

**Agriculture & Ecosystem Subcommittee**  
**Vermont Climate Council**

Meeting Agenda  
June 27, 2024  
9am-11am

Virtual only:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84872771594?pwd=ZkVfVTM0d4vJKKqbPbj8bYhyanL2Ndg.1>

**Overview:** This is the second meeting of the re-constituted Ag & Eco Subcommittee, tasked with helping the Vermont Climate Council update the state's Climate Action Plan.

The overarching goal for this subcommittee for the next 5 months is to review the 150+ Ag & Eco strategies and actions in the Initial Climate Action Plan, consider key changes in the context from 3 years ago, then prioritize the strategies and actions, to better focus the attention of policy makers, the administration, and others. The initial plan has great content. Let's use that content as the basis for highlighting the most pressing strategies and actions.

By late fall this year, we aim to share with the Council a list of highest priority strategies and actions, no more than a few dozen, plus the identification of a handful of strategies that might make a top-10 list for the overall updated Climate Action Plan.

Our plan for today's meeting:

- 9:00am                      Welcome, hellos, and overview of the meeting
- Reminder of where we are in the process
  - Overview of what we aim to cover today: A proposed process for us to review the current actions, receive additional updates and inputs, and prioritize strategies and actions; and options for us to get the work done together in the summer and fall.
- 9:10am                      How to review the 150+ existing strategies and actions
- The consolidated spreadsheet
  - A loose organizational structure to focus all this content – and our next steps.
    1. Reduce and sequester GHG emissions from ag and forestry practices (Pathways 10 & 23)
    2. Support adaptation, viability, economies, and workforce (Pathways 20, 21, 26, some 19 and some 24)
    3. Incentivize climate-resilient land use practices that support the role of natural and working lands in flood

prevention, biodiversity, conservation, and related goals  
(Pathways: 22, 25, some 19 and some 24)

*Output from this section of the meeting:* All subcommittee members know how they can review most efficiently the existing strategies.

- 9:30am                    The work ahead – prioritizing
- Using the worksheet and the guiding question: What strategies and actions are most essential to implement in the coming 3-5 years? When answering this question, consider which ones will have the most impact on the ground and towards the GWSA goals, particularly because they are implementable in practice, are cost effective, and they address inequities.

*Output from this section of the meeting:* All subcommittee members understand the suggested task ahead, and any suggested adjustments to the approach are agreed to.

- 10:10am                    Just Transition Liaison introduction/update
- Initial discussion of how we will consider equity and just transition in our work.

- 10:20am                    The subcommittee’s workplan
- Options for meetings over the summer and into the fall. The goal is to have draft priorities in September (or early fall).
  - Updates that will be essential for the work (in meetings or sent at pre-reads)
    - Resilience Implementation Strategy process
    - Ag emissions study
    - Legislative updates
    - New research on ag practices.
    - What else?

*Output from this section of the meeting:* An agreed structure for meetings over the summer and into the fall that is a reasonable approach for getting the work done.

10:50am                    Public Comment

11:00am                    Wrap-up and close