

Cross-Sector Mitigation Subcommittee Meeting
October 21, 2021 Meeting – Minutes

Date/Time: October 21, 2021 / 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Location: Meeting was recorded and [posted publicly](#)
Members Present: Johanna Miller, Liz Miller, Richard Cowart, Peter Walke, Christine Donovan, Ed McNamara, Bram Kleppner, Gina Campoli, David Farnsworth, Jared Duval and Christine Donovan
State Staff Present: Jane Lazorchak, ANR; Collin Smythe, DEC; Brian Woods, DEC Boomhower, VTrans; Ryan Patch, VAAF, Diane Bothfeld, AAFM

11:02 AM **Welcome / Opening Remarks** (Peter Walke)

11:05 **Minutes for Oct. 14, 2021** had not been posted and will be approved at the next meeting.

11:07 **Update from Task Leads on Results of the Prioritization Process**

Task leads for each subgroup reviewed the results of applying the prioritization criteria and guidance to their recommendations. It was acknowledged that the equity scoring rubric has not been applied yet, although equity considerations have been kept in mind throughout the development and prioritization process. Equity will be reviewed in more detail in the coming weeks with the equity consultant to further refine prioritization as needed. After discussion and proposed amendments noted below, the Subcommittee members reached consensus on the list of recommendations to be forwarded to the Council for inclusion in the body of the Climate Action Plan (CAP). Recommendations that that did receive the highest ranking or were not considered essential enabling or equity actions will be included in the Appendix to reflect the full set of recommendations.

- The Subcommittee concurred with the ranking of recommendations put forward by the **Transportation** TLs without change.
- The Subcommittee concurred with ranking of the recommendations put forward by the **Buildings** TLs without change.
- The Subcommittee endorsed the ranking of the recommendations of the **Non-Energy** TL without change. The TL noted that agriculture non-energy emissions will be covered by the Ag & Ecosystems Subcommittee.
- The Subcommittee endorsed the ranking of recommendations for the **Electricity Sector** with the following suggested change:
 - Add language recommending the Council commission a study on the design of the 100% Renewable Energy Standard (RES) and bring forward to the legislature clear definitions of terms (e.g., carbon free and renewable energy) and design elements that best meet the criteria (e.g., cost-effectiveness, GHG emission reductions on a life-cycle basis, and achieving an equitable and just

transition.)

1:15 PM

Public Comments

Public comments were made by George Gross regarding the use of RECs in complying with the RES and inclusion of wood in the Clean Heat Standard. Bill Bender commented on the status of Hydro Quebec as a renewable resource and the availability of land in Vermont to accommodate large-scale renewable deployment.

1:22

Sector Proportionality of Emission Reductions (Jared Duval and Peter Walke)

A subgroup formed at the request of the Council presented its recommendations on the reference year for determining how GHG emission reductions requirements should be apportioned among each sector and how proportionality should be considered in relationship to the other criteria.

The subgroup recommends that 2018 be used as the reference year for purposes of proportionality, as it is the most recent data available about current sector contributions and captures new emission sources that have emerged since 1990 and 2005.

The subgroup also noted that the eight objectives outlined in the GWSA can be in tension with each other and not all can be optimized simultaneously. The subgroup recommends that when criteria are in conflict, the Subcommittees and Council need to use their best judgement. In some cases that may mean that they should not abide by rigid proportionality if other sectors can more cost-effectively make greater contributions than specified by this breakdown, as long as collectively, the sectors can meet the overall GHG reduction target. A member noted that proportionality should be viewed as a discipline to consider sector reductions that might be difficult to achieve. In addition, it was noted that the Council should be looking for reductions in all sectors and some sectors may move at different paces.

1:45

Review of the CAP drafting process (Jane Lazorchak)

Jane noted that the CAP drafting guidance document lays out expectations for the content of the first draft of the CAP, and she reviewed the deadlines for submitting drafts for the Council's review.

1:55

Public Comment

Ben Edgerly Walsh was supportive of 2018 baseline for proportionality; but raised a concern that the reference to the electric sector in the memo leaves an interpretation that we don't need to do make additional reductions from the electric sector.

Jared Duval responded that the comment was intended to acknowledge that as electricity load increases the amount of renewable energy has to also increase under the existing RES and even more if the state moves to 100%, RES even though it is the sector that has accomplished the most in terms of GHG reductions.

2:00 PM

Adjourn