

Science and Data Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council
1:30- 4:00 PM November 10, 2021
Meeting Notes

Location: Physical location at ANR office in Montpelier; meeting was recorded and [posted online](#).

S&D Subcommittee Members Present: TJ Poor, Jared Duval, Richard Hopkins, Lou Cecere, Dr. Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, Dr. Jay Shafer

State Agency Staff Present: Jane Lazorchak, ANR; Karen Blakelock, AoT; Colin Smythe, VT DEC; Marian Wolz, ANR; Claire McIlvennie, PSD

Others Attending: Dave Farnsworth & Rich Cowart, CSM Subcommittee; George Gross, John Ruggiero, Joyce Manchester, Stephen Crowley; Mark Whitworth, Matt Voss; David Hill, EFG; Mei Butler, EAN

1:35 Welcome, review of agenda, approval of minutes (TJ Poor)

TJ Poor opened the meeting with suggested changes to the order of the agenda and the Subcommittee approved the Minutes for 11/3/21

1:37 Monitoring and Assessment Framework (David Hill)

- David Hill went through the changes to the M&A Framework and use of the tool based on input from the S&D Subcommittee.
- In response to questions from TJ Poor, he clarified that the M&A Framework has 3 goals; 1) are the policies leading to the actions and are the actions leading to reductions; 2) provide open and accessible data to make it useful to outside applications; and 3) public education.
- Jared added that this allows the state to track progress on a more real time basis than the GHG Inventory. But there is complexity to the cause-and-effect relationship between policies and outcomes given a variety of factors at play.
- Rich suggested and the committee agreed that it would be useful in this memo to clarify that M&A is high level data management tool, but that individual programs will also need to be tracked along with equity implications of the implementation.
- Jane clarified that the memo will be referenced in the CAP but does not need to be directly approved by the Council.

2:08 Climate Impacts Section of the CAP – Draft Review (Subcommittee Members Dupigny-Giroux, Shafer)

- Dr. Dupigny-Giroux and Dr. Shafer shared graphics of some of the hazards (hydrology extremes, ice coverage, etc), highlighting the implications for the various sectors and human vulnerabilities, and also shared some of the projections of future climate (rainfall and temperatures).
- She used the NOAA Climate Explorer (<https://crt-climate-explorer.nemac.org/>) to show more granular information for Danville, VT, including both historical patterns and projected trends. The Explorer is a tool that would be valuable for local level planners and stakeholders.
- She also noted that some of the materials are coming from the National Climate Assessment but have not yet been formally released.

2:36 Public Comment

- George Gross and Mark Whitworth shared comments and questions regarding the Monitoring and Assessment Framework and the need for a description of data gaps.
- Stephen Crowley expressed appreciation of the climate impacts assessment work and asked questions around the 4.5 pathway (middle of the road emissions reduction path) vs 8.5 pathway (BAU).

3:00 Broad Economic Impact Review Document (S&D Co-Chair Duval, Ken Jones (ACCD))

- Jared provided an overview of the CAP section drafted to address the VT energy economy and opportunities (e.g., jobs) related to climate change.
- The Subcommittee discussed the order of this section with the Business-as-Usual section and sections on opportunities and hazards.
- It was noted that the Cross-cutting section will also be covering some of the economic implications and the funding section will also address additional economic modelling that will be needed.
- Subcommittee members were asked to provide any further comments on this section by Nov. 16th.

3:30 Weatherization Goals Update (S&D Co-Chairs)

- Last week the Science & Data Subcommittee discussed weatherization targets and the required ramp rates as reflected in the EFG modeling and CAP language.
- Subcommittee members clarified the goal is 90,000 additional weatherized homes on top of the 30,000 already completed.
- EFG has put together a new trajectory that shows cumulative and annual completions. If we can determine how to go deeper, we may not need to do as many weatherizations, but that would need to be examined further. EFG proposed new language that provided the clarity and flexibility around the weatherization goal numbers, and the actions needed to meet those numbers.
- The Subcommittee agreed that it should be communicated wherever possible that both weatherization and heat switching are complementary actions needed to meet buildings and thermal goals.
- The Subcommittee agreed that Actions should set clear goal posts and can be adjusted over time based on actual progress and response to programs and funding.

3:50 Public Comments

No public comments provided.

3: 52 Other business

There will not be an S&D meeting next week Wednesday; co-chairs will connect after the meeting to discuss future agenda items and scheduling meetings after December 1st.

4:00 Adjourn