Public Comment Meeting:
Core Principles of Community Engagement

Civil Rights and Environmental Justice Unit

VT Agency of Natural Resources

Friday, May 17, 2024

4:00pm – 5:00pm EST

This is a public meeting. The meeting is being recorded and will be uploaded to the Agency of Natural Resources' YouTube page and website.

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Welcome

Community Members

Environmental Justice Advisory Council and Interagency Committee Members

Civil Rights and Environmental Justice Unit

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Schedule for Tonight's Meeting

4:00 PM -- Welcome & Introductions.

4:05 PM -- Review Principles of Community Engagement: Part 1.

4:15 PM -- Public Comment.

4:30 PM -- Review Principles of Community Engagement: Part 2.

4:35 PM -- Public Comment.

4:55 PM – Closing.

Purpose of this Meeting

- **Provide information** regarding the Core Principles of Community Engagement.
- **Gather oral comments** regarding Core Principles of Community Engagement.
- Share information about the **current public comment period (May 1 - June 14).**
- Share details about the **next public comment meeting (May 22 from 12 pm – 1 pm EST).**

Oral Comment Guidelines

- All speakers will be provided a **2-minute time limit**.
- Provide **name and affiliation (if applicable)** at the beginning of your statement.
- **Opportunity** to complete **oral comment** will be provided.
- **Comments** must **pertain** to the **Core Principles** of Community Engagement.
- Opportunity to provide **written comment** will be provided

What is a public comment period?

What are the “Core Principles of Community Engagement”?

Who created the “Core Principles of Community Engagement”?

Who will use them?

Why comment?

What happens afterwards?

Core Principles Review: Section 1

1. Utilize existing guidance for equitable community engagement.
2. Value and integrate community input at every stage of agency action.
3. Build your agency's internal capacity for meaningful engagement.
4. Coordinate with other agencies to de-silo policy conversations and share resources.
5. Build resilience and trust by building ongoing, reciprocal relationships.
6. Prioritize voices most impacted by environmental injustices and address systemic barriers to participation.

Public Comment

Core Principles Review: Section 2

7. Compensate community members for their expertise and efforts.
8. Do your homework and adapt engagement to the communities' needs.
9. Conduct accessible and inclusive outreach and engagement.
10. Be transparent and accountable from start to finish.
11. Commit enough time to do engagement well.
12. Show up on the ground and work towards equitable solutions alongside community members.

Public Comment

How else can you participate?

- Provide **written** public comment!
- Another opportunity for oral comment:
  - **Wednesday, May 22 from 12 pm – 1 pm EST (Virtual)**
- **Sign up for updates** on the implementation of the Vermont Environmental Justice Law!
- **Attend a public meeting** of the Advisory Council and/or the Interagency Committee!

THANK YOU!

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