

MINUTES
NEW HAVEN CLIMATE EMERGENCY TASK FORCE
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, January 22nd, 2025, 5:15 PM

The New Haven Climate Emergency Taskforce (CETF) met on Wednesday, January 22nd, 2025 at 5:15 PM on Zoom (see link at end of agenda) to discuss the following items:

Attendees: Linda Reeder, Cameron Kritikos, Doug Hausladen, Ginger Chapman, Jeremy Schulick, Florestine Taylor, Melissa Kops, Steven Winter (non-member), HannahZoe Chua-Reyes (non-member)

1. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting (12/18). A majority of the CETF (6 of 11 members) constitutes a quorum.
 - a. Minutes were approved unanimously
2. Project updates from the Office of Climate and Sustainability (OCS) staff:
 - a. Community Change Grant
 - i. The City has responded to all of EPA's feedback and the updated application is under review by the EPA.
 - ii. President Trump's executive order may impact the grant process
 - b. I Heart My Home
 - i. Statistics since July of 2023
 1. Total Enrollments 452 participants enrolled
 2. Total people who received consultations 377
 3. Total people who had assessments completed or scheduled 63
 - c. EPA Government-to-Government Environmental Justice Grant: Outreach activities have begun at NHS and Community Action Agency of New Haven as well as through Operation Fuel.

- d. USDA Composting and Food Waste Reduction Grant: We have installed 3 Bigbelly units (Fair Haven, Wooster Square, and Downtown). All three bins are now operational.
- e. EPA [Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program](#) – Implementation Grants: The grant has been awarded. We have received feedback on our data quality assurance plan and are drafting updates to the plan. Phase 1A historic survey of the project area has been completed.
- f. Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA): no update.
- g. Shellfish shell recycling program: No update.
- h. Solar installations: We have concluded our Solar for All campaign with Posigen. 363 families showed interest in solar and 138 signed contracts for solar installations. OCS has asked Posigen for the number of installations completed.
- i. Styrofoam enforcement: Rose Richi is completing a round of visits to businesses that are still using styrofoam.
- j. Housing Authority: No update.
- k. Electric leaf blower and grass trimmer: equipment continues to be used at Lighthouse Point Park.
- l. Purchase of bicycles for school-based bicycle education program: NHPS has hired the part-time bicycle educator. The bicycle education program began this morning (January 22, 2025)!

3. Discussion Items:

- a. Discussion of state legislative items and the change in the presidential administration.
 - i. State legislative items:
 - 1. OPM bills
 - 2. Things the city should be keeping track of/commenting
 - a. Bills trying to remove the public benefits charge from electric bills

- i. This elimination would affect the following programs from which the city benefits:
 - 1. Conservation and load management funds that impact energy efficiency program funding
 - 2. Funding for CT green bank
 - 3. Energy efficiency barrier remediation funding
 - 4. Low embodied carbon state procurement proposal
 - 5. Additional Shoreline east funding has been proposed (additional public transportation dollars)
 - 6. Free bus transit before and after school to help connect kids/youths access opportunities
 - 7. Renewable diesel
 - 8. Heat pump water heaters
 - 9. Reducing resistance heat utilization
 - 10. Pay close attention to environmental committee
 - ii. DEEP currently has a public input session on their heat pump water heater program
 - iii. CT public national code changes could preclude slow charging options for EV charging—comment period will open in March
 - iv. UI commercial incentives for EV charging currently exclude small (2-4 unit) multi-unit dwellings, which leaves out many families in New Haven
4. Motion to adjourn from Linda Reeder, Seconded by Ginger Chapman, passed unanimously

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