

## Vermont Climate Council October 26, 2021 -Minutes

Date/Time:	October 26, 2021, 1:30 PM
Location:	<a href="#">Zoom Meeting</a>
Physical Location to Attend in Person:	Agency of Natural Resources, One National Life Drive, Montpelier, VT 05602 in Catamount NL D215
Vermont Climate Council members:	Abbie Corse, Anson Tebbetts, Bram Kleppner, Brian Gray, Catherine Dimitruk, Chad Farrell, Chris Company, Chris Cochran, Erica Bornemann, Iris Hsiang, Jared Duval, Johanna Miller, Joe Flynn, Julie Moore, June Tierney, Kelly Klein, Dr. Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, Liz Miller, Sean Brown, Sue Minter, Susanne Young
Sub-committee co-chairs:	Billy Coster, Sarah Phillips, TJ Poor, Peter Walke
Staff and support:	Jane Lazorchak, David Plumb, Cameron Hager
Minutes By:	David Plumb, Cameron Hager

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**1:30 PM Convene/Welcome/Overview and Approval of Agenda**  
*Secretary Susanne Young, Agency of Administration*

Agenda was approved by the Council.

**1:35 PM Review and Approval of Oct. 19, 2021 minutes**  
*David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute*

Minutes were approved by the Council.

**1:40 PM Just Transition Reflection – Draft Environmental Justice Legislation (S.148)**  
*Senator Kesha Ram Hinsdale*

Senator Kesha Ram Hinsdale offered reflections and presented on the draft Environmental Justice Legislation on S.148. After her initial thoughts and presentation, the Council asked the Senator questions.

**2:20 PM Application of the Just Transition Scoring Rubric**  
*Just Transitions Co-Chairs & consultant Kiah Morris*

The Council discussed lessons from applying the Just Transitions Scoring Rubric and lessons that the subcommittees have learned thus far. The points of discussion are noted below:

- Subcommittees noted the ongoing struggle and concern around the legally imposed December 1 timeline. Council members and subcommittee members feel that they don't

have the time or the capacity to do the level of detailed screening that the equity tool asks for. Subcommittees said they feel good about presenting their pathways and strategies. However, many Councilors feel they need more time to do an equity analysis on specific actions, and rushing that analysis would do an injustice to the work.

- Because of this, sub-committees will likely signal in the Initial Climate Action Plan (CAP) that significant work needs to be done around actions and an equity lens. The legislature has heard this message and is expecting this level of plan on Dec. 1.
- Also, Council members said the Initial CAP should be honest with the public about the “procedural equity” shortcomings created by the timeline. When answering the screening question, “Have we involved impacted communities in the development of these recommendations?” the answer is, not nearly enough.
- The Council should push for robust public engagement after the release of the initial CAP, including a deep dive into the application of the just transitions principles, to inform the next iteration of the plan, as well as deliberations within the legislature and elsewhere. It's a plan, and we should feel obliged to, and comfortable with, a critique of and improvement of it.
- Consultant Kiah Morris urged the Council to continue to use the scoring rubric as a guide. The Council should acknowledge that everyone understands this isn't our “A game” around equity, despite a lot of effort and intention.
- Subcommittee members are feeling the pressure of drafting the plan and are asking for clarity and assistance.
  - Some participants urged reconsideration of the table format used by the cross-sector mitigation sub-committee. Jane will work with subcommittee co-chairs to consider an appropriate format for actions.

**3:20 PM      Carbon Budget**  
*Ryan Patch and Dr. Ali Kosiba*

Ryan Patch and Dr. Ali Kosiba gave a presentation on the Carbon Budget recommendations. At the end of the presentation and discussion, the Council adopted the recommendations for Vermont's Carbon Budget. Below are points of suggestion regarding language from Council members:

- Let's try more plain language. “Stocks” and “fluxes” feel like very technical terms. Can we define “sink” more clearly? Is carbon “balance” more intuitive than carbon “budget”?
- The term “Carbon Inventory” might lead to some possible confusion. It is important for us to distinguish between the Vermont Greenhouse Gas Inventory and the Carbon Budget and to be clear about when we are referring to one or the other.
- These issues will require collaboration between different sub-committees going forward, especially between Ag & Ecosystem and Science and Data.

**3:40 PM      Sector Proportionality**  
*Commissioner Peter Walke and Jared Duval*

Commissioner Peter Walke and Jared Duval presented on Sector Proportionality for emissions reduction. The council adopted the recommendations presented.

**3:55 PM      Cost of Carbon and Social Cost of Carbon**  
*TJ Poor*

TJ Poor presented on the Cost of Carbon and Social Cost of Carbon, describing the work since the last time the Council reviewed these recommendations and how the recommendations are reflected in draft text in the Initial Climate Action Plan. At the end of the discussion, the Council adopted the recommendations with the following changes:

- The text must include a specific mention of the need to conduct sensitivity analysis around the discount rate.
- The language needs to be adjusted to reduce jargon.

**4:15 PM      Review of additional Science and Data sections in the Climate Action Plan**  
*Jared Duval, Science and Data Sub-Committee*

Jared Duval presented on sections of draft text in the Climate Action Plan prepared by the Science and Data Subcommittee, including “Summary of scientific underpinning of the CAP” and “Greenhouse Gas Inventory”. The Council had no feedback or discussion on the sections presented.

**4:20 PM      Public comment**

The following members of the public participated in the comment period:

- Jeff Forward
- Marisa Keller made a comment in chat
- Ben Edgerly Walsh made a comment in chat

**4:30 PM      Next Steps and adjourn**