

To: Steering Committee of the Vermont Climate Council  
From: Liz Amler, Climate Planning Administrator  
Date: August 16, 2024  
Re: Cross-Cutting Issues Proposal

---

In support of the update to the Climate Action Plan (“Plan”), the Climate Action Office (CAO) has reviewed cross cutting pathways to identify completion, gaps and opportunities for the Steering Committee to consider as the Council prepares for the next phase of the Climate Action Plan. After review of existing Cross Cutting Pathways, we propose that three of the original pathways continue to be supported as cross-cutting issues: workforce development, education and compact settlement.

This recommendation is supported by the completion of significant recommendations since the Plan was adopted and the acknowledgment that some of the pathways can be advanced by Subcommittees. First, the Environmental Justice pathway which recommended the creation of an environmental justice policy is complete, as the Environmental Justice Law was passed into law in 2022. Additionally, the State Government, Community, and Partner capacity pathway is now complete with the establishment of the Climate Action Office in 2022. Furthermore, the CAO recommends Building Code and Transportation pathways are moved to Cross Sector Mitigation, as expertise on building codes and transportation reside in the Cross Sector Mitigation subcommittee.

As such, the following Cross Cutting Pathways have been identified as priorities for the upcoming update to the Plan: Workforce Development, Education and Compact Settlement. After reviewing the previous Climate Action Plan, these three Cross Cutting Pathways include actions that have not yet been taken, are advancing, or have been implemented. Additionally, these three Cross Cutting Pathways are strongly positioned to advance climate action goals across multiple areas.

To accomplish this work, CAO proposes that we will support the development of this section of the Plan supported by representatives from each of the subcommittees who have expertise and in the corresponding pathway, likely all of them. The CAO will coordinate two meetings per pathway which will be public and open to all subcommittee members. In the first meeting, CAO will present a proposal on the actions in the Cross Cutting Pathway to the group of subcommittee representatives to receive feedback. The CAO will also work with the group to identify additional volunteers to support drafting the proposal. The second meeting will be dedicated to finalizing any changes made and reviewing with subcommittee members.



 VERMONT

