

Just Transitions Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council November 18, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: November 18, 2021 4–6 PM: Meeting recorded to be [posted online](#).

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

4:00 PM Welcome & Check In

Approval of Agenda and Minutes from 11/04/21 – Approved

4:10 PM Public Comment

- Vanessa Rule from 360Vermont gave brief intro to community members that come to speak today
- Chief Don Stevens spoke about his people's long history with the land and asked for their involvement – stewardship, not ownership of land – spoke about care for the 'source' - peoples disconnection to the source – expand our view of the world to shared resources, from mine – spoke about agroforestry
- Zoraya, Executive Director from Peace & Justice Center asked to advocate for equity in other subcommittees, not forget the big picture
- Ignacio De La Cruz from Migrant Justice spoke with assistance of interpreter – made connection between climate and immigration fight they are against everyday – spoke about his family's farm, formerly sustainable, then large corporations like Pemex started drilling which made farming unsustainable, had to migrate to city which presented challenges without formal education, forced to migrate to US – significant housing challenges here in the US – pest infested homes, no heat, unsafe conditions witnessed at dairy farms – this challenge has forced migrants to move to US cities, and forces these migrants to purchase vehicles and contribute to companies which displaced them in the first place
- Grace from Sunrise Movement Montpelier spoke about challenges for youth in VT, call to be bold and audacious in formation of Climate Action Plan
- Graham from Rural Vermont spoke on behalf of farmers, farm workers - spoke about challenges facing this group, high vulnerability for mental health problems, questions value of showing up, and asked how their comments will influence the work. He offered criticism over prioritization of GHG emissions, with a need to refocus on resilience and adaptation – opportunity to make significant changes
- Nando, working on project called Moon and Stars, create food system using cultural knowledge and regenerative practices to educate about VT resources, spoke about importance of land access, challenges with housing cost and finding help
- Jules spoke

- 5:10 PM Review feedback and finalize
“Just Transitions & Equity Considerations in Implementation” Section
- Sarah walked subcommittee through substantive edits suggested to the document. There was agreement on changes to make.
- 5:22 PM Public Engagement Next Steps
- Feedback on proposal from Climate Access/RISE
 - Jane walked us through refined scope, press release and a summary document will be the only pieces happening before the new year
 - Revised iteration of CAP in the future
 - More support for partner organizations built into revised scope
 - Opportunity to set up online deliberative polling platform
 - Iris brought up concerns that revised engagement scope isn’t focused on engagement, but rather garnering support for the plan
 - Amanda brought up that deliberative polling could be useful to effect change as CAP moves to legislature, and to not forget substantial public comments and how they will be incorporated
 - Chris brought up concern that council will approve plan, that a just transition won’t be foundational
 - Kelly brought up that theme of challenges with public engagement is that we have been preaching to the choir, we need to reach a different constituency
 - Kashka shared that overburdened Vermonters don’t generally have time to think about climate, the plan will be an opportunity to have that discussion and then get feedback
- 5:57 PM Sub Committee Next Steps – December Meeting
- Pitch to have one meeting in Dec. 12/16, come back to public engagement conversation
- 6:00 PM Adjourn