

**Vermont Climate Council**  
**February 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

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Date/Time: Monday, February 22, 2021, 8:30 AM  
Location: [Microsoft Teams](#) - Meeting will be recorded and [posted publicly](#).  
Council Members Present: Abbie Corse, Adam Knudsen, Anson Tebbetts, Brian Gray, Catherine Dimitruk, Chad Farrell, Chris Company, Erica Bornemann, Jared Duval, Joe Flynn, Johanna Miller, Julie Moore, June Tierney, Kelly Klein, Lauren Oates, Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, Lindsay Kurrle, Liz Miller, Richard Cowart, Sean Brown, Sophia Clark, Sue Minter, Susanne Young and Director of Global Warming Solutions Act Jane Lazorchak

- 8:31 AM Convene/ Overview of Agenda/Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes  
*Secretary Susanne Young, Agency of Administration*  
*David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute*
- Agenda accepted as drafted except for correction of member Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux's first name spelling.
  - [February 8, 2021](#) minutes approved as drafted.
- 8:39 AM Subcommittee Presentations on Outcomes and Goals  
*David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute*
- [Vermont Climate Council Subcommittee Descriptions and Major Milestones for Consideration](#)
  - Subcommittees have until 2/23/21 to review nominations.
    - Only highest-level nominations will be shared with subcommittees; however, all are available for review via the master list spreadsheet which has been shared.
  - Initial draft was formed through direct charges to specific Subcommittees in statute and description of what is required in the Climate Action Plan.
- 8:45 AM Rural Resilience and Adaptation Subcommittee  
*Erica Bornemann and Catherine Dimitruk, Co-chairs*
- Logical progression in statute guides timing of steps to build resilience.
  - Need to determine priorities and milestones for 2021, intent of statute and where individual and community resiliency is not addressed.
  - Will work with Just Transitions Subcommittee to determine which will handle certain aspects of the charge.
  - Discussed rural vs non-rural and nature-based solutions – there seems to be a logical divide of farming and landscape.
  - Climate migration is another layer of work to consider with December 2021 in mind.
- 9:18 AM Cross-Sector Mitigation Subcommittee  
*Peter Walke and Richard Cowart, Co-chairs*
- Reducing emissions is the focus for this committee to meet deadlines in statute, including the 2025 deadline.
  - Need to develop a broad slate of recommendations across all sectors of the economy for the Council to consider.
  - Collaborate with Agriculture and Ecosystems Subcommittee on mitigation strategies; Science and Data Subcommittee to evaluate policy items; and Just Transitions Subcommittee regarding equity considerations, co-benefits, policy development and

solutions.

- Using five major topic areas to guide their work:
  1. Power production distribution and use.
  2. Building and heat.
  3. Transportation.
  4. Non-energy sector emissions.
  5. Finance funding and access to capital. It was noted later in the meeting that this is broader than budgetary as there are practicality considerations with many pathways for recommendation.
- Hard to predict future costs when developing policy proposals beyond 2030. Need to develop programs that have flexibility built into them for this reason.
- Provided several [policy outcomes and pathways ideas](#) generated at first meeting.
- Work will develop upon known variables now to develop policy pathways available to take.
- Recommendations that will be provided to the Council will identify those that need legislative action and have budgetary concerns.

9:45 AM Just Transitions Subcommittee  
*Sue Minter and Sarah Phillips, Co-chairs*

- Meetings have been focused on membership as that will drive their charge and timelines.
  - Need to engage those who have the time and are interested in policy making and work beyond developing the plan.
- Public engagement needs to include marginalized communities.
  - The recent RFP was reframed to address concerns provided by this Subcommittee but missed including the additional metric for scoring.
- Compensation for Subcommittee members is being discussed in the legislature.
  - Philanthropic funding opportunities is being considered for those working on the development of the Climate Action Plan.
- Request for a Just Transitions Subcommittee member to be on the hiring committee of the RFP for engagement/outreach.

10:17 AM Break

10:25 AM Agriculture and Ecosystems Subcommittee  
*Billy Coster and Abbie Corse, Co-chairs*

- Added charter considerations to include land conversion; and to advise other Subcommittees on land use issues including the siting of new renewable energy generation.
- Critical component includes food systems, securities and access.
- Will work with Rural Resilience and Adaptation Subcommittee on the effects from natural hazards, including flooding.
- Need to define/clarify roles and responsibilities of all involved in the work to be done.
- Need to have shared conversations regarding how the Comprehensive Energy Plan needs to be consistent with the work of the Council.

Note to include in objectives: The first order of business for each Subcommittee should be to create an inventory of all existing programs in this space to build upon and evaluate what has and has not worked.

- 10:51 AM Science and Data Subcommittee  
*Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux and TJ Poor, Co-chairs*
- Will work with all Subcommittees to monitor efficiencies, evaluate, and set up metrics and guideposts once the plan is in place.
  - Will look at economic modeling and climate resiliency pieces.
  - Need to look at a holistic perspective using the best science and data available.
- 11:01 AM [Review Major Milestones for Subcommittees](#)  
*Jane Lazorchak, Director of Global Warming Solutions Act*
- Steering Committee will meet bi-weekly.
  - Recognition for challenging timeline and early and ongoing public engagement.
  - Consider immediate focus groups as a pathway to gather information and ways to expand public engagement.
    - Subcommittee proposals should be sent to the Steering Committee for consideration.
- 11:35 AM [Energy Action Network Presentation](#) and Discussion  
*Jared Duval, Council Member*
- ~578,000 vehicles were registered in Vermont in 2017 - about 550,000 were powered by gasoline.
    - On average about 35,000 to 40,000 are purchased in Vermont annually, of which ~ 2/3 are used.
    - Goal: By 2030, 1/3 fleet to be electric.
  - There are ~260,000 households (including seasonal and vacation homes) in Vermont and about 330,000 housing units – some are multifamily.
  - Need to focus on critical point of new purchases that don't use fossil fuels.
  - Need to have easy access to programs and incentives available.
- 12:25 PM Next Steps  
*Jane Lazorchak, Director of Global Warming Solutions Act*  
*Secretary Susanne Young, Agency of Administration*
- Review of Subcommittee nominations to be submitted by 2/23/21 AM.
  - Steering Committee to discuss outreach and public engagement RFP.
  - Next full Council meeting is March 22, 2021.
  - Progress is being made on consideration for using Zoom.
  - An enhanced public engagement platform needs to be developed soon and should be discussed by the Steering Committee.
- 12:27 PM Public Comment
- Five members from the public spoke. Their comments can be heard in the [second video](#) of the recorded meeting.
- 12:45 PM Adjourn

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