

VT Climate Council FY24 budget memo

November 10, 2022

To: Vermont Climate Council, care of Jane Lazorchak & Marian Wolz, ANR

From: Just Transitions Sub Committee

RE: Just Transitions Sub Committee FY24 Climate Engagement Budget Proposal

The Just Transitions Sub Committee (JT SC) established a small subgroup to draft a proposed budget request for the Vermont Climate Council (VCC). The subgroup presented the draft proposal during VCC's 9/12/22 meeting and then met with the full JT SC to categorize and prioritize proposed recommendations on 9/15/22. The resultant FY24 budget below includes prioritized recommendations categorized by public engagement and outreach and implementation that align with the mission of the subcommittee and are critical to implementing the Climate Action Plan. These budget priorities continue to advance the work focused on relationship building, capacity development, and community action and engagement. Reminder that the JT SC sees itself as an advisory committee that will develop and communicate just transition ideas and expectations for others to implement.

This budget acknowledges the importance of sufficiently resourcing community engagement and the need for more intentional training around equity and the Guiding Principles developed by JT SC and approved by this Council. JT SC wants to ensure that all climate actions are aligned, that we avoid duplication, but are intentional about cross-effort collaborations. These outlined recommended investments helps transform how we do our climate work here in Vermont and guide a just transition, provides critical equity training, supports individuals' involvement, & meets people where they are at.

One critical observation from the JT SC was that the top priority public engagement and outreach recommendation – direct engagement with community members – is reliant upon compensation, communications support, and translations services to be effective. Without these, the outreach efforts may not reach the most marginalized communities, without whom our efforts will result in a return to status quo, and be futile. **These prioritized recommendations remain independently listed below but should be considered collectively as the top priority public engagement and outreach recommendation.**

Prioritized Public Engagement and Outreach Recommendations

What	Why	How	Target Outcomes	Investment
1. Direct engagement with community members	Building relationships and trust with communities is essential to successful public engagement	Support for partner organizations and staff through a grant to an external organization to implement	1000 individuals reached # of individuals with increased understanding of climate related science, programs and policies	\$400, 000 (\$25,000 per county * 14 counties) + 0.5 Full time staff member at ANR for administration (\$50,000K)

			# of supported in-person outreach events	
2. Compensation for Participation	Ensuring equitable compensation for community members and members of the Vermont Climate Council. <i>For all engagement efforts, particularly those that target marginalized communities, this must be a priority and a part of the implementation strategy.</i>	Provide stipends, supports and incentives for community members to participate through a grant to an external organization to implement	# of climate council members with increased compensation # of community members paid for participation	\$65,000 \$200 per diem/climate council subcommittee or task group meeting (~10 members x 20 meetings) Average of \$50 per person per engagement (~500 individuals)
3. Communications & Marketing	Simplify messaging around climate impacts, action and opportunities through targeted messaging using a variety of traditional and non-traditional platforms. <i>For all engagement efforts, particularly those that target marginalized communities, this must be a priority and a part of the implementation strategy.</i>	Produce flyers and videos including multi language access to help build awareness on climate impacts and programs Expand promotion of events through paid advertisement in radio, TV, local publications and locations, front porch forum, social media.	# of views of climate related videos # of views of paid advertisements	\$200,000 Hire consultant/contractor(s) for video production and marketing

4. Translation Services	Accessibility to information and opportunities for all Vermonters including individuals with limited English proficiency, disabilities, blind and hard of hearing. <i>For all engagement efforts, particularly those that target marginalized communities, this must be a priority and a part of the implementation strategy.</i>	Ensure that agency or state Language Access Plan(s) apply to all climate-related outreach and regulatory programs related to CAP implementation.	# of documents translated into other languages # of requests for translation services	TBD based on what is covered by Climate Office vs additional budget needs. Individual agencies may also need additional resources.
5. Generational Engagement	Engaging youth, young adults and seniors in Vermont are critical to ensure that every generation has a voice	Funding incorporation of climate justice into established programs through grants to partner organizations targeting specific age groups to build capacity	# of K-12 schools supported # of seniors participating in community events	\$150,000 3-5 grants to partner organizations (\$30-50K each)

Prioritized Implementation Recommendations

What	Why	How	Target Outcomes	Investment
1. Training on Guiding Principles	Building capacity and understand how to consistently and proactively integrate principles into programs and policies design	Train, coach and engage Legislators, state agency implementers and others on general equity and just transitions concepts utilizing	# of individuals trained # of policies and programs that incorporate the Guiding Principles	\$100,000 Hire consultant/contractor to work in coordination with JT SC

		JT guiding principles and tools		
2. Action Opportunities	Providing funding for action by supporting frontline community-led projects including demonstration projects, community gardens or other projects to mitigate GHG emissions	Establish the Community Climate Change grant program administered through ANR and provide technical assistance to community groups to apply	# of community members reached through outreach or direct participation % applications awarded % awards to frontline or impacted communities	\$350,000 (20 communities * \$15,000 + + 0.5 Full time staff member at ANR for administration (\$50,000K)
Estimate Proposed Budget				\$1,265,000