

# Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Public Comment\_ Core Principles of Community Engagement- 20240522\_120353-Meeting Recording

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48m 18s

● **Raimundi, Karla** started transcription

**RK** **Raimundi, Karla** 0:10

Hello everyone.

Thank you very much for being here today.

This meeting is being recorded and the transcription is on as well.

You are participating in the public comment meeting for the core principles of community engagement.

My name is Karla Raimundi and I am the director of Civil Rights and environmental justice and I am joined by my coworkers, Kim Barrett and Juliet Birch.

Thank you very much for being here.

Umm, all of you.

And please feel free to either raise your hand when the time comes to provide public comment, or write on the chat.

I will be monitoring the chat and making sure that your questions are lifted up.

Without further ado, I'm gonna pass it on to my coworker Juliet.

Thank you very much.

**BJ** **Birch, Juliet** 1:10

Awesome.

Thank you so much, Karla.

So Karla is the director of Civil rights and environmental justice at the Agency of Natural Resources.

Umm, we are a part of the civil rights and environmental justice unit and I would invite my coworker Kim to introduce herself before we continue.

**BK Barrett, Kim** 1:33

Hi, my name is Kim.

My pronouns are she, her, and I'm the other environmental justice coordinator.

**BJ Birch, Juliet** 1:42

Thanks Kim.

**BJ Birch, Juliet** 1:44

I am Juliet Birch.

I'm uh, the other environmental justice coordinator with Kim, and as I said before, we're the civil rights and environmental justice unit with the Agency of Natural Resources.

You might be familiar with our agency if you've ever hunted, been fishing, or enjoyed the Vermont State parks. Our unit specifically is designed to ensure that there is equitable access to all of the services that the agency provides, and we're also tasked with providing support in the implementation of the Vermont Environmental Justice Law.

Well, some of you might know it as Act 154. We'll go into a little bit of detail about that law as we move further into the meeting.

If there are any Advisory Council or Interagency Committee members present on the meeting today, I would invite you to introduce yourself now.

It looks like we don't have anybody from those bodies present.

Uh, so we'll continue.

Umm.

So just as a recap for a what our agenda is gonna look like today, first, we'll start with our welcome and introductions and then we'll be reviewing the 1st 6 principles of the core- the first six principles of community engagement as drafted by the Advisory Council and Interagency Committee, which is the topic of the meeting today.

Then at 12:15, we'll take a 15 minute a period for public comment.

Next, at 12:30 will be reviewing the next 6 principles of Community engagement and then open up again at 12:35 for 20 minute period for comm- public comment.

And then finally, we'll close out the meeting around 12:55.

Umm, so if everyone is comfortable with that schedule for today, we can move forward.  
Awesome, alright.  
And I'll pass it off to my coworker Kim to discuss why we're here.

**BK** **Barrett, Kim** 4:02

All right.

So the purpose of this meeting is to provide information about the core principles of community engagement, and that's a document and we're going to talk about that in more detail.

We're also here to gather oral comments about these principles and then to share information about the current public comment period, which is going on now until June 14th.

All right.

So I'm going to pass it over.

To Karla

**RK** **Raimundi, Karla** 4:42

Hello.

Hi I love the dynamism.

Like pass it on to Juliet and Kim...

I'm so glad to be joined by this incredible people in doing this work alongside them, so thank you very much Kim and Juliet.

So we- I'm sharing with you really briefly some guidelines for.

Umm, how we are gonna engage with each other and.

Relate with the public comment period, so all speakers will be provided at two at 2 minute time limit.

This is to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to provide comments.

If you have not completed your comment after the two minute time limit, we will provide additional opportunity to do so.

We're gonna do a circle process, so we're gonna open up the floor 2 minutes per individual, and then if you complete your comments, then we're gonna pass on to the next person for two minutes, and then we're gonna start over again.

So there will be opportunities to complete the comment either during the that same period or after the meeting in a recording and or as you request.

Please remember to provide your name and affiliation if applicable, at the beginning of your statement so that we can follow up with you when we're going over the the comments that were provided.

The comments must pertain to the core principles of Community engagement so that we are efficient with our time together.

And as I mentioned, there will be opportunities to expand comments should you wish to do it in writing.

You are very much welcome to do that and if there are no questions with regards to these guidelines, then we're gonna start with the substantive part of this meeting today.

Kim, the floor is yours.

**BK** **Barrett, Kim** 6:55

Uh, thank you.

**RK** **Raimundi, Karla** 6:55

Thank you.

**BK** **Barrett, Kim** 6:58

Alright, So what is a public comment period?

It's a range of time that community members have to submit your input before the agency makes any final decisions, and it's really just your opportunity to be heard and to weigh in on what's happening.

So what are the core principles of community engagement?

So those are a set of guidelines and values that kind of outline how we as community members, individuals, organizations can work together to overcome different systemic barriers recognizing that meaningful engagement has not been traditionally an equitable thing.

Umm.

And so these principles are away for the agencies that are covered within the Vermont environmental justice law to participate it's to guide how they participate and connect

with community.

So who created the core principles of Community engagement?

There are two bodies that were created under the Vermont environmental Justice law. One of them is the Advisory Council, which is made up of 10 people, 10 representatives from communities impacted by environmental injustice, and they were appointed to their positions by the legislature.

The other body is the Interagency committee, and that's a group of 10 representatives from each of the- or 9 representatives from the covered agencies, and then one representative from the Office of Racial Equity.

So those folks work together alongside this, the agency of Natural Resources, but they really spearheaded the creation of these core principles of community engagement.

Then who will use them? The agen- the covered agencies.

So the agencies under the law will use these to guide their community engagement plans, which they'll put together to support how they engage with the community.

Why comment?

So it's important to comment because we want to, we want to hear your voice, you all understand and are experts in your communities. In these agencies we're responsible for showing up in the best way and we're working towards that.

And so your voice is an important piece of that.

And then what happens afterwards?

Umm.

We'll receive your oral comments or written comments however you choose to share your feedback until June 14th will provide responses to those comments and then work them into the principles which will inevitably provide guidance to the covered agencies.

Umm.

OK.

I'm just gonna pause because that was a lot of information.

And then we're going to actually look at the first six principles.

So these principles, the first six are part of UH, a section focused on laying the foundation.

Umm, so the first is to utilize existing guidance for equitable Community engagement, so not reinventing the wheel and all kind of going with umm what's working.

The second is to value and integrate community input at every stage of agency action. The third is to build your agencies internal capacity for meaningful engagement. Umm the 4th is to coordinate with other agencies to desilo policy conversations and share resources.

The 5th is to build resilience and trust by building ongoing and reciprocal relationships, and then the 6th is the prioritized voices most impacted by environmental injustices and address the systemic barriers to participation.

So we're going to just hold the slide for another minute.

So folks have a chance to read as well.

That would be great.

All right, sounds good.

**BJ** **Birch, Juliet** 12:01

Awesome.

Great.

Thank you so much Kim, for talking to us about the first six principles.

Umm, we will review principles 7 through 12 a little bit later in this meeting, but first we wanna open up the floor for public comment.

Just a reminder that this first section for public comment will be about 15 minutes long. We'll give an opportunity for anybody who wants to give comment to provide a 2 minute comment.

And if you haven't finished your comment during those first two minutes, there will be opportunity later in the meeting to finish up.

And if you still haven't finished your comment by then, we will provide other opportunities as well after the meeting as well as in written form if that is preferred by you folks.

Just another reminder if you would like to provide comment in this meeting, please use the raise hand feature up at the top of your screen.

That should be between people and react.

If you raise your hand, that will help us determine what order will be receiving comments in so I'll give folks an opportunity to just raise their hand if they want to provide comment today.

All right, so I'm seeing two hands.

If anyone else during the- during this meeting decides you know Ohh I've gotten a lot of information that I'd like to provide comment on, please feel free to raise your hand at any point.

And for those of you who have already raised your hands, once you've completed your comment, if you could put your hand down and then if you would like to continue and uncompleted comment at another time you can put your hand back up and that will reset the queue if that makes sense.

So we'll start first with Hayley.

If you would like to take the floor, I'll give you 2 minutes.

**HS** **Hayley (they/them), Slingshot** 14:17

Awesome.

Thank you so much, Juliet.

And just to clarify, if I have comments on some of the second chunk of principles, should I save those for the 2nd portion?

**BJ** **Birch, Juliet** 14:27

That's OK, you can definitely provide comment now, and if you'd like, we can also bring up the screen with the that second chunk of principles if it is helpful for you to reference.

**HS** **Hayley (they/them), Slingshot** 14:31

Yeah.

Alright, OK, I'll start and we'll see how far I get.

Thank you.

**BJ** **Birch, Juliet** 14:42

Great.

**HS** **Hayley (they/them), Slingshot** 14:43

Awesome.

So hi everybody.

My name is Hayley Jones.

They/them pronouns and I am the Vermont and New Hampshire state director with a group called Slingshot where we work alongside communities most impacted by environmental threats to take aim at polluters and build community power.

From 2019 to 2022, I had the pleasure of working with Rejoice Project, so rural environmental justice opportunities, informed by Community expertise, which is this collective of Community partners and policy experts and academics who all work together to help craft this EJ policy rooted in Vermonters' lived experience. And I'll just provide a little context by saying Rejoice was really excited to see our work culminate in the passage of this EJ Law

And we also know that getting a law on the books is just one piece of the puzzle, right? We know that effectiveness at the end of the day comes down to implementation and so we're really grateful for the work of the EJ Advisory Council and for the Interagency Council and for the EJ coordinators past and present.

All that y'all have done to draft these community engagement principles, so I have a couple quick reflections that I'd love to share with y'all.

I doubt I'll get through the first ones in this chunk, but recognizing that environmental justice, it's about it's about product, but it's also really about process.

I wanna think a little bit about principle 3 where it says build your agencies internal capacity for meaningful engagement and you guys are probably intimately, intimately aware that the first version of this bill allocated \$3 million for 12 positions across at least three agencies to take on the EJ implementation process.

Unfortunately, the bill has passed covered only the mapping tool and two positions- is that time.

**BJ** **Birch, Juliet** 16:47

Yeah.

Thank you so much.

**HS** **Hayley (they/them), Slingshot** 16:48

Alright, umm.



**BJ** **Birch, Juliet** 16:50

And if you would like to continue your comment, we'll just put you back in the queue, if that's OK.

Thank you so much for getting us started.

All right, Liz, the floor is open to you.

**L** **liz** 17:06

Thanks so much.

And my name is Liz Curry.

She/her pronouns.

I'm an independent consultant working with many manufactured home- resident owned manufactured home communities to help them with infrastructure redevelopment.

I also wanna thank you profusely.

The way Hayley did, but I don't wanna take up time and just say we are very lucky to have your team there at the agency of Natural resources with your leadership.

Karla, thank you.

So first I want to say for the introduction, the document takes a while to bring readers to an explicit definition of EJ populations, and I just suggest sometimes Vermonters need more direct explicit language.

And I just wanted to suggest putting that definition, maybe from Title 3 right up front.

It's great that you linked somewhere down the rabbit hole to the Hemus principles.

It would be nice to see them elevated as well.

Umm.

Principle three in terms of building your agency's internal capacity for meaningful engagement.

To me, the overview seemed a little disconnected from the recommendations.

The 1st and main recommendation for institutionalizing capacity is just start with job descriptions, but I think training leadership is fundamental to the success of new hires who may possess an understanding of EJ Community engagement, but also like the

recommendations suggest staff should be aware of the engagement planning process awareness seems very soft peddled and kind and just curious why the document doesn't

really explicitly say leadership training, staff training and embedding that kind of infrastructure in any division or state agency or department.

So that new hires won't feel frustrated if they do come with EJ Community engagement skills.

In addition to- this is a I'm sorry I can't say exactly where this is- but I know there's a recommendation to solicit engagement around budgets.

I just wanna say that state agencies receiving federal funds typically have to draft and submit an annual plan for how those funds would be spent.

This is a critical place for community engagement and I feel like it should be elevated so that it's explicitly said.

If you have to solicit for a federal document community engagement, this is where, especially for ANR, finding out what EJ populations feel and is important is the is an just an incredibly important I'm thinking of the intended use plan that the SRF program has to use.

There's no community engagement.

That's a great place.

A great pilot opportunity to start with umm so I know is I'm not sure if principle five is in this comment section. Umm.

**BJ** **Birch, Juliet** 19:51

Umm, sorry to interrupt.

I just wanted to let you know that you're about first two minutes have elapsed, but if you would like to continue your comment, you can raise your hand again and we'll put you in the queue.

**L** **liz** 19:57

Go through it.

OK.

Like I'll do that.

**BJ** **Birch, Juliet** 20:04

Thank you.

All right.

If there are any folks on the call who have not already umm, begun a comment but wouldn't like to give a comment, I'm gonna open this up as an opportunity for you to do so now.

Now, if not, we will return to Hayley.

**RK** **Raimundi, Karla** 20:28

Actually there is a comment in the chat that I would like to share with folks and then we can start again with the rotation

And it's from Teresa Gerade.

I think I'm mispronouncing your name.

I am sorry about that and the comment is- Juliet, could you please go back to the screen where this first six principles are?

**BJ** **Birch, Juliet** 21:00

Yes.

**RK** **Raimundi, Karla** 21:01

I'm going to read the comment: "#2 community input at every stage.

How do you plan to provide this?

I am a member of an environmental group in the Northeast Kingdom and I work hard to follow the NBA, the Environmental Notice Bulletin, however, even various various heads of the ANR have admitted how difficult it is to use that.

How can you better provide access to the economically depressed population of the Northeast Kingdom?

How do you know- principle #4.

How do you plan to hold the various agencies accountable when they are not working together at has, as has been the case with the watershed management division and the solid waste and prevention division as they address various permits applied for by the Coventry Landfill?"

Thank you very much Theresa for your comments.

These are very important questions and I will offer that we will consider very carefully

these questions and we will provide a detailed response summary that you would have access to so that we can engage more around these questions with you.

Thank you very much for your comment and I think we can now start the rotation again.

Umm Hayley, you were-

You were getting to the meat of your comments when the two minute elapsed, but I am very interested in hearing what else you have to say, which I know will be, like, really useful information.

HS

**Hayley (they/them), Slingshot** 22:50

The clock started.

I'm back, you guys. Sorry.

So I was just saying, you know, we know this bill passed with about 1/4 of the original funding intended, you know, covering these two positions at the Agency of Natural Resources and with really limited or nonexistent compensation for the EJ Advisory Council.

So I just want to acknowledge that discrepancy and say it again for folks in the back: yes, it's so incredibly important to recruit and hire an on board to have this enthusiasm for an experience in environmental justice work.

And then, and I'm not saying this to you, I'm saying this to those in power or those lawmakers in power, you need to pay people well.

You need to set reasonable work expectations, right? And also understand that there's no way that one individual can or has to represent an entire community.

I also quickly before I leave you guys alone, wanna talk about principle 8 and 12 thinking about principle 8 where it says do your homework and adapt engagement to your community specific needs with a specific focus to the question.

Do I understand how my agency and other related agencies have engaged with this community in the past, and what were the results of prior engagement?

You know this... there... state agencies have caused harm in the past with funky or inequitable or just not entirely well crafted community engagement methods.

And that is not necessarily the fault of those currently employed, but it is a legacy, right?

And so there has been an erosion of trust in a number of communities, and it is a... it's our job to tackle that and to work on that and to say, you know, this, this has been the

past and it doesn't have to be the feature.

And finally, Principal 12, I was looking at the spectrum of Community engagement to ownership that y'all referenced and I was really seeing that most of the agencies... shoot- current tactic.

**BJ** **Birch, Juliet** 24:56

You can finish it if you'd like to finish your your sentence, please.

**HS** **Hayley (they/them), Slingshot** 24:57

I'm gonna finish.

I would love to most of the current tactics are really falling in phases one and two, right?

So really in that we will keep you informed and we care what you think.

And so open houses and public comments and focus groups.

They're better than closed door meetings for sure.

We have a long way to go to meaningfully shift that power, so definitely talk to your local organizers about how to do that.

That's all.

Thank you guys.

**BJ** **Birch, Juliet** 25:26

Thank you, Hayley, for drawing attention to those important... those important elements.

We are at the point in our agenda where we will take a moment to just review the second section of the core principles of Community engagement.

So for those of you who would like to give a comment or finish your comment, we will open up again in a few minutes.

Karla, do you have something you'd like to mention?

**RK** **Raimundi, Karla** 25:59

Yes, I would like to recognize some of the things that were mentioned.

Liz's recommendations about including references in the document regarding the importance of training job descriptions that capture the skills and values of JEDI.

It's of a of extreme importance.

Thank you very much, Liz, for lifting that up and recognize, hey, list comments regarding and this is this, I found very hopeful and I want to close out this comment period with what you mentioned about the legacy of injustices and that the past does not have to be the future in these core principles are really gonna take us to that hopeful for your sure of more meaningful community engagement by the state agencies who are covered by the environmental justice law.

So thank you very much for your thorough review of this document. It is because of you that we are doing this optional public comment period.

This is well beyond what's required by the law, but we wanted to ensure that the voices are brought to the fore and that we are centering is in communities.

So thank you very much and there's going to be another opportunity for public comment.

So you can definitely participate then again and complete your comment list.

I know you had more things to say and I would like to hear them.

So thank you very much and I'm going to pass it on to Kim.

BJ

**Birch, Juliet** 27:48

I'm gonna jump in right here and just review some of the second section of the core principles of community engagement.

Hayley had already mentioned, I believe it was principles 8 and 12, but we'll just review them in more detail here.

So principle #7 is to compensate community members for their expertise and efforts.

Umm, you know, community members, as my coworker Kim had mentioned before, our experts in their own right and in their own experience.

And so they should be compensated for that labor principle 8 is to do your homework and adapt engagement to the community's needs.

Principle 9 is to conduct accessible and inclusive outreach and engagement.

Principal 10 is to be transparent and accountable from start to finish.

Principle 11 is to commit enough time to do engagement well, and principle 12 is to show up on the ground and work towards equitable solutions alongside community members.

And before we open up the floor again for public comment, I'm just gonna leave this up here in case folks who are participating would just like to read these to themselves.

Awesome.

So we will take some time from now until I believe the agenda said 12:55 for another, you know about 20 minute long break for public comment.

Again, just a reminder, the comments will be limited to about 2 minutes, but if you haven't finished your comment during that period, another opportunity will be open for you to finish.

At the end of your two minute period,

I don't think I mentioned this before, so my apologies, but I will hold up my hand so keep an eye out for that.

Umm.

If there are folks who would like to who provide their first initial comment who haven't already, please use the raise your hand feature in Teams. It should be between people and react.

And Liz, I know you were interested in finishing your comments, so I would encourage you to raise your hand as well.

Umm.

And it also looks like we have potentially another comment here from Anne Janda.

I'm sorry if I'm mispronouncing your name. Anne said "I agree with Liz's comments about training.

I also think examples of effective Community engagement would be helpful."

Thank you so much for that input.

Umm.

And now, Liz, if you would like to take another two minutes to finish your comment, the floor is open to you.

**L** **liz** 30:52

Umm, thank you Juliet.

I'm sorry, I didn't know.

You're doing the hand thing, and I could you just interrupt me, please.

Just verbally in it'll be easier.

**BJ** **Birch, Juliet** 30:58

Yeah, absolutely.

**L** **liz** 31:00

OK, so I appreciate principal 5.

I just wanted to say that because I don't wanna this all just sound like criticism.

On this subject of pattern matching, in principle, eight, one of the greatest barriers to EJ population engagement is for those that don't have a cultural practice or feel the sense of entitlement or comfort.

Confidence required to attend meetings and give input.

So I thought what I would suggest is that, like, adapting your approach language is very big and there might be more impact if there's an explicit example of what to do, like meeting people where they're at appears in section 12, but you could put this right up in the pattern matching thing. You know, delivering the highest mutual benefit.

It really looks like meeting people where they're at going to physical meeting with EJ populations on their own time on their own terms where they meet, where they gather no matter what time of day or night it is, is what ultimately delivers mutual benefit.

And I just thought it might be helpful for state officials to understand that so that we don't see that pattern matching.

On principle 12,

I felt like that whole section uses the most powerful language in the document and it it would be really nice to see it come first and right up front because it's really so it really connects people.

I mean, I connected with it very strongly after kind of all the accolades up front.

You know, if it's an EJ document, let's just like put it out there into the accolades at the end.

So thank you so much.

I really appreciate this opportunity.

You all did an amazing job.

It's really exciting to see this whole process under your leadership, Karla, and the



amount of hours everybody's spent and I could just go on using my 2 minutes gushing, but I won't thank you again.

**BJ** **Birch, Juliet** 32:53

Thank you again, Liz, for your comments.

We really appreciate them if there are any other folks on the call who would like to participate in by providing a comment, we still have quite some time for you to do so.

So please raise your hand.

Karla, if there's anything you'd like to share.

**RK** **Raimundi, Karla** 33:16

Yes, I want to just express gratitude for the thorough review of the principles and the feedback and the advice that has been provided here.

It is important to hear what...

What thoughts you have regarding these principles?

UM, as we've mentioned multiple times, this will lead the creation of community engagement plans for the agencies that are covered.

So we want to ensure that this document is sound and that it speaks to the things that we really want to lift up with the document. And also I want to recognize the work of the two previous environmental justice coordinators as it pertains to this particular document.

Phoebes Potter and Alex Lintner, who worked tirelessly to put this document together and also remind everyone that we have a Vermont environmental justice online resource library.

You can Google that and then you'll see all of the documents that have been produced under the Vermont environmental justice law.

And there is a new message on the chat from the Terea uh in the message reads.

"I applaud any efforts to promote community engagement. After over five years of working to provide comment,

What proof is there that anyone has listened to the comment? How will you reward community members for the knowledge and expertise they provide, and how will it make a difference in decisions made by the Agency of Natural resources- by the ANR?"

Thank you, Teresa, for these important questions.

And I want to lift up Hayley's words about the past.

Does not need to be the future and this seminal work that's being produced under the environmental justice law.

It's gonna get us closer to where we all want to be at.

Thank you very much, Teresa.

Again, we're gonna consider all of your comments very carefully and we will provide responsive summaries. If you would like to receive the response summary, you can put your email in the chat and we will make sure to send that to you as well.

There's another comment in the chat.

Sophie Veltrop, staff person at the agency of Natural Resources. And the comment the question reads.

"Would it be possible to go back to the last slide?" OK there.

And Brian Davis, from, oh, just guest member.

Brian, thank you for your comment.

"I'm curious if the VTrans is transportation equity framework was used in developing these principles.

Will these two resources report rather than duplicate each other?"

Thank you very much for that comment, Brian.

The core principles were put together in close collaboration by- between the Interagency Committee and under the direct advisement and truly centering the voices of the Advisory Council member, the Advisory Council members, and this question is one that I will take some time to consider.

Not the part about whether the framework was utilized.

I don't know that it was... it was expressly mentioned Umm during the creation of the core principles, but to the second question, I expect that as part of the interagency committee's work that we are very intentionally breaking down silos.

So the answer to the second one I will answer in the affirmative.

Definitely ensuring that documents that have similar content are exponential in the impact and add to each other instead of detracting from each other.

So thank you very much Brian.

Umm, Liz, great.

Thank you.

And Teresa, fantastic.

Thank you.

We'll send you the response summary.

**BJ** **Birch, Juliet** 38:04

If there's anybody else who's online now and would like to be included in the response summary, we would encourage you to do just as Liz and Teresa have done and adding your email in there.

We would appreciate that if there's anybody online who would still like to provide oral comment, the floor is open for another 10 minutes or so.

So we would encourage you to do so.

And as you've seen, we'll also be taking comments in the chat.

So feel free to type it in there if you wouldn't like to speak.

Awesome.

We're getting uh additional folks adding their email into the chat.

So that's very much appreciated.

Thank you.

**RK** **Raimundi, Karla** 39:05

Any other feedback? Questions? UM.

I want to make sure we capture everything you may be thinking about this document that may help us make it better.

**BJ** **Birch, Juliet** 39:22

It looks like.

**RK** **Raimundi, Karla** 39:22

I see Brian's typing.

**BJ** **Birch, Juliet** 39:25

It looks like we have...

We might have some folks who are just now trickling into the meeting.

So just a reminder, we will continue to have the floor open for oral comment until 12:55 if you'd like to provide oral comment on the core principles of community engagement, we encourage you to use the raise your hand feature.

You can also provide comments in the chat if you'd like to type it out.

RK

**Raimundi, Karla** 40:04

So then, I will offer several... several pieces of information here for context.

And then if we don't have any hands up, Juliet, I think we can continue and move forward.

Umm.

So just as a recap, the core principles of community engagement are a deliverable on the Vermont environmental justice law.

It was actually the first deliverable that we worked on. And the core principles of community engagement, as per the Vermont environmental justice law that was enacted in 2022, will guide the creation of each of the agencies that are covered under the law, the creation of their community engagement plans. And in the online resource library, which the link is on the chat now, you can find the previous draft versions of these documents and a list of resources that inform the creation of these principles.

Again, this document is meant to be utilized by the agencies that are covered under the law to create their community engagement plans that are due in 2027.

I see a comment in the chat from Brian Davis: "Similar to what Hayley said.

I think the state will need to dedicate the funding and time required to do meaningful engagement, including incentives, compensating community liaisons, et cetera."

Thank you, Brian, for underscoring the importance of adequate compensation and.

Umm.

Adequate, adequate sourcing for this work.

Resourcing for this work.

Also, I wouldn't encourage reaching out to the legislators to your reps indicating and providing comment to this respect.

There's so much the agencies can do if the legislature does not appropriate the adequate resources for the implementation of the work, and I believe, like you, Brian,

that it was Hayley who lifted up this point in their comment.  
So thank you very much.

**BJ** **Birch, Juliet** 42:37

If we have no other, umm, if we have no other folks who would like to give comment, I'll leave- I'll leave just one more minute if anyone wants to sneak in, we'll leave that opportunity open, but if not, we can move forward with closing the meeting.

Let's see.

OK, it looks like we probably don't have anybody else online who'd like to give comment at this time. If I'm wrong and you would like to still use have some thoughts you'd like to share please, we encourage you to add those into the chat.

But for now, we will close the floor for oral comment and move forward with kind of closing out our meeting today.

Thank you so much.

Let's see.

I'll pass it off to Kim to talk about how else we can participate.

**BK** **Barrett, Kim** 43:41

Awesome.

Alright, so you can provide a written comment public comment.

That's one way. I'm gonna drop some of these things in the chat right now.

You can sign up for updates on the implementation of the Vermont environmental justice law.

You'll see the link in the chat as well.

You can attend a public meeting of the Advisory Council and or the Interagency Committee. They each meet separately and then also together we really encourage you to join and share comments as well.

That would be great to see you there.

And then you can reach out to us with questions.

If you want to discuss your comment more, just connect.

I'm gonna put our information in the chat as well.

Yes.

And then the public comment period for the core principles of community engagement will be open until June 14.

**BJ** **Birch, Juliet** 44:54

Great.

We really encourage you guys to reach out.

All three of us love to talk about this subject, and we're thrilled to answer any questions, so please reach out at any time.

Umm, we love to connect. But as of right now, we've shared with you all the information we have, if there's anything that you folks would like to, you know, add to this conversation, please feel free to unmute or type it into the chat.

Umm.

Looks like we have a comment from Teresa.

"Is there a document available that has more info about the principles?"

Yes, if you take a look at the environmental justice Online resource library that Kim dropped in the chat, that library.

If you go into the community engagement resources folder and then into the public comment folder in there, you'll find not only the complete draft of the document, but also a fact sheet that gives you some really quick important notes to keep in mind.

If you don't want to read the full document. So hopefully, hopefully you can get some answers there, Teresa.

But if not, you can always reach out to us For more information as well.

Umm Karla, is there anything you'd like to share?

**RK** **Raimundi, Karla** 46:22

Yes, I want to share that Kim uh put on the chat a link to the online resource library just now.

There are many resources there that pertain to the implementation of the Vermont environmental justice law, and there is plenty of information on the creation of the core principles and each of the principles includes a description of what it's meant by the principle and then how to operationalize it.

I would also like to encourage you all to share that this document is up for public

comment until June 14th with your network so that we can expand reach and make this document seen by as many folks as possible in the interest of improving content and ensuring that it resonates with the audiences that we're intending to benefit from these principles.

So thank you very much to you all for your active engagement in this conversation.

Thank you very much to Kim Barrett and Juliet Birch for their work in this presentation.

And the careful and well thought delivery of the information.

Thank you very much to all of you and have a beautiful rest of your day.

Take care.

**BJ** **Birch, Juliet** 47:55

Thank you everybody.

**BK** **Barrett, Kim** 47:55

Something.

**BJ** **Birch, Juliet** 48:08

I don't know if Karla stopped recording, so I'm gonna see if I can do that before we end the call.

● **Birch, Juliet** stopped transcription