

Cross-Sector Mitigation Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council
12:00 PM May 5, 2022
Meeting Minutes

Location: Meeting was recorded and posted online [here](#)

Subcommittee Members Present: Rich Cowart, TJ Poor, Bram Kleppner, Johanna Miller, Jared Duval, Liz Miller, Chris Company, David Farnsworth, Christine Donovan, Megan O'Toole, Andrea Wright

State Agency Staff Present: Marian Wolz, Michele Boomhower, Melissa Bailey, Tyler DeShong, Karen Blakelock, Collin Smythe, Ken Jones, Brian Woods

12:00 PM Welcome / Opening Remarks

- Recommendation to change agenda with review of gap analysis conducted by DEC, and to discuss the ACCII and ACT rule making.
- Subcommittee approved change to agenda.
- [March 17 minutes](#) approved as drafted

12:05 PM Subcommittee Composition

- Staff reviewed changes to the subcommittee following the departure of DEC Commission Walke from the subcommittee.
- TJ Poor has volunteered to join the subcommittee as co-chair as an appointee for PSD Commissioner June Tierney.
- Recommendation to add Megan O'Toole as a subcommittee member representing the Agency of Natural Resources.
- Recommendation to add Adam Sherman as a new subcommittee member, and as a new member of the Biomass Task Group.
- Staff discussed that the subcommittee will recruit for and eventually appoint a youth member to CSM, in line with the Youth Engagement on the Climate Council proposal put forward by the Youth Member appointed to the Climate Council, Iris Hsaing.

12:15 PM Legislative Update

- Subcommittee members provided updates on the following bills and legislative initiatives:
 - Clean Heat Standard
 - Weatherization
 - Environmental Justice Bill
 - Others: Municipal Energy Resilience Bill, \$20M funding in the budget for direct consumer electrical upgrades, \$5M for Switch & Save Program, \$2M load management for electrical storage upgrades, \$8M to support advanced metering for electric utilities, \$3M to PSD for energy management program expansion.

12:30 PM Transportation Task Group

- Staff provided an overview of the gap analysis conducted based on GHG emission reductions that can be expected from rule making currently underway. Estimated emissions reductions calculations can then be used to understand the gap in GHG emissions that the transportation sector still needs to meet.
- Staff reviewed the rule making process for implementing ACCII and ACT rules in accordance with the GWSA and Climate Action Plan. Draft of the regulation will be reviewed at the next Climate Council meeting.
- Staff provided an update on putting together a RFP with a US Climate Alliance grant on two transportation analysis broken into two phases. Phase 1 would look at a more refined analysis of the emissions reductions for ACCII and ACT; Phase 2 would look at answering questions around other policies that the Transportation Task Group is considering and how those would be implemented and work in Vermont. Phase 2 was not funded through the US Climate Alliance, due in large part to the available IIJA funds for that work.
- AOT provided an update on the VMT study and other studies and programs underway. There is currently a consultant on board charged with looking at how smart growth strategies would impact VMT in Vermont, as well as the other co-benefits of reduced VMT (health and other benefits). AOT also has a consultant on board to help look at EV and EVSE incentives optimization.

1:00 PM Biomass Task Group

- Subcommittee members provided an updated on the work of the Biomass Task Group.

1:30 PM Update on Technical Analyses

- Staff provided an update on the marginal abatement cost study. The work is delayed due to contracting issues with the State IT system. The contractor is moving forward and should be done in the next few weeks and will be shared when complete.
- Staff provided an update on agriculture emissions. The US Climate Alliance grant for an agriculture emissions study was awarded so work is moving forward to study how agriculture emissions are calculated and tracked in Vermont.
- Staff provided an update on the lifecycle analysis RFP. Science & Data subcommittee reviewed the revised RFP and are hoping to have it advanced and posted in the next couple of weeks.

1:40 PM Next Steps and Meeting Schedule

- Recommendation to keep the meeting scheduled for two weeks out and revisit the need for that meeting based on the legislative outcome of the Clean Heat Standard bill.
- Recommendation from subcommittee member to consider discussing at the subcommittee high rise wood construction, and how to reduce the use of carbon and steel and replace with wood construction due to the GHG emissions implications.

1:55 PM Public Comment

- No public comment provided.

1:55 PM Adjourn

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