

MINUTES
NEW HAVEN CLIMATE EMERGENCY TASK FORCE
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, March 26th, 2025, 5:15 PM

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

Attendees: Ginger Chapman, Cameron Kritikos, Jeremy Schulick, Kai Addae, Linda Reeder, Latha Swamy, Carmen Rodriguez, Doug Hausladen, Florestine Taylor, Steven Winter (non-member), HannahZoe Chua-Reyes (non-member),

1. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting (2/26). A majority of the CETF (6 of 11 members) constitutes a quorum.
 - a. Motion to approve the minutes: Doug Hausladen
 - b. Seconded: Ginger Chapman
 - c. Minutes passed unanimously
2. Project updates from the Office of Climate and Sustainability (OCS) staff:
 - a. Community Change Grant
 - i. EPA grant status is now listed as “Suspended”. The City has joined a lawsuit with 5 other cities and the Public Rights Project to gain access to this funding and EPA Government-to-Government funding.
 - b. I Heart My Home
 - i. Statistics since July of 2023
 1. Total Enrollments 474 participants enrolled
 2. Total people who received consultations 401
 3. Total people who had assessments completed or scheduled 72

- ii. OCS has concluded our canvassing campaign for I Heart My Home CT and will be continuing outreach through the Government-to-Government grant.
- 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. EPA grant status is now listed as “Suspended”.
- d. USDA Composting and Food Waste Reduction Grant: No update.
- e. EPA [Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program](#) – Implementation Grants:
 - i. OCS has finalized its Quality Assurance Project Plan for thermal conductivity data collected during test geothermal boreholes.
 - ii. RFP language for the design of the geothermal ground loop has been finalized. OCS expects to post the RFP this week.
- 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. Styrofoam enforcement: Rose Richi has continued follow up with businesses that were using Styrofoam. Roughly a dozen businesses remain for 2nd 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. State legislative session climate and energy issues.

- i. Bills moving out of committee to the full legislature:
 - 1. [HB 7019](#): AN ACT REQUIRING A STUDY OF INCENTIVES FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF RESIDENTIAL ELECTRIC RESISTANCE HEATING SYSTEMS.
 - 2. [HB 5004](#): AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES AND ASSOCIATED JOB SECTORS.
 - 3. [SJ 36](#): RESOLUTION PROPOSING A STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT CONCERNING ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS.
 - 4. [HB 7061](#): AN ACT CONCERNING MANDATORY MINIMUM PARKING REQUIREMENTS.
 - 5. [SB 4](#): AN ACT CONCERNING ENERGY AFFORDABILITY, ACCESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY.
 - 6. Doug Hausladen suggests we follow the following bills
 - a. HB7061: AN ACT CONCERNING MANDATORY MINIMUM PARKING REQUIREMENTS.
 - b. HB6831: AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSIT-ORIENTED COMMUNITIES.
 - 7. Jeremy Schulick—there’s a condo building whose insurance company threatened to revoke their coverage if they install EV chargers in their parking garage. Could legislative action be taken regarding this?

- b. Task Force authorization of funding for additional batteries for Parks Department electric equipment. The Task Force had previously authorized the purchase of an induction stove to support the EPA Government-to-Government grant. Given the challenges OCS is facing with this grant, OCS is seeking authorization to use the remaining Task Force funding (\$1,062.90)

to assist the Parks Department in purchasing handheld batteries for the Parks Department's electric equipment.

- i. \$250-\$400 for a quick charging battery, that's likely what we'd buy
- ii. Motion to approve: Ginger Chapman
- iii. Seconded: Doug Hausladen
- iv. Passed unanimously



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