

# Municipal Day

11/1/24

## Overview

Jane Lazorchak presented on municipal level actions that Cross-Sector Mitigation and Rural Resilience and Adaptation subcommittees were working on developing and/or revising. She paused for comments and questions from participants after each slide and posed questions to the group at the end of the presentation.

## Cross Sector Mitigation – Buildings and thermal sector

- We have had residential & commercial building standards for years but it's not enforced, what would it take to get it enforced?
- The struggle with enforcing those standards is it takes a lot of training.
- Public awareness: it doesn't cost a lot more and savings are huge.
- A lot of towns don't even have facility managers, can we just get to a baseline of staff understanding their towns' building inventory and how those buildings operate? We need professionals understanding how buildings operate, building science, and getting to that baseline.
- Is education a better solution than regulation?

## Cross Sector Mitigation – Transportation and electric sectors

- No comments

## Rural Resilience and Adaptation

- Concerns about funding and community support. Matches can help. There must be more funding for public outreach and education to happen.
- Are there any thoughts on how to lower emissions from wastewater? There are a lot of emissions that come out of our wastewater.

- You can get a drier and then you can use it as fertilizer, town of Milton was looking into this.
- Flares can lower emissions, but what do we do specifically for waste in wastewater?
- Manufactured homes – you could install heat pump or do weatherization for some. The energy standards for homes are pretty weak; South Burlington put forward for all future homes to be net zero. Clean Heat Standard: no one can afford to pay that.
- Education is huge, friends are surprised by how well my electric saw and lawnmower work. People don't think of electric tools as powerful.
- Would like to see something happen for mobile homes [energy efficiency and weatherization efforts]
- There are rebates for electric lawnmowers through Green Mountain Power. Recommend emailing your Green Mountain Power representative for rebate.
- Mow electric is an organization to check out.

## Questions and answers

### **Jane asked: what do municipalities need to further address climate action at the town level?**

- Plan integration
  - There are hazard mitigation and FEMA plans
  - To come up with a fourth plan, a climate plan, would be hard
    - It would expand on existing plans, such as hazard mitigation
- Don't reinvent the wheel. Having a list of actions/menu that towns could choose from would be very helpful. CCRPC (Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission) helped a lot with the energy element of our plan in response to Act 174 – we got a laundry list of actionable outcomes that were measurable. Something like that would be helpful.
- Create template actions for municipalities.
- Everything starts with the audit. As far as funding, maybe it can work through VECAN (Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network) where each town has “x” dollars for volunteers to do it and training.

- Hartford has a climate action plan and one staff member is largely focused on implementing. This includes working on putting heat pumps at the fire station. Concern over multiple energy sources and registering for multiple energy systems. (Still have two oil sources but even with heat pumps you can't use the same systems. Don't want two different registrants.)

**Jane asked: was anyone impacted by flooding?**

- Huntington and Moretown
- Moretown has quite a few buyouts, Huntington has 11 buyouts
- Think more long-term with the revitalization programs and develop out of hazard area