

Vermont Climate Council
January 13, 2025, Meeting Agenda
11am-2pm

Virtual Meeting Option to Attend via Zoom: All participants (Council members and observers) use the following Zoom link: Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84370495700?pwd=0QouhbP7sRqZ8715kxyPXyxk04LRnU.1>

Meeting ID: 843 7049 5700
Passcode: 285171

Climate Councilors present:

- Secretary Sarah Clark
- Kerrick Johnson
- David Mears
- Dahlia Cohn
- Kelly Klein
- Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux
- Liz Miller
- Jared Duval
- Chris Company
- Secretary Julie Moore
- Michele Boomhower (for Secretary Joe Flynn)
- Matt Cota
- Jaiel Pulskamp
- Richard Cowart
- Johanna Miller
- Eric Forand
- Ryan Patch (for Secretary Anson Tebbetts)
- Melissa Bailey

10:55 AM Climate Council Members and Subcommittee Co-Chairs Join via Attendee Link

11:00 AM Convene/Welcome/Overview and Approval of Agenda/[Approval of Minutes](#)
Secretary Sarah Clark and David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute

The Council approved the 12/16 meeting minutes with the following revision:

- Add Secretary Sarah Clark to the attendance list

11:05 AM [Council Meeting Calendar](#) and Topics; [Approach to Public Comment](#) (Just Transitions Reflection)

David Plumb

The Council approved the schedule and approach to public comment.

11:20 AM [Summary of Public Comments Received](#)
Sophi Veltrop, Climate Action Office

The Council provided the following input on the summary of public comments received:

- Consider structuring the summary thematically

11:30 AM [Priority Actions](#) – Discussion Block 1
David Plumb

Councilors shared the following feedback:

- Need to understand the full context of the Cap and Invest study. Make clear to those asking about affordability that the study is examining who would be paying and who would be benefitting from the program. Helpful links include: [Cap-and-Invest Study | Climate Change in Vermont](#) and [Exploring Cap-and-Invest: A Climate Pollution Reduction Strategy](#).
 - The Council should invite voices from WA and NY to its Feb. 10 meeting.
 - The final report will be ready February 1st. CAO and technical consultants will help the Council understand what is in that technical study on February 10th.
- Council should establish a shared understanding of its role and about the level of detail it will put forward in the recommendations before diving into details about Cap and Invest. Broader recommendations that take into account the status of that work are different from some of the specific language the Subcommittees proposed.
- It would be premature for the Council to choose a direction without the completion of the Cap and Invest final report, the PUC's work, and further engagement with the legislature.
 - Council was designed to be advisory to the legislature, and thus it is appropriate for the Council to make recommendations before the legislature acts.
 - However, the legislature's actions will have an impact on Council actions as well. There is a concern about having two different authorities driving ANR on this issue.

12:15 AM BREAK

12:20 PM [Report to the Legislature](#)
Jane Lazorchak, Climate Action Office Vermont Climate Council, Dec. 16, 2024, Meeting Agenda, Page 2 of 2

The Council approved with the report with the following revisions:

- Under next steps, add: “Council engagement with communities most directly impacted by recent climate disasters to understand the impacts (including persistent displacement) and the costs of the flood, snow, and wind disasters since the Climate Action Plan was first adopted, and to understand if the MVI adequately achieves its intent, and similarly if the Resilience Implementation Strategy will meet needs.”
- Add sentence at end of the “Status of Greenhouse Gas Emissions” section: “All modeling and analysis done to date by or for ANR/the Climate Council has found that Vermont is not on track to meet our Jan. 1, 2030 GHG emissions reduction obligation without additional policy and regulatory action.”
- Add dollar amounts and citations below the pie chart that adds clarity about what is included in each. Denote purpose/ goals of the core programs (add links).
 - Add sentence that many of these funds serve multiple purposes.
- Add sentence about youth engagement and youth representatives.
- Some Councilors expressed that they were still getting up to speed and as a result, chose not to voice their concerns at this time.

12:50 PM Public Comment

Steve Crowley and Matthew LeFluer offered comments that included:

- Point to what is happening in CA and what happened in NC earlier. The GWSA is based on the Paris Agreement. We are beginning to see dangerous climate feedbacks and the fires in CA are only the tip of the iceberg. It is a lot worse than anybody predicted it would be. Rolling back the deadlines is morally reprehensible.
- Will our partnerships with other states succeed, given last time they failed with the transportation initiative?

1:00 PM [Priority Actions](#) – Discussion Block 2

The Council shared the following feedback:

- On GHG emissions accounting for ag:
 - What is the intent of the recommendation? Is it to have more information, or to change the inventory (from gross to net inventory). Concerns include:
 - The GWSA is clear that it wants gross emissions accounting.
 - No other state is changing their inventory accounting.
 - Methodologies for doing net emissions accounting are less developed.
 - Would be helpful to have more information on sequestration benefits in ag and forestry.

- The technical report recommends a net approach. This does not need more research. This can help drive the incredible opportunity in ag for reduction through sequestration.
 - It's a biologic sector, and shouldn't be measured by the same standards as fossil fuels.
- Net emissions question for the ag sector comes into play in multiple different statutes, not only the GWSA. If there was to be a change, there would be an impact on other sectors and their proportional share.
 - Where should this learning happen – with the Science and Data Subcommittee or the Council?
 - Should happen with a clear eye towards the inventory and would be most productive when the staff are there.
 - Science and Data Subcommittee will take a pass at this and will bring it to the full Council.
- On biomass:
 - Councilors need to decide on a view.
 - Several Councils said they would prefer to stick to the third of three suggested bullet points.
 - Don't have information needed to direct PUC to adopt a moratorium.
- On redesign of state education funding:
 - Reframe statement to focus more on funding workforce development initiatives and less on education finance.

1:45 PM

[Confirm Writing Assignments and Approach to Chapters](#)

Jane Lazorchak, Climate Action Office

Councilors had the following input on writing assignments and approach to chapters:

- Consider shifting deadlines as a way to ensure the Council meets its July 1st statutory deadline and create more breathing room.
- Add to the agenda for the next Council meeting.

1:55 PM

Next Steps

- Next meeting is in-person in Waterbury.
- Councilors will receive a packet of excel documents which include the full output of Subcommittee recommendations. There will be reading time during the meeting, but the meeting will be more productive if folks can also dedicate time for reading before.
- Consider alternate weather date.
- Change start time to 9:30am and end time to 3:30pm to accommodate those driving.

2:00 PM Adjourn

DRAFT