

**Vermont Climate Council**  
**April 14, 2025, Meeting Agenda**  
**12pm-3pm**

---

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84581440267?pwd=f9b1Z6wnq84Ke0MpJiW30w8kgJLYv0.1>

Meeting ID: 845 8144 0267

Passcode: 814926

---

**Councilors present:**

- Secretary Sarah Clark
- Kelly Klein
- Matt Cota
- Liz Miller
- Eric Forand
- Rich Cowart
- Dr. Lesley-Ann L. Dupigny-Giroux
- Johanna Miller
- Ryan Patch
- Peter Sterling
- Jared Duval
- Secretary Julie Moore
- Kerrick Johnson
- Michele Boomhower
- Jaiel Pulskamp

***Meeting objectives:***

- Conduct a meaningful process to update the land acknowledge in the Climate Action Plan
- Agree on a process for reviewing the text of chapters in the updated Climate Action Plan
- Prepare to participate in the public meetings this month

***Agenda:***

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| 11:55 AM | Climate Council Members Gather  |
| 12:00 PM | Convene/Welcome/Overview<br><i>Secretary Sarah Clark and David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute</i>                            |
| 12:05 PM | Exercise: Updating the Land Acknowledgement in the Climate Action Plan<br><i>Judy Dow, Ag &amp; Ecosystem Subcommittee member</i> |

Judy Dow led the Council in an exercise to produce the content for an updated land acknowledgment. Judy, the Climate Action Office, and a handful of councilors will develop a draft updated acknowledgement based on these inputs.

1:15 PM Break

1:25 PM Process for Reviewing Text of Chapters in the Updated Climate Action Plan  
*David Plumb, CBI & Liz Amler, Climate Action Office*

Councilors discussed the chapter review process, and the following next steps were identified:

- Many Councilors haven't received feedback on chapters yet.
- Richard Cowart will lead a group to look across the mitigation chapters and help develop a cohesive story line (note, the Top Priority Actions chapter will be drafted later)
- Jaiel Pulskamp and David Mears, with help from Ryan Patch or others, will work on combining the Ag & Ecosystem chapters
- The Climate Action Office and CBI can providing feedback to writers
- When we ask councilors to provide feedback, ideally lets find a way to aggregate the comments to avoid having multiple separate conversations
- The Council should acknowledge that it didn't have the time or information to provide detailed cost estimates
  - The Council's role is to recommend how to meet responsibilities cost-effectively and equitably, and that specific budgeting is for the legislature and administration.
- There has been a significant loss of federal and state funding avenues for resilience work and there is a concern that the Council may appear out of touch with reality if it doesn't address that.
- The Council should schedule time to develop language about funding / financing and consider how they connect to the way the Council develops priority actions.

1:50 PM Looking Ahead to May and June Meetings  
*David Plumb, CBI & Jane Lazorchak, Climate Action Office*

Councilors reviewed the upcoming meetings, agreed with the proposal, and said time needs to be dedicated to:

- Just Transition chapter
- Discussion on funding

2:15 PM Public Comment

Annette Smith offered public comment that included:

- Concerns that representation from Addison and Rutland counties was low during a virtual input session, and many participants were the people already engaged in the work.

- Urging that future sessions will focus on specific recommendations rather than provide general feedback.
- The Council lacks representation from Addison, Rutland, and Bennington counties, and there are important geographic differences that need to be addressed.

2:35 PM      Summary of Written Public Comments  
*David Plumb, CBI*

David Plumb shared a summary of the written public comments received that included:

- A letter from the Vermont Interfaith Power and Light Board offered specific ideas on climate action ranging from transportation to the renewable energy portfolio standard.
- A letter from Local Motion encouraged actions to reduce vehicle miles traveled and invest in other transit options.
- Other comments included encouraging operational efficiencies over equipment and expressing concerns about electricity supply and the need to avoid fossil fuel generation if supply is reduced.

2:40 PM      Preparing to Participate in April Engagement Events  
*David Plumb, CBI & Sophi Veltrop, CAO*

Councilors shared the following reflections on the virtual input session on April 10th:

- Polling was helpful, and the mix of plenary sessions and breakout groups seemed effective.
- Breakout session was useful. Let's try to provide as clear messaging as possible and avoid jargon.
- It was nice to see that there were people who were genuinely interested and attending of their own volition.
- On the adaptation and resilience side, did we receive feedback on whether people want to adapt to the challenges we face, and if so, how?

2:55 PM      Final Reflections  
*David Plumb, CBI*

3:00 PM      Adjourn

##