

VCC Decision-Making Over the Next Two Weeks

A Plan for reaching Dec. 1 with an Initial Climate
Action Plan

November 16, 2021

Deliberation, voting and reaching Dec. 1

- The Council's key decision-point and vote occurs on Dec. 1, when it will decide whether to adopt the Initial Climate Action Plan
- During its Nov 23 and Nov 29 meetings, the council will implement its agreed decision-making protocol* with a more structured process
- This presentation describes this proposed process, which is designed to increase the chances of reaching Dec 1 with near unanimous approval of the Initial CAP

*<https://outside.vermont.gov/agency/anr/climatecouncil/Shared%20Documents/VCC%20Decision-Making%20Protocol%2010-12-21.pdf>

A process for Nov 23 and Nov 29

We will take the Initial CAP text section by section (e.g., Agricultural Pathways for Mitigation, etc.)

1. Straw poll: We ask every Council member to answer in chat: 1) I can live with this section, or 2) Something in this section concerns me so much I can't stand behind the Initial CAP as a whole because of it
2. Test for a quick fix then resolve: If one or more Councilors select option 2, they briefly describe their specific concern. Once all concerns are listed, we offer the possibility to councilors to test a concrete change in language in a new straw poll that asks – with this change, now how do I feel about this section...(same options 1 and 2).
 - a. The new proposed language is written on screen before the new poll
 - b. If the new poll achieves greater consensus than the initial poll, the Council takes on the new language. Any councilors who strongly object to the new language are invited to 1) express their concerns in the meeting minutes and/or 2) write a short dissenting view on this issue by Dec 1 for inclusion in an appendix.
 - c. If the new poll does worse than the previous one, the Council sticks with the original language and any councilor who strongly objects to it is invited to 1) express their concerns in the meeting minutes and/or 2) write a short dissenting view on this issue by Dec 1 for inclusion in an appendix.
 - d. We repeat this process on any additional concerns that emerged from the original poll
3. To be sure, this process does not substitute the Dec. 1 decision whether to adopt the full Initial CAP. It just sets us up for greater success, with clarity around situations in which Councilors may need to write a dissenting view on a specific issue.

Sequence of sections for this process

Tuesday, Nov 23

- All Ag & Ecosystem and Rural Resilience sections (final drafts, including track change versions, will be available Nov 17)
- Remaining Sections of CAP that had final drafts by Nov 17 including Complete Implementation Section, Council Next Steps, How to Use this Plan, Carbon Budget and Letter from Council, List of terms for Glossary
- Complete Draft Circulated

Monday, Nov 29

- Comprehensive Draft Reviewed
- Particular Focus on Emission Reductions Section and Cross-Cutting Pathways