

4:00 PM Welcome & Check In - Acceptance of Agenda and Minutes from 2/16/23

Attendance:

- Abbey Willard
- Claire McIlvennie
- Jane Lazorchak
- Marian Wolz
- Kelly Klein
- Judy Dow
- Billy Coster
- Sarah Phillips
- David Deen
- Collin Smythe
- Patrick Wickstrom
- Melanie Sands
- Jacob Namovich
- Liz Medina
- Carey Hengstenberg
- Adam Sherman
- Liz Miller
- Alice Peal
- Indra Acharya
- Pat Sagui

4:10 PM Discussion with Biomass Task Group members

- Judy Dow
- Billy Coster
- Collin Smythe
- Chase Whiting

Discussion with Biomass Task Group on recommendations

- Overview of [recommendations](#) (focus on clarifying questions)
 - Not every member of the task group supports the recommendations, but decided moved them forward without unanimous consensus
 - Scope: woody biomass (not biofuels) for electricity-led plants
 - Hone in on whether biomass for electricity is “part of a climate solution”
 - Agreement that VT should not build *new* facilities.
 - Bulk of conversation around what to do about McNeil and Ryegate existing generating stations.
 - How to engage communities in and around that process
 - Not about *heat*, but electricity from biomass.
 - Climate council will deliberate in March

Review of draft preliminary equity assessment of Biomass recommendations

- Chase: hope is that others will weigh in on preliminary draft. Convo should include more voices and perspectives from the task group, subcommittee, and ideally impacted community members (whose voices haven’t been heard at this point)

- Tried to look at task groups recommendations and tried to differentiate between recs that would take affect today vs. those that direct studies to answer questions in future.
- Distinction between communities living nearby (exposed to emissions) and VTers (private land owners/foresters, etc.) whose livelihoods are bound up in those facilities (jobs). Thinking through a just transition for them and identifying different revenue streams and markets.

Question from Liz Medina: what is the plan for those in forestry industry who would lose those jobs? The recommendations include a study into other opportunities. (Wood based fiber insulation, particle boards...)

Question: how many people are employed by these two plants? Not just employees, but also *loggers*. Wanted report done on how it would impact people. People employed by the plants. Radius of woodsheds around them that rely on this as market for materials. Would closure have a profound effect on significant radius of vermonters.

Question: has anyone spoken with any impacted workers?

Continued discussion on equity rubrics, including the Legislative Social Equity Caucus' rubric.

4:45 PM Public comment

Re-configured the agenda to extend the conversation around the evaluation of the biomass recommendations and our role, and what are we saying?

Rubric intended to be used by those proposing the policy in general.

Question for a next meeting: do we have a role in proposing just transition policies in response to other policy proposals?

4:55 PM (5:30) Lifecycle Analysis Contract - Overview of contract and development of stakeholder engagement plan - Appoint JT representatives to Task Group

Overview of LCA project:

- Melanie Sands (project manager with Eastern Research Group)
- Jake Namovich (life cycle assessment and sustainability analyst)
- Project scope: assessing all existing and emerging VT energy sources
- GHG focus.
- Int'l Organization for Standards: LCA: Compilation & evaluation of inputs/outputs/potential env impacts of product system thru lifecycle.
- Benefits & limitations overview
- Stakeholder input - to share some info to date about energy pathways we're thinking about using in analysis. Missing anything? Something we haven't included?
- Preliminary results, input on whether it aligns with experiences?
 - Tying in more with aspects of EJ. Biodiversity, etc.

- Scoping document

The below agenda items were not addressed, as outlined in the original agenda, due to dedicated discussion time on biomass recommendations and Lifecycle Analysis contractor

5:10 PM Reflection space and open share - Consider discussion around VT Renews BIPOC letter & VTdigger article - Review finalization of JTSC Role memo to Share with VCC prior to 3/13/23 meeting

5:45 PM Updates and progress from Climate Council, task groups, & work groups

- Life cycle analysis task group JTSC liaison
- Example of JTSC influence
- Public Service Dept public engagement plan
- Discussion of additional JTSC co-chairs: Kelly Klein & Chase Whiting

5:55 PM What's Next - Next meeting