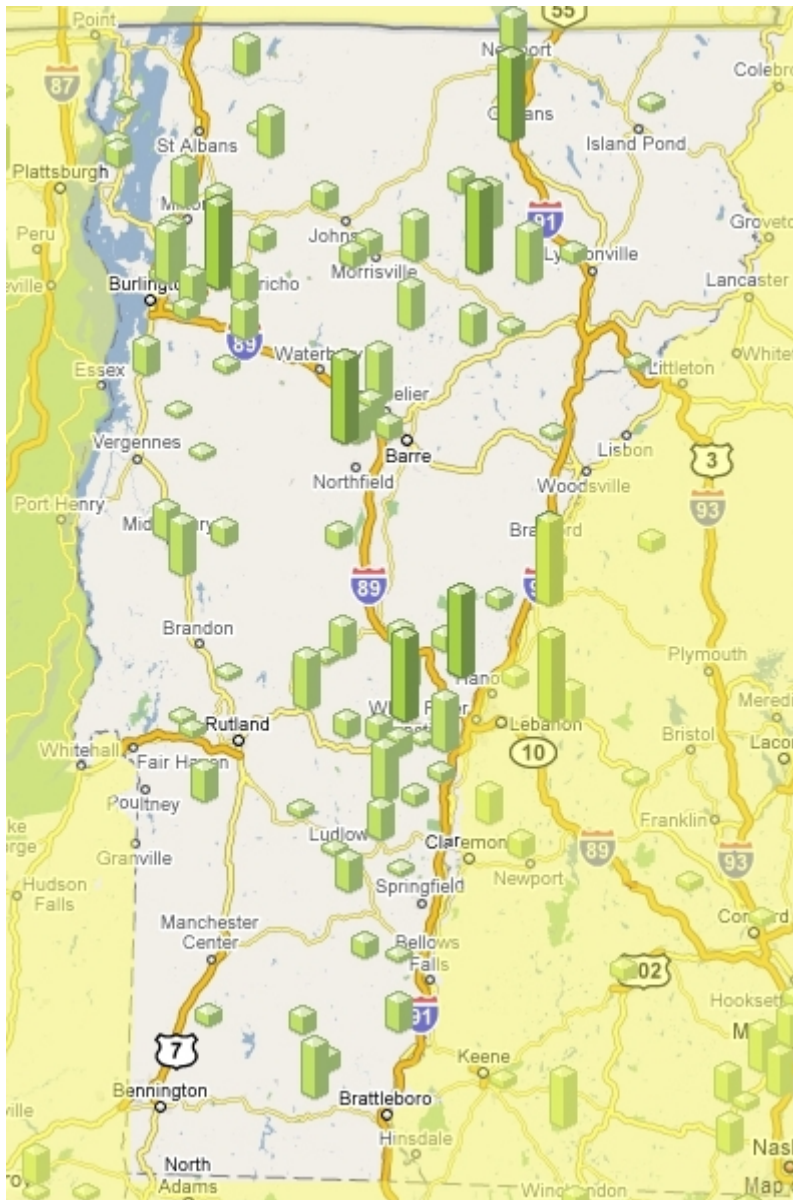
- Avoiding meat for two days (eliminates 13 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub>)
- Knocking two minutes off your daily shower for a month (15 pounds CO<sub>2</sub>)
- Unplugging your computer at night for a month (51 pounds CO<sub>2</sub>)

Carbonrally.com then tracks every pound of carbon saved on its “rally machine” and the results are tallied in real time on the website’s leader board.

The web-based contest allows students, teachers, schools and families to compete with each other to see who can rack up the biggest reductions in carbon emissions by making simple, but lasting, changes in their everyday activities.

### **Putting CO<sub>2</sub> into Perspective:**

- A 75-watt light bulb burning for two hours a day generates an average of six pounds, or six big balloons, of carbon dioxide a month.
- You produce ½ pound of carbon dioxide when you watch television for an hour.
- You put 20 pounds of carbon dioxide into the air when you burn one gallon of gasoline in your car.
- One pound of carbon dioxide gas has a volume of 8.2 cubic feet. You could store two pounds of carbon dioxide in the average kitchen refrigerator.
- A one-pound CO<sub>2</sub> balloon would be about 2.5 feet wide. Forty-seven such balloons would fill up your living room – every day.



*Department of Fish & Wildlife. Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation. Department of Environmental Conservation*