

[Ag & Ecosystem Draft Pathways, Strategies and Actions – Feedback from Climate Council](#)
[9-28-21](#)

Co-Chairs Abbie Corse and Billy Coster [presented the subcommittee’s emerging package of pathways, strategies and actions](#). The subcommittee is aiming for a final version of the matrix next week. Councilors stressed that these documents are still being revised and the entire council will review the refined package of recommendations from the subcommittee next month. The councilors offered feedback and had questions for the sub-committee, in particular:

- **Gratitude for all the work that went into developing this comprehensive set of ideas.**
- **Specific Carbon Credit Proposal:** It was recommended to further explore markets outside of the state as well as any inside that have not been researched. The subcommittee co-chairs mentioned that they are wrestling with questions of accountability as well as weighing pros and cons. There is interest in compensating landowners for their carbon.
- **Current Use Value:** What specific changes are being considered?
 - Sub-committee co-chair response: Looking at how to include other management practices, particularly ones that store more carbon and promote old growth.
- **Biomass Electricity:** Has the subcommittee highlighted this issue, specifically advanced wood heat?
 - Sub-committee co-chair response: There is general support for advanced wood heat and other thermal applications. Some members of the committee are concerned about large scale biomass as there are public health and equity impacts that they want to examine.
- **Climate Resilience Zones:** What is meant by these zones?
 - Subcommittee co-chair response: This was born from a conversation around cross-cutting themes. The primary intention is to look across data sets.
- **Pathway F and Promoting Sourcing of Ethical Materials:** Tracking down these supply chains would be difficult. It would be a mistake for the subcommittee to support bans or strict language on key technologies for climate mitigation.
 - Subcommittee co-chair response: The subcommittee recognizes that everything will have some impact. The subcommittee wants to proceed with transparency with whatever they are putting forward. The impacts need to be clear for everyone, particularly for indigenous communities in and outside of Vermont.
- **Pathway B:** Would like to see more explicit focus on policies to avert development away from natural and working lands, and towards compact development.

Comment From:	Date Received:	Comment:
Kelly Klein	9-28-21	Pathway B, Cell F36: We have been running an experiment on our 3-acre property for the past 6 years where we mow it once in the spring but otherwise leave it alone, and we have been able to control trees and have had increasing biodiversity every year. A possible middle-way between no-mow and frequent mowing might

		be to mow once or twice a year at critical times (e.g. before Wild Parsnip goes to seed) to prevent tree growth right next to roads and promote biodiversity.
Kelly Klein	9-28-21	Pathway C, Cell F12: I'm sure I'm not the first to raise this question, but is it possible to use solar fields for pasture?
Kelly Klein	9-28-21	Overall comment: I think you have an opportunity to consolidate this a bit by providing footnotes to cross-reference when a similar action can further two or more strategies. Just from my first read-through, I noticed that there seem to be several strategies or actions that come up in nearly identical form under different strategies and pathways. For example, Pathway G, Cell D157 is very similar to Pathway A, Rows 20, 75, 76 and Pathway B, Rows 155-158.