

Summary of topics requiring discussion

Cross-sector mitigation

Version Nov 2 – 10 survey responses

Who responded

Julie Moore
Bram Kleppner
Kelly Klein
Catherine Dimitruk
Lauran Oates
Chris Company
Abbie Corse
Jared Duval
Sue Minter
Rich Cowart

Key issues

Please note, all these issues were raised by just one council member, except for the concerns around Global Foundries. Similar issues were grouped together under a single bullet.

Cross cutting:

- **Prioritizing action on vehicles and buildings:** We'd get the biggest reductions the fastest by removing the most polluting vehicles from the fleet first, and by weatherizing the most inefficient buildings first.
 - Weatherization: Can we identify and prioritize the least efficient buildings, with a justice overlay?
 - Light-duty and heavy-duty fleet: Can we prioritize the most polluting vehicles, with a justice overlay?
- **Achieving "scale" for EVs, Wx and heat pumps** on the proscribed timeline. Seems unrealistic
- **Climate director position:** Would only support if the director is brought in from outside. Will be a critical person to coordinate and attempt to create a collective and equitable approach to climate work throughout our state government. Would need background in EJ and DEI as relevant to climate issues and how they impact sectoral implementation in addition to extensive knowledge in climatology, resilience, adaptation, and mitigation.
- **Equity and diverse perspectives:** Generally speaking - I have a lot of concerns, as I have throughout the entirety of the process, with the lack of attention and prioritization that was given to ensuring that the representation around the table could batter these issues about to come to strategies and actions that reflected robust discussion by a multi-stakeholder body of full societal perspectives and I fear these recommendations suffer from it. It is what it is at this point, but I do feel very strongly that **this aspect of the**

work needs to be accurately represented to the Legislature as being woefully incomplete.

Transportation

- **EV charging rates:** Do we understand the financial impacts on investments in transportation infrastructure?
- **Low carbon fuel standard:** How have potential negative environmental impacts been discussed with Ag & Eco?
- **TCI:** How can we confirm it will have a strong equity component?
- **Additional equity considerations:** There were no low income representatives at the table as the actions and equity implications were discussed. There were no truck drivers or logistics managers. As I read through it, I don't read language that indicates to me that this has been vetted through an equity lens in a way that captures what the experiences of attempting to navigate this transition will mean for those without the education or means to do so or those whose jobs or businesses will be impacted. The words are there, but I don't believe them and from my vantage point they read hollow.

Buildings

- Though **industrial buildings** make up 14% of emissions, they are not specifically included in the plan for buildings and thermal.
- **Commercial buildings** could be included in the text about a **Rental Property Efficiency Standard** (Pathway 1, Strategy 2, Action 1), and **commercial tenants** could be included in the text about on-bill financing tariffs (Pathway 1, Strategy 1, Action 5).
- Require **on-bill financing tariffs** by electric and gas utilities
- **Rental properties:** Adopt **efficiency standard** for rental properties with a focus on those properties in most in need of upgrades and occupied by low- and moderate-income households.
- **Unregulated fuels and provider incentives:** I would like information about how actions will impact the providers and provide incentives/ease of adoption for residences that heat with unregulated fossil fuels such as propane that are very common in rural areas.
- **Comprehensive building code:** I would like to see Vermont adopt a comprehensive building code (the state's efficiency code is compromised by the absence of other building codes (grading/drainage, structural, electrical, plumbing/gas, etc.)
- **Geographic reach of programs:** Issues of geographic inequities and enforcement regarding standards in buildings, etc.
 - When we reference work already done (line 68), do we really know who we have reached and who we haven't – is there a map? It is not my understanding that these programs are reaching here (rural Vermont) to the extent the belief is that they are elsewhere.

- **Upgrading electrical service:** How would upgrading electric service be paid for, and especially how would it be supported in lower-income and multi-family housing?

Electricity

- Issues of **equity and PUC:** Concerned about reliance in any recommendations on PUC. What training have they received in DEI and environmental justice? How is this being monitored? I have not heard anything that leads me to believe that either the way in which their work is directed or the way they are managing it that wrestling with the equity implications of their decisions is a required component of what they're doing.
- **HydroQuebec** and concerns about impacts outside of VT
- Increased **chemical usage** with the massive increase in electrification

Non-energy

- **Global Foundries:** multiple comments and concerns
 - Work with Global Foundries to implement technologies for the destruction of high GWP gases in the semiconductor manufacturing process as proposed by Global Foundries through the ongoing PUC proceeding, or in the absence of a PUC order that addresses emissions reductions, ANR should develop emissions limits for semi-conductor manufacturers under its existing rulemaking authority.
 - I am not comfortable supporting a Global Foundries exemption from the GWSA.
 - I need absolute clarity on what's being proposed for Global Foundries in terms of GHG reduction requirement (want to ensure Global Foundries isn't being held to a different inequitable standard relative to other sectors and entities).
 - I fail to understand how one corporation can possibly be so important that they get to make their own rules as to how they proceed or don't, with hitting their climate requirements. There are farmers that couldn't hit clean water requirements - they don't exist anymore. They were left behind and yet our natural and working lands employ far more people than Global Foundries and I believe have a higher economic impact.
- **Funding for wastewater upgrades:** Appreciate language around inability of municipalities to fund flares, etc for wastewater, but wonder if it needs stronger language? My municipality CANNOT afford the necessary upgrades.