

**Vermont Climate Council**  
**June 23, 2025, Meeting Minutes**  
**11am-2pm**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84555484576?pwd=XxnLybJxZQrb6fTS1EYwfDUygUM9JD.1>

Meeting ID: 845 5548 4576

Passcode: 069354

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**Councilors present:**

- Jaiel Pulskamp
- Jared Duval
- Richard Cowart
- Andrea Wright
- Chris Company
- Dahlia Cohn
- David Mears
- Eric Forand
- Johanna Miller
- Secretary Julie Moore
- Kelly Klein
- Kerrick Johnson
- Dr. Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux
- Secretary Lindsay Kurrle
- Liz Miller
- Matt Cota
- Michele Boomhower
- Ryan Patch
- Secretary Sarah Clark
- Shayla Livingston
- Stephanie Moffett-Hynds
- Will Eberle

11:00 AM Welcome/Overview of Agenda/Approval of [Minutes](#)  
*David Plumb, CBI*

The Council approved the minutes from June 16th.

11:10 AM Working through Essential Concerns or Edits in Chapters  
*David Plumb, CBI*

- Executive Summary, Priority Recommendations Preamble, Letter from the Council, Scientific Underpinnings of Emissions Reductions

The Council agreed to the following edits to chapters:

- On line 27 in Letter from the Council, does the word “should” mean that this is expected to happen or that we want it to happen?
  - **Change to: This will put additional pressure on state-specific action and necessitate a continuation and deepening of multi-state and regional collaboration.**
- In executive summary, suggestion for rewrite to lines 11-13:
  - **Change to: On top of this, there have been more days with high heat for which most Vermont homes are ill-equipped, putting the health of vulnerable Vermonters at risk. These are the consequences of climate pollution; they are relentless and will continue to worsen.**
- In the Executive Summary, add something about Vermont being a role model:
  - **Add a version of: As we undertake this work, we recognize that Vermont has a history of innovation to draw and build upon. The can-do ethos of Vermonters sees not only challenges but opportunities -- including the opportunity to act together and nimbly as a small state.**
- A number of comments on the Scientific Underpinnings chapter
  - Table that isn't labelled: need to know what it's trying to say - between pages 3-4
    - **Jared and Brian work to make sure this table is presented accurately.**
    - **Have the targets listed towards the top**
    - **Nothing other than clarifications after today**
  - Need a statement that the benefits costs analysis doesn't include health
    - **Yes, "In addition, several measures (e.g. weatherization, EVs) produce health benefits to Vermonters that are not related to greenhouse gas emissions. Those benefits were not included in the benefit-cost analysis."**
  - Plain reading: change “negative costs” change to “savings”
    - **Yes, make the change**
- Check on Kerrick's implementation language. It's in the assessing progress chapter
- In the Ag & Ecosystems. On Page 4, make sure there is connectivity across chapters.
  - **Page 4 should reference 2024-2025 information (Climate and Climate Change Chapter reference).**
- In the Executive Summary, add in a sentence about legacy and the overall goal
  - **ADD: At the heart of our efforts is a commitment not only to fulfill the obligations of the GWSA, but also to ensure Vermont**

**remains a vibrant, healthy place for current and future generations.**

- In the priority recommendations chapter, make references in all Top 10. And make reference to the full table as well.
  - **Yes, let's do this**
- Some chapters have the Pathways listed while others do not. Do we want a consistent format in chapters?
  - **We're OK for now. Can do some clean-up after if needed and can create punchlist for contractor who is editing the plan**
- Executive Summary, Page 6, line 146 (and in Priority Recs as well): Identify revenue sources that "don't work against" Vermonters' adoption and implementation of key climate actions, such as adoption of electric heating and transportation options, by raising the cost of electricity.
  - **Change to: "Identify revenue sources that don't unnecessarily raise the cost of electricity, which would work against Vermonters' adoption and implementation of key climate actions, such as transitioning to electric heating and transportation options."**
- In Building Equity into the Climate Action Plan chapter:
  - **Under Specific Frontline & Impacted Communities add bullet: Those impacted by natural disasters.**
- Under Challenges Faced by JT Subcommittee: Capacity and ability to engage with those impacted by climate events, especially catastrophic flooding, since the initial plan was adopted.
  - **Add it as a third bullet under the Capacity heading**
- Under Suggested Solutions to Overcome Challenges: Add bullet Work with VT Agency of Human Services and local recovery groups to directly engage with disaster impacted communities about their climate adaptation and resilience priorities.
  - **Yes, add**
- In the Executive Summary, add context (a sentence or two) about moving people off price-volatile fossil fuels as one of the reasons we're doing this.
  - **Take or synthesize from the economics chapter, and emissions reduction chapter. Line 140 does mention this, but it doesn't capture clearly that this is a core reason why.**
- In the Executive Summary, add in something about the impact on livelihoods of the farm and forest sector?
  - **Yes, add around line 12.**
- In the Letter From the Council, I would recommend on Lines 16-21, referencing the Climate and Climate Change chapter pages 2-3, where the counties that have the highest risk of weather/climate extremes are presented in maps and numerically. These maps are extracted from the National Centers for Environmental Information, Centers for Disease Control and FEMA. The counties that should also be highlighted are Windsor, Rutland and Washington in that order:

- **Tweak language in the paragraph to "We recognize a particular urgency to this work because of the degree to which climate disruption is already harming Vermonters. The number of federally declared disaster declarations has increased especially in 2011, 2023 and 2024. Lamoille and Washington counties accounted for some of the highest declarations.**
- **Add specific mention of heat events.**
- **Lesley-Ann to finalize this with Jane**
- Conclusion chapter: Delete some language
  - **Second paragraph: Delete the final sentence of second paragraph**

12:50 PM Break

1:00 PM Public Comment

None offered.

1:20 PM Adopting the Plan  
*David Plumb, CBI*

The Climate Council adopted the Plan with a 16-5 vote. Each Councilor's vote is listed below, excluding absent Councilors Peter Sterling and Brian Dunkiel. Councilors will have the opportunity to submit signing statements, and several shared the following thoughts during the meeting:

- Michele Boomhower (for Joe Flynn): No
  - Dismayed no, because of lack of alignment on federal and state policy and funding to do this work.
- Chris Campy: Yes
  - Voted yes, but with concerns that towns don't fully understand how much they are going to be responsible for covering costs. It is important to recognize the immediate term outlays of money that is needed for recovery and resilience.
- Julie Moore: Yes
  - Acknowledge the abrupt end to federal funding, and how VT can survive the costs of all the impacts. Good work has been done, but there is still a significant gap between the actions outlined in the plan and how to operationalize them. We need solutions that are economically feasible, and we must consider how this work intersects with other major societal challenges.
  - Still struggling to reach a broad cross-section of Vermonters.
- Sarah Clark: No

- Great admiration for this work and in awe of the Councilors, Subcommittee members and the staff. Voted no coming from an affordability lens.
- Kelly Klein: Yes
  - Many thanks for the public engagement efforts that have gone into this.
- Jared Duval: Yes
  - A plan alone, while necessary, isn't sufficient. The key will be whether and how it will be implemented.
- Dr. Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux: Yes
  - Offer a point of hope moving forward. The entire process was so uplifting this time around.
- Kerrick Johnson: Yes
  - Voted yes, with reservations. Seeing some of the real pressures hitting electricity rate payers right now.
- Dahlia Cohn: Yes
- David Mears: Yes
- Eric Forand: Yes
- Jaiel Pulskamp: Yes
- Johanna Miller: Yes
- Lindsay Kurrle: No
- Liz Miller: Yes
- Matt Cota: No
- Richard Cowart: Yes
- Ryan Patch: No
- Shayla Livingston: Yes
- Stephanie Moffett-Hynds: Yes
- Will Eberle: Yes

2:00 PM Adjourn

The Council adjourned at 2pm, outlining the following next steps:

- Notes from today will be completed and posted by the end of day Wednesday.
- The Steering Committee will meet in July to set the Council's schedule and workplan for the fall and beyond, with the expectation that the Council will not convene until September.
- CAO will distribute the link to the Plan to key legislators using the usual mailing list on July 1, along with contextual language about revisions happening over the summer (e.g., a plain language summary and proofreading). Before posting the Plan publicly, there will be a brief press release to announce its availability and indicate that signing statements need to be attached to it.
- Councilors may request to hold the meeting on Thursday if needed.
- Send signing statements to Liz Amler by June 30th at 12pm.

- If others want to collaborate on signing statements beyond the existing groups, submit all drafts to Liz by Wednesday. She can then send them out as a batch, each with a point of contact. By Friday, interested signers should notify the lead author. Final statements and signers would be due to Liz by Monday.

##

DRAFT