

# Inspiration(s) to join the Just Transitions Subcommittee

Ensuring voices of people "not at the table" are heard

To make a difference!

the idea that we might actually be listened to

Knowing that a lot of people are left behind and not included when the government makes decisions on their behalf

Working together to help Vermont policymakers incorporate the voices and perspectives of historically marginalized people into the policymaking process such that those perspectives inform outcomes

being a young person

to become part of a community to envision and learn how government might do things differently moving forward to better support all people

I hope to expand the traditional way of making policy and implementing programs to become more inclusive and less elitist. I am particularly concerned about economic and racial equity

I was asked to serve, presumably because of advocacy on fairness, equity, and justice matters as they relate to planning and governance.

To learn how to think differently and act more justly and responsibly as a public servant and citizen of this wonderful state

I love to be involved and be an active member of the community

I want government to do better - to spend money where it matters for marginalized people, to make decisions that work for marginalized people - to make sure people are included and not forgotten. To make sure that climate action is not just something that benefits the "haves" and leaves the rest behind.

I want to make a difference. I'm a bit of an idealist and always strive to make things better

ensure that our actions to reduce climate pollution are progressive not regressive

bring forward the voices of working class Vermonters

To be part of a process that changes how government engages on policy development and public engagement

So that we are not leaving anyone behind in our climate transition

be a part of "powerful" decision-making spaces

Helping to make complicated new policy ideas understandable and accessible so that folks can then contribute to the formation of those new policies

I care about the planet, but I REALLY care about the people who live on it and want to make sure everyone has the ability to thrive.

Because just climate action is a huge opportunity to change society for the better



# Challenge(s) Experienced

Committee seems under resourced for the things we are supposed to be doing.

lack of clarity in my role as a SC member, or of the SC

learning curve of government meetings, understanding my role

Lack of shared understanding of our purpose as a group. It feels like we could and want to work on everything, but have so little capacity.

Lack of time, lack of resources, lack of cohesiveness and the ability to onboard individuals who do not do this for a living

Migrating just transitions principles and practices to local government.

communicating information to my network and expecting a response

Balancing the urgency of our work with the pace necessary to do our work well

process is slow and change takes longer than I am comfortable with

Being mindful of my privilege. At times I fail.

the work is slow and hard, not feeling a holistic shared work goal/direction, but finding traction only here or there

I'm proud of how much progress we've made, but I know there is so much further to go, and it's hard to live in that space, especially when a lot of our feedback from the public is that we haven't done enough.

Lack of expertise as a climate advocate and not always being familiar with what the sub committee is discussing.

Clarity around what we want to see happen vs what we want/can be responsible for

lack of clarity around how the JT SC fits into the work of the Council since we didn't submit recommendations but were more focused on process/outreach/engagement strategies

Any government work is so technical - and its hard for bureacrats, even well meaning, to speak in plain language

The challenge is No one listens from the first time And it is trying to keep repeating yourself

lack of shared understanding of JT work, within the JT, by ANR, by the Climate Council

Addressing and overcoming my ignorance as to my own privilege and biases. The systemic injustice within existing modes of engagement and therefore inability to listen, learn and change.

limited capacity to engage as fully as I would like to

In a state that deems itself to be progressive it can be difficult for those in positions of privilege to acknowledge reality.

Helping people feel & BE heard



# Aspirations/Expectations

Capacity building of the SC members + committee to do "our work"

Just transitions extends to all policy processes: policy development, legislative action, rule promulgation, budgeting and appropriations, implementation, program evaluation.

more engagement from our community members

Maybe we can focus on 1-2 topics per year. Do them well and establish an example/model of how best to reach all people and consider their needs and wellbeing

public, and considers the impacts of these on disadvantaged communities. Empowering more members of marginalized groups to become aware and active around climate action and resilience. To help more people

I want more support from folks who aren't volunteers to help us accomplish our work. I also want to be able to celebrate our successes while acknowledging that we still have further to go.

Make the case for a transition to meet our climate requirements in a more optimistic way - the status quo is the problem.

I would like to see JT guiding principles better understood by other committees and agencies and used to guide policy and program development

A Just Transition provides those who are doing the physical work to transition our economy with a high quality of life

agenda's developed by others coming to this group for guidance and suggestions around how to effectively do public engagement and ensure the work is reaching marginalized populations. Be the

More diverse membership on the Council itself.

Develop a working cohort that succeeds in respectfully engaging marginalized vermonters

Front line communities aren't just engaged, but are provided with the power to develop their own knowledge (as opposed to being told what they should know) and bring solutions that work for them to the table.

be given adequate resources to do good work

Make sure our policy is as progressive as possible. Have a seat at those tables.

This is full time work, I wish there were more resources available so that we could expand our reach and be able to commit the time to reaching our goals.

I want us to be more unified in our purpose. Not necessarily take a particular stance on a climate policy or strategy (though certainly individuals do and should), so much as to continue to hold up JT principles and to support a process which embraces, uses and is accountable to those principles. And use our professional and lived experiences to shine a light on situations where things are going awry.

I really love some solid plan to be able to reach out and convey the principles and planes of this climate council to my community! love to be more beneficial than just attending and listening and nothing come out yet

Greater diversity among employees at all levels of Vermont government throughout the state.

Making concrete requirements for new policies to be formed in partnership with the folx who have historically (and continue to be) marginalized and left out of the process

Frame the transition as a better and necessary alternative to the status quo. There is still plenty of resistance!

# Aspirations / Expectations

## High-level Summary

More, and better,  
**engagement** with frontline  
& marginalized communities

- To lift up voices and empower
- To get them engaged in climate action

Better **implementation** of  
Just Transition Principles

- In the Council and sub-committees
- In state govt
- In the legislature

# This Sub-Committee's Role

Draft Proposal –  
To Discuss Today

- Since developing the JT Principles, we have struggled with our role. What are we actually **doing**?
- Given the capacity of this volunteer group, its co-chairs and staff support, **this group should be an advisory body**, more than a body implementing initiatives.
  - Given the limitations, can we imagine our role besides being **an advisory body**?

# Specific Areas of Work

Draft Proposal –  
To Discuss Today

This sub-committee should be actively providing advice on:

- Funding priorities for the council to consider, as it makes recommendations on the governor's budget in Sept-Oct
- Public engagement strategies and efforts
- The council's policy work, through other sub-committees and task groups
- State government's implementation of climate-related initiatives
- What else?

We should bring our Just Transition and Equity Lens to all these spaces

# Today's Focus – Funding Priorities

Draft Proposal –  
To Discuss Today

The Council will be making recommendations regarding the governor's budget in Sept-Oct.

Today is our opportunity to signal priorities from a Just Transitions perspective

What specific initiatives do we think would have to the highest impact, e.g.

- Just Transitions training for legislators (big turnover in 2023)
- Funding for engagement with frontline communities (and materials development so we can go out as well...)
- ???

# Our Rhythm of Work Going Forward

Draft Proposal –  
To Discuss Today

Probably align ourselves more with other sub-committees...

- Commit to meeting quarterly
- Receive routine VCC email updates
- Consider in-person meetings, as appropriate
- Participate in other sub-committees and task groups