

**Science and Data Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council**  
**2:30 PM September 22, 2021**  
**Meeting Notes**

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Location: Physical location at ANR office in Montpelier; meeting was recorded and [posted online](#).

S&D Subcommittee Members Present: Lou Cecere, TJ Poor, Jared Duval, Richard Hopkins, Dr. Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, Secretary Julie Moore, Colin Smythe, Brian Woods

Ag & Ecosystems Subcommittee Members Present: Abbie Corse, Lauren Oates

State Agency Staff Present: Marian Wolz, Megan O'Toole, Karen Blakelock

Consultants Present: Catherine Morris

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2:30 PM Welcome / Opening Remarks /Review of agenda (S&D Co-Chairs)

2:35 **Updates on Equity Consultations**

Kai Morris has been contracted to assist Subcommittees with equity considerations. Her main priority will be working with other subcommittees putting Strategies and Actions together. There could be equity implications in monitoring and evaluation and other aspects of the SDSC's work. Jared invited SDSC members to put forward topics they would like Kai's assistance with.

2:39 **Definitions of Technological Feasibility and Cost-Effectiveness**

A subgroup met this week to draft definitions and circulated as a draft to members in advance of the meeting. A number of comments were discussed and resolved. The following proposed language was agreed to by consensus and will be forwarded to the VCC for their consideration at the Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> meeting:

**Technological Feasibility:** "the degree to which the required technologies are developed and reasonably available."

**Cost-effectiveness:** Cost(\$)/Desired Outcome. For example, for the purposes of mitigation measures, the measure of a mitigation option's direct and indirect benefits and costs, as measured by benefit-cost analyses. For purposes of mitigation measures, cost-effectiveness shall refer to the lifetime\* net cost per ton of GHG emissions avoided (acknowledging that some mitigation measures do not generate net costs and actually save money).\*\* Cost-effectiveness shall also be understood to account for lifetime or dynamic costs, not merely up-front or static costs.\*\*\*

**Primary Benefit Cost Analysis:** Estimated benefits and costs shall be inclusive of direct and indirect benefits and costs to *Vermont and Vermonters* (i.e., "resource benefits and costs" for the State, including program implementation and management costs, not simply the "consumer costs and benefits"). Benefit-cost analysis shall estimate social and environmental "externalities", including health costs and benefits and a Social Cost of Carbon, reflecting the global damage-based assessment of the cost of Vermont's climate pollution, consistent with the Social Cost of Carbon report and recommendations presented to the Climate Council on August 23, 2021.

(Additional notes are included to provide sources, discussion of other tests to be used, and clarification of “lifetime.”)

**3:42 Update on Ag & Ecosystems & SD GHG Inventory Subgroup Discussions**

A subgroup of both Subcommittees met this week to discuss the S&D recommendations on the GHG Inventory. Ag & Ecosystems asks that the recommendations be modified to allow for net emissions accounting for the agriculture sector as currently done under the IPCC reporting. Ag & Ecosystems also raised concerns about the baseline gross emissions currently used in the state’s GHG inventory, which may not accurately capture the crops and practices of Vermont. Concerns were raised about the accuracy of data needed to calculate net emissions and the challenge of using two different approaches in the inventory. Further discussion among the subcommittees will be scheduled.

**4:00 Public Comment** - There were no public comments.

**4:02 Adjourned**

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