

# Cross Sector Mitigation Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council 6/13/24 Meeting **Draft** Minutes

**Location:** Virtual Meeting (Zoom).  
Meeting video available [here](#)

**Subcommittee members present:** Melissa Bailey, Jared Duval, Johanna Miller, Liz Miller, Bram Kleppner, Christine Donovan, Gina Campoli, Peter Sterling, Erik Schultz, Sam Lash  
**State agency staff present:** Brian Woods, Deirdra Ritzer Adam Sherman,  
**CBI staff present:** David Plumb, Catherine Morris

Minutes taken by Bram Kleppner

**Meeting called to order (12:04pm).**

**Minutes of the 5/10/2024 were adopted (12:06)**

## **Overview of Business as usual scenario, Brian Woods (12:07 to 12:30)**

- Overview and explanation of the functionality of the Low Emission Analysis Platform, especially the capability to compare various scenarios.
- LEAP forecasting tool is getting more accurate over time, and other aspects of the tool are also being improved continuously.
- Compared to other models, some of LEAP's advantages are transparency and flexibility. It's relatively easy to do a series of what-if scenarios.
- Getting ready to put a multi-year contract w/ SEI (creator of LEAP) into place.
- Current trends show that we will hit the 2025 goal, but without further action, will miss 2030 and 2050's goals.
- The model currently predicts our beating the 2025 CO2 goal by 13 thousand metric tons, but we may well miss the goal, as actual CO2 inventories have been meaningfully higher than the LEAP model forecast in the past.

## **Review of Additional Guidance to Subcommittees doc, David Plumb (12:30 to 12:52)**

- Timeline: revised CAP is due to the legislature in June 2025.
- The VCC needs to update the plan to ensure that we have a coherent economy-wide strategy that makes sense to get our emissions aligned w/ the GWSA.
- For the revision, our big question is: **what are the few big things to add to the CAP that will make the biggest difference in meeting our goals.**
- There are some limited facilitation hours available from CBI for the subcommittees, if needed.

- One imperative for subcommittees is to incorporate just transitions criteria in every step of the work. An initial question is: **how do we understand these inequities today, which ones are left wholly or partially unaddressed in the CAP, how do we address those gaps in justice in this revision?**

## **Timeline**

### **General guidance**

- Time is limited, so in order to stay on schedule, we will need to be strategic with our time and selective about what we discuss and what we choose to pursue.
- Consider equity at every stage.
- Focus on gaps.

### **June-September**

- Develop additional pathways/strategies/actions. There is support for the subcommittees from Brian and others on modeling, and from CAO in coordinating with implementers, who are largely state staff.
- There is a community engagement team working in the communities now, we can send them questions through the co-chairs. They issue quarterly engagement reports. The Q1 has been issued, and the Q2 engagement report will be out shortly.
- The community engagement team has held six events w/ linguistically diverse communities, with translators present. They are also partnering w/ the CAP agencies to engage low-income Vermonters in the planning process.
- There will be a list of community engagement events that subcommittee members can attend, and we can invite members of various communities to join us.
- There are two community engagement events next week, Tuesday & Thursday, June 18 and June 20, which are on the [VCC calendar](#).
- Community engagement naturally expands the conversation beyond the formal goals of the GWSA. Our intent is to ensure those interests and suggestions that are not related to the goals of the GWSA are memorialized and made available to the appropriate body or person, whoever that may be.

### **Sept-Nov**

- Develop a list of potential new actions to include in the revised CAP, prioritized based on our overarching criteria: quantity of the reduction in CO2 emissions; cost effectiveness; technical feasibility; social justice; and co-benefits.
- The timeline calls for draft recommendations by mid September, with a final prioritized list by the end of September.

### **December - May**

- The Council as a whole will work through the recommendations for additions, deletions, and changes to the CAP on the subjects of transportation, thermal sector, and electricity from the Cross-Sector Mitigation Subcommittee, as well as recommendations from the Rural Resilience & Adaptation and Agriculture and Ecosystems, and possibly also from the Just Transitions and/or the Science & Data subcommittees.

- The goal is for the VCC to adopt a revised CAP in June.

#### **Update on the transportation analysis, Joey Miller (12:52-1:04)**

- The VCC had settled on a cap-and-invest program for transportation, but that chosen program, TCI-P, fell apart shortly before the CAP was due. For Vermont's transportation sector to meet its statutorily required emissions reductions, the Council will need to adopt a replacement for TCI-P.
- The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) required state transportation agencies to create a Carbon Reduction Strategy (CRS). VTrans created VT's CRS, which has a lot of important data, and which does not close the gap in emissions between VT's current transportation emissions trajectory and the transportation emissions reduction goal.
- VTrans, w/ Andrea Wright leading, along with the CAO and the State Treasurer's office, created an RFP to solicit proposals for an analysis of the regulatory and policy options to achieve the needed emissions reductions in the transportation segment.
- The RFP attracted proposals from two teams of applicants. A ten-member transportation advisory group composed of people from VTRANS, CAO, and the VCC chose a lead candidate.
- VTRANS and ANR are negotiating the scope of work, and expect that the analysis will include:
  - Transportation cap & invest
  - Transportation cap & invest plus a low-carbon fuel standard
  - Economy-wide cap & invest, which will include a low-carbon fuel standard.
- The two viable cap & invest programs that Vermont might join are New York's program, and the Western Climate Initiative (WCI). It is possible to join just the transportation part of WCI.
- Some questions to be answered:
  - What part of a regional program's reductions would have to come from Vermont?
  - What is the allowance price on emissions?
  - What do the economics look like for Vermont and for individual Vermonters and Vermont households, preferably broken out by household income quintile.
  - What are the most impactful ways to invest the revenue from a cap & invest program in terms of social justice and in terms of emissions reductions?
- Expecting a final report in February. Note that this puts it a couple months behind when the subcommittees are supposed to have final recommendations for the Council, so the CSM will have to absorb the analysis fairly quickly and move through its own analysis fairly quickly to forward a recommendation on to the whole VCC in time for adequate debate and questions for the VCC to be able to make a sound decision in May/June.

#### **Draft work plan, Melissa Bailey (1:05-1:56)**

- The subcommittee's task is outlined in the timeline above: final prioritized recommendations ready to present to the Council in November/December.
- The subcommittee creates task groups to focus on specific sectors, and sometimes on specific tasks.

- General task group activities include conducting research, collecting data and presentations from experts and community members, and analysis, with the goal of identifying options and ideally making a recommendation to the CSM subcommittee.
- Each Task Group needs to decide cadence of task group meetings, but we generally expect that task groups will be meeting every other week through the summer and fall, with subcommittee meetings on a monthly basis.
- Part of the task group's work is to evaluate all options relative to social justice, and to ask what the implications for equity are.
- The task groups' goal is to bring forward draft recommendations to the subcommittee in September.
- Task groups will for the most part be doing their own scheduling, meeting facilitation, and note taking, although there may be some facilitation time available.
- Christine will schedule the first meeting of Buildings/Thermal task group.
- Joey will schedule the first Transportation task group.
- The work of the Electricity Task Group will depend on the outcome of next week's veto session; in particular, whether the legislature overrides the Governor's veto of the Renewable Energy Standard, so they will hold off on scheduling the next meeting until Tuesday or Wednesday, when that result is known.
- In Transportation, the task group will focus on identifying the gaps, key stakeholders, data needs, and opportunities to advance equity.

**Key for every subcommittee and task group:**

1. Workforce: where in the VCC structure, and in what form, should the VCC's work on workforce take?
2. Leveraging federal money wherever possible.
3. Economic effects on community, households, etc?

**General notes**

- The Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory is being updated.
- The Business As Usual (BAU) scenario has been updated.

**Public comment (1:57pm)**

There were several members of the public at the meeting, but no public comment.

**Meeting adjourned at 1:59pm.**