

Just Transitions Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council June 16, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: June 16, 2022 4–6 PM: Meeting recorded to be posted online.

Subcommittee Members Present: Abbey Willard, Sue Minter, Kashka Orlow, Mona Tolba, Sarah Phillip, Beverly Little Thunder, Anna Guenther, Sebbi Wu, Indra Acharya, Chris Company
Staff Present: Amanda Carlson, Marian Wolz, Carey Hengstenberg

- 4:00 PM Welcome & Check In
- Acceptance of Agenda and Minutes from 5/12/22 – approved
- 4:10 PM Review of FY23 Legislative Outcomes
- Summary and discussion of signed laws and bills that didn't pass
 - Marian gave an overview of bills passed in the Legislature from the Climate Action Plan and corresponding money allocated towards bills
 - Abbey asked how people felt about things panned out in legislature
 - Members discussed their ideas on how we can influence outcomes and implementation
 - Environmental Justice Bill – Presentation by Agency of Natural Resources counsel Rachel Stevens
 - Shared important definitions from the bill including: environmental justice, environmental burdens, environmental benefits, meaningful participation
 - Implementation of EJ Policy
 - State agencies create and adopt community engagement plans
 - Directing policies with environmental benefits proportionally towards EJ populations
 - Consider cumulative environmental burdens and access to environmental benefits when making decisions
 - Two bodies created: EJ Advisory Council and Interagency EJ Committee
 - By 2025 EJ mapping tool will be created
 - Megan O'Toole from the Dept. of Environmental Conservations shared information about a program called Advanced Clean Cars II
 - Requires 100% of vehicles delivered to VT by 2035 by automakers be all electric
 - Shared memo about public engagement ANR wants to undertake, and asked for our input on communities they are interested in visiting
 - Unfortunately, many of the rules in ACC II cannot be changed due to federal regulation
 - Members asked what's the point ?
 - Rachel noted there are narrow areas that feedback can affect change

- Abbey asked if JT wants to play a part in the outreach --- Kashka said yes to Burl/Winooski
- Beverly raised concerns about the grid being able to handle EVs, the cost of EVs, thinks we should be focused on reducing consumption

5:20 PM Climate Council Updates

- Updates and progress from various Task Groups & Work Groups
 - Public Engagement – no update
 - Metrics
 - Carey gave brief update, task group talked about measurement and assessment tool, discussed how there was limited equity consideration included in RFP for this vendor
 - Subcommittee would like to add that consultant demonstrates knowledge in equity work
 - Carey will follow up with Jane and Marian
 - Transportation
 - Still grappling with how to meet emissions reductions targets with the absence of TCI
 - Biomass - no update
 - Chris recommended we give feedback directly to Governors office to inform his budget

5:32 PM Public comment - None

5:30 PM Subcommittee Priorities Discussion

- Chris suggested bringing in someone from CA who has been involved in rulemaking, equitable implementation
- Sue suggested a written statement articulating our concerns about the status quo
- It was once mentioned to make a training video of some sort, re-visit?
- Indra suggested collaborative project, subcommittee members bring their ideas
- Indra identified that this subcommittee doesn't have a clear purpose at this moment, can cause frustration
- Abbey re-shared work plan highlighting work being done at the moment, planned work – a small cohort would like to work on this document and bring it to life

6:05 PM Adjourn