

Just Transitions Subcommittee Feedback

May 1, 2025

The following input was shared by Just Transitions Subcommittee members at the May 1, 2025 meeting. Some members shared input verbally at the meeting, others sent in written feedback by email.

Comments during discussion:

General reflection that 54 was too many “priority” recommendations

- Could there be a rubric developed to help narrow down these priorities in the future?
- Process recommendation that likely isn’t implementable now but perhaps in the future
- Plain language is important for communicating the plan to the public and involving Vermonters in it. Not there yet.

Callie Fishburn: In terms of supporting Weatherization for low- and moderate-income households, but it doesn’t seem like recommendations discussed funding for the Weatherization Repayment Assistance Program (WRAP) which helps address upfront cost barriers. Why not included? Or is this in a non-priority recommendation?

Abbey Willard priorities: Financing options available to spur investments and improvements by 3 sectors of community (Cross Cutting Issue #14)

- Homeowners (Rural Resilience and Adaptation #14)
- Businesses (Agriculture and Ecosystems #3 + #14)
- Municipalities (Rural Resilience and Adaptation #10)

Sophi Veltrop (staff support, not subcommittee member): In Cross-Sector Mitigation action #1, add that low & moderate income Vermonters should be included in the decision making process around joining/designing a Cap-and-Invest program, and compensated for their time.

Written comments from Danielle Bombardier:

1. In all recommendations that involve performing work to meet the action's goal (EV charger installations, customer electrification upgrades, weatherization, infrastructure, etc), I think **it is important that contractors who are hired pay prevailing wages, follow**

and maintain strong safety standards, use apprenticeships, and classify workers correctly (similar to Responsible Contractor Ordinances - RCO's - passed in Montpelier, Barre, and Burlington). I don't know how to bring these considerations forward in the priority actions, as these are implementation action points, but this is important to labor.

- **Could this be a call out box in the CCI Workforce chapter**
 - **When we implement this workforce transition, contractors who are hired pay prevailing wages, follow and maintain strong safety standards, use apprenticeships, and classify workers correctly** (similar to Responsible Contractor Ordinances - RCO's - passed in Montpelier, Barre, and Burlington)

2. Cost for new electricity sources, system upgrades, etc. should not burden the rate-payer (esp renters and low/moderate income households).

- This should be baked into the priorities and in the revised CAP

3. As a former Electrical Trades teacher in a CTE center, I find the priority action for **CCI workforce development (#10)** to increase the number of students in trades programs interesting. The problem isn't the number of students in these programs (although diversifying the student population in these programs should be a focus)—**it's the number of instructors and the space!** It is very difficult to hire skilled trades professionals as teachers—there is a lengthy 4-year process to obtain a teaching license, as well as a huge cut in pay for many to enter the teaching profession. There is also limited space to add new programs to existing CTE centers and it is cost prohibitive to build new spaces.

- Gap is the # of instructors and spaces for trades programs to increase # of students

4. Strongly support **CCI workforce development #11**.

5. **CCI Workforce Development #12** should **include other registered apprenticeship programs (see UA 693 plumbing/pipefitting or the newly created ABC's Construction Academy)**, not only Vermont State University which has its limitations (being entirely virtual for trade's apprenticeships, for one). This would allow the creation of more diverse and accessible programming.

- Simple improvement to this priority action based on this comment
- Were there reasons to limit this PA in this way?

6. Strongly support all the RRA public health priority actions (#12-#15), Ag and Eco #7 and #8, and CSM Transportation #3.

