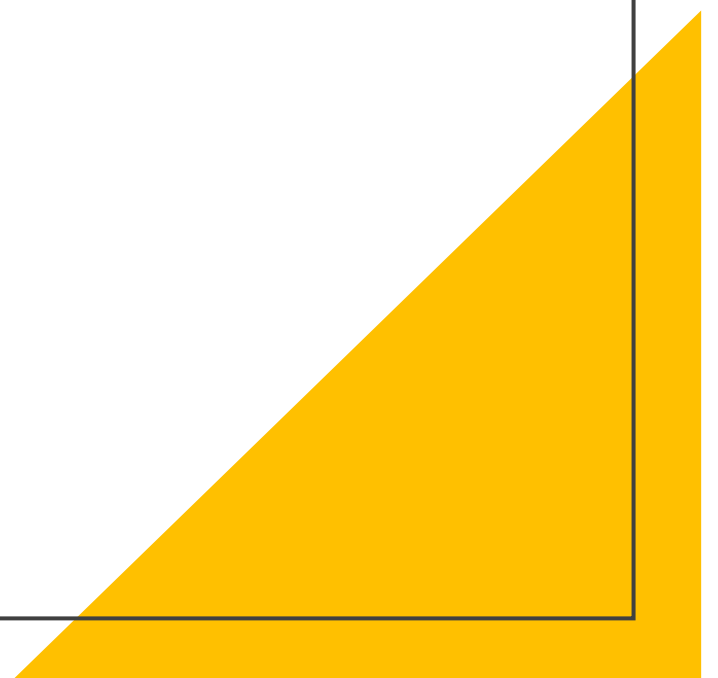


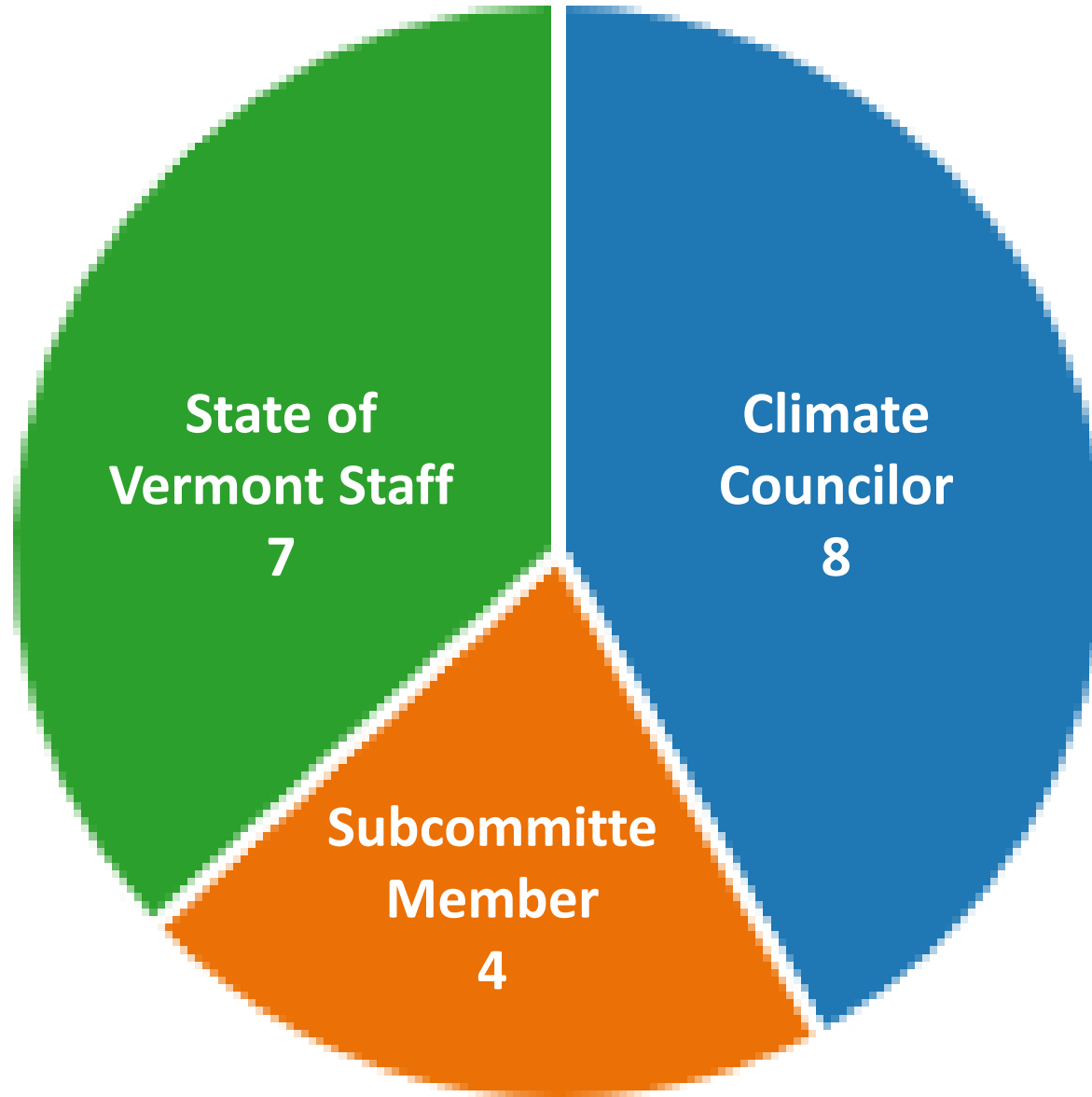
Climate Action Plan Process Reflection Survey Results

Vermont Climate Council

January 24, 2022



Survey Responses



What worked well last year and contributed positively to development of the Climate Action Plan?

Enjoyed and felt outside facilitators were critical to the process and productive discussions

...development of the guiding principles was great and an important step for the state. I also think the ways that the Council and subcommittees forced new perspectives to come together and think about climate change from so many different angles was a crucial first step to how we move forward towards a climate resilient future.

Appreciated the diversity on the various sub committees - led to hard but important conversations

Key Themes:

- Contractor support
- Guiding Principles/ Equity
- Staff support and subcommittee membership

If you could change a few things about the process to develop the Climate Action Plan in 2021, what would those be?

...would have liked to see the committees take time to start broadly before jumping into the specific actions. What is the committee's vision for Vermont in 2025, 2030, and 2050 (and beyond)? What are the shared goals?

Key themes:
Trust, Equity, CAP writing, Decision making

...set more clear guidelines around when we operate in consensus versus voting and ensure that we do not put off important conversations in the name of consensus.

...seemed to be a lack of coordination/process at times between committees re: focal area overlap which led to conflicting recommendations...

...State staff assistance should have been brought in at the very beginning. The task was too great for those with other full-time jobs and was unfair to those who weren't being paid for the amount of work necessary to understand the technical aspects, analyze options, consult with others in the field, work to find consensus, draft information, prepare presentations and more.

...coalition building necessary to engender a sense of shared respect for each other and responsibility over this process and the plan itself was significantly hindered by the apparent tension between Council members...a pervasive power dynamic was on display both on screen and behind the scenes at all times.

The Council has different tasks and responsibilities in 2022 than it did in 2021. However, what do your reflections about last year suggest about changes to the way the VCC should work in 2022?

The process of having the Council 'approve' everything felt cumbersome and bureaucratic - could another level of engagement be explored where subcommittees had more autonomy and less engagement with the full Council?

...partner with numerous entities, including regional commissions and NGOs, in the development of policy and policy implementation strategies, and, critically, public outreach and engagement. To the extent some or all of these entities need to be resourced to provide support, those resources should be accounted for and provided.

This coming year we need to be much more intentional about using the guiding principles and communicating between groups...I would like to ask that we put out a revised plan 12/1/22 and plan our work accordingly.

The number of meetings needs to be reduced and the work plan expectations need to be scaled back and framed in a multi-year work program...



There should be much more technical support provided for climate resiliency and sequestration. Prioritization metrics, such as cost/benefit for resiliency and sequestration actions need to be supported by analysis, development of appropriate metrics, and data on those metrics.


...the Council should maintain unity of purpose and collaboration even in the face of disagreement...

Key Themes:

- Workload
- Public engagement
- Subcommittee and Council membership
- Financial compensation

...we now have plenty of times to take policy ideas to and solicit policy ideas directly from the public with an emphasis on frontline communities....

There should be significant effort to identify areas of mutual interest between sub-committees and create opportunity to coordinate/collaborate between sub-committees on those areas.



Are there other components of the Council's work that you'd like to reflect on, to help shape our efforts this year?

Very hard to keep going at the pace from last year; hope we can slow down and have time to listen and process, as well as respond to potential comments we receive.

An understanding of the resources that are available to the Council for public outreach, policy analyses, state staff assistance and more must be made clear so that the Council can strategically plan for this year and next.

At many points there appeared to be a general lack of trust among Council members (or factions) and that came across in a number of meetings, especially as time went on...

Key themes:

Trust, Implementation, Staff Support, Workload

