

Implementing Just Transition Principles in 2022 - Priority Actions for the JT Subcommittee

Brainstorm

April 21, 2022

Priority Actions for JT Subcommittee based on Jam Board, discussion, and Zoom Chat from 4/21 meeting:

Work currently underway supported by State/ANR staff

Work currently underway supported by the Public Engagement Task Group

Work currently underway supported by JT Subcommittee Members

Planned work supported by State/ANR staff

In the Council's work	In State Government	With the Legislature
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring the work of the Municipal Vulnerability Index and the EJ Map included in the EJ bill (S.148) to ensure equity is considered in the metrics and data. Include engagement with REJOICE on their EJ mapping work. Consider tracking public engagement with communities as data points for use by the Council and others. Gather baseline understanding for community engagement data; could intersect with public engagement task group and metrics task group. Use the CVOEO and Capstone community needs assessments as baseline data. Reengage on JT representation on Transportation and Biomass Task Groups when new JT members join. <p>On public engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Act as the voice, or translators, for marginalized and impacted communities to the Council, Leg, etc. Going out to the public to listen before policies are decided on, so that public input and thoughts can inform policy development, is a good approach for public engagement. Be proactive in setting goals and making steps towards public engagement with our non-English speaking community members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify, curate, host a list and schedule of trainings to offer to state govt, legislators, policy makers, and community. Training ideas include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orientation to the Guiding Principles and Scoring Rubric Training on Plain Language Cultural Humility Training Continue to meet and engage on incorporating the Guiding Principles into the Environmental Impact Assessment currently used by State government. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant level of interest from subcommittee in engaging policy makers/legislators Engage with Legislators after the session to hear from them about what would be helpful in terms of resources and training to make their process more inclusive. Curate and offer trainings (see State Govt)

In the Council's Work

How do we incorporate our voices in various Task Groups? - What are our goals for engagement and outcomes?

Task Groups – notes from JamBoard

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- Better understand (through data) how frontline communities would be impacted by the proposals
- Data related to job creation/loss and economic impact
- encourage all metrics to include equity impacts
- community needs assessments from CAP agencies happening currently (CVOEO and Capstone have collectively surveyed over 300 people)

Task Groups - key takeaways from discussion:

- Regarding the notes on collecting and monitoring data; the MVI will reflect some indicators of vulnerable communities in Vermont. The EJ bill includes the development of an EJ mapping tool.
 - JT subcommittee may want to monitor those two pending projects.
 - The EJ Mapping tool if it passes in S.148 won't be available until 2024, or later.
- Reflection that subcommittee may define data to include feedback from frontline and impacted communities.
 - Want to talk to people, data points could include conversations, public forums, opportunities for feedback – may not be statistically significant, rather a representation of the voices the JT subcommittee brings to the table and for which the subcommittee makes space.
 - JT subcommittee could play a role in gathering baseline understanding for this data, could intersect with public engagement task group and metrics task group.
 - Could the CVOEO and Capstone data serve as baseline data for ongoing progress to be evaluated against? - There were specific climate related questions in that needs assessment, once the results are published we could pick and choose which would be relevant benchmarks.
 - REJOICE has been doing outreach and mapping – could be a good intersection on data and mapping with the JT subcommittee.
- Metrics group will continue to look at the metrics included in the measuring and assessing progress tool to ensure equity across the board.
- Recommendation to wait until new members are added to see if new members would be interested in contributing to the transportation and biomass task groups. There may be more time and energy from new members of the JT subcommittee.

Public Engagement – notes from JamBoard

- Engage youth
- act as the voice, or translators, for marginalized and impacted communities to the Council, Leg, etc.
- If we ask for peoples ideas and thoughts for peoples, there should be follow through such as we'll be discussing this item at this meeting on this date...
- Communicating tangible benefits
- public engagement: important to listen prior to a program or bill being put forth - if no engagement before then, it could hurt certain groups.
 - listening so information can be translated into policy.
 - can articulate how policies are missing the boat for specific communities
- We need to consider how the policy development in GWSA can do harm. I think we have a blindspot there

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- getting "buy in" from skeptics
- Need to simplify messages
- use plain language
- There is no call to action, or what is the incentive to participate?

Public Engagement – key takeaways from discussion:

- Reflecting on the need to do more listening – the Council may be working with the PSD this summer to host listening sessions around the Renewable Energy Standard that the Legislature will likely take up next session. Hoping to gather input BEFORE the session starts and the policy is finalized. Hope the JT subcommittee and Council can set priorities on going to the public to listen before policies get to the legislature for consideration.
- Agreement that going out to the public to listen before policies are decided on, so that public input and thoughts can inform policy development, is a good approach for public engagement.
- Discussion around being the voice for frontline and impacted communities to the Council, Legislature, etc.
- Would be helpful to hear new policies that are coming down the pike so the subcommittee can digest them and do public engagement with a better understanding of policies that are in the works. Would help the JT subcommittee frame conversations in the public around “how would this policy impact you and your family?”, rather than trying to fix detrimental policies after they have been created.
- Emphasize the need for this group to be proactive in setting goals and making steps towards providing educating to our non-English speaking community members.

In State Government

How do we apply the Guiding Principles?

State Govt – notes from JamBoard

- offer training on how to use the JT rubric
- first meeting with EIA group on 4/27
- VT has been talking about a Declaration of Inclusion to be adopted by towns and other groups. Is this something we should comment on? Does it tie in with our JT principles?
 - More info on the Declaration of Inclusion:
https://www.vlct.org/sites/default/files/VT_DeclarationOfInclusion_Guide.pdf
 - Part of the Governor's Inclusion Week
<https://governor.vermont.gov/sites/scott/files/documents/21-062%20Inclusion%20Week.pdf>
 - Webinar on Tuesday, 4/26 at 10 am, geared towards businesses and business leaders (and other organizations) but free to attend and open to all
<https://vbsr.org/event/vermonts-declaration-of-inclusion-why-it-matters-what-it-means-for-your-organization/>
- monitor/insure/ enforce contracted work toward meeting policy goals also follow JT guidelines

State Govt – key takeaways from discussion:

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- State staff urged caution around offering training on the Guiding Principles because the Equity Impact Assessment Tool developed by the Office of Racial Equity and Diversity is still the State's tool – that tool is still getting its feet under it. Recommendation to give that tool time as it overlaps with the conversation around merging the EIA and the Guiding Principles
 - One intermediate step recommended would be to at least offer a training on the Guiding Principles for new subcommittee members or Councilors.
 - Another recommendation to train other entities of policy makers on the Guiding Principles (Leg Council, Legislators, for example).
 - Recommendation to call it an “Orientation to the Guiding Principles and Scoring Rubric” and invite anyone to attend.
- The idea of trainings that this subcommittee hosts, could/should be a great topic for discussion.
 - Training on Plain Language a recommendation to offer if one can be found.
- On the Declaration of Inclusion – there is a VBSR training on 4/26 (linked above) for people to learn more.

With the Legislature

What priorities might we propose?

Legislature – notes from JamBoard

- proactive in setting goals and making steps towards providing educating to our non-English speaking community members
- Equity training and Guiding Principles trainings for legislators
- help elect JT friendly legislators and provide a JT score for voting records
- Need to reinforce the threshold of investments into frontline communities
- legislature would benefit from training - possibly by national organizations or other state legislatures - on how to evolve their public engagement to have more JT representation before them, and, frankly, how to evolve their bill development process in a way that elevates JT.
- Specific training on scoring rubric for legislators
- Need to continue conversations about compensation for participants
- Discuss JT principles in County groups & Climate Caucus of Leg

Legislature – key takeaways from discussion:

- Legislative process does not lend itself well to inclusion of JT principles. Suggestion to engage with Legislators after the session to hear from them about what would be helpful in terms of resources and training to make their process more inclusive.
 - It is an election season, many legislators go door to door – may need to be encouraged to go to some of the communities that are not typically involved in the legislative process.
- Seems like the legislature would benefit from training - possibly by national organizations or other state legislatures - on how to evolve their public engagement to have more JT representation before them, and, frankly, how to evolve their bill development process in a way that elevates JT.

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- Significant level of interest in engaging policy makers/legislators
 - Suggestion to offer a cultural humility training.