

Science and Data Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council

2:00 PM March 23, 2022

Minutes

Location: Virtual meeting recorded and posted [online](#)

Members present: Jared Duval, Megan O'Toole, Claire McIlvennie, Jay Shafer, Richard Hopkins, Julie Moore, Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, Kashka Orlow

Staff present: Jane Lazorchak, Marian Wolz, Ken Jones, Collin Smythe

2:00 Welcome/ Approval of minutes (Co-Chairs)

[January 19 minutes approved](#), agenda approved as drafted

2:05 Update on Life-cycle analysis (LCA) Request for Information responses (Jared)

Co-chairs provided an overview of the work of the task group. Focused on the review of the RFI responses to the Life-cycle analysis.

Key takeaways:

- Many high-quality responses, many organizations and states have looked at this topic.
- No two responses were the same regarding definitions for life cycle and upstream emissions.
- The proposal is to move forward with an RFP based on the RFI responses to frame up a scope of work. There remains one big outstanding question; what the budget is to do that work.
 - Budget implications will be discussed at the next steering committee meeting, all are welcome to attend that meeting.
- Staff shared additional thoughts:
 - As this work transitions to an RFP, the task group should be broader than just S&D staff. Staff have reached out to PSD (Claire McIlvennie and TJ Poor) to provide support to that group.

2:30 Updates from other sub-committee and task group liaisons

- Biomass Work group (Megan)
 - Discussion among the subcommittee on the focus and definition used in discussions at the Biomass work group
- Subcommittee members and staff provided updates on the work from the Rural Resilience and Adaptation Subcommittee (Municipal Vulnerability Index & Climate Toolkit), the Agriculture & Ecosystems Subcommittee (Agricultural Emissions), the Just Transitions (Public Engagement Task Group).

2:45 – Measuring and Tracking Progress RFP Update (Jane)

- Staff provided an overview of the work on the Measuring and Tracking Progress RFP that progressed in 2021. Work was done by a small group of S&D subcommittee members along with support from CADMUS and EFG.

- Tool will track measures beyond the emissions inventory and would have to be tied closely to the GHG Inventory. Beyond the emissions database it will also look at resilience and adaptation measures. Status requires the tool to also track changes to the climate and changes to wildlife and biodiversity – it is likely this tracking work will be tied to the Vermont Climate Assessment.
- An RFP has been developed with help from DEC staff.
- Anticipate having a cross subcommittee task group that helps manage that work going forward.

3:00 – Sub-committee membership update and nomination review process (Jared)

- Lesley-Ann Dupingy-Giroux, Claire McIlvennie, Jared Duval, and Megan O’Toole volunteered to review nominations and bring recommendations back to the subcommittee for final approval.

3:30 – Public Comment

- George Gross provided public comment.

3:55 – Next steps and adjourn (Co-chairs)

- Plan to meet next on May 4th from 2-4pm.
- If lifecycle analysis is approved for additional budget money by the Steering Committee, the subcommittee would need to convene a S&D task group for that prior to school vacation week of April 11th.