

Just Transitions Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council April 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: April 15, 2021 4:00 – 6:00 PM
Location: [Microsoft Teams](#) Meeting recorded to be [posted online](#).
Subcommittee Members Present: Sue Minter, Sarah Phillips, Jennifer Myka, Kelly Klein, Danielle Bombardier, Virginie Diambou, Beverly Little Thunder, Kashka Orlow
Staff Present: Jane Lazorchak, Liz Shields, Amanda Carlson, Abbey Willard, David Plumb, Ross McDonald

- 4:00 PM Check In – Introductions and a sign of spring people are enjoying
- Welcome new subcommittee member Kashka Orlow
- Review and Approval of Agenda and [4/8/2021 Minutes](#)
- Approved
- 4:19 PM Subcommittee Welcome to The Public Engagement Consultants:
- Climate Access** – Cara & Meredith
Rise Consulting - Sarika
- Their approach:
 - **Co-creation**
 - Equity & respect
 - Practices: polling, connecting climate change to what is relevant in people’s lives, utilize leaders in community
 - Identify & connect with target audiences
 - Roundtables with 20 representatives from BIPOC communities, and 20 representatives from rural communities
 - Develop a public engagement plan
 - Testing messages
 - Social Media campaign
 - Put together a collateral kit
 - Create survey
 - Online dialogue and deliberation process, and voting platform
 - 10 Stakeholder dialogues
 - Work with partners to distribute draft Climate Action Plan
 - Press conference & 4 public events in partnership with community organizations
 - Platform called Ethelo will be used
 - Subcommittee discussion with consultants
 - Member mentioned interest in other subcommittees in deliberative polling
 - Make sure materials and outreach is in multiple languages
 - Discussion of differences in early public outreach strategy vs. later in the process strategy

- Keeping in mind outreach to elderly population
- Broadcasting the basics – how do we engage people who are not thinking about climate change often
- **Ask:** Go into link and populate spreadsheet with key stakeholders and people who should be interviewed

5:09 PM Public Comment

- Pat Sagui spoke, comments can be heard in the video recording

5:13 PM Additional Announcements & Subcommittee Business

- Sue updated on work to advance the Just Transitions Guiding Principles that will be discussed in greater detail at next meeting. The goal is to deliver Draft Guiding Principles to other subcommittees by end of April to help influence their work. Contact Sue or Sarah if you'd like to participate in small work group on these principles

Updates from Director Lazorchak

- Technical subcontractor won't be on board until mid-May; they will provide analyses for economic and technical pathways
- Discussion of moving due date for draft Climate Action Plan from early Oct to early Dec to allow more meaningful public engagement while still conforming with statute
- Gave update from Steering Committee
 - Another weekly meeting may start happening between co-chairs
- Meetings will transition to Zoom

Reporting back from participation in other Subcommittees

- Kelly shared that Cross-Sector Mitigation focusing on four topics: transportation (demand reduction and fuel switching), housing – fuel switching, residential and commercial buildings (weatherization, heating & cooling), power, non-energy (e.g. agriculture.)
- Iris and Abbey reported back from Ag & Ecosystems and described a ranking tool they developed
- Amanda reported that Rural Resilience subcommittee meeting focused on a mapping tool identifying environmentally hazardous areas
- Danielle reported back from Science and Data subcommittee, they are also working on a ranking tool

5:24 PM Sharing Personal Stories in the Energy/Climate Action Space

- Chris Campany – Chris out today, he will share next week

5:25 PM Community Listen – Iris Hsiang

- Shared story from youth perspective
- Iris pointed out the demographics in schools across the state skew heavily white
 - People of color are immigrants or adopted
 - Immigrant families she knows – some of the emigrated because of climate change

- Shared that her friends of color have disproportionately been affected by flooding
- Pointed out that the school system isn't doing a good job of teaching the interrelatedness of social problems – blatantly racist things being taught in schools
- Fellow subcommittee members thanked Iris for her thoughts
- Virginie echoed importance of 'true message' in education
 - Many refugees she knows are focused on sustaining daily life – no capacity to think of other issues- or time to take advantage of resources
- Kashka echoed comments about education - lower income people are focused on day to day hardships – our messaging needs to be simple
- Beverly pointed out that making things simple doesn't mean that marginalized populations don't have the intelligence to understand issues
- Liz echoed emphasis of young people on Just Transitions
- Kelly asked if youth have frustrations about lack of ways to be empowered?
 - Iris reflected that youth haven't had anything to do with the current climate crisis
- Sue echoed that youth is the voice of tomorrow

5:57 PM Public Comment
 • No comment

5: 58 PM Adjourn

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