

**Science & Data Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council**  
**10:00 AM September 15, 2022**  
**Minutes**

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Location: Meeting was recorded and posted online [here](#)  
Subcommittee Members Present: Megan O'Toole, Jared Duval, Claire McIlvennie, Catherine Lowther, Kevin Geiger, Julie Moore, Ken Jones, Richard Hopkins, Dr. Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, Elizabeth Palchak, Jared Ulmer, Jason Shafer  
State Agency Staff Present: Marian Wolz, Collin Smythe  
Minutes by: Claire McIlvennie

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10:00 AM Welcome/ Approval of minutes/date for next meeting

- Review of agenda
- Did not have minutes from previous meeting on August 15. Megan O'Toole plans to review the recording and develop. Approval was subsequently delayed.
- The subcommittee discussed the next meeting date and time. Subcommittee intends to use Thursday 10am-12pm generally as the recurring time. Decided to meet generally on the second Thursday of every month; next meeting on October 13, 10am-12pm.

10:05 AM Introduction of all subcommittee members, new and old (all)

- Each subcommittee member, state staff, and members of the public introduced themselves, their current role and background, and general interest in the subcommittee's work.

10:32 AM Contractual work Updates

- Life-cycle Analysis (LCA) RFP: The task group has selected one proposal / contractor to move forward with and Jane Lazorchak is putting together the contract with the hopes the work can begin soon. As a reminder, the LCA will supplement the gross emissions inventory and exist as a parallel tool; Planning to move as quickly as possible given this work might inform many other conversations in the Climate Council
- Municipal Vulnerability Index (MVI) Contract: A small group reviewed 5-6 proposals in response to the RFP, selected one contractor and now working on the final contract. The group is happy with the proposal which has a focus on engagement with marginalized/impacted communities, equity, and data gathering.
- Agricultural Emissions RFP: Getting close to releasing the RFP for the work which aims to investigate multiple different tools for quantifying emissions in the agricultural sector, comparing tools and available datasets, coming up with a framework and comparing with IPCC guidance; Anticipated will be posted in the next week or so.
- Related to the contracts, the subcommittee discussed the timing of the state GHG inventory, which the Agency of Natural Resources hopes to have a draft of sometime in December, with supplemental pieces likely completed later. Additional, a discussion of

more real-time updates of the thermal and transportation sectors were discussed and how to address impacts from recent years related to the pandemic.

10:59 AM Subcommittee Budget priorities for FY24

- The subcommittee discussed priority issues to raise in the FY24 budget. Numerous items were discussed including:
  - A budget to support ongoing activities to follow up on needs identified through forthcoming contractual work
  - Funding to support the subcommittees given transitions at the Agency of Natural Resources
  - Educating the public regarding work of the Climate Council:
    - Trends in data (ex. Fuel use) to contextual the public's role in climate action
    - Understanding things like who has read the plan
    - Drawing on geospatial/decision making/social sciences and potentially collaborating with the Just Transitions subcommittee
  - Open and transparent data management
  - Data around land use and land use policies and practices
  - Addressing gaps in data at the substate (regional, local/municipal)
- The subcommittee designated a small task group (Megan O'Toole, Jared Duval, Claire McIlvennie, Catherine Lowther). Other subcommittee members were invited to send recommendations in writing to that group for further development.
- The subcommittee also decided to move the next subcommittee meeting to October 6<sup>th</sup>, 10am-12pm to finalize and approve budget recommendations in advance of the October 7<sup>th</sup> Climate Council deadline.

11:45 AM Public Comment

- Steve Crowley Commented. Comments included discussing the importance of communicating through direct communication, in addition to data. Hoping that could be part of the outreach. Subcommittee Elizabeth Palchak noted the science supports that through the "trusted messenger" effect and talking to people we know and trust about these issues.

11:50 AM Adjourn

- Megan O'Toole provided a brief reminder of the ongoing public engagement events on the transportation-related vehicle electrification rulemaking and then the meeting adjourned.

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