

# Vermont Climate Council January 8, 2024 Meeting Minutes

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Date/Time: January 8, 2024 11:30 AM

Location: Virtual

Members Present:

Vermont Climate Council Members:

Allie Webster  
Bram Kleppner  
David Deen  
Denise Bailey  
Eric Forand  
Jaiel Pulskamp  
Jared Duval  
Johanna Miller  
Sec. Julie Moore  
June Tierney  
Kelly Klein  
Sec. Kristin Clouser  
Lily Terry  
Liz Miller  
Mark Levine  
Michelle Boomhower (in place of Sec. Joe Flynn)  
Paula Melton  
Peter Sterling  
Richard Cowart  
Ryan Patch (in place of Sec. Anson Tebbets)

Staff and Support:

Jane Lazorchak  
David Plumb  
Marian Wolz  
Cameron Hager  
Sophi Veltrop

11:30 AM Convene/Welcome/Overview and Approval of Agenda and Approval of [Minutes](#)  
*Kristin Clouser, Agency of Administration & David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute*

- Agenda and Minutes Approved by Council with one adjustment to the attendance list noting that Council member Jared Duval was not in attendance at that meeting.

11:35 AM [Resilience Priorities](#)- Responding to the Speaker's Letter  
*Rural Resilience and Adaptation Subcommittee*

- Paula Melton presented the Resilience Priorities.
- Council members requested the following amendments:
  - On Page 3, first section on weatherization, adjust to add the **bolded** text: “Equitable access to weatherization and other energy-related improvements is a top priority with far-reaching benefits: it protects vulnerable Vermonters from certain climate impacts and advances energy equity, health equity, and environmental justice. When operating at scale and paired with workforce development, weatherization, **electrification, and utility upgrade** efforts can create high-wage jobs, seeding a virtuous cycle that would improve the economy statewide. And yet no state entity is responsible for overseeing all the weatherization and energy efficiency related programs managed by the state, leaving large gaps in access, program implementation, and accountability.”
  - On Page 1, revise the first bullet point to “**The 2021 Initial Climate Action Plan and the Council’s forthcoming updates to the Plan in July 2025.**”
  - On Page 1, add to the list of bullets, [the announcement from the Treasurer and Governor](#)
  - On Page 3, include a reference to the Clean Heat Standard work that is currently ongoing at the Public Utilities Commission.
  - For additional context, adjust information to specify that this is from the Resilience and Adaptation Subcommittee, but there are other sectors, such as in Natural and Working Lands, where similar work is being done and needs to be done.
  - On the top of Page 4, regarding flood-vulnerable mobile home parks, add in language that makes reference to Section 404 and Section 406 from the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grants
  - On the top of Page 4, regarding the first priority, add language within “further considerations” to include programs for the unhoused and other vulnerable populations in addition to mobile communities

12:10 PM [Draft Legislative Report](#)  
*Jane Lazorchak*

- Jane Lazorchak provided a brief overview of the draft legislative report
- Council members requested the following amendments:
  - Under the Rulemaking section:
    - In opening first paragraph, link the report.
    - In the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, council members discussed making changes or adding language. A group of Council members will convene prior to the January 12<sup>th</sup> Council meeting to develop language changes.
  - On page 7, delete the third bullet.
  - Add the following language from EFG's report: "If LMI households do not receive sufficient incentive support, it will be difficult to meet the GWSA requirements. The incentives therefore serve to drive the necessary participation, but also are critical to making sure benefits are realized by Vermonters who are economically disadvantaged."

1:03 PM      [Transportation Recommendations](#)  
*Cross-Sector Mitigation Subcommittee*

Johanna Miller provided a brief overview of the Transportation recommendations.

Council members had no suggestions on the transportation recommendations. Two council members will reconvene before the January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting to make adjustments/changes to the context section of the document as there was discussion over what level of detail would be necessary for this document.

1:15 PM      Public Comment

- No members of the public made comment.

1:30 PM      Adjourn

- Next Meeting will be on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024.