

MINUTES
NEW HAVEN CLIMATE EMERGENCY TASK FORCE
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, July 23rd, 2025, 5:15 PM

The New Haven Climate Emergency Taskforce (CETF) will meet on Wednesday, July 23rd, 2025 at 5:15 PM on Zoom (see link at end of minutes) to discuss the following items:

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

1. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting (6/25). A majority of the CETF (6 of 11 members) constitutes a quorum.
 - a. Motion by Jeremy Schulick
 - b. Seconded by Linda Reeder
 - c. Passed unanimously
2. Project updates from the Office of Climate and Sustainability (OCS) staff:
 - a. Community Change Grant: OCS is working with Corporation Counsel to draft subaward agreements for subaward organizations. OCS drew down funds to purchase 50 more bicycles for NHPS.
 - b. EPA Government-to-Government Environmental Justice Grant: OCS has re-activated partner organizations to resume outreach to create energy plans and enroll residents in Energize CT programs.
 - c. USDA Composting and Food Waste Reduction Grant: Grant No update
 - d. EPA [Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program](#) – Implementation Grants: Design on the project has begun.

- e. Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA): No update.
- f. Shellfish shell recycling program: No update.
- g. Solar installations: Construction has begun on two solar parking canopies. Board of Alders committee approval was obtained for 4 additional solar parking canopies. Construction on the landfill solar project is expected to begin August 1st.
- h. Styrofoam enforcement: No update.
- i. Housing Authority: No update.
- j. Electric leaf blower and grass trimmer: No update.

3. Discussion Items:

- a. Reports from City departments (outline from February 2022 below).
 - i. S. Winter reached out to Dawn Henning about finding the template
 - ii. G. Chapman: did any department submit anything?
 - iii. S. Winter: CAO submitted something about an electric refuse vehicle
 - iv. G. Chapman: the reports would be helpful for the sustainable CT city certification
 - v. S. Winter and G. Chapman: Might be interesting to track emissions by City department
 - vi. M. Kops: what would be some of the other sources of departmental emissions?
 - vii. S. Winter: Schools are some of the biggest users of energy
 - viii. M. Kops: Are the schools electrifying?
 - ix. S. Winter: it would be a big project requiring a lot of funding, lots of work has been put into HVAC efficiency
 - x. M. Kops: is there a master plan for upgrades?
 - xi. S. Winter: not at the moment
 - xii. G. Chapman: the schools should plan to electrify when infrastructure needs to be phased out/retired
 - xiii. S. Winter: We are tracking energy usage by school, and working on creating a ranked list of schools by energy

intensity so that we can target interventions most effectively

- xiv. G. Chapman: Yale has something similar for their buildings
 - 1. Link: <https://java.facilities.yale.edu/energy/>
- xv. S. Winter: OCS will work on creating a reporting template for our next meeting
- xvi. M. Kops: can the city set aside a day for departments to focus on their sustainability work?
- xvii. G. Schulick: Sept. 21 is “sun-day” an environmental consciousness event in a couple of months
- xviii. H. Chua-Reyes: We could organize meetings between OCS and other city departments to review their operations and how they can be more sustainable, and then hold an event to tie it all together and show off what the city is doing and what our plan for decarbonizing is/can be
- b. Action plan for items that need funding, including next steps for energy labeling.
 - i. We will talk about this next meeting
- c. Draft letter regarding OCS funding (Jeremy had offered to begin a draft).
 - i. Climate Emergency Resolution stipulated that 0.01% of the city budget go to CETF/Climate initiatives, so around \$700K
 - 1. Can we track how much money we are currently spending on climate/resilience work city-wide?
 - 2. Maybe we look at results instead of just money and make a “report card” where we record our efforts
 - ii. Alder Marchand: funding on physical things is typically done through capital borrowing
 - iii. Many cities our size have an energy manager, might make sense to do that in New Haven “energy and sustainability engineer”

- iv. Would also be helpful do fund a sustainability plan at the City operations level or at the community level if we can get a grant for it
- v. It will be super important to have a convincing argument of what the office does and how it has helped the city

4. Motion to adjourn: Doug Hausladen

- a. Seconded: Ginger Chapman
- b. Passed unanimously

- Departmental Reports on Emergency Reductions

- *“report to the Climate Emergency Mobilization Task Force no later than 6 months after the effective date of this order on maximum emergency reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from their operations feasible by the end of 2021, with the highest priority placed on an equitable and just transition to all sectors.”*
- Pairs per mtg/a couple per month
- What are they doing, what are potential emergency reductions
- Idea: create a survey that all the department heads fill out/ and only get in-person presentations from the major ones?
- Questionnaire/Presentation format
 - What is under the purview of your Department?
 - What are your direct GHG emissions? What are your operational GHG emissions? What do you think are the top 5 emitters?
 - What are the maximum emergency reductions your department could do this year?
 - What do you want to do?

- What are the barriers and challenges to taking on these initiatives?
- Which initiatives would be the most equitable and support a just transition?
- What are they emitting?
 - Gallons of fuel, for example
 - Energy use
- What are the sources?
- How can they reduce their direct emissions?
- How can they have the greatest impact on reducing GHG emissions in New Haven?
- What departments would/could you want to partner with to make reductions?
- GAP analysis

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