

**Just Transitions Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council**  
**April 18, 2024 4:00 PM Meeting**

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Attendees: Sophi Veltrop, Carey Hengstenberg, Aleks Cirovic, Matthew LeFluer, Sam Lash, Callie Fishburn, Abbey Willard, Danielle Bombardier, Claire McIlvennie, Denise Bailey, Paula Melton, Anna Guenther, Mona Tolba, Kelsey Pasteris, Julia Scheier, Ed Algieri

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**4:00 PM Welcome & Check In (Abbey)**

- Review Agenda and Accept [Minutes from 3/21/24 meeting](#)
  - *Meeting minutes were accepted with no comments*

**4:10 PM Welcome to new Just Transitions subcommittee members!**

- Introductions (Abbey)
  - *Welcome to new members and introduction of all members*
  - *New members have attended a subcommittee member orientation session*
- Set up 'buddy system' for those interested (Sophi)
  - *Setting up a buddy system for youth members, Sophi asked if there was interest in a buddy system for other subcommittee members?*
  - *Several members expressed interest. Sophi will follow up with pairing up of buddies over email.*
- Any other questions from subcommittee members
  - *A request for print copy of climate action plan and update. Sophi Veltrop can send in the mail if requested.*
- Next meeting: we'll have a 'deep dive' on the [Guiding Principles of a Just Transition](#)—please read doc before our May meeting (Abbey)

**4:25 PM Climate Action Plan Update – what's to come in 2024**

- *There is an update to the climate action plan due July 1, 2025. Original plan adopted December 31, 2021.*
- *Walk through the [CAP Update Guidance document](#). Paula presented a summary presentation. There will be more community engagement opportunities for 2025 update. Other subcommittees are will be drafting most of the plan (Cross-sector mitigation, Rural Resilience and Adaptation, Agriculture and Ecosystems). Supporting roles for Just Transitions subcommittee and Science and data subcommittees.*
- *JTSC Subcommittee Responsibilities – participate as liaison members to other subcommittees, assist other subcommittees in use of the Just transitions Guiding principles, encourage community members and*

*leaders to share their lived experience at council and subcommittee meetings, attend public engagement events, share outcomes and lessons learned with the council and other subcommittees.*

- *Timeline for CAP workplans and CAP development shared.*

### **Q&A**

- *Concerns raised about the public engagement period after the draft Plan is written.*
- *The contract team is continuing to do engagement and outreach. A report was shared with JTSC last November, there will be ongoing outreach efforts throughout the development of the plan by the contract team. Kick off in June to let people know how to engage and be part of the process.*
- *Will things included in the original plan be open for discussion with the public? How much change to the original plan are we anticipating? Sophi is going to try to coordinate as best she can as the plan develops.*
- *Idea shared about a working group to put together a request to the steering committee? specifics on how to integrate and respond effectively and equitably to our community – Paula, Sam, Claire, Sophi and Carey expressed interest*
- *Public engagement should be more than bringing people from the public to subcommittee and climate council meetings. Public meetings should not be the only way to engage.*
- *Sophi shared an update on what public engagement contractors (Consensus Building Institute) are working on. Three members of the contract team are located in Vermont. They have been attending events mostly in Chittenden and Washington County but are expanding reach to other areas of Vermont. They will also be meeting with Community Based Organizations. Sophi will follow up with more detail before the next meeting. Consensus Building Institute completed quarterly reports and will be invited to the June JTSC meeting.*

**5:15 PM**      **Public comment – No comments**

**5:00 PM**      **Liaison Roles & Schedules**

- Review the four other subcommittees and their purposes; review Climate Council/committee structure (Sophi)
- Set up relationship and structure this summer (Abbey)
  - 2 liaisons per committee (that way it does not fall on one person)
  - Liaisons begin meeting with their non-JT subcommittee this summer
- Just Transitions subcommittee meetings will **not** occur in July and August. Autumn JT schedule may be less than monthly due to liaison work. (Abbey)

*Discussion:*

- *Several subcommittee members expressed interest in liaisons roles. Sophi will be coordinating introductions of liaisons to other subcommittees.*

- *A formal “liaison” is eligible for the for the daily per-diem for attending meetings.*
- *There was a suggestion to have a way to share best practices and or things liaisons learn from participating in other subcommittees. This may be possible but need to double check public meeting laws. Claire offered to help coordinate “knowledge bank”.*

**5:25 PM Co-chairs seeking support & looking to transition out of co-chair roles (Abbey)**

- *The co-chairs must be one legislatively appointed Councilor, and one Administration Councilor (or their designee)*
- *What are the responsibilities of a co-chair?*
- *A 3<sup>rd</sup> Co-Chair for now would be a great help*
- *Paula expressed the co-chairs had reached out about this and she was open to being part of additional support*
- *Other members agreed with adding more support, noting there is often burnout in these positions, opening up to more people will help the subcommittee run smoother and more efficiently*
- *Abbey shared some of the roles of the subcommittee including planning meetings and other administrative tasks, consulting with the VCC/CAO, also engaging with the public engagement; She noted it was necessarily many hours – more being able to mak space for the bigger picture*

**5:45 PM What’s Next?**

- *Question: Paula asked whether the subgroup making recommendations to steering committee regarding processes would be empowered to make those recommendations or if they should come to the committee to vet them before proceeding? Discussion noted they could proceed, circulating recommendations to the wider subcommittee for written feedback*
- *Meeting schedule for the coming months:*
  - *May: Focus on reviewing and discussing the Guiding Principles & Scoring tools*
  - *June: Focus on public engagement with CBI*
  - *July/August: Meeting break – subcommittee members focus on liaising with other subcommittees*
  - *Reconsider meeting schedule in the fall as needed*

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