

AGENDA
NEW HAVEN CLIMATE EMERGENCY TASK FORCE
REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY, May 28th, 2025, 5:15 PM

The New Haven Climate Emergency Taskforce (CETF) will meet on Wednesday, May 28th, 2025 at 5:15 PM on Zoom (see link at end of agenda) to discuss the following items:

Attendees: Cameron Kritikos, Melissa Kopps, Linda Reeder, Ginger Chapman, Doug Hausladen, Jeremy Schulick, Latha Swamy, Kai Addae, HannahZoe Chua-Reyes (non-member)

1. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting (4/23). A majority of the CETF (6 of 11 members) constitutes a quorum.
 - a. Motion to approve: Cameron Kritikos
 - b. Seconded: Doug Hausladen
 - c. Unanimous approval
2. Project updates from the Office of Climate and Sustainability (OCS) staff:
 - a. Community Change Grant
 - i. EPA grant status is now listed as “Open”. The court ruled ordered the release of the funds to the City on 5/20, but that ruling has been appealed by the Federal government.
 - b. EPA Government-to-Government Environmental Justice Grant: The City has received a reinstated of terminated grant from the EPA and is planning to resume work if the appellate court does not freeze funds while the case is heard.
 - c. USDA Composting and Food Waste Reduction Grant: Grant funding has been suspended. The 4/15 injunction applied to USDA funding as well, but our grant is still suspended. Work proceeds on the project.

- d. EPA [Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program](#) – Implementation Grants:
 - i. A contractor for the design of the geothermal ground loop has been selected and the City is beginning the contracting process.
 - ii. An RFP for an Owner’s Representative has been issued by the City and evaluation will begin this week.
- e. Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA): No update.
- f. Shellfish shell recycling program: Here is a [link](#) to the New York Times article on this program.
- g. Solar installations: The interconnection agreements for the two solar parking canopies are being processed. The solar project at the City landfill is anticipated to begin in July. The City and Greenskies are scoping out projects for 3 parking canopies at Parks (East Shore Park, Alling Memorial Golf Course, and
 - i. The solar project at the City landfill will be funded by the developer, Greenskies.
- h. Styrofoam enforcement: The Health Department is hiring 2 additional sanitarians who will work with Rose Richi on enforcement.
- i. Housing Authority: No update.
- j. Electric leaf blower and grass trimmer: The Parks Department is ordering electric hand tools (e.g. chain saw) and will be powering them using a new EV Silverado truck.
- k. Purchase of bicycles for school-based bicycle education program: No update.

3. Discussion Items:

- a. Thanking Cameron Kritikos: Cameron has been a great member of the Climate Emergency Task Force, bringing lots of a good energy and good ideas – he'll be moving out of New Haven but we want to take a moment to thank him for his commitment to the Task Force’s work and wish him the best of luck in his next chapter!

- b. Discussion of how to spend Climate Emergency Task Force for FY25-26. Potential ideas for next year:
 - i. Outside support for the geothermal network has been valuable for our office and has helped us make informed decisions on the overall project approach and conceptual design of the project.
 - ii. To maintain or expand the bicycling education program, CETF funding may be needed if Community Change Grant funds are not available.
 - 1. Part-time staff for one set of bikes was \$6,000 last year. For two sets, CETF would need to budget \$12,000.
 - 2. An additional set of bikes was recently quoted at \$11,905.
 - iii. To maintain funding for the Climate Justice Schools program for 3 schools would be \$9,300.
- c. Ginger Chapman: Is there a process for applying for funds? I spoke to some members of the New Haven Climate Movement who have some projects that would be great to fund. Is there a timeline for when they should apply? Who should they contact?
 - i. There isn't a formal process or timeline for applying for funds
 - ii. They should contact Steve and/or HannahZoe
- d. Jeremy Schulick: New Haven Climate Movement wanted to advocate for CETF getting more funding. How would that work?
 - i. They'd have to speak at the Board of Alders budgetary hearings
- e. Kai Addae: City department heads are supposed to submit reports on where they think they could decarbonize. It might be good to get a formal process for that.
 - i. Melissa Kopps: none of the departments ever submitted reports

- ii. Latha: I don't think they were even sent out after the templates were created
- iii. Jeremy Schulick: I would second that
- iv. Ginger Chapman: It is required by City ordinance that these reports happen; Please ask Steve Winter if he would support the efforts to distribute these templates and have the department heads to report and add this to the discussion items for next meeting's agenda
- f. It would be good to have a breakdown of where CETF funds from last year went during the last fiscal year, OCS will work to provide that for next meeting
- g. Discussion of if CETF should be giving seed funding for new projects or continuing existing projects



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