

**Science and Data Subcommittee**  
**Vermont Climate Council**  
**October 25, 2023 (1:00 – 3:00)**

**Attendees:** David Plumb, Jared Duval, Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, Claire McIlvennie, Ken Jones, Elizabeth Palchak, Tara Kulkarni, Richard Hopkins, Collin Smythe, Jane Lazorchak, Marian Wolz

**Meeting Summary**

*Overview*

Members of the Science and Data Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council met on October 25, 2023 with the following objectives.

- Clarify the role and workplan of the Science and Data Subcommittee in the context of the Council's emerging workplan and specifically related to the role of the group in the development of the next CAP.
- Review the current and planned contracted technical work, and develop a recommendation on priority additional technical work to support the Climate Action Plan update.

Below is a summary of key points from the meeting.

*Approval of Minutes*

- Minutes were approved.

*Workplan and Subcommittee Role:*

The committee reviewed the Council's emerging workplan and discussed the role of the Science and Data Subcommittee in supporting that work, and the implications for the subcommittee's workplan.

- Two big work flows
  - Guiding, reviewing and accompanying new contracted analyses
  - Making sure the Council has the right context and foundational information for this work. Use the expertise of this group.
    - National climate assessment on the cusp of being released. Really good new products and bring them down to a local scale. And bring in the other agencies into the conversation.
    - Need to look at other states. Think about the role of the national labs. Pull in the other work happening across the country as well.
    - Make a small group planning the content that we want to get in front of the Council. Perhaps a survey to the Council?

- We're at an inflection point. We have a chance to step back and reflect
- In the Climate Action Plan, can the science data be accessible broadly? What forms could that take? Visual. Less PPT. Find other ways of communicating. Think about the Humanities Council, and similar. Use video. Can we learn from academic world of interdisciplinary work?

### *Overview of technical analysis*

The committee reviewed completed and ongoing technical work as well as additional priority technical analysis related to resilience, adaptation, and mitigation to support the update of the Initial Climate Action Plan. Through discussion, the following priority analysis for the next phase emerged:

- **Pathways analysis:** Comprehensive. An updated pathways analysis that includes economy-wide analysis and BAU. Key **assumptions** that need updated: amount of emissions reduced per action taken. Need more VT specific data. **Heat pump** usage is an example.
- **Economic analysis:** To complement the pathways analysis and focused on how people will make decisions now
  - Perhaps as a subset, more insights on **human behavior**, social science, how to understand about what we're trying to get people to do.
- Updated **social cost of carbon**, with updated federal numbers, other numbers
- **Health and equity.** Something more detailed to guide decision-making. Who is benefiting, who is potentially being left out, who is potentially being harmed. Health co-benefits and harms. And more generally in area of equity and justice. Strategies for broadening accessibility to sectors.
- **Wood issue:** better understand current utilization. What does it mean for forests.
- Climate planning anticipating broader impacts such as **migration** into VT and population changes. Create scenarios – what does it mean for our infrastructure, emissions.
- More robust context for proposals – co-benefits and indirect impacts
- Further things based on outcomes of other studies

Next step: Engage with other subcommittees about these recommendations. Remember: Research is an opportunity to engage people. Much of what is proposed requires that to carry out research ends.

### *Public Comment*

There was no public comment.