

Minutes
Just Transitions Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council
June 11, 2024 5:00 PM Meeting

Attendance: Abbey Willard, Matthew LaFluer, Sam Lash, Danielle Bombardier, Mona Tolba, Claire McIlvennie, Callie Fishburn, Kelsey Pasteris, Edgar Algieri, Sophi Veltrop, Carey Hengstenberg, Shalini Suryanarayana

Guests from Consensus Building Institute: David Plumb, Kashka Orlow, Indra Acharya

- 5:00 PM Welcome & Check In (Abbey)
- Review Agenda and Accept [Minutes from 5/16/24 meeting](#)
 - *No comments on minutes but could not be officially accepted because there was not quorum present*
- 5:10 PM Climate Action Office Update (Sophi)
- Climate Action Plan kick off events on June 18 & 20
 - *Please spread the word and see email from Jane Lazorchak sent on 6.11.2024 with information to share.*
 - *JTSC members who participate should go to the subcommittee they are liaisons to during the breakout group.*
 - Working Group update: draft of recommendations for improved public comment practices during Climate Action Plan Update period
 - *Sophi shared a draft document to send to the Council in advance of their meeting on July 8th.*
 - *The draft document was discussed*
 - *Suggestion that Climate Council consider adopting these—or similar—best practices for public comment, too.*
 - *Questions were raised about how comments would be used by the Council and subcommittees.*
 - *Question about timeframe for when comments will be addressed? All comments (written and oral) will be addressed during subcommittee meetings, no official process for comments to be addressed in writing (complexities of this explained)*
 - *Documents are technical and complex, and plain language should be used to allow members of the public to engage*
 - *The document will be shared by email for final comment by the JTSC before sending to the council*
 - Share Knowledge Bank concept with brief tool demonstration (Claire)
 - *Not discussed. Ran out of time*
 - Update on liaison attendance at other Subcommittee meetings
 - *Not discussed. Ran out of time*
- 5:35 PM Guiding Principles Follow Up (Abbey)
- Guiding Principles Exercise with weatherization example

- Practice sessions scheduled for July 18 4:30pm and August 6 12:00 noon (Carey)

5:50 PM Public Comment: *Shalini Suryanarayana from the Office of Racial Equity introduced herself to the JTSC and is looking forward to working with the subcommittee in the future.*

6:00 PM Public Engagement Efforts and Updates (Abbey)

- Consensus Building Institute presents on recent and upcoming public engagement activities, including focus groups (David, Indra, Kashka)
 - *Outreach to date has been broad, moving forward will be engaging on more specifics related to the Climate Action Plan, Resilience Implementation Strategy, and other specific initiatives. Will target areas outside of Chittenden County.*
 - *Kashka & Indra shared their thoughts on how it feels to be doing this outreach and engagement work.*
 - *If JTSC members know of events that are happening that could be good places for the CBI team to show up, send recommendation to Sophi Veltrop (sophi.veltrop@vermont.gov) or Kashka (kashka.teamvt@gmail.com)*
 - *CBI Team have a number to call or text (802) 404-2729. Any Vermonters can call anytime to leave a comment or talk to Indra or Kashka or Sophi. There is a contact sheet that can be posted and shared.*
- Opportunity to share suggested questions for community members
 - *Sophi has asked drafting subcommittees to come up with specific questions for engagement team to be asking Vermonters.*
- Discussion:
 - *Will there be public comment related to modeling and updates to the plan?*
 - *Discussion about whether people understand how the comments fit into the climate action planning process. Most people don't understand the complexities of the plan and policies but people are aware of the impacts and have ideas and comments to share.*
 - *Can we ground-truth whether or not programs that are in effect are reaching community members? This may be able to further inform the plan. Indra says to send any specific questions, including this one to the CBI Team.*

6:55 PM What's Next (Abbey)

- *Climate Kick-Off meetings June 18th and June 20th.*
- *Liaisons attending Subcommittee meetings over summer*
- *Practice sessions scheduled for July 18 4:30pm and August 6 12:00pm. Sophi will send out meeting invitations.*
- *No JTSC meetings in July and August*
- *Re-engage JTSC meetings with clear strategy in September. Co-chairs and support staff will meet over the summer to plan. Any JTSC members interested in participating are welcome and encouraged. Reach out to Abbey if you would like to participate.*
- *Poll for meeting times results: First Thursday of the month at 4pm beginning in September.*