

# 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

*Resolve later*

- 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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