

Just Transitions Subcommittee 2023 Activities

Memo to the VT Climate Council

3/16/23

The Just Transitions Subcommittee of the VT Climate Council (JTSC) has been focused over the past 6 months on better defining its purpose and role with respect to the VT Climate Council and implementation of the Climate Action Plan.

The Just Transitions Subcommittee is described in the GWSA, as follows:

Just Transitions Subcommittee. This subcommittee shall focus on ensuring that strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to build resilience to adapt to the effects of climate change benefit and support all residents of the State fairly and equitably. This subcommittee shall ensure that strategies consider the disproportionate impact of climate change on rural, low income, and marginalized communities and that programs and incentives for building resilience are designed to be accessible to all Vermonters and do not unfairly burden any groups, communities, geographic locations, or economic sectors. This subcommittee may adopt a measurement tool to assess the equitability of programs and strategies considered by the Council.

To achieve this charge, the Just Transitions Subcommittee has:

- Developed Guiding Principles for a Just Transition, which includes a Scoring Rubric tool.
 - The Guiding Principles and Scoring Rubric are intended to be actively used by the Climate Council members, subcommittees, legislature and administration to develop and refine Climate Action policies and programs.
- Provided training to Climate Council members.
- Supported Public Engagement activities.
- JTSC Members have participated in several Subcommittees and task groups.
- Developed budget recommendations for public engagement.

Moving forward, the JTSC primary role is not to be the sole entity proposing equity solutions, but instead to ask important questions, provide tools and expertise for others to consider the impact of climate change on marginalized communities, and hold the Climate Council accountable for using the Guiding Principles for a Just Transition.

We propose the following strategies for the Just Transitions Subcommittee to fulfill its charge:

- 1) The JTSC members continue to participate at the Climate Council meetings and other subcommittee and task groups as a designated JTSC liaison to provide support and expertise
- 2) Other Climate Council subcommittees, task groups, and state partners come to present their equity analysis or recommendations for review and feedback at regular JTSC meetings (currently held on the 3rd Thursday of every month from 4-6 pm)

- 3) The VT Climate Council seeks feedback and review by the JTSC when policy strategies, recommendations, or rules are developed
- 4) Public engagement plans and periodic work progress related to the Vermont Climate Council's work should be provided to the JTSC for review and input
- 5) Annually review and update the Just Transition Guiding Principles and Scoring Rubric tool

Please consider our proposed engagement approach and share feedback with our co-chairs Abbey Willard (abbey.willard@vermont.gov) or Kelly Klein (kelly.klein@partner.vermont.gov).