

Just Transitions Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council
May 1, 2025, 4:00-6:00 PM
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

- Subcommittee members: Abbey Willard, Callie Fishburn, Matthew LeFluer, Mona Tolba, Kelly Klein, Edgar Algieri
- State support staff: Liz Amler, Claire McIlvennie, Sophi Veltrop

Minutes:

4:00 PM Review Agenda and Accept Minutes from [2/13/25](#), [3/6/25](#), and [4/3/25](#) meetings

- *No quorum so could not approve minutes from previous meetings*

4:05 PM Climate Action Office Update (Sophi and Liz)

- *Liz Amler provided an overview of the upcoming Climate Council meetings and discussed ongoing discussions about how draft chapters will be revised to incorporate public input. Public input will be shared at May 5th upcoming Climate Council meeting.*
- *Liz highlighted the forthcoming Public Engagement chapter (draft due May 19th) which is of particular relevance for the JTSC in terms of upcoming work.*
- *Sophi provided an update on the public input sessions – 7 meetings (in person) across the state plus several virtual meetings. There will be a summary with detailed data on all the feedback received in addition to consolidated key takeaways that will be actionable in terms of making revisions. Sessions have provided both positive and fair, critical feedback. Challenges around plain language since the Council is not amenable to putting draft recommendations in plain language. Areas for improvement next time (ex. consideration of a technical term glossary). In terms of engagement, vision for reaching frontline & impacted communities did not fully come to fruition – some lessons learned to consider for next time, but Sophi heard some feedback that many were pleased with the experience.*
 - *Several subcommittee members attended events and reflected that simplifying the language to describe recommendations to plain language is critical for connecting with the public and there is a need to adjust to the demographics of the State and be more inclusive. For example, at the St. Albans event it felt like there were challenges understanding the materials. It makes it challenging for the subcommittees and Council to bring people together collaboratively. Additionally, although there was great discussion at events, some events were still largely reaching those already engaged and with the time privilege to be involved. Subcommittee members reflected that it*

is a challenging moment nationally which is likely taking precedent over engagement on the Climate Action Plan. Also highlighted there appears to be engagement fatigue (several subcommittee members agreed)

4:25 PM Climate Action Plan Revisions (Kelly)

- *Kelly noted that she does not believe the JTSC has feedback to consider on the subcommittees draft chapter. Liz Amler working on more specific guidance to be shared on May 5th around revising chapters.*
- *Sophi addressed an initial plan for the Public Engagement chapter – likely a narrative around why engagement is important, how engagement was approached for this Climate Action Plan, and how engagement was incorporated with a link to more comprehensive summaries to engagement events. Chapter due June 9th.*
 - *Sophi asked how the subcommittee would prefer to weigh in on the draft chapter between now and June 9th. Following discussion the following process was laid out, with minor adjustments in strikethrough/bold occurring after the meeting:*
 - *Sophi to send a draft to JTSC subcommittee members by ~~Tuesday 5/20~~ **Monday 5/19***
 - *JTSC can offer written comments until 5/30; Mona and Matthew to conduct a plain language review at the same time*
 - *Sophi will revise the chapter in advance of JTSC meeting on 6/5*
 - *JTSC review and finalize chapter on 6/5*
 - *Chapter shared with VCC ~~to meet 6/9 deadline~~ **on 6/6 to be included in their meeting materials for 6/9***

4:50 PM Discussion of Climate Action Plan Priority Actions (Abbey)

- *Subcommittee members shared the following reflections:*
 - *General reflection from the events that 54 was too many “priority” recommendations; Sophi mentioned it came up at nearly every public input session*
 - *Could there be a rubric developed to help narrow down these priorities in the future?*
 - *Process recommendation that likely isn’t implementable now but perhaps in the future*
 - *In terms of supporting Weatherization for low- and moderate-income households, but it doesn’t seem like recommendations discussed funding for the Weatherization Repayment Assistance Program (WRAP) which helps address upfront cost barriers.*

- *Worth following up to understand why not included or if referenced in a non-priority recommendation*
- *Written comments from subcommittee members highlighted:*
 - *the need to consider workforce development and fair labor standards needs to support many of the recommendations –*
 - *Possible to highlight in a Just Transitions call out box in the workforce (cross-cutting issue) chapter*
 - *Specific edit: Gap in Cross Cutting Issue Workforce Development Priority Action #11 is the # of instructors and spaces for trades programs to increase # of students*
 - *Specific edit: Priority Action #12 – should include additional programming that is available – Kelly noted we should confirm reason for current wording*
 - *Strong support for all the Rural Resilience and Adaptation public health priority actions (#12-#15), Ag and Eco #7 and #8, and Cross-Sector Mitigation Transportation #3*
 - *Cost for new electricity sources, system upgrades, etc. should not burden the rate-payer*
- *Abbey's priorities: Financing options available to spur investments and improvements by 3 sectors of community (Cross Cutting Issue #14)*
 - *Homeowners (Rural Resilience and Adaptation #14)*
 - *Businesses (Agriculture and Ecosystems #3 + #14)*
 - *Municipalities (Rural Resilience and Adaptation #10)*
- *Additional thoughts on priority actions can be shared with co-chairs.*

5:50 PM Public comment
 No members of the public were present

5:55 PM What's Next (Abbey)

- *JTSC will not meet in July, August, or September*
- *June 6th meeting: Finalize public engagement chapter, discuss other items to focus on in the Fall (October), potentially thinking through quorum challenges – reconnecting with subcommittee members who can't regularly attend.*

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