

**Vermont Climate Council
May 5, 2025, Meeting Minutes
11am-2pm**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88126076668?pwd=7EYQqaVsWZqjCSGuA3PMNbx63LcaI9.1>

Meeting ID: 881 2607 6668

Passcode: 943175

Councilors present:

- Chris Company
- Dahlia Cohn
- Secretary Julie Moore
- David Mears
- Jaiel Pulskamp
- Jared Duval
- Michele Boomhower
- Kelly Klein
- Secretary Sarah Clark
- Kerrick Johnson
- Rich Cowart
- Johanna Miller
- Eric Forand
- Liz Miller
- Ryan Patch
- Matt Cota
- Lindsay Kurrle
- Stephanie Moffett Hynds
- Brian Dunkiel

Meeting objectives:

- Review public input from the April community meetings and written comments
- Review and discuss the Business-As-Usual consultant report
- Determine priority actions needing revision given this input

Agenda:

10:55 AM Climate Council Members Gather

11:00 AM Convene/Welcome/Overview/Approve [Minutes](#)
Secretary Sarah Clark and David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute

11:05 AM The Council approved the minutes from April 14th.
Climate Council Appointments
David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute

New Councilors Stephanie Moffet Hynds (filling the rural seat) and Brian Dunkeil (filling the Vermont manufacturer seat) introduced themselves. Will Eberle (Capstone) was also newly appointed, and will join in subsequent meetings.

11:05 AM Reviewing public input
David Plumb, CBI

- Reading time (15 mins)
- Exercise – pulling out key themes and their implications for the Council's Priority Actions (50 mins)

Councilors shared the following reflections after reviewing public input:

- Prioritization can happen in two ways: 1) elevating certain actions for additional attention, rather than eliminating anything and 2) categorizing existing actions (potential categories: biggest impact, 'seeds to sow now' for long-term goals, and low-hanging fruit).
- We need to be flexible during prioritization due to uncertain federal funding which could impact town budgets. Incorporate a statement in the executive summary acknowledging the significant shifts taking place in federal funding.
- We should still be open to combining/reshuffling actions that overlap or conflict.
- Top priorities need cost estimates or aspirational pricing, given competing interests and federal and regional uncertainty.
- The Council should revisit the question of integrating and evaluating new or ideas that were not included. Let's be sure to distinguish between ideas that didn't make the cut for good reason and new ideas surfaced in public input that deserve consideration.
- Concerned about the lack of diversity in public participation.

12:10 PM Break

12:20 PM Public Comment

Henry B., Pat S., Paula K. and offered public comment:

- Who pays for what, and where does the money flow? We need a clear breakdown for each action to show this – people care most about who pays and who benefits.
- Please don't minimize the uncertainty we face and prioritize the most vulnerable. We can't change the weather in Vermont, and anything Vermont does won't alter the climate. While those goals are admirable, as

someone who has lived off-grid, participates in community solar, and made updates, it's still scary. Serving in a municipality and interacting with the public on planning and flooding issues, the reality is concerning.

- I oppose the Clean Heat Standard. Even if it meets its goals—which I doubt – it lacks incentives to reduce wood burning, which could lead people to switch from oil to wood without real carbon savings. I don't believe these trade-offs are fully accounted for. It also makes Vermont less affordable. We're at risk of becoming a playground for the wealthy, while working Vermonters struggle. On electric vehicles, I think pushing all drivers toward EVs is shortsighted. They're expensive, charging is inconvenient, and future tech like hydrogen might be better. Many environmentally conscious people I know still choose gas cars because they're efficient, and more practical and affordable.

12:35 PM Consultant Report: Business-As-Usual Analysis
Consultants

Jason Veysey and Silvia Ulloa from Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) presented on updating the BAU model and developing scenarios to help close the gap between projected emissions and target goals. Watch the presentation and Q&A [here](#).

1:30 PM Identifying Issues Requiring Attention to Finalize Priority Actions
David Plumb, CBI

1:55 PM Next Steps
Jane Lazorchak, Climate Action Office

Councilors agreed on the following next steps:

- Set a submission deadline, point person, and a clear process for providing proposed revisions and any new recommendations that may have emerged from public input or Councilor review.
 - David organizes, identifies who needs to be there. Deadline this week or early next to get comments.
- CAO can collect and consolidate input, but Councilors need to be making decisions. A small group of Councilors should meet to make suggested revisions, with staff support.
- Some chapter revisions are already underway. They will be ready for review by May 19th, but the Council will not invest time at the May 19th meeting on them.
- Can we separate public input out by topic/subcommittee?
- Councilors need more discussion time to weigh in on the substance of the recommendations.
- Document the established process in written format.

2:00 PM Adjourn

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