

Vermont Climate Action Commission

Thursday, January 11, 2018

1 – 4 pm

The Montpelier Room/ National Life Building / Montpelier

Commissioners Present: Riley Allen (for June Tierney), Marie Audet, Harrison Bushnell, Kristen Carlson, Paul Costello, Daniel Dutcher (for Michelle Boomhower), Bethany Fleishman, Joe Fusco, Bill Laberge, Johanna Miller, Ted Brady (for Michael Schirling), Jennifer Wallace-Brodeur (for Mary Sprayregen), Bob Stevens, Robert Turner, Peter Walke

Agenda Items

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed the commissioners and other attendees.

2. Approval of the December Minutes

Approved

3. December Preliminary Recommendations Report

The chair reported that they presented the commission's recommendations to the governor on 12/29. Note there were 5 general recommendations, but 20+ actions. The report was well received. Response from the governor is forthcoming and will be shared with the commission when received. The chair also noted that the house speaker has put out call to each committee to consider climate action and the climate economy.

The chair provided a brief update on the VW settlement fund.

The chair welcomed Jennifer Wallace-Brodeur, VEIC Director of Transportation Efficiency, to the commission. Ms. Wallace-Brodeur will serve for Commissioner Sprayregen in her absence. The chair also announced the Peter Bourne has left the commission. Matt Cota of the Vermont Fuel Dealers Association has been named to fill Mr. Bourne's seat.

4. Future Vision Exercise

The commission engaged in an end-state visioning exercise, where each commissioner provided a brief statement of what the state would look like if the VCAC is successful, and the state enacts policy to make Vermont and environmental and economic leader in 20 years.

The outcome of this exercise is attached, marked as draft. It is subject to additional future refinement by the Commission.

5. Work Prioritization

The group discussed a broad range of issues regarding the opportunities for and barriers to realizing the visions identified previously.

Priority Issues

- EV transformation

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- Promote carbon sequestration/monetization of carbon
- Grid of the future
- Building efficiency
- Support [carbon economy] business development/technology leaders
- Land use

6. Information Requirements / Full-day Meeting Topics

The chair described the planned format for the all-day February meeting. The commissioners discussed receiving information on the current status and projected trends of the priority areas they discussed.

7. Public Comment

Rick Wackernagel:

- Would like to see more attention on cost of transition down both for individuals and the state as a whole
- Would like the commission to address the impacts of disruptions (e.g. job losses)
- Noted that the VT Extension Service has experience regarding managing transitions

8. Other Business

Commissioner Carlson announced that GMP will be hosting a presentation on electricity sector transformation later this month, and invited commission members to attend.

9. Adjourn

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Draft Vision and Ends Statement – January 2018

The Vermont Climate Action Commission sees a future for Vermont where:

Vermonters have acted to quickly, efficiently, and positively impact the culture and economics of energy generation, distribution, and use in ways that have had a direct, long-term and positive impact on the state so that Vermont provides a framework for other states to follow to exponentially impact climate change;

Vermont is flourishing; benefiting from its bold policies to build an inclusive, clean, largely locally-powered energy system that grows jobs, fosters independence, and spurs innovation, while dramatically reducing our contribution to climate change.

Vermont is a leader showing the way to leverage the climate economy to grow jobs, attract people and innovate businesses, while reducing carbon and costs for all;

There is a changed cultural paradigm of energy use and our individual relationship to it--Vermonters have transitioned to a new transportation, consumer, and economic culture powered by renewable energy;

Vermont fully achieves the goals established in the state Comprehensive Energy Plan and ninety percent of our energy comes from clean renewable sources;

All Vermonters live in warm, safe, efficient and affordable homes;

Vermont has established and implemented policies that have produced an efficient electric transportation system;

The state has clean, efficient, highly automated, seamless, distributed and integrated energy and transportation systems that enable people to connect to community;

No Vermonter has to make a choice between quality of life and climate action;

Continuous and substantial changes have led to dramatically decreased emissions and there is infrastructure for long-term environmental and economic sustainability for all Vermonters;

Because of the actions we have taken, Vermonters are healthier and our quality of life has improved;

The economy has expanded sustainably while emissions have declined;

The state's population has grown as a result of our leadership and a changing climate;

Vermont's wise land use and strong community centers support low or no energy use;

People are connected to each other, to jobs and services, and are able to get most of what they need in their village or county through accessible local transportation and a strong local economy; they are also able to connect, participate and benefit from opportunities in the global economy;

Vermont working lands enterprises expand as a result of aggressive climate mitigation efforts, greatly reducing food waste, expanding efficient production and distribution, and simultaneously advancing carbon sequestration and soil health in the state.

In Vermont culture, every aspect of economy and livelihood works to decrease or avoid greenhouse gas emissions and sequester carbon as part of normal activity. Vermonters have seamlessly integrated carbon emission reductions and carbon sequestration into all aspects of their lives without thinking of them as climate actions;

Vermonters are proud of their leadership in answering climate change; and the next generation is inspired and empowered to continue this leadership.

DRAFT