

Vermont Climate Council
Sept. 15, 2025, Meeting Minutes
11am-12:30pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86866826751?pwd=Era9guLmpYGcoYNlhSG3s1A4HVWlFz.1>

Meeting ID: 868 6682 6751

Passcode: 782270

Councilors present:

- Stephanie Moffett-Hynds
- Matt Cota
- Will Eberle
- Secretary Lindsay Kurrle
- Jared Duval
- Secretary Sarah Clark
- Jaiel Pulskamp
- Johanna Miller
- Richard Cowart
- Liz Miller
- Ryan Patch
- Andrea Wright (for Secretary Michele Boomhower)
- Peter Sterling
- Kelly Klein
- Secretary Julie Moore
- Eric Forand
- Dr. Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux

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

The Council approved the minutes from June 23rd.

11:05 AM Reviewing [Written Public Input](#)
Liz Amler, Climate Action Office

Liz Amler shared an overview of written public comments received since the last meeting, including feedback on thermal energy networks, concerns about biomass considerations, and questions about the future role of McNeil and other power plants in the CAP.

11:10 AM Review progress on Climate Action Plan (CAP) [design, plain language summary and copy edits](#)
Sophi Veltrop, Climate Action Office

Sophi Veltrop shared a preview of the CAP's conceptual design, which aims to make the plan more accessible and easier to navigate. Plain language edits to the Executive Summary and Priority Actions chapters were also provided as an FYI, as these chapters will inform the development of the forthcoming summary. She reminded lead chapter authors to submit their edits as soon as possible. A Councilor asked the following question:

- Will this design be optimized for viewing on smaller screens (i.e. phones)?
 - *No, it will be a PDF. Optimizing it would require a full website, which is outside the scope of the contract.*

11:15 AM Review suggestions of minor substantive edits to the CAP
Liz Amler, Climate Action Office

- Remove a handful of Rural Resilience recommendations in the full table that are complete (and accidentally carried over)
- Respond to a suggestion to reword the geo-thermal recommendation

Councilors agreed on the following next steps for minor substantive edits to the CAP:

- A small group of Councilors will meet quickly and make minor clarifying edits to the Rural Resilience recommendations in the table (Secretary Kurrle, Jared, and Johanna with help from colleague Katie, and flag to David Mears, Chris Campany, and Andrea Wright). The mission is to keep the core content while updating language to reflect the current context (e.g., references to Act 181). Liz Amler will convene the meeting, and the group will report updates via email to the Council (Liz will send the email update, and Sophi can update the copy editor).
- Change language to: *"Utilities and their regulators should adopt standards and programs to support thermal energy networks, waste heat recovery, and geothermal networks, such as community-scale geothermal."*

11:40 AM Public Comment

Annette Smith offered public comment that included:

- She suggested that the group working on Act 181 language consult Peter Gil at the LURB (Land Use Regulation Board) to understand the current designation names.
- She expressed concern regarding interim exemptions to Act 250 for priority housing (where 20% is affordable housing). These exemptions apply even in special flood hazard areas, allowing the construction of

affordable housing in areas that flood frequently, which she argued counters resilience efforts.

11:50 AM Decide on suggestions of minor substantive edits to the CAP
David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute

12:00 PM [Legislative wrap-up – key climate-related state legislation](#)
Secretary Julie Moore, Agency of Natural Resources
Johanna Miller, Climate Councilor
Matt Cota, Climate Councilor

Secretary Moore, Johanna Miller, and Matt Cota provided an update on climate-related legislation discussed last session, noting that many of the bills can still be taken up in the next session. Councilors' reflections and suggestions for next steps included:

- Update the net-metering row to clarify that the Public Utility Commission (PUC) must convene stakeholders and recommend any change to the definition of “plant” to the Legislature in 2026, rather than redefine it immediately.
- Add a row summarizing highlights from the Transportation bill (e.g., development of a mileage-based user fee for electric vehicles, given the gap in the transportation fund).
- Johanna noted a \$350,000 budget allocation to support the Treasurer's work on climate superfund.
- Secretary Moore will work with her team and with FPR to ensure that climate-related issues in the forestry sector are covered.
- Ryan noted that no legislation directly discussed the CAP for the agricultural sector, but S60 (the Farm Security Special Fund for climate/weather disasters for farmers) is still active.
- Secretary Moore will work on sharing the IIAB report that tracks all climate spending to update the Council on which CAP programs have funding, and flag trends over multiple fiscal years.

12:15 PM Federal legislation and action that impacts climate action in Vermont

- *Liz Amler, Climate Action Office: [Overview of BBB & Impact of Climate Action, Congressional Review Act, Update on Clean Vehicle Rules](#)*
- *Melissa Bailey, Public Service Department: Energy Office Grant Implications*
- *Andrea Wright, Agency of Transportation: Overview of Electric Vehicle Charging Grants*

Liz Amler, Melissa Bailey, and Andrea Wright provided updates on federal legislation and actions. Liz Amler discussed Clean Car Regulations, and highlighted tools developed by the U.S. Climate Alliance, such as the Policy and

Program View Tracker. Melissa Bailey reported on the cancellation of the Solar for All Program and outlined Vermont's plan to challenge the termination. Andrea Wright shared that Vermont's NEVI (National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure) plan has been approved, funds have been obligated, and projects are underway.

12:25 PM Next Steps for the Council and Key Implementation Milestones

The Council agreed on the following next steps:

- The next Council meeting is scheduled for December.
- The Steering Committee expressed interest in thinking through key implementation milestones the Council may want to track.
- The Resilience Implementation Strategy will be finalized and released this week, and an overview from CAO and the Treasurer's Office should be added to the December agenda.
- ANR will provide an update to the Council on its work to develop a reporting framework and a December 15 recommendation on collecting greenhouse gas emissions data from fuel suppliers and other significant emitters.

12:30 PM Adjourn

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