

## Just Transitions Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council July 21, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: July 21, 2022 4–6 PM: Meeting recorded and [posted online](#).

Subcommittee Members Present: Abbey Willard, Sue Minter, Mona Tolba, Kashka Orlov, Anna Guenther, Sebbi Wu, Indra Acharya, Kelly Klein, Jenna Hirschman, Chris Company, Danielle Bombardier, Chase Whiting, Sarah Phillips

Staff Present: Claire McIlvennie, Marian Wolz, Carey Hengstenberg, Rachel Stevens

4:00 PM Welcome, Agenda Review and acceptance of previous meeting minutes. Minutes from 6/16/2022 were approved.

4:10 PM Climate Council Updates

There was discussion about what the update portion of the meeting should include and how Just Transitions subcommittee should interact with the council.

- Updates and progress from various Task Groups & Work Groups

### **Low Emission Vehicle Rules Public Events – Draft Public Meeting Agenda and Outline**

- Rachel Stevens (Department of Environmental Conservation), presented the revised strategy for outreach related to rule development as required by the GWSA to engage in enhanced outreach to underserved and frontline communities. Interested to get comments from the committee. There are a number of public events scheduled throughout the state and one virtual.
- Public Meetings schedule, goals and structure were presented. Meetings scheduled for September 2022.
- There was a discussion about whether more information should be added about why Vermont is adopting this regulation now.
- Feedback provided that the meetings should focus on discussion and interaction, less explaining the rule.

- Need to think about who is attending these meetings, and how to engage people who don't normally participate. Also need enhanced outreach.
- Consider different meeting times than only the evening from 6-8.
- If people have further comments – can follow up with [Rachel.stevens@vermont.gov](mailto:Rachel.stevens@vermont.gov). Need comments by August 8<sup>th</sup> for meeting planning purposes, but Rachel will still take comments after that date.

### **Department of Public Service RFI and Public Engagement (Claire)**

- Ongoing project at Department of Public Service to receive input how Vermont can meet renewable energy goals.
- A Request for Input (RFI) – was issued by the Department to ask for public comment and thoughts related to the process: (1) asking for thoughts on what engagement should look like and what timeframe should be; (2) What type of decision making criteria should be considered as decisions are made; (3) What is the state doing well and where do you see challenges?
- Feedback due by August 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Claire is willing to talk with anyone who would like more information and encourages members of the Committee to provide comments and/or share RFI with your networks.
- It was recognized that this RFI is above and beyond what most agencies have done in the past. Committee members commended the Department on the effort to get input on designing an engagement process.

### **Biomass Task Group Update (Chase)**

- This task group has been discussing if Vermont should be utilizing more wood for electricity and capturing heat. Conversations around public health impacts of burning wood (PM2.5). A question was raised on whether we have considered the public health information enough, or engaged with individuals.

- Discussion of how we know that processes are successful

- What metric are we using for measurement  
[This was not discussed due to time]

5:10 PM **Public comment**  
Public Outreach on Low Emission Vehicles – need to consider economic pressures on people and rising cost of living. Maybe there is a way to better vet how someone would make a decision, analysis of household budget, weigh the offers and incentives and get assistance.

5:15 PM **Work Planning Discussion Update**  
- Group has met and suggests that we may need to take a step back before we move forward. This is what prompted the “Open Conversation” in the next part of the meeting.

5:20 PM Open Conversation: Reflection on Our Work using [Jamboard](#) for this discussion to get thoughts from committee members.

- What was your inspiration to join the Just Transition Subcommittee?
- What has been the biggest challenge (in terms of your own participation, Subcommittee’s collective work)?
- What are some of the things you would like to see happen (in terms of our meetings, collaboration, and work you do individually/we do collectively) in the Subcommittee?

Committee members shared thoughts on the Jamboard to answer the three separate questions. Thoughts were shared anonymously in the jamboard and committee members discussed what they “noticed” on the Jamboard exercises.