

A scenic landscape featuring a river flowing through a valley. The river is surrounded by large, grey rocks on the left bank. The trees are in various stages of autumn, with some showing vibrant orange and yellow foliage, while others remain green. The sky is overcast with grey clouds. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

Vermont Climate Council

Developing Guidance for Subcommittees

Initial Thoughts

Feb 2024

Preparing Subcommittees for 2024 Work

- Subcommittee co-chairs are looking for the Council to provide guidance on **priority areas** and specific **expected outputs**
- The Council started this discussion Jan 29, 2024, but didn't finish nor consolidate its thinking
- The Council needs a plan to provide this guidance by the end of March

Substantive focus areas – summary from Jan 29

Additional detail in the meeting minutes

Cross-Sector Mitigation

- **Transportation:** Specific focus on additional action in the transportation sector
- **Complementary actions:** Review of implementation of actions across all sectors to consider complementary actions needed
- **Low-income households:** Emphasize implementation and impacts/opportunities for low-income Vermonters
- **Workforce:** Development of strategies and action to support workforce development

Rural Resilience & Adaptation

- **Goals:** Establish quantitative goals and metrics to track progress
 - **Vision:** Vision / goals for climate resilience to inform metrics & actions
 - **Timeline:** To achieve desired outcomes and goals
 - **Level:** What does success look like for resilience at the **landscape** vs. **community** vs. **individual** level?
- **Compounding impacts:** Develop strategies to address cascading and compounding impacts
- **Smaller communities:** Actions that help smaller communities move from planning to implementation
- **Land use:** Explore land use and land use policy with Ag & Eco
- **Health impacts:** Develop strategies to address the mental and physical health impacts of climate change

Agriculture & Eco-Systems

- **Overarching goals**
 - Fewer emissions
 - More sequestration
 - More resilience
- **Three buckets** of actions
 - Farm and forest-sector viability (in the face of climate and other impacts)
 - Farm and forestry practices (particularly opportunities for lower net emissions)
 - Supporting natural lands (to support overarching goals)
- **Balancing interests** will be crucial (VT's needs around housing, ag, nature & wetlands, managed forests, etc)

Cross-cutting issues and support

- JT Subcommittee has recommendations to help center equity and justice in the work
- Science and Data will help guide technical analyses
- We will likely create some specific meetings to address cross-cutting issues in the updated CAP, such as:
 - Land use
 - Workforce development
 - Education, outreach and engagement
 - What else?

Proposal to pull together Council guidance in March

- Prior to the March 18 VCC meeting, a draft document is pulled together that:
 - Offers draft guidance on the **substantive areas of focus** for the subcommittees, building from the Jan 29 small group conversations
 - Offers draft guidance on **level of effort**, and **expected outputs** from the subcommittees (the two must be coherent)
 - Includes an updated **Progress Report** (excel sheet) on the Initial CAP actions that is easily tailored for subcommittees
- Facilitation team and CAO pull this doc together, with help from Steering Committee volunteers
- Steering Committee reviews the draft doc on March 11. Revision and agreement around the document is the core of the March 18 VCC meeting