

**Vermont Climate Council**  
**July 8, 2024, Meeting Minutes**  
**11am-2pm – Virtual**

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**Climate Councilors present:**

Melissa Bailey (for June Tierney)  
David Deen  
Eric Forand  
Ryan Patch (for Secretary Anson Tebbetts)  
Kelly Klein  
Denise Bailey  
Allie Webster  
Secretary Julie Moore  
Jared Duval  
Johanna Miller  
Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux  
Jaiel Pulskamp  
Richard Cowart  
Bram Kleppner  
Secretary Lindsay Kurrle  
Mark Levine  
Peter Sterling  
Liz Miller  
Paula Melton  
Michele Boomhower (for Secretary Joe Flynn)

**Meeting video and documents are available here:**

<https://climatechange.vermont.gov/event/climate-council-0>

- 11:00 AM Convene/Welcome/Overview and Approval of Agenda/Approval of Minutes  
*David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute*
- Councilors approved the previous meeting minutes
- 11:05 AM Just Transition Reflection: Recommendation from JT Subcommittee regarding managing public comment at subcommittee meetings  
*Just Transition Subcommittee Co-Chairs*
- Councilors approved the recommendation with the following modifications:
    - In the “Preparing the meeting” section, change the first sentence to read: “Public comment should be scheduled *after* presentation of substantive information and initial discussion,

- but *before* final deliberation and decision-making.”
- In the “During the meeting” section, add a mention of the expectation of respectful interaction and no personal attacks.
- Councilors agreed to adopt provisionally the recommendation for Council meetings as well, knowing there will likely be lessons and modifications based on the experience of subcommittees.

11:20 AM Feedback from Public Outreach and Kick-Off Events  
*Councilors and David Plumb, CBI*

- Councilors reflected on key messages heard during the two virtual, public, kick-off meetings. Some of the ideas mentioned included:
  - In these types of meetings, don’t spend too much too on presentation. Focus on soliciting input. Build more time in.
  - Public engagement should create a feedback loop and focus on what happens next. How do we continue that conversation of ongoing listening?
  - Let’s make sure we’re being accessible with sign language and other language interpretation.
  - Highlighted substantive areas of focus included:
    - Resilience.
    - Nature-based solutions
    - Be thoughtful about the cost to Vermonters
    - Public health

11:45 AM Legislative Update  
*Secretary Julie Moore, Michele Boomhower, Melissa Bailey, and Johanna Miller*

- Secretary Julie Moore, Michele Boomhower, Melissa Bailey, and Johanna Miller provided an overview of the climate-related legislation that passed in the most recent session.

12:15 PM Public Comment

- None at this time

12:25 PM BREAK

12:40 PM Updated Social Cost of Greenhouse Gases – Recommendation from Science and Data Subcommittee  
*Science and Data Subcommittee Co-Chairs*

- Councilors reviewed the proposal and provided the following feedback.
  - Make sure the recommendation emphasizes the role of the

National Academies, so that it might withstand a potential update from the EPA that doesn't draw on the best available science.

- Councilors also noted that the Council can help Vermonters understand the different types of climate impacts - direct cost impacts on Vermonters as well as socialized cost impacts that are felt globally. The Council should help to build that narrative, including the equity implications of emissions coming from Vermont.

12:55 PM Guidance on subcommittee process, prioritization of actions, and incorporation of just transition principles. (50 mins)

*David Plumb, CBI*

- Councilors provided the following feedback on the Additional Guidance document:
  - The document should emphasize the unique moment around federal funding.
  - There is still a gap around addressing cross-cutting issues such as workforce, outreach, and education.
  - It continues to be difficult to understand where all the previous recommendations stand in their implementation.
  - It continues to be challenging to understand how to measure equity.
  - Regarding cost effectiveness, subcommittees should be looking at the costs and benefits to Vermonters, as well as broader societal costs, and be clear about which numbers they are addressing.
  - Science and Data Subcommittee can assist in bringing in the latest science on climate change and its impacts. Perhaps an annotated short list of resources would be a good, immediate step.
  - On the draft prioritization guidance slides, remove reference to the 2025 targets and speak to 2030 emissions reduction targets.

1:45 PM Public Comment

- Matthew LeFluer and Cheryl Joy Lipton made comments that included:
  - Those who pollute the most have the most resources to address costs
  - Vermont should analyze which communities are impacted the most and gather everyone's voices at the table. Collaboration, effectiveness, and efficiency go hand in hand.
  - The public calendar doesn't appear to have all upcoming subcommittee meetings.
  - Please include in meeting agendas the guidelines around who should have cameras on and off.

1:55 PM Next Steps

*Jane Lazorchak, Climate Action Office*

- A new coordinator starts Monday at the Climate Action Office and will be a key resource for the Council and subcommittees.
- The next Council meeting will be in September. A calendar invite will be sent shortly.

2:00 PM      Adjourn      ##

DRAFT