

Agriculture & Ecosystems Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council October 15, 2021 Meeting

- Date/Time: October 15, 2021 9:00 AM
- Location: Meeting was hosted virtually on Zoom with a physical location at the ANR offices in Montpelier. Meeting was recorded and [posted online](#).
- Subcommittee Members Present: Abbie Corse, Billy Coster, Alissa White, Ryan Patch, John Roberts, Charlie Hancock, Iris Hsiang, Jake Claro, Judy Dow, David Mears, Lauren Oates
- State Staff Members Present: Marian Wolz, Jane Lazorchak, Ali Kosiba, Bob Popp, Judson Peck, Pat Field (CBI)
- 9:00 AM Greeting, Review and Approval of [Agenda](#) and [10/8/21 Minutes](#)
- Agenda and minutes were approved
- 9:05 AM Updates from 10/12 Vermont Climate Council Meeting (Jane Lazorchak)
- Approved decision-making protocol – removed ability to table items and added ability for all subcommittee members to vote on non-consensus items
 - Non-Energy draft actions presentation
 - Discussed GHG Inventory recommendations – Ag&Eco and S&D presented – approved – includes RFP to be managed by Ag&Eco to further research on climate tools and methods
 - Reviewed CAP Drafting Guidance document – including accepting comments and drafting deadlines
- 9:15 AM Prioritization Work
- Names of subcommittee members not posted publicly
 - Equity concerns if only equity screening high priority actions, could miss actions important to equity
 - Timeline – final matrix (including prioritization and equity screening) and written narratives for CAP due November 2nd
 - CAP will include paragraph for each strategy and each action and table for each action listing ranking criteria
 - Prioritization concerns on ranking – easy but low impact scored low, equity and planning actions may score low
 - Equity (Kiah) – will take time, deserves time despite unrealistic timeline
- 10:00 AM Equity Screen (Kiah Morris)
- Presentation on equity screening
 - May need to outreach to public for input
 - Important to be transparent on what know and don't know
 - Will take collaboration between state and private sector and public

- Breaking out into subgroups to discuss questions, but much of the work will occur outside of the meeting space. Public will be able to attend whichever breakout groups they prefer. For next week, reconvening after breakouts will probably not be feasible, but work will be ongoing.

10:15 AM Public Comment # 1

- Public comment received from Annette Smith, Cheryl Joy Lipton, Jennifer Ramstetter and Zack Porter, follow-up from Annette Smith.

10:40 AM Prioritization cont.

- Subcommittee re-visited Prioritization Spreadsheet and discussed role of oversight on farm building heat sources, as well as elements that had been ranked low but individual members wished to prioritize.
- Subcommittee discussed relatively short timeline and low prioritization response rate and decided to use the full prioritization spreadsheet for discussion, rather than the abbreviated spreadsheet.
- Subcommittee continued working through the spreadsheet and addressing line items that had misaligned rankings, to determine as a group whether to float those elements to the top.
- Many line items that had not initially been highlighted as important were elevated by various Subcommittee members and highlighted yellow for prioritization moving forward.
- Subcommittee identified concern with the overall representation of each reviewer's high/medium/low assessment and recommended that state staff consider re-designing the prioritization matrix read-outs to reflect the total prioritization of each individual more accurately

11:45 AM Carbon Budget (Ali Kosiba)

- Overview of current Carbon Budget, its elements, and limitations.
- Ryan Patch shared slide demonstrating that emissions from Ag can vary widely by management styles.

12:05 AM Next Steps

- Next Friday two Subcommittee members will not be available, and others have conflicts later in the meeting. Co-chairs
- Pat will manually change lows and medium rankings as needed to fix the glitch in the prioritization calculation and re-circulate Spreadsheet
- Subcommittee members will provide written comment via emails to co-chairs & staff if they want to elevate

12:10 PM Public Comment #2

- Public comment received from Annette Smith, Jennifer Ramstetter, Cheryl Joy Lipton, and Zack Porter.

12:20 PM Meeting Adjourned