

Cross Sector Mitigation Subcommittee (CSMS) of the Vermont Climate Council

April 15, 2024 12pm-1pm

Subcommittee participants: Richard Cowart, Melissa Bailey, Jared Duval, Christine Donovan, Johanna Miller, Liz Miller, Erik Schultz, Gina Campoli, David Farnsworth, Adam Sherman, Andrew Wright

Other participants: Alex Reese, Steve Crowley

1. Introductions, Welcome new members (10 minutes)
 - a. Welcome Erik Schultz, Northeast Kingdom Community Action
2. Meeting date/time/frequency
 - a. Co-chair Cowart (RC) suggests monthly meeting
Group agrees, noting that work continues between meetings and that more frequent meetings may become necessary later in the year
Co-chair Bailey (MB) noted that status of task subgroups may result in changes to this.
RC will send around a proposal for a regular meeting time (Members generally preferred Thursdays)
3. Tasks for subcommittee for updating the CAP (10 minutes)
 - a. Guidance from steering committee.
4. What are subcommittee priorities? (10 minutes)
 - a. What issues are most important?
 - b. What do you want to work on?
 - c. What info do you need?
 - d. Who do we need to hear from?

Jared Duval (JD): stock taking of existing recommendations and status from the CAP Progress report; updated pathways analysis (include BAU estimates) will be important to this work

Christine Donovan (CD): need for level-setting effort--foundational establishing a baseline of understanding re: status of work so far, workforce, status of Clean Heat, etc. For example, 15 minutes presentations to help us share a common base of knowledge. Presenter with an eye toward where there are info barriers & gaps and the need for new approaches. CD adds: Possible key briefings during the onset of climate action planning by CSMS by outside leaders/experts deeply engage in most recent work in VT - focused on barriers, blockades, and gaps the next Climate Action Plan (CAP) might seek to address more directly - 1) limited workforce and WD actions needed most urgently; 2) potential "cliff" once ARPA, other recent federal \$ influx is over and biggest, best ideas thus for how to address the upcoming cliff; and 3) most recent legislative work on Clean Heat Standard (CHS) and update on where

Public Utility Commission (PUC) is on their work developing a proposed approach for the CHS.

David Farnsworth (DF): Workforce, Financing, what is the status of Tariffed On-Bill Finance pilots?

Joey Miller (JM): workforce, funding, especially time-limited funding (understanding Fed. programs, including Covid-related programs (e.g., energy and financial coaching). "What kind of runway do we need to create?"

RC: share additional ideas for *key briefings* suggested by CD. We also need to hear directly from the other VCC committees (current and proposed activities, and how to integrate proposals across the committees

Liz Miller (LM): Having the electric utilities maybe as a group for efficiency come to the Committee and answer questions, tell the committee about programs in progress both for customers and resilience would be helpful - I thought folks hit the other big points including workforce and funding for electrification weatherization and related

5. Structure (10 minutes)

- a. Use task groups ? If so, which ones?
- b. Process for task group research and recommendations
- c. Ensuring input and collaboration with other VCC Subcommittees

JD: Task groups are valuable; they get a background work done and bring it along to the full subcommittee and the subcommittee makes decisions about recommendations they will move along. Anything the task group does is vetted thoroughly before recommendations move to full council.

JM: Good to have workgroup develop a straw proposal for others

RC: Task group a place where research and initial thinking on issues takes place. The work group is "staff" for the subcommittee and this point-of-view helps in framing recommendations. Do we continue with existing groups: Thermal/bldg., Elec Sector, transport?

Andrea Wright (AW): we need to understand what we have been able to complete.

CD: Sector-focused task groups are a good starting point, then with a progress report ask ourselves what needs to be added?

JD: Organizing on a sectoral basis is helpful, but we want to be sure to consider multi-sector recommendations as well. We need to remember to ask broader questions when we consider individual sector questions (e.g., not ignoring broader emission reduction solutions when we look at GHG associated with transportation fuel solutions)

6. Quick reports from Thermal and Transportation task groups (10 minutes)

JM: Transport. group has not met since the addendum to CAP was adopted
Need to do additional work to better understand options in this sector.

AW: There is proposed language in the transportation bill proposed by the House.
There is a drafted a scope of work (including a tech advisory committee that includes
members of the CSMS). Jane Lazorchak CAO to review. Goal is to have consultant
firm on contract by June 1. (final report to be completed by mid Feb 2025; draft
report by end of year).

RC? Scope of work for this study would include options w/regard to joining another
cap-and-trade program and/or low carbon fuel standard program?

AW: Yes

JD science committee update—life cycle analysis (upstream analysis assoc. with VT
energy use) Upcoming briefing on GHG (need detail here df)
<https://climatechange.vermont.gov/event/science-and-data-subcommittee-meeting-5>
<https://climatechange.vermont.gov/event/science-and-data-subcommittee-meeting-6>

7. Climate Action Office update on Transportation analysis SOW (5 minutes) this item was
covered in the previous discussion.

8. Public comments (5 minutes)

Workgroups are not open and accessible to the public, and the public does not have
access until issues are presented to the full CSMS. Can we find a way to include
more public input earlier in the task group process?

9. Wrap-up – the meeting was adjourned at 1:00pm