

**MINUTES**  
**NEW HAVEN CLIMATE EMERGENCY TASK FORCE**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 5:15 PM**

The New Haven Climate Emergency Taskforce (CETF) will meet on Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 5:15 PM on Zoom (see link at end of agenda) to discuss the following items:

Attendees: Cameron Kritikos, Ginger Chapman, Linda Reeder, Doug Hausladen, Florestine Taylor, Carmen Rodriguez, Adam Marchand, Steven Winter (non-member), Rose Richi (non-member), HannahZoe Chua-Reyes (non-member)

1. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting (1/22). A majority of the CETF (6 of 11 members) constitutes a quorum.
  - a. Motion to approve: Cameron Kritikos
  - b. Seconded by: Douglas Hausladen
  - c. Passed unanimously
2. Project updates from the Office of Climate and Sustainability (OCS) staff:
  - a. Community Change Grant
    - i. The City has received a grant award letter from the EPA and is awaiting further communication from the EPA. EPA grant status is now listed as “Open”. However, we have not had contact with the project officer since the status was changed and funding is not available for draw down until March 31 as the period of performance begins April 1.
  - b. I Heart My Home
    - i. Statistics since July of 2023
      1. Total Enrollments 466 participants enrolled
      2. Total people who received consultations 393

3. Total people who had assessments completed or scheduled 69

- c. EPA Government-to-Government Environmental Justice Grant: Outreach activities are continuing at Neighborhood Housing Services, Community Action Agency of New Haven, and Junta for Progressive Action. Due to contract processing delays, signups for heat pump replacements and air quality monitoring have been pushed to next winter.
- d. USDA Composting and Food Waste Reduction Grant: No update.
- e. EPA [Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program](#) – Implementation Grants: We are finalizing a solicitation for the design of the geothermal ground loop.
- f. Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA): no update.
- g. Shellfish shell recycling program: No update.
- h. Solar installations: We are working on interconnection agreements for the two solar parking canopies. We have received permission from CT DEEP for the solar project at the City landfill.
  - i. Florestine Taylor: Who will be hiring the workers on the project? It would be nice to have local workers on the project.
  - ii. Steven Winter: Greenskies Clean Energy. I will follow up about employing local talent.
- i. Styrofoam enforcement: Rose Richi has continued follow up with businesses that were using Styrofoam. Roughly a dozen businesses remain for 2<sup>nd</sup> enforcement visits.
- 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: No update.

**3. Discussion Items:**

- a. Presentation from Rose Richi, Recycling Educator, on the USDA Composting and Food Waste Reduction grant activities in New Haven Public Schools and through Bigbelly drop off points.
  - i. Rose can be reached via email at [rrichi@newhavenct.gov](mailto:rrichi@newhavenct.gov)
  - ii. Ginger Chapman: it would be great to get the Independent to do a story on this grant and the impact it's having inside our schools
  - iii. Cameron Kritikos:
    - 1. Will send an email with restaurants that may be interested
    - 2. It might be good to engage with businesses registered with TooGoodToGo
- b. Cameron Kritikos' legislative update
  - i. Public hearing last week at Energy and Technology committee where Cameron and others advocated for
    - 1. Hb-6925
    - 2. HB-6296
  - ii. Upcoming opportunities tomorrow and Friday:
    - 1. Public hearing for energy and technology committee tomorrow
      - a. Bills of interest
        - i. HB-7019
        - ii. HB-1352
        - iii. SB-1353 (Oppose)
    - 2. 2/28 Committee Meeting for the environment committee
      - a. Bills of interest
        - i. HB-5004
        - ii. HB-6280
        - iii. HJ-14
        - iv. SB-885
    - 3. 2/28 Planning and Development Committee
      - a. Public hearing on HB-7061

4. Motion to adjourn: Ginger Chapman
  - a. Seconded by: Doug Hausladen
  - b. Passed unanimously



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