

## Science & Data Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council Meeting

### Wednesday August 4, 2021 Meeting – Minutes

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Time: Wednesday August 4, 2021 1:30 – 3:45PM

Location: Zoom: Meeting [recorded and posted publicly](#)

Subcommittee members present: Jared Duval, Richard Hopkins, TJ Poor, Jay Shafer, Julie Moore, Leslie-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, Lou Cecere

Agency Staff Present: Megan O' Toole, Marian Wolz, Jane Lazorchak, Brian Woods, Claire McIlvennie, Collin Smythe

Additional attendees: David Hill (EFG)

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1:30 Welcome/ Agenda Overview - *Science & Data Subcommittee Co-Chairs*

1:32 [July 21 Meeting Minutes](#) Review – *TJ Poor*

- Comment to move L. Dupigny-Giroux from “Additional Attendees” to “Other Subcommittee Members Present”
- Minutes approved with that correction.

1:35 Timeline for Greenhouse Gas Inventory Review Task – *TJ Poor*

- Presentation today is intended as an introduction to report
- Comments from subcommittee are requested by 8/9 or 10
- Next week's meeting – discussion and finalization of deliverables
- Final subcommittee discussion 8/18
- Discussion regarding how subcommittee recommendations on inventory methodology will be applied to mitigation scenarios

1:45 Greenhouse Gas Inventory Review – Presentation & Discussion *David Hill, EFG*

See supporting document [Greenhouse Gas Inventory Review Presentation](#)

- Key findings
  - o Current inventory methods are generally consistent with other inventories
  - o Vermont can demonstrate leadership in the development of an actionable Climate Action Plan and its implementation based on the current inventory
  - o The current sector-based inventory does not represent or claim to represent life cycle emissions. Upstream and life cycle emissions can be analyzed to inform decision making without including them in the inventory
  - o There are opportunities for supplemental analyses (e.g. consumption-based or life cycle) to inform decision making and these are being used by other jurisdictions
  - o The complexities of full life cycle inventory accounting and reporting are immense and could divert resources from inventory and mitigation efforts that have more direct and practical connections to actions that reduce emissions

- Public awareness and education regarding what the inventory is and isn't is foundational for inclusivity

The subcommittee members discussed possible supplemental analysis - consumption based, life cycle (for particular sectors e.g., energy), global warming potential (GWP) time horizon (20y v. 100y, particularly for methane).

Subcommittee continued the discussion on the report, including:

- Consumption-based and/or life cycle analysis for particular sectors (e.g., energy)
- GWPs – AR4 v AR5. States awaiting updated IPCC inventory guidance prior to adoption of updated GWPs. Sensitivity analysis on GWPs is possible.
- Establishing emissions baseline and proportional reductions, particularly in relation to ozone depleting substances (ODS) substitutes used semiconductor industry
- Apparent inconsistency between using inventory methodology (sector based) to evaluate achievement of statutory targets, and use of supplemental analyses (consumption-based) to inform policy development in particular sectors (e.g. energy), and implications of emission reductions resulting from state policy that existing inventory would not account for
- Need to avoid recommendations that reduce VT emissions as measured in the inventory but increase emissions elsewhere
- Renewable energy certificate (REC) accounting – the report recommends that RECs should be included in inventory. RECs should also be tracked/accounted for region-wide (MA methodology, NEPOOL GIS)

The subcommittee discussed an accounting methodology for biomass fuel used for building heat and how that relates to land use. The development of the carbon budget will in part address this issue. Recommendation is to evaluate biogenic GHG emissions as part of a supplemental evaluation.

Next steps on Inventory Report

- 8/6 Subcommittee comments/edits deadline
- 8/9 revised report provided to subcommittee
- 8/11 meeting – discussion and framing of subcommittee report-out to full VCC
- 8/18 meeting - final discussion and decision on final deliverable to VCC

Subcommittee will also discuss social cost of carbon analysis by EFG at 8/11 meeting

### **3:15 Task Lead Updates (as applicable)**

LEAP model

- work on non-energy sector emissions
- Incorporation of draft mitigation pathways into LEAP

Economic analysis (based on LEAP outputs) starting in a couple weeks

Cross Sector Strategies

- No update

Social Cost of Carbon

- Report to be circulated soon, review next week

Data Collection/Measurement and Tracking System

- No update

EAN noted their webinar of yesterday on their Pathways Model. Materials to be posted on EAN website shortly. Next week EAN will be hosting webinar on equity and mapping.

3:30 Public Comment (See Video)

3:40 Wrap-up/ Next Steps *Science & Data Subcommittee Co-Chairs*

Next meeting Wed 8/11

- Follow up on process for inventory review
- Social cost of carbon discussion

3:45 Meeting adjourned

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