

**Science and Data Subcommittee**  
**Vermont Climate Council**  
**June 21, 2024 (1:00 – 3:00)**

Subcommittee Members in attendance: Breck Bowden, Jared Duval, Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, Claire McIlvennie, Maddison Shropshire, Richard Hopkins, Jay Shafer, David Grass, Collin Smythe

State Staff/Contractors in attendance: David Plumb, Brian Woods, Alexander Newman

Others in attendance: Anne Kleinerman, Catherine, Lena Stier

## **Meeting Summary**

### Discussion on Community Engagement Questions

- Focus on the high-level questions, how we communicate information, what information
  - What parts of the scientific conversation around climate — causes, impacts, solutions — feel clear to you? What feels unclear?
- What we heard yesterday at the public meetings is an appetite for different ways to receive information (info graphics, etc.). And ways to have two-way communication and dialogue
- Can we ask what people would consider success – and what data sets we might not be aware of today to track progress?
- There are two pieces to disconnect today – misinformation that circulates, and situations in which proposed climate strategies aren't aligned with people's core interests and concerns.
- Support the idea of asking people about their "their climate story". Almost everyone can speak from their or their families experience about the adverse impacts of climate change. Also asking about how their peers or family would prefer to receive info may be more effective than asking how they personally would like to receive info.

Presentation and discussion of Social Cost of Greenhouse Gases (SC-GHG) recommendation and potential approval by the subcommittee to bring a recommendation to the full Council.

- The subcommittee agreed to send the recommendation to the Council, with the following addition.
  - Add in a sentence that gives the sense of the amount of the change, with an illustrative example (NY vs new EPA for a ton of CO2 in 2020, for instance.)

Walk through several changes to methodologies and datasets intended to be utilized in the next iteration of the Vermont Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and Forecast (1990 – 2021) report.

- The subcommittee provided the following feedback
  - Fuel accounting:
    - It is an improvement to the methodologies. It will be important to continue to look at the dyed diesel data over time to make sure we are extrapolating correctly.
    - The change won't affect overall state-wide totals. Just the sector attribution.
  - Gases
    - Looks good
  - Closed landfills
    - Looks good

Updates from liaisons to other subcommittees.

- The subcommittee reviewed the status with each other subcommittee
  - Ag and Eco: Maddison Shropshire volunteered to play the role
  - Rural Resilience: Jay Shafer and Leslie-Ann Dupigny-Giroux provided an overview presentation last meeting.
  - Just Transition: Claire McIlvennie is staff support. Focusing on bring new members up to speed, liaison roles, public engagement, and public comment recommendations.
  - Cross Sector: Jared Duval is a member. Developing the workplan, task groups, plan
- The subcommittee also had the following feedback.
  - With so many new folks on board – is there a mechanism to get everybody up to the same place, in terms of content, shared context and shared clarity of the Initial Climate Action Plan? Can the Steering Committee take that up?
  - How will this subcommittee know what science questions may be asked of us?
  - For next meeting, let's clarify on the timelines – what will be asked of Science and Data (to produce content for the updated climate plan) and for S&D to push key information out to the other subcommittees (e.g., updated inventory, sectoral studies by EAN, updated pathways and business as usual).

Regarding next meetings, the subcommittee agreed:

- Next meeting in about a month to go over that timeline of needs.
- Shoot for 90 mins.
- Going forward: Alternating hours. For now, Collin can set times based on previously stated availability.

*Public Comment*

There was no public comment.