

Science and Data Sub-committee

The Science and Data Sub-committee is responsible for incorporating the most recent and highest quality data and information available about climate change, mitigation, adaptation, and resilience into the Vermont Climate Action Plan. Our commitment is to be guided by evidence and peer-reviewed science, while employing credible, consistent, and transparent methods of assessment and analysis for Vermont. Additionally, because weather, climate, climate change and greenhouse gas emissions do not stop at state boundaries, a regional approach shall be used to complement the state-specific analysis of this subcommittee in order to address the full scope of data being explored and to set Vermont within the context of the climate change work taking place in neighboring states across the Northeast. The subcommittee will identify any critical scientific information, monitoring and/or evaluation gaps that currently exist, [both for statewide and regional analyses](#). One of the main deliverables of this subcommittee will be establishing an energy use and emissions baseline, including reviewing the suitability of Vermont's current GHG emissions inventory for assessing progress toward meeting the requirements of the GWSA.

Specifically, the Science and Data Sub-committee shall:

1. Work in partnership with the other sub-committees in an iterative manner to advise on the best available science on which to frame their work, and to learn from their analyses whether key sectors and populations have been omitted from data analyses and/or modeling and should be included.
2. Establish an energy use and emissions baseline based on current state and regional policies, as well as an assessment of options for meeting Vermont's energy needs through 2050, including appropriate allowances for efficiency and growth, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions in an economically viable and just manner.
 - a. Review the State of Vermont's approach to preparing the existing GHG emissions inventory and recommend modifications or adjustments, if needed, so that the inventory can serve as the basis for measuring progress toward meeting the GHG reductions requirements established in the GWSA.
 - b. Identify critical gaps in availability of and/or access to energy use, emissions, and climate science data that would be ideally used to provide recommendations on how to develop the datasets to support future modeling, monitoring, and/or evaluation work [at a statewide and regional level](#).
3. Build scenarios based on the work of the Cross-Sector Mitigation Sub-committee and in concert with the technical contractors as appropriate including:
 - a. The cost to the State of doing nothing in response to climate change; an emissions analysis of draft greenhouse gas reductions strategies proposed by the Cross-Sector Mitigation Sub-committee; and an economic analysis of the draft emissions- and adaptation-related strategies proposed by the sub-committees.

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b. Reflection of the relative contribution of each sector or category of source of emissions.

4. With the other subcommittees, develop the most appropriate recommendations for evaluating, tracking, and monitoring the progress of the implemented Climate Action Plan in the areas of mitigation, adaptation, community and landscape resilience to climate change.

Major Milestones for Sub-Committees

The following are the major milestones for the work of the sub-committees. As the Just Transitions and Science and Data sub-committees are largely in service to the other sub-committees, an understanding of these milestones will be necessary to inform the scope and timing of their work in support of the Rural Resilience and Adaptation, Cross-Sector Mitigation and Agriculture and Ecosystems sub-committees.

1. Finalize Subcommittee membership by the end of February.
2. Finalize subcommittee charge and prepare scope of work and timeline by mid March.
3. Review scope of Vermont's existing GHG emissions inventory and recommend modifications or adjustments, if needed, to align with the GHG reductions requirements established in the GWSA by...
4. Review existing energy use baseline and make recommendations for modifications, if any, to inform pathways discussion (energy management decisions) by...
5. Complete an assessment of options for meeting Vermont's energy needs through 2050, including appropriate allowances for efficiency and growth, by...
6. Develop "status quo" scenarios for 2025, 2030 and 2050 to be able to compare and contrast with mitigation scenarios by...
7. Develop monitoring and assessment strategy to be used to assess program effectiveness and progress toward meeting the requirements of the GWSA by...
8. Identify data gaps and strategies for filling them by...
9. Draft relevant portions of the Climate Action Plan by...
- 10.

Commented [MJ1]: I think we want to rewrite this to be specific to our work and have taken a stab at this below... I think the key for us will be to figure out the timing for these tasks such that they are able to be integrated into and inform the work of the CSM subcmte, in particular

In addition, in developing milestones, we should discuss where and when to engage the public – or if our work will rather be incorporated into engagement efforts of other subcmtes

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Commented [MJ2]: I see this as lower priority because we simply won't have time for any primary data collection between now and when the plan needs to be completed

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Each sub-committee will present the full proposed scope of it work to the full Climate Council for consideration at the March VCC meeting, including contractor work needed to enable sub-committees to craft their recommendations. ¶
Evaluates potential pathways for presentation to the Council at its April meeting. The pathways should be thought of as packages of strategies – An example of a pathway could be “690,000 EVs on the road by 2025” which you would also link to the specific reduction in emissions. ¶
Draft framework and strategies for presentation to the Council at its May meeting, including policy options, and cost and equity considerations. ¶
Participate in public engagement process around draft framework and strategies to be completed by end of June. ¶
Revise framework and strategies and prepare recommendations, including financing options, based of ...

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