

Just Transitions Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council October 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: October 21, 2021 4–6 PM: Meeting recorded to be posted online.

Subcommittee Members Present: Sarah Phillips, Sue Minter, Iris Hsiang, Mona Tolba, Beverly Little Thunder, Kashka Orlow, Chris Company, Virginie Diambou

Staff Present: Jane Lazorchak, Amanda Carlson, Abbey Willard, Ross MacDonald, David Plumb

4:00 PM Welcome & Check-in Approval of Agenda and Minutes from 10/07/21 –
Approved

4:13 PM Updates

- Reporting Back from Other Sub Committees, Steering Committee & Full Council
 - David gave update from recent full council meeting, heard from public engagement consultants that a lot of outreach was conducted and shared council acknowledgement that more needs to be done to engage low-income and BIPOC VT'ers
 - Chris shared that a large amount of work is being drafted at subcommittee levels and expressed general sentiment that it is challenging having intense policy deliberation on Zoom
 - Kashka asked about next steps for public engagement
 - Beverly raised concern that marginalized communities didn't have their voices heard in the initial plan
 - Chris suggested that those testifying in front of legislature should bring up that with the timelines they set, expected engagement is unrealistic
 - Iris asked Jane if Mar 1st final climate action plan date still holds, Jane responded she believes yes

4:37 PM Brief Overview of Climate Council Decision Making Steps

- Described process of evaluating actions, using prioritization matrix to lift up and prioritize actions
- Realization that with subcommittees having so many actions, hard to apply scoring rubric to each action

4:53 PM Update on Equity Consultant's Current Work with Sub Committees

- Kiah gave update on how rubric is being utilized on subcommittees
- She is helping guide subcommittees define their visions and strategies
- Brought up conflict that legislature will take up actions that have the most detail, which isn't necessarily the actions that need to be elevated
- Asked that everything we do be as clear as possible

- Transparent that this work will take time, questions were not answered, that need to be answered
- Abbey asked, despite challenges, how are the JT principles being used
 - Kiah responded, she is advising subcommittee task leads to do as much as they can, go as far as they can with JT principles and rubric

- 5:17 PM “Just Transitions & Equity Considerations in Implementation” Section for the Climate Action Plan
- Sarah went over recent comments shared
 - Group came to consensus that more engagement needs to happen before implementation
 - Some initial conversations haven’t even been had, how we ask the questions are important, ongoing conversation, bringing work back to communities
- 5:35 PM Public Comment
- Pat Sagui spoke, her comments can be heard in the recorded video
 - Vanessa Rule spoke on behalf of 350.org, her comments can be heard in the recorded video
- 5:44 PM Legislative Hearing Coordination (October 22nd, 1pm)
- Sue gave subcommittee overview of legislative hearing, asked those who are testifying to think about what they want to say
 - Chris asked subcommittee members to advocate giving equal weight to resilience and adaptation, as to sequestration
- 5:55 PM Other Business
- Sarah posed to group another long time slot in next meeting to hear public comment
- 6:00 PM Adjourn