

## Vermont Climate Council October 5, 2021 - Minutes

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Date/Time:	October 5, 2021, 1:30 PM
Location:	Zoom Meeting; <a href="#">Recording Posted Online</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, Brian Gray, Bram Kleppner, Chad Farrell, Chris Company, Chris Cochran, Erica Bornemann, Iris Hsiang, Jared Duval, Johanna Miller, Joe Flynn, Julie Moore, June Tierney, Lauren Oates, Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, Liz Miller, Richard Cowart, Sean Brown, Sue Minter, Susanne Young
Sub-committee co-chairs:	TJ Poor, Peter Walke
Staff and support:	Jane Lazorchak, Marian Wolz, David Plumb, Cameron Hager, David Hill, Kiah Morris
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 [Sept. 28, 2021 minutes](#)**  
*David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute*

September 28<sup>th</sup> minutes were approved by the Council.

**1:40 PM Just Transition Reflection and Update**  
*Equity consultant*

Kiah Morris, Equity Consultant, presented on the process with subcommittees. Questions and comments from the council included:

- After Dec. 1, could we have an internal process to examine the Council's process and methods?
- What further work needs to be done with the implementers and practitioners on the ground? What can the council be doing, setting parameters while recognizing that we're not the people who will implement?
  - Kiah Morris answer: The report is an opportunity to make those declarations – this is what we're seeking.
- Reminder from chat: I'd like to be sure we share the invitation to the full Council to join our JT Subcommittee as we hear from organizations and individuals representing

voices of marginalized groups who wanted more direct connection with the Council and subcommittees. We understand that the consultants will also be present at this meeting. Council members and the public are invited to attend on Thursday 4-5pm

**1:55 PM**      **Foundational Criteria Definitions**  
*Jane Lazorchak, Global Warming Solutions Act Director*  
*TJ Poor, Science and Data Co-Chair*

Jane Lazorchak and TJ Poor [presented](#) the definitions. In a quick poll, a large majority of councilors in the meeting said the definitions were good or good enough to move forward. For those who expressed concerns, the comments are below.

- Impacts
  - Would be great to call out working lands specifically in resilience/adaption
  - Large vs. small impacts on carbon reductions. It might not necessarily be better to have a couple of high-impact measures, versus many smaller ones. The key is that they add up.
  - Word choice: Review affect vs. effect
- Cost-Effectiveness
  - Can be even more explicit about costs. We are looking at the cost to Vermont and Vermonters, plus externalities that are included in the Social Cost of Carbon.
  - Impacts should explicitly incorporate deferred costs.
  - From the chat: I think that the one cost-effectiveness definition that incorporates consideration of new vs. existing revenue may be conflating two separate issues. Generally, cost-effectiveness analysis is about total or net cost divided by desired outcome (without distinguishing between existing vs. new revenue). I think the new vs. existing revenue question is more one of political feasibility than of cost-effectiveness. Theoretically, you could imagine large sources of existing revenues going to actions that are not cost-effective — we would not want to prioritize those over cost-effective actions that don't have an existing revenue source.
- Concern/Confusion regarding the ranking
  - The ranking would rank as low, an action that is low cost-effectiveness in some cases – need to review closely.

**2:15 PM**      **Mitigation Pathway Technical Analysis**  
*Cadmus and Energy Futures Group (EFG)*

David Hill of consulting group EFG [presented](#) its technical analysis of the pathways. Questions and comments included:

- From chat: On transportation: Who would pay the fees or taxes if raised?
- From chat: What are the population growth assumptions underlying the device (vehicle) assumptions? Does device stock assume successful compact settlement and reduction in number of vehicles required per household, or does it assume business as usual?
- When presenting CAP scenario, where did that come from?

- State started working with SEI and public service department
  - Developed a LEAP model. Developed over past year. Started working with that model and to use that to review the CAP
  - Building upon a platform that SEI had done with public service model
- CAP mitigation scenario reflects the work that Cadmus has done to built cross sector mitigation (CSM) subcommittee actions into the model
- From chat: Is the modeled additional generation without any mitigation by load control - not understanding that and how if so the report will handle it since we would not want to plan that way and pay for additional generation without load control considered? Didn't understand your EV charging point on that and am not clear on the total electric costs - are they mitigated by load control in terms of overall installed capacity AND energy deliveries and cost, or no? If not what do we do about that?
- When using the term 'CAP', we haven't officially drafted a CAP. Clarify how using that term
  - Cadmus states that the model would provide analytic support if/when the CAP is adopted
  - Have to analyze what a CAP would require as determined by CSM
  - Meant to inform and support the work of council, not to pre-judge
- What are you asking the farmer/AG Community to do when you are discussing the 70% figure?
  - Cadmus answer: The model is looking at a 30% reduction in emissions from agriculture. Of that, about 70% comes from lower enteric fermentation. The model pushes these reductions further out into the future.
    - Does that mean we're asking for a reduction in the number of cows?
    - This is where the concern with agriculture community
    - How do we frame this? How do we deal with macroeconomic conditions beyond their control? Not sure what to do with this number?
    - There is not enough research right now to support changes in feed
- Is the only way to get to 2030 is to exceed 2025 dramatically? Should we be focusing on the enabling investments more in the short term.
  - Cadmus answer: The rates of adoption for 2025-2030 become exceedingly difficult if we don't to overshoot the 2025 goal.
- When will we see the compact settlement, smart growth study? When would we see modeling?
  - Cadmus answer: Cadmus is not doing a VT specific study, rather citing VMT in the literature. Further iterations with come on Oct 26. In some degree, the modeling is reflected in what we provided last week.

**3:30 PM**      **[Transportation Sector Mitigation Pathways, Strategies and Actions](#)**  
***Sector Task Leads***

Johanna Miller and Gina Campoli [presented](#). Questions and comments from the Council included:

- Land use ideas align well with rural resilience strategies

- Have you considered a program of combining school and public transit together?
  - Task lead answer: Conversation has come up quite a bit. Looking forward to exploring further
- TCI
  - We need to understand how it supports GWSA requirements by understanding the accounting for VT emission reductions. We are only allowed to claim benefits for the state as a function of the GWSA
    - Task lead answer: There will likely be a need for more sustainable funding sources and this is one of the ways of doing so. Emissions reductions are guaranteed for the region, but it doesn't guarantee Vermont specific reductions.
  - Need to be very precise with language around language "joining neighboring states" and the best estimates of costs and benefits, given that states are in different places in terms of legislative approval.
  - Significant conversation around TCI. Would be good to refine further in the sub-committee.
- Question for council to consider, which of the policies you have studied will deliver the largest reductions in emission by 2030?
  - Task lead answer: Full suite of technology emissions is the way. They are all interrelated.
- Has the full suite of programs been modeled showing their GHG reduction?
  - Task lead answer: We are working on that with Cadmus
- General comment across a number of subcommittees... hoping that in addition to looking at grants and other public funding sources that we also acknowledge the importance of leveraging private sector investment for things like EV chargers, thermal fuel switching, etc.

**3:55 PM      BREAK**

**4:10 PM      [Buildings Sector Mitigation Pathways, Strategies and Actions](#)  
*Sector Task Leads***

Dave Farnsworth [presented](#). Questions and comments from the Council included:

- Is there a reason for creating a separate rental standard? Perhaps, it should be one standard for clarity.
- Where do home-owners using firewood for heat tie into this equation
  - Clean Heat Standard provides a number of ways for Vermonters to be more efficient in their heating
    - Pellet systems, stove, etc.
    - Would be part of compliance options
- From chat: Could there be a way to put an energy value on an apt. basis. The tighter the apt the better ranking. This if feasible would give potential tenants a scale to measure before committing to a lease

- From chat: I would like to suggest you use the term Financial and Energy Counselling (rather than just financial counselling). The CAP Agencies are embarking on a 3-year pilot to develop this program for low and moderate income folks.

**4:30 PM      Public comment**

The following members of the public spoke:

- Ben Walsh
- Stephen Crowley

**4:40 PM      Electric Sector Pathways, Strategies and Actions  
*Sector Task Leads***

Ed McNamara and Liz Miller [presented](#). Questions and comments from the Council included:

- In addition to developing a Financial and Energy Coaching program with Community Action Agencies, Capstone is establishing a "transitions manager" to our Weatherization Assistance Program for low income clients. There is so much more we could do to assist consumers with greater electrification opportunities
- The subcommittee would like to get the numbers/tables/charts as soon as possible from Cadmus to see the assumptions and how they line up with the Task Group's work.

**4:50            Non-Energy Sector**

This was delayed to next Council meeting but Peter Walke led a brief conversation

- Sectors are small enough they were lumped together. There is a lot of creative overlap with Agriculture. We can present the details at later meeting.
- What exactly does Ag & Ecosystem need to do?
  - Answer: Compare the Ag & Ecosystem sub-committee's emission reduction actions to the modeling, to see if the actions help achieve the overall reduction target.

Next step for the entire Sub-committee: Cross Sector Mitigation will go back and look at the modeling, then come back to the council with a final set of recommendations on November 2

**4:55 PM      Next Steps and adjourn**