



Vermont Climate Council

House Energy and Technology, 10/22/21

**Jane Lazorchak, GWSA Director
Agency of Natural Resources**

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT TIMELINE



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT CHANNELS



Interviews & Roundtables
37 participants



Public Engagement Events
521 total attendees



Public Opinion Survey
679 responses



Public Comment Form
365 comments submitted

KEY FINDINGS

- Vermonters want bold action on climate change
- Equity is a core concern
- Accessibility of climate solutions (financial or spatial)
- Deep concern about young people/mental health
- People appreciated being connected in dialogue about these issues and were interested in staying engaged in the process

BIPOC INPUT SESSION - RATIONALE

- BIPOC communities experience differential vulnerabilities to climate change
- In VT we have seen disparities in environmental justice, health outcomes, and other areas
- This is just one group (consisting of many groups) in VT that experiences differential vulnerabilities
- This session was contested by some members of the public and had to be rescheduled

BIPOC INPUT SESSION – KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Main climate impacts signaled systemic issues that at the State level that have not been addressed and will be exacerbated by the climate crisis and felt disproportionately by BIPOC, including lack of affordable and climate resilient housing and land, affordable health care and clean energy.
- Lack of representation and inclusion of BIPOC voices in the subcommittees and council
- Timeline is widely seen as the most inequitable component
- Priorities identified in the climate plan uphold a corporate profit model that will not financially benefit BIPOC
- Due to lack of representation and outreach many on the call voiced concerns over the legitimacy of CAP process and a lack of trust that plan will be successfully implemented

ADDITIONAL STAKEHOLDER EVENTS

- **Held seven additional seven stakeholder events**

- Focus on emission reduction recommendations (electricity, transportation, buildings)
- Agriculture focus
- Forests – forest products sector and conservation organizations
- Rural Communities – focus on capacity needs

- **Questions:**

- What ideas could really work well on the ground and serve the goals of the Council?
- What key strategies or ideas might be missing?
- What other guidance did stakeholders have for this Sub-committee?

- **Key themes were:**

Rural communities need capacity

Data and monitoring

Regulation vs. incentives

Public participation

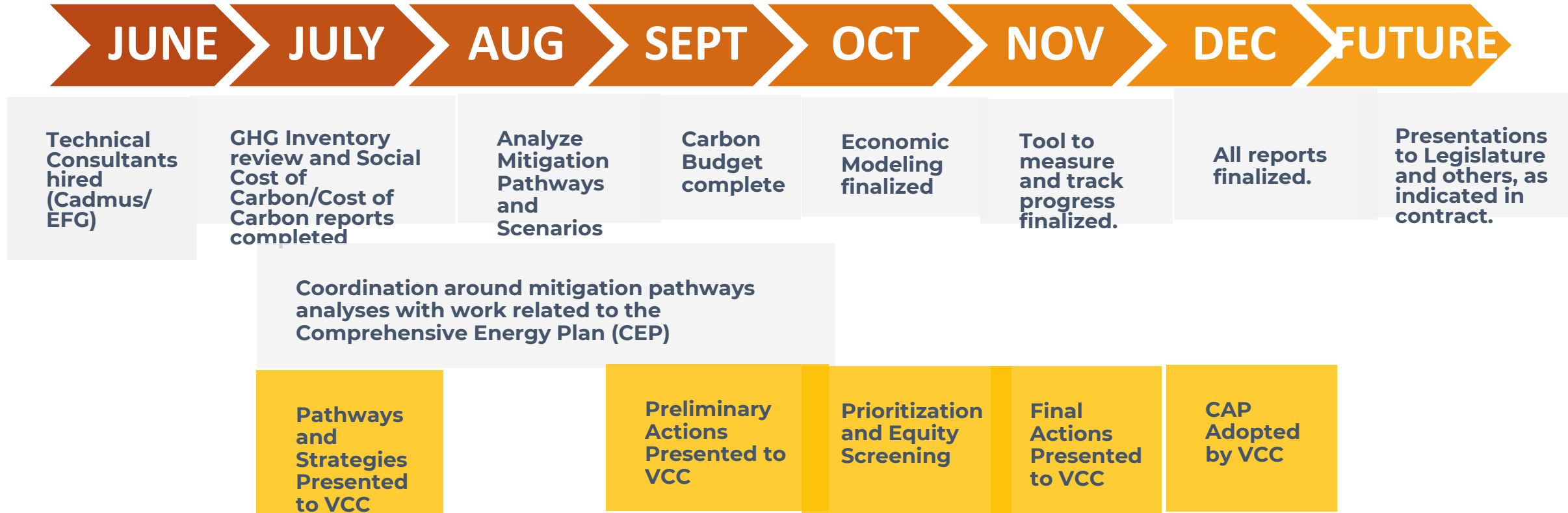
Multi-solving recommendations

Forestry and Agriculture part of solution

GAPS

- Timeline for process impacted participation levels and BIPOC outreach, Vermonters experiencing poverty, disability groups, and other groups that experience differential vulnerabilities
- Timeline is widely seen as the most inequitable component
- Not enough time to engage partners to support engagement
- COVID event restrictions impacted attendance in terms of who might have been comfortable attending, as well as the limitations of outdoor spaces and masked conversation

Timeline



Key Milestones