Vermont Climate Council

Cross Sector Mitigation & Science and Data Subcommittees
Dec. 18, 2024, Meeting Minutes
9:30am-10:30am

Virtual Meeting Option to Attend via Zoom: All participants (Subcommittee members and observers) use the following Zoom link: Join Zoom Meeting:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84687463977?pwd=wBbjb3F41awzTgTg0pzuEQnQFNDXY8.1

Meeting ID: 846 8746 3977
Passcode: 812414

Purpose: Give Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) an opportunity to provide feedback and suggestions to the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR), via the Science & Data and Cross-Sector Mitigation subcommittees of the Vermont Climate Council, regarding data and methodology for Vermont's statewide Greenhouse Gas (GHG) forecasts, as recommended by the Attorney General's Office.

9:30: Welcome: Jared Duval, Chair, Science & Data subcommittee

9:35: Introduction and context, Elena Mihaly, Conservation Law Foundation

9:40: Presentation by Asa Hopkins, Synapse Energy Economics, regarding data and modeling recommendations for statewide GHG emissions forecasts

10:10: Subcommittee questions and comments

- Ken Jones raised concerns about the model's assumptions on policy impacts.
- Christine Donovan inquired about the newness of the information and Agency of Natural Resources response.
- Richard Cowart inquired about two approaches of recalibrating the model by examining each sector and sub-sector individually or applying a percentage adjustment, to ensure accurate future emissions projections.
- Bram Kleppner asked about the availability of the model and supporting information for public access, referencing an email from TJ Poor.
- Breck Bowden inquired about potential policy levers that could be used to address the emissions gap identified in the analysis.
- Jane Lazorchak acknowledged receipt of the report and ongoing review.

10:25: Public comment

- Annette Smith expressed concerns about the reliability of emissions models, noting the variability in results depending on inputs and methodologies. She questioned the effectiveness of spending time and resources on modeling efforts.
- Sam Lash from the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission discussed the importance of ground-up data collection efforts to improve community confidence in emissions data. She highlighted the need for updated surveys on residential fuel use and efficiency measure uptake to support local and regional planning efforts.

10:30: Meeting Adjourned