

Just Transitions Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council October 7, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: October 7, 2021 4–6 PM: Meeting recorded and [posted online](#).

Subcommittee Members Present: Sarah Phillips, Sue Minter, Kelly Klein, Iris Hsiang, Danielle Bombardier, Mona Tolba, Beverly Little Thunder, Kashka Orlow, Chris Company
Staff Present: Jane Lazorchak, Amanda Carlson, Claire McIlvennie, Abbey Willard, Ross MacDonald, Carey Hengstenberg, David Plumb, Cori Rockefeller

4:00 PM Welcome & Check In

Approval of Agenda and [Minutes from 9/23/21](#) – Approved

4:10 PM Public Comments

Special invitation to organizations proactively working to engage impacted communities in conversations around climate change

- Meredith from Climate Access gave update on public engagement events to-date
 - Overall good attendance
 - Attendees were asked about experiences and impacts they have seen
 - High level actions council is taking were shared
 - No demographic information collected at these events
- Discussion among group about how to reach new American population
- Cheryl Hogan spoke about heavy duty vehicles travelling in downtown areas and in close proximity to human development –heavy pollution for impacted populations
 - She suggested moving heavy duty traffic outside of downtown area
 - Implement speed mgt in high risk, rural areas
- Pat Sagui spoke about bylaws her local conservation committee are writing with climate change concerns in mind, recommended VCC adhere to UN’s resolution of 50% on emissions reduction, 50% on adaptation
- Annette Smith – represents VT’ers for a clean environment, she spoke about importance of not leaving behind rural communities, especially those who are not typically engaged in topics like these
- Indra Acharya spoke about his work with low income VT’ers on behalf of VTs Community Action Agencies, shared strategy to connect issue to people’s everyday lives, how does this impact people with the less means, and how can the state support them the most

- 5:15 PM Legislative Hearing Coordination (October 22nd, 1pm)
- What will the message be?
 - Principles, how they were developed, and how they will be applied
 - Applicability outside of climate policy
 - Who can be there?
 - Beverly, Danielle, Iris, Kelly, Mona, Kashka
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- 5:30 PM Just Transitions & Equity Considerations in Implementation for the Climate Action Plan
- What do we imagine is the future role of the JT Subcommittee?
 What is the ongoing role of the Rubric? How does it connect to strategies and actions in the future (after December)?
 How do we see the Guiding Principles valued and used by others in the future?
 How will it continue to have impact in the future?
 How will the Principles, Assessment Questions and Rubric change over time?
- Sarah explained next section we are responsible for called ‘Just Transitions and Equity considerations in implementation’
 - Kashka spoke about using rubric to bring the voices of the underserved to policy development
 - Kelly talked about ongoing need to hear more feedback, use rubric 1st
 - Beverly mentioned importance of giving the public the opportunity to propose solutions
 - Iris proposed ‘Guiding Principles’ be adopted by ANR to use on other projects within that agency
 - Chris reflected that the budget will reflect what the states priorities truly are
 - Sue shared that NY State made minimum investment to impacted communities
 - Abbey spoke about her own experience submitting proposals in state gov’t and thinks our principles could meld with the current rubric the state uses
 - Sarah asked the question to group, what is our role after 12/1/21?
 - Accountability, results that are measurable, how do we measure it?
- 5:50 PM Other Business & Updates
- Reporting Back from Other Sub Committees, Steering Committee & Full Council
 - Chris mentioned council adopted Guiding Principles and Rubric, albeit hesitantly
 - Kelly mentioned that other members want help applying these principles – people want to be held accountable - suggested JT subcommittee members look at work done by other subcommittees and flag any equity concerns
 - Additional Updates from Director Lazorchak – Deferred
- 6:00 PM Adjourn