

Agriculture & Ecosystems Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council October 22, 2021 Meeting

- Date/Time: October 22, 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, Alissa White, Ryan Patch, John Roberts, Charlie Hancock, Iris Hsiang, Jake Claro, Judy Dow, David Mears
- State Staff Members Present: Jane Lazorchak, Ali Kosiba, 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 Prioritization Matrix Work
- Subcommittee worked through discussion of the remaining questions in the prioritization matrix.
 - Subcommittee discussed centralized State Climate Planning office and did not reach consensus - decided to capture pros and cons in upcoming draft to VCC SC.
 - Subcommittee discussed importance/relevance of Prioritization at the Subcommittee vs Steering Committee level.
 - Subcommittee confirmed consensus against promoting expansion of biomass for electricity, including new siting of these projects.
- 9:40 AM Climate Budget
- Ryan Patch shared details around the Climate Report, the recommendation for a more accurate and precise inventory, and the recommendation for a similarly more accurate and precise forecast. This work will involve addressing technical gaps in existing frameworks. This is not going into the Climate Action Plan, but would be a standalone memo from the Subcommittee supporting the Climate Report and requesting/providing additional clarity around the report. Subcommittee will review and come to consensus at a future meeting.
- 10:00 AM Public Comment
- Public Comment was received from Susan Morse, Jennifer Ramstetter, Zack Porter, Rachel Smolker, Donna Goldberg
- 10:10 AM Applying the Just Transition Principles to our Work: Equity Screening
- Kiah requested that discussion occurs verbally rather than in the chat for Equity discussions moving forward.
 - Kiah shared Equity Screen Questions and ran Subcommittee through the discussion involved. First example was the development of a Forest Sector

Plan similar to the Farm to Plate Food Systems Plan. Detailed discussion notes taken by Kiah and team (Jen Hummel).

- 11:00 5min Break
- 11:10 Public Comment #2
- Public comment received from John Brabant, Jennifer Ramstetter, Cheryl Joy Lipton, and Annette Smith.
- 11:15 AM Equity Screen cont.
- Next point of discussion: promotion of healthy and connected river corridors and floodplains. Kiah Morris worked with Subcommittee to prompt critical questions and ensure that Subcommittee is prepared to move forward with the Equity Screen and that work
- 11:40 AM Next Steps
- Equity screening intended to be fundamentally incorporated during drafting process over coming week, and continue in coming months.
 - Subcommittee discussed upcoming timeline on development of semi-final language (Deadline of noon on Thursday October 28th for sharing with Jane Lazorchak and posting ASAP thereafter). Compilation and review can occur thereafter.
 - Next Friday meeting will involve review of this language and compilation. Kiah Morris will be available to assist with this discussion.
 - Jane Lazorchak preparing Legislative testimony which will highlight that the timeline and deadlines and extensive commitment from membership and public are highly inequitable components of this work.
- 11:55 AM Public Comment #3
- Public comment received from Jennifer Ramstetter and Cheryl Joy Lipton
- 12:00 PM Meeting Adjourned