

**Just Transitions Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council**  
**December 5, 2024, 4:00-6:00 PM**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Attendance: Kelly Klein, Callie Fishburn, Aleks Cirovic, Mona Tolba, Matthew LaFluer, Sam Lash, Sophi Veltrop (staff), Carey Hengstenberg (staff), Claire McIlvennie (staff), Liz Amler (staff)

4:00 PM Introduction (Kelly)

- Reviewed Agenda
- Waiting to accept minutes until more members join
- Moving January Just Transitions Subcommittee (JTSC) meeting to Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> (originally was Jan 2)
- Option to have presentation on health and well-being portion of Science & Data chapter at the January or February meeting. Cross cutting issue related to health and wellness. Does JTSC want to learn more from the Vermont Department of Health about the presentation they shared with the Science and Data subcommittee. There is a task group within rural resilience focused on public health. Claire can follow up with the Department of Health. Liz will follow up with Public Health task group to see if additional coordination is needed between the task group and JTSC.
- Guiding Principle visual prepared by the JTSC. Guidance only went through the end of the year. At the time it was prepared there was not guidance for the Climate Council on the timeline. Steering Committee is developing future guidance. JTSC will expand the timeline on the visual once the steering committee completes the timeline beyond January.
- Sam requested that JTSC review draft strategies and pathways to uplift items and draft accompanying recommendations (or new actions if needed) through the JTSC lens. Also an opportunity to comment on plain language. People agreed this is a good idea.
- Kelly will propose Just Transitions involvement with next phase of Climate Action Plan drafting at the Steering committee meeting at 12/9.

4:20 PM Support in problem solving for Just Transitions topics that are coming up in other subcommittees (Liaisons)

- Liaisons summarize how things are going with each of the drafting subcommittees and equity issues, questions, or conversations that have come up. (5 min each - 15 min total)
- Discussion amongst group to support liaisons and drafting subcommittees. (20 min)
- Science & Data (Claire): there are a couple of chapters S&D is leading on (such as Health, which has the biggest nexus with JT). S&D will not meet in December; will meet again in January on next steps and check-in on where chapter drafting is at. Claire will keep an eye out for any other overlap with JT.

- Cross-Sector Mitigation (Callie & Sam): Four-hour CSM meeting today! Priority actions were presented from the three task groups (thermal, electric, transportation). Sam has been on the thermal task group. A LOT of hard work has been happening. Several refinement meetings are occurring next week to put existing drafts into the template format. Lots of overlap between thermal and Just Transitions, lots of conversation about burdens on low-income, renters, manufactured & modular homes, ratepayer pressure & where funds come from, access to utility services (end-of-line users). It's a struggle to pick three things out of the forty to prioritize. Community-scale actions weren't making it into the priorities; conversation occurring around whether they should or not. It sounds like some actions focused on Vermonters with lower access or who have been disproportionately impacted will be lifted up as priorities. Discussion around cost effectiveness, who will bear costs because there will be some. Transportation sector focused on Cap & Invest study (waiting on report to come out). Compact settlement coming up as a priority for transportation. Electric sector - grid capacity and load management (equity is around municipalities that are smaller and have less access to programs).
  - Kelly: ease of access to the programs (easy to navigate and understand) would be great to include to the extent possible.
  - Sam: also providing best practices for implementation can be another avenue to suggesting that.
  - Matthew: Vermont Electric Co Op is using AI to help optimize grid. How does AI and other emerging technology play in?
  - Sam: AI could help with staff capacity, limited capacity, but there's an advantage to creating jobs for people. Notes that AI is very energy-intensive. Modeling might be relevant too.
  - Sophi: smart panels/meters for user load management in the home (still new technology)
  - Sam: waste heat recovery (challenging because of up-front cost)
  - Kelly: recalls discussion on CSM about incentive smart meters/panels during initial CAP
  - Sam: there are things about equipment standards and tech around electric hot water heaters. Incentive question is always how is it paid for, both on individual level and the impact on rates overall.
- Compact Settlement Cross-cutting group (Callie): met yesterday, refined priority actions related to compact settlement. Actions include funding for wastewater infrastructure (which is necessary for compact development) and support for going through the downtown designation process (which provides benefits to designated downtowns). Notes that Act 181 (the Act 250 reform bill that established a land use review board) has the potential to enact some of these recommendations but is still being enacted/stood up. An equity component of Act 181 is that it requires very significant public engagement that RPCs must do.
  - Kelly notes interconnection of compact settlement with both resilience and mitigation (e.g. reducing vehicle miles traveled vs. flood-prone downtowns)
  - Sam: curious about solar projects for affordable housing (example of recent Evernorth developments). Callie - hasn't come up much as the focus has been on land use. Flag to bring up at CSM subcommittee

level, also the equity impacts of community net metering solar going away.

4:45 PM Public comment – no members from the public present

5:25 PM Walk through final outline and drafting assignments (Claire and Sophi)

- ['Building Equity into the CAP and Ensuring a Just Transition' Chapter Outline](#)
- Claire reported there was some feedback on the outline but no major changes proposed. Outline now includes writing assignments
- Claire will coordinate smaller drafting group to have a draft for the January 16<sup>th</sup> meeting
- Drafters shared thoughts and questions:
  - Aleks interested in adding more visuals to the equity vs. equality section. Looking for some guidance and ideas around equity and what that currently looks like related to just transitions. Members agreed this is a good idea and that we could come up with examples.
  - Question about the length of each drafter. Sophi shared that a paragraph or two is ideal but recognized that can be difficult to condense information into 1 paragraph
  - Public engagement chapter will need to include engagement for the remainder of the time between now and when CAP is drafted/adopted.
  - Draft list of call out box subjects shared. If you would like to draft one or have ideas or information to share, reach out to Sam.
  - Providence Climate Justice plan was shared a good example: <https://www.providenceri.gov/sustainability/climate-justice-action-plan-providence/>
  - Sophi shared that the Climate Action Office is in the process of getting bids for a graphic design to assist with copy editing, plain language, highlighting stories, accessibility, etc... If you are interested in more information on this reach out to Sophi. Note it is on a quick timeline.

5:45 PM Engagement presentation (Sophi)

- Short on time for this section. Sophi did a brief presentation showing members where to find the outreach summary presentation:
  - [Engagement presentation slides](#)
  - [Summaries of Vermont Climate Action Engagement Fall 2024](#)
  - [Engagement presentation by David Plumb at 11/20/24 Climate Council meeting](#) (13:40 – 31:00 followed by discussion amongst Councilors which occurs approx. 39:00 – 57:00)
- Other materials are shared on the website, and notes and recordings are linked to the calendar entry of individual outreach events. <https://climatechange.vermont.gov/calendar>
- Ran out of time for discussion. May be there is time at the next meeting to discuss what from this could be useful to the Just Transitions chapter? Which item that you heard resonates with you the most?

6:00PM Meeting Adjourned

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