

**Cross Sector Mitigation Subcommittee  
of the Vermont Climate Council  
5/16/24 Meeting - Minutes**

Location: Virtual Meeting (Zoom). Meeting video available [here](#)  
Subcommittee Members present: Rich Cowart, Melissa Bailey, Jared Duval, Johanna Miller, Liz Miller, Adam Sherman, Bram Kleppner, Christine Donovan, David Farnsworth, Gina Campoli, Ryan Patch, Andrea Wright, Peter Sterling, Erik Schultz, Sam Lash  
State Agency Staff Present: Brian Woods, Deirdra Ritzer  
Minutes by: Andrea Wright

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**Subcommittee Introductions**

**(15:00) Meeting Logistics**

- Andrea volunteered to take notes.
- The [April 15, 2024 meeting minutes](#) were approved

**(16:25) Review Climate Action Plan Recommendation Progress Tracking**

- The group reviewed a Co-Chair generated hybrid summary of the two Climate Action Plan Progress Report summaries provided by the Climate Action Office (CAO).
- Task group leads provided an overview of the status of previous recommendations.
  - General comments:
    - Need to consider what might be a missing action status category – ‘Advancing’ may not be appropriate – ‘Planning’ status would be good to add.
    - Need for metrics implementation (ex. How many EV chargers or what % of overall goal has been achieved) could also be incorporated.
    - There was comment or question on what leeway there is to modify the Report. Suggestion that we can edit to the degree that we feel is necessary.
  - Transportation overview - not a line-by-line review but highlighted that rulemaking has been implemented; Policy area is still a need and work is advancing on that through a contract that ANR and VTrans are leading. A lot of momentum on other items has been made due to funding opportunities through IJA and IRA and we need to be thinking about sustainable funding in our recommendations for transportation and beyond. It was noted that the Carbon Reduction Study provided a lot of information and needs to be incorporated and considered as we make recommendations.
  - Buildings – Task group leads provided an overview and run down of status of items; adding detail to what was included in the summary. Strongly supported making this initial table our own, to make it what we would like for the subcommittee to be more results and impacts based, and supported development

of metrics to inform a gap and ultimately recommendations to fill the gap; especially related to funding. There was a comment about how others can support implementation and getting “people” back into the actions.

- Electricity – Task group leads gave an overview of Strategies status; adding detail to what was included in the summary as well as what could be updated in the notes provided in the Report. Mentioned overlap of other sectors with electrification.
- Comments in the Chat pertained to the need to advance a transportation policy; the need to help shape a Clean Heat Standard program; to advance an equipment-based performance standard; to focus on financing and helping Vermonters access current available funding; to do more on workforce, energy storage, and education; and proposed replacing "carbon free" with "renewable" throughout Strategy 7a.

### **(56:20) Subcommittee Priorities**

Several members provided input:

- What is the process for adding what we feel is missing? Response that we should consider the continuation of and development of needed task groups and these items be addressed in the task groups and brought back to subcommittee meetings.
- Suggestion for and invitation to utilities to interact with the subcommittees and provide input and insight so a process that engages them will be important.
- There was mention of the array and magnitude of the recommendations and emphasized the need for prioritizing actions and that the subcommittee needs to follow the data to inform that for GHG reduction in an equitable way. The entities that are doing the most are creating policy and regulation that provide market clarity. Top priority is a cap-and-invest program for one or more sectors. When looking at standards we need to set a priority for opportunities for equipment performance standards beyond transportation; especially for thermal.
- Recommendation to have a session that takes the landscape viewpoint to identify the best proven policy and regular policies in place by others and potentially available to Vermont; and to do so in absence of any potential political will. Create a common base of understanding of what the tools are that are available. Should be informed at the start by subcommittee discussion and then potentially invite others. It was noted that both political and practical feasibility need to be considered.
- Co-Chair Overview of the discussion:
  - Follow up on topics from initial Climate Action Plan and assess in more detail how successful they will be in meeting climate goals to determine if/ how to advance and prioritize them.
  - Identify the topics that have not yet come up and invite all members to provide input on that.

- Take a landscape view to understand the policies that are most effective, equitable, feasible.
- Stay informed about cap-and-invest work.
- Need to emphasize social justice.

**(1:21:07) Continue Task Group Structure Discussion**

- Conversation carried on from previous discussion. The subcommittee determined that task groups will serve the most efficient process and that the subcommittee serves to further define, make decisions, and prioritize actions. It will be iterative.
- Suggested to continue task groups developed for initial Climate Action Plan - thermal, transportation, and electricity. Suggested potential need for cap-and-invest task group but decisions would be made after the “landscape” look. The Subcommittee wants to be sure to be kept up to date on the work of the cap-and-invest study.
- Each member shall send a note to Melissa and Rich nominating themselves or others for the task groups.

**(1:38:15) Coordination with other Subcommittees**

- Andrea mentioned the need for cross-walking actions and detailed coordination with other subcommittees.

**(1:39:29) Public Comment**

- Dylan Giambatista from VGS stated that there is support for energy efficiency equipment standards.

**(1:41:03) Wrap up and Next Steps**

- Review and Update spreadsheet status. (Cover other sectors not covered.)
- Metrics for Measurable Progress
  - Refine these recommendations. Who's been left out? - Narrow, don't deprioritize
  - If not meeting GWSA, what are our options? Landscape, include cap-and-invest.
  - Do we need BAU update? By sector?
- How do we structure task group work? CSM members shall nominate themselves or others to task groups; Connections between task groups? How do task groups know what to bring to subcommittee?
- How do we interface with other Subcommittees? How do we integrate equity and engagement from the start?
- FUTURE - Equity and Engagement / lessons from CAO public engagement - What questions do we want to ask the public? How do we integrate this info?

**(1:53:40) Adjourn**