

# Clean Heat Standard Equity Advisory Group

## February 5, 2024, Meeting Minutes

### Attendees

- Members of the Equity Advisory Group present
  - Ben Bolaski (designee of Melissa Bailey), Vermont Department of Public Service
  - Matt Cota, Meadow Hill Consulting
  - John Mandeville, Central Vermont Council on Aging
  - Jen Myers, Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity
  - Pike Porter, individual
  - Emily Roscoe, Efficiency Vermont
  - Sriram Srinivasan, individual
  - Chris Trombly, Vermont State Housing Authority
  - Mia Watson, Vermont Housing Finance Agency
- Participating Vermont Public Utility Commission Staff
  - Dominic Gatti,
  - Thomas Knauer
  - Deirdre Morris
  - Tracy Myers
- Other active participants
  - Annette Smith, Vermonters for a Clean Environment
  - Dylan Giambatista, Vermont Gas Services

### Agenda & Actions

#### I. Welcome

*[Meeting commenced at 1:05 pm ET. By unanimous consent, the group agreed to have Commission personnel moderate the meeting.]*

#### II. Review Agenda

*[By unanimous consent, the group decided to solicit public comment on substantive agenda items that the group is taking action on after group discussion and before the action is taken at 1:10 pm.]*

*[Pike Porter moved the group record and publicly post the recording of their meetings. The motion was adopted by voice vote at 1:14 pm.]*

#### III. Review of November 29, 2023, and January 11, 2024, Draft Minutes

*[John Mandeville moved to approve the November 29, 2023, minutes. The motion was adopted by voice vote at 1:17 pm.]*

*[John Mandeville moved to approve the January 11, 2024, minutes. The motion was adopted by voice vote at 1:19 pm.]*

#### IV. Commission Update on Clean Heat Standard Work

*[Chris Trombly moved that the Equity Advisory Group request the Commission pursue the opportunity with the US Climate Alliance to engage a facilitator for the group. The motion was adopted by voice vote at 1:32 pm]*

#### V. Officers and Roles

*[Chris Trombly moved to postpone this agenda item until later in the meeting when other members were available, placing it directly before “Opportunity for Public Comment” on the agenda. The motion was adopted by voice vote at 1:39 pm]*

#### VI. Funding Streams

*[Pike Porter moved that the Equity Advisory Group recommend to the Public Utility Commission that any funding needed through 2025 come from the state’s General Fund. After discussion and amendment, the group specified that: “The Equity Advisory Group advises the Public Utility Commission to recommend to the Legislature that any money needed for the Clean Heat Standard through Vermont Fiscal Year 2025 be funded from the General Fund.” The motion was adopted by voice vote at 1:55 pm.]*

#### VII. Discussion on Concerns Raised by Stakeholders on Pacing of CHS Work and Procedural Equity

*[Pike Porter moved to recess for 10 minutes, which was approved by voice vote at 2:35 pm. The group reconvened at 2:45 pm.]*

#### VIII. Defining Equity

*[John Mandeville moved that the Equity Advisory Group would like to communicate that the list on [page 94 of the preparatory materials for this meeting](#), which contains 7 objectives with the addition of availability in geographic context, is a priority of Equity Advisory Group, and the group requests that the Technical Advisory Group keeps the objectives it in mind, subject to change and further development to make sure it is specific to Vermont. Motion adopted by voice vote at 3:54 pm.<sup>1</sup>]*

#### IX. Set a Standing Meeting Time

*[During discussion on the “Defining Equity” agenda point, Pike Porter moved to take up consideration of “Setting a Standard Meeting Time.” The motion was adopted by voice vote at 3:11 pm.]*

*[Sriram Srinivasan moved to set a standing meeting time for the Equity Advisory Group on Tuesdays, from 12:30 – 2:30 pm, biweekly, beginning on February 20, 2024. The motion was amended to exclude State holidays. The motion was adopted by voice vote at 3:15 pm.]*

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<sup>1</sup> The motion adopted establishes these eight objectives as priorities of the Equity Advisory Group that the group requests the Technical Advisory Group keep in mind as they complete their work: Health, Affordability, Accessibility, Just Transition, Community Capacity, Cultural Preservation, Accountability, and Geographic Availability.

X. Officers and Roles (*revisited*)

*[The group agreed to address this topic at the beginning of the next meeting. By unanimous consent, at 3:58 pm. In discussion, Pike Porter expressed willingness to serve as Chair; no one expressed interest in being the Vice Chair.]*

XI. Opportunity for Public Comment

XII. Adjournment

*[John Mandeville motioned to adjourn which was approved by voice vote at 3:59 pm.]*

XIII. Agenda Items Not Reached

- Benchmarking Systems to Evaluate Clean Heat Standard Elements
- Heating-Related Programs Offered by Members' Organizations
- Group Drafting of Written Materials

Meeting Recording

A recording of this meeting can be found here (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sDVW9bvdTVY>).