

# Vermont Climate Council

March 13, 2023

# How we choose to work together

(i.e., Groundrules)

- *Be present with a clear mind & open heart*
- *Speak your truth while tending to the impact of your words*
- *Listen generously across difference, with the boundary of self-care*

# Capacity

What is the capacity of the Council, Subcommittee members, and State Agency staff? Is the proposed work realistic given what we know about capacity?

## Hypothesis to Test:

- Effort required for Initial Climate Action Plan can't be replicated
- State staff roles and level of support are shifting
- Need to be “clear-eyed” about aligning capacity and tasks

# Tasks

What are the tasks needed to set the Council up for a successful update process? What other tasks are needed to consider pending addendums to the current plan?

## Hypothesis to Test:

- Best and highest value use of Council time is:
  - Finalizing the biomass and transportation addendums (and likely no others)
  - Focusing on the revision (not wholesale rewrite) of the Initial Climate Action Plan
- With planning, there is an opportunity to do excellent work with the revision process on public engagement and implementing the Just Transition Principles

# Roles

What are the respective roles of the Council, Steering Committee, Subcommittees, Task Groups and administration staff?

Hypothesis to Test:

- Task Groups work is unwieldy, taxing on staff, outside of public process
- Subcommittees should channel most work around development of recommendations for Council consideration
- The Council should take on the role of addressing cross-cutting issues

# Process and Governance

Are there obvious updates to the Process Roadmap?

## Hypothesis to Test:

- Based on what we have learned, gaps that need clarification, and the changing tasks and roles, the Process Roadmap should be updated.
- The Council needs to clarify its process for voting, making decisions around multiple versions of documents.

# Public Engagement in 2023 and Beyond

## Objectives

**Enhance awareness** around climate action efforts in the state, with a particular focus on communities experiencing impacts and other frontline communities

**Lift up the voices and viewpoints of communities** into the implementation of climate-related initiatives and the ongoing work of the Vermont Climate Council, so that a diverse group of Vermonters can influence these efforts

**Build relationships and communication channels** that will help Vermonters work collaboratively on future climate action

# Public Engagement in 2023 and Beyond

Initial Approach for Contracted Support

## Public Meetings

- 6-8 public meetings each year, most likely virtual but could include in-person (with geographic diversity)
- Focus on substantive areas of ongoing policy work and implementation of CAP

## Partner Engagement & Direct Community Engagement

### Develop & sustain **partnerships** with key organizations

- Build off 2022 work with CAP agencies, Council on Rural Development, others
- Build specific areas of partnership and channels of communication

### Conduct **focus groups** with specific communities

- Targeted to populations not engaged to date
- Initial priority - immigrant and former refugee communities with language barriers

### Meet **frontline communities** where they are

- Creative avenues for engagement
- Attend events, meet people in gathering places, and more
- Focus on communities identified by JT Sub-Committee

### Convene a **climate action coalition** of organizations

- Pull together a group of frontline organizations working on issues related to climate action
- Build a community of practice around climate action



# Public Engagement in 2023 and Beyond

Elements of success

Feedback  
Loop

- Implement a predictable, effective process for receiving priorities for engagement from the Council / state govt, and communicating engagement results

Lift up voices  
not heard

- Strong focus on frontline communities and groups underrepresented in the work to date. Be creative in accessible and equitable methods

Build trust

- Work through partners and cultural brokers

Respect  
people's time

- Compensate frontline and impacted community members for their time

# Public Comment

- Comments from individuals in the room first, followed by those on-line
- Please keep comments brief to ensure everyone has the chance to speak and the Council has time to respond as appropriate.
- Please focus comments on the content of today's meeting.
- Please indicate by raising your hand (both in the room and virtually) if you would like to speak.

# Reflections and Next Steps

- Meeting in April will focus on Biomass Task Force recommendations, confirm output from this meeting (draft strategy document that captures outputs from this meeting)
- Schedule following meeting for April 10<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> - Continue to meet on Monday's for now
- Staff and Facilitator begin draft revisions to Process Road Map
- Begin public engagement