

Minutes of the Cross Sector Mitigation Subcommittee
Vermont Climate Council
10/26/23

Attendees:

Richard Cowart, Co chair, Council Member
TJ Poor, Co chair, Subcommittee Member
Megan O'Toole, Subcommittee Member
Chris Porter, Cambridge Systematics
Andrea Wright, Subcommittee Member
Adam Sherman, Subcommittee Member
Ben Eskin, Cambridge Systematics
Bram Kleppner, Council Member
Brian Woods, Agency of Natural Resources
Jane Lazorchak, Agency of Natural Resources
Dave Farnsworth, Subcommittee Member
Gina Campoli, Subcommittee Member
Jared Duval, Council Member
Johanna Miller, Council Member
Ryan Patch, Subcommittee Member
Liz Miller, Council Member

Agenda for meeting as posted at <https://climatechange.vermont.gov/event/cross-sector-mitigation-subcommittee-meeting-3>

1. Minutes of prior meeting considered by subcommittee.
 - a. As a follow up from items in the minutes, Megan O'Toole reported that she asked NY for the best way to follow/be involved in their process for rulemaking on an allowance based approach to GHG reductions, and NY suggested that Vermont consider how it would like to participate and have further discussions with NY on that point.
 - b. Jared Duval asked for a friendly amendment so that the minutes reflect who is on the Council and who is on the subcommittee (rather than organizational affiliation).
 - c. TJ Poor noted that we do still need to brief the full council on the NY process at an upcoming meeting.
 - d. Gina Campoli asked to reflect her presence in the minutes as an amendment.
 - e. Minutes as amended were approved by consensus of the subcommittee.
2. Update from VTrans and Cambridge Systematics on the Carbon Reduction Strategy
Andrea Wright, VTrans Chris Porter, Cambridge Systematics.
 - a. Presentation on the challenges and opportunities on carbon reduction through transportation and transit. Presentation available on Subcommittee website and video of meeting and here:

<https://outside.vermont.gov/agency/anr/climatecouncil/Shared%20Documents/CRS%20VCC%20CSM%2010262023.pdf>

- i. The presentation gives data that shows the 2025 goals with transportation as proportionately considered (not statewide/all sectors) provides guidance that 2025 transportation GHG reduction target may be met, but that is not the case for 2030 even with the more robust set of programs analyzed.
 - ii. The presentation also summarized stakeholder input/questions, such as requested support for sustainable fuels not only electrification, affordability, transit support for rural areas, among other topics.
 - iii. Recommendations, potential program design considerations and impacts are also set forth in the presentation.
 - iv. Proposed state funding allocations across transportation sectors are set forth, for the \$30 approx. in state funding through FY26.
 - b. Questions from subcommittee on presentation ensued, clarifying that this is a transportation sector-only approach among other points; whether lower-emitting materials in transportation infrastructure projects were considered as a part of GHG reduction from O&M in transportation; stakeholder demographic information; and clarifications on the parameters and impacts of programs in effect in other states.
 - c. Further lengthy discussion among subcommittee members took place on how to take this data/presentation and scope out next steps on analysis of programs, particularly regarding how to consider either joining with or mirroring programs implemented in other states (e.g., low emissions fuel standard, cap and trade, etc.), and the data gaps that exist in the current analysis that may be worthwhile to review in further scoping.
 - d. Discussion included a proposal to have the transportation working group review further and develop recommended next steps in the Climate Action Plan development process, along with a request that VTrans and consultants consider further assistance to the subcommittee/working group as that is scoped.
 - e. There were no public comments on this agenda item.
3. Updates from other subcommittees and CSM Task Groups:
 - a. Jared Duval reported on the Science and Data Subcommittee regarding the mitigation analyses underway for BAU, including updated baselines, and those needed for the 2025 Climate Action Plan.
 - b. Rich Cowart updated the subcommittee that there is a Thermal Sector Analysis underway; it is not yet ready for review. TJ Poor indicated that the analysis draft has been received by the state agency team; it was shared with the buildings task group, and comments are being consolidated to send to EFG. The consultants should be able to turn a final report in November that will be available for others to review.
 - c. TJ Poor also provided an update on the electric sector work on the Renewable Energy Standard, after lengthy public process. After technical analysis, focus group and polling, and review by both DPS stakeholder group and legislative

working group, recommendations for legislative action are likely to be finalized in the next month or so. It would be appropriate to share with the Climate Council at an upcoming meeting.

- d. Bram Klepner indicated that the Biomass Working Group also will have an updated draft/recommendation to share with the Council at the December meeting.
 - e. Jared Duval confirmed that the Senate has made reappointments/appointments. Jared and Peter Sterling both were reappointed and will continue to be available to this subcommittee, along with assignment of new appointments as may be needed.
4. There were no public comments to these agenda items.
 5. The meeting adjourned as scheduled.