

Decision Making Methods for the Renewable Energy Standard Reform Working Group

Updated Version, 9/6/23. For review and final adoption at RESRWG Meeting of 9/20/23.

Significant efforts will be made to reach decisions through consensus. Workgroup meetings will be professionally facilitated and employ a variety of tools to understand points of tension, explore options, and support effective negotiations. Strategies may include straw polls, surveys, structured exercises & discussion prompts, and methods to test for areas of agreement or priority.

But in the event that a decision must be made, and consensus has not been reached, the following process shall apply:

1. **Quorum must be present in order for a vote to take place. Quorum = 50% of Working Group Members are present in the meeting.** “In the meeting” is defined as attending the meeting in real time, via in-person or online participation.
2. **Majority Vote: decision = simple majority of Working Group Members present.**
Note: Proxy votes are permitted, in the instance that an official Working Group Member has designated someone else to participate in their place. Working Group Members are requested to provide notice when they are sending a proxy, by sending a written notice 24 hours in advance to the Co-Chairs and/or to Sorsha Anderson SAnderson@leg.state.vt.us.
3. **Summary Notes / Minutes shall reflect the reservations noted by those in the minority.**
4. **Straw-polls and temperature-taking measures shall be forecasted in advance of the meeting whenever possible,** so that members who may not be available to attend have the opportunity to weigh in ahead of time.
5. It’s unlikely that this would happen in the course of business for this workgroup, **but in the instance of a spontaneous vote, communication to the entire membership shall effectively notify membership of the event and outcome, in order to invite any members who were not present for the vote to e-mail reservations to the Co-Chairs** immediately if they do not agree with the decision. *The intent here is to keep progress, and ensure that the decision is a good one – if critical feedback was missing before the vote, it is in the membership’s best interest to take this into consideration.*