

**Vermont Climate Council**  
**June 16, 2025, Meeting Minutes**  
**11am-2pm**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85686310095?pwd=4KlNqJaXDFsCFFI9zaI3c6CqkTJQ9i.1>

Meeting ID: 856 8631 0095

Passcode: 241477

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**Councilors present:**

- Liz Miller
- Rich Cowart
- Andrea Wright
- Chris Company
- David Mears
- Jaiel Pulskamp
- Jared Duval
- Kelly Klein
- Secretary Julie Moore
- Matt Cota
- Liz Miller
- Michele Boomhower
- Peter Sterling
- Ryan Patch
- Shayla Livingston
- Stephanie Moffett-Hynds
- Will Eberle
- Johanna Miller
- Secretary Sarah Clark

11:00 AM Welcome/Overview of Agenda/Approval of [Minutes](#)  
*David Plumb, CBI*

The Council approved the minutes from June 9th with the following addition:

- Change “Can the health costs and benefits be included in the modeling?”  
to a request instead of a question.

11:05 AM Reviewing Written Public Input  
*Sophi Veltrop, Climate Action Office*

11:10 AM Working through Essential Concerns or Edits in Chapters  
*David Plumb, CBI*

- Leftover from June 9
- Public Engagement, Land Acknowledgement, Appendices and Tables

The Council discussed the following changes to chapters:

- Transportation:
  - Add a sentence at the end of the footnote: “The Council also recommends taking complementary actions to reduce emissions.”
  - Change the second sentence to: “As of the writing of this Plan, there is not an immediate opportunity for Vermont to join a multi-state cap-and-invest program.”
- Progress assessment chapter:
  - Needs to be made more current – Jane will make the changes
  - Would like to see how Vermont is doing on emissions reductions
    - This is addressed in the Scientific chapter - include a reference to it in this chapter and direct readers to that chapter. Additionally, use plain language in the Scientific chapter to explain how Vermont is doing in terms of emissions reductions.
- Vermont energy economy chapter:
  - Still have some significant comments and concerns. Jared and Julie to work on this on Wednesday. Concerns include:
    - Organizational issues - it jumps back and forth between sectors in a way that’s not clear
    - Page 6 figure from EAN report - unclear on how the 59% of annual electricity spending said to be recirculating in the Vermont economy is calculated - especially since a significant portion of our electricity comes from Hydro-Québec
    - The narratives of workers in the fossil fuel industry versus the clean economy are not presented in a parallel way (in terms of wages). Is this comparison helpful?
    - Why are clean energy employment numbers included in a section with Efficiency Vermont instead of being presented with employment numbers in general?
    - Page 107 on wood pellets needs some work. There is an opportunity to produce these inside Vermont and we should acknowledge this.
    - The costs of climate damages feels out of place. Potentially combine with the resilience and adaptation piece at the end and point specifically to the Rural Resilience and Adaptation chapter. This resilience section doesn’t feel like it talks with the Rural Resilience and Adaptation chapter.
      - Can attach some numbers to it. Pull in the Rebuild by Design report, as one reference point. Could reference superfund law which obligates the state to

calculate total costs for the covered period. And make sure this is offered as only “for example,” not exhaustive costs.

- Question about EAN figure on page 9. How do we arrive at a 20% energy burden for a salary that isn't significantly different from the next category.
- Legislative action and rulemaking table:
  - Delete the table and put the paragraph into the conclusion and executive summary, rather than making it a stand-alone chapter. Change the last two sentences of the paragraph to say something like: “The recommendations in this plan will require a combination of legislative and administrative action.”
    - And change reference to the Climate Action Plan, not the initial Climate Action Plan
- Edits to Top 10, Top 52:
  - Add numbers for easy cross-referencing. Including this, perhaps with hyperlinks to the full text, would be helpful.
  - In top 10, add more nuance into “join” a cap-and-invest:
    - “Take preparatory steps now and join a cap-and-invest program as soon as a viable option is available”
  - How to deal with the top 10 when we’d like to expand it.
    - Support utility programs that ensure the electric grid supports customer electrification and resilience (cite both 4 & 6)
    - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles and buildings through electrification (cite both 2 & 9)
  - In general, show the link to the respective top 52 priority actions
  - Let’s be explicit that there is no implied ranking within the top 10 and top 52.
  - Flip the order of the bullets in the Top 10 under “Identify funding and [add “also”] support the needed workforce”
  - Change “Reducing emissions” to “Reducing climate pollution”

12:50 PM      Break

1:00 PM      Public Comment

Annette Smith and Sister Laurian S. offered public comment:

- Would like to know how the Council views its accountability for recommendations in the Plan, such as the ongoing implications of the Clean Heat Standard. Is there any accountability when recommendations are not followed through on by the legislature?
- Please maintain the timelines outlined in the Climate Action Plan. We hope you will expand public access to community solar and work to eliminate or reduce climate emissions from heating buildings with fossil fuels.

1:15 PM      Final Cleanup (as needed) on Priority Recommendations  
*David Plumb, CBI*

Councilors noted the following cleanup needed on the priority recommendations:

- Update the geothermal recommendation with new language
- Update Rural Resilience and Adaptation #12:
  - “Continue to implement Act 181, an act relating to community resilience and biodiversity protection through land use, by increasing investment in walkable and livable communities while also reducing sprawl, protecting critical natural resources, addressing flood adaptation and resilience of historic villages and downtowns, and planning new development away from flood, fluvial erosion, and landslide hazards.”
- Councilors send typos and minor edits to Liz Amler

2:00 PM      Adjourn  
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