Vermont Climate Council

A draft Process Roadmap for discussion
Four key aspects to discuss

Council Steering Committee

Ideally reach an agreement today on:
- Roles, composition, method for selecting members

Resolve later
- Exact names of members

Sub-committees

Ideally reach an agreement today on:
Roles, composition, leadership, method for selecting members

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- Exact names of members and co-chairs

Method for making decisions

Discuss today, finalize later

Public Engagement

Discuss today, finalize later
Council Steering Committee

**Roles**

- Develop Council meeting agendas
- Assist the Council to develop a slate of Sub-Committee members
- Develop common frameworks for Sub-Committee work (templates etc.)
- Serve as a clearinghouse for requests for technical help/contractor support
- Track progress and ensure an effective and efficient process.

**Composition**

- 2 from Executive Branch
  - Council Chair Secretary Susanne Young
  - ANR Secretary Julie Moore
- 3 from Legislature’s appointed members
  - Include at least one from those appointed by the House and at least one appointed by the Senate
  - Chosen by members appointed by Legislature
Sub-Committees

Roles

• Core function: Create recommended, draft initiatives, programs and strategies for the Council to review, refine and compile into Vermont’s Climate Action Plan
  • Work will start with inventorying existing efforts

Composition

• Council members and non-council members
• 8-12 members, ideally a majority are council members
  • Also, decisions about what to elevate to the full Council could be made by just Council members
• Criteria include: relevant expertise; sectoral, geographic and other balance
• Will be supported by agency staff
Sub-Committees (2)

Leadership

• Co-chairs:
  • One from Executive branch (or designee), one from the Legislative-appointed members.
  • In some cases, consider a third (perhaps even from outside council if needed)
  • Key attributes
    • Sufficient time availability
    • Substantive expertise
    • Willingness to work collaboratively
  • Will meet regularly together (all co-chairs) to coordinate substance across Sub-Committees

Selecting Members and Co-Chairs

1. Council members indicate preference
2. Council members suggest additional names to fill gaps
3. Steering Committee makes a proposed slate
4. Council confirms slate
Method for Making Decisions

- Strive for consensus, defined as: Everyone (or almost everyone) can live it
  - For decisions around the Council’s process as well as its Climate Action Plan.
  - Seek to creatively problem-solve in the face of disagreements
  - Help each other understand core underlying concerns
  - Explore creative solutions

- For disagreements around the Council’s process that can’t be resolved through consensus
  - Use the Council’s majority vote mechanism

- For disagreements that can’t be resolved on specific issues in the Climate Action Plan
  - Include multiple viewpoints on that specific issue in Plan, noting level of support (let’s avoid this as much as possible)
  - The Council has a majority vote protocol as back-up.

Why push hard for consensus?
1) politically more powerful; 2) cross-sector support ensures more rapid implementation, reducing or avoiding future roadblocks
Public & stakeholder engagement

**Stakeholder engagement – multiple levels**
- Composition of the Council
- Composition of the Sub-Committees
- Targeted outreach by Sub-Committees

**Public engagement – multiple levels**
- Sub-committees hold public forum around emerging recommendations
- Council holds public input sessions on draft Plan
- All meetings open to the public. Most have defined public comment period
Project manager and staff support

**Project manager**
- Manage and keep track of all the moving pieces
- Oversee contractors
- Shephard the written deliverables

**Agency staff**
- Each Sub-Committee will have agency staff support.
- Staff will help prepare inputs, plan meetings with co-chairs, draft outputs
- Will coordinate with project manager in shepherding written deliverables
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