

AGENDA
NEW HAVEN CLIMATE EMERGENCY TASK FORCE
REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY, June 25th, 2025, 5:15 PM

Present: Florestine, Melissa, Carmen, Jeremy, Linda, Ginger

The New Haven Climate Emergency Taskforce (CETF) will meet on Wednesday, June 25th, 2025 at 5:15 PM on Zoom (see link at end of agenda) to discuss the following items:

1. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting (5/28). A majority of the CETF (6 of 11 members) constitutes a quorum.
- 2. Motion: Ginger. Second: Linda. Unanimous.**
3. Project updates from the Office of Climate and Sustainability (OCS) staff:
 - a. Community Change Grant: no update
 - b. EPA Government-to-Government Environmental Justice Grant: The City held a meeting with its community partners regarding resumption of grant activities.
 - c. USDA Composting and Food Waste Reduction Grant: Grant funding has been reinstated. Work proceeds on the project.
 - d. EPA [Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program](#) – Implementation Grants: An engineering firm has been selected to serve as an Owner’s Representative and the City is beginning the contracting process.
 - e. Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA): No update.
 - f. Shellfish shell recycling program: No update.
 - g. Solar installations: The interconnection agreements for the two solar parking canopies have been processed. The solar project at the City landfill is anticipated to begin in July. A press conference announcing the agreements was held on the 24th.
 - h. Styrofoam enforcement: No update.
 - i. Housing Authority: No update.

- j. Electric leaf blower and grass trimmer: No update.
- k. Purchase of bicycles for school-based bicycle education program: No update.

4. Discussion Items:

- a. Reports from city departments
 - i. Creation of a formal process for soliciting, receiving, and processing reports
 - ii. Creation of a reporting template

Melissa: A reporting template was made. Kai was involved in writing it. It may or may not have been sent.

Ginger: It needs to be prioritized by City leadership.

Melissa: You could schedule a meeting with the Department heads to fill it out.

Steve: We will find the template, share it with the CETF, and update it if needed.

Ginger: We want to make it easy to fill out but provide accountability.

- b. Discussion of CETF's financial goals and strategies for the new year
 - i. Discussion weighing the benefits of providing seed funding for new projects vs. continuing existing projects.

Ginger: Has New Haven Climate Movement submitted a funding request?

Steve: Yes, they would like to continue the Climate Justice Schools program and potentially expand to another school.

Steve: The CETF has been effective in leveraging small amounts of funding to obtain grants (ie helping OCS apply for geothermal funding) and start programs that can scale with other funding sources (ie the bicycling education program).

Melissa: My understanding is that the funding was to originally engage and organize the community.

Jeremy: The Climate Movement also raised the idea of seeking additional funds for the Taskforce – we could try to increase the amount of funding for the CETF through the City budget process.

Melissa: We should put an action plan together for actions that need to be funded. Energy labeling is a priority for me. There are many jurisdictions that have it.

Steve: Our office has looked at Burlington VT which has a hire percentage of renters and a rental licensing program similar to New Haven.

Jeremy: There is also the issue of funding OCS in the long-term.

Ginger: Let's review the resolution and we could also look at energy labeling and we should also look at the budget for OCS and the funds that have been brought in.

Jeremy: We could write a letter on this and we could use the current budget as a starting point. I can start a Google Doc draft.

Steve: We can pull this information from the current budget.

Melissa: I think that would be useful – we are a Mayor-appointed taskforce.

Linda: I think the Taskforce been more effective with staff from OCS.

Steve: We can look into whether there is foundation funding out there.



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