

MINUTES
NEW HAVEN CLIMATE EMERGENCY TASK FORCE
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, August 27th , 2025, 5:15 PM

The New Haven Climate Emergency Taskforce (CETF) will meet on Wednesday, August 27th, 2025 at 5:15 PM on Zoom (see link at end of agenda) to discuss the following items:

Attendees: Linda Reeder, Doug Hausladen, Melissa Kops, Jeremy Schulick, Steven Winter (non-member), HannahZoe Chua-Reyes (non-member)

1. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting (7/23). A majority of the CETF (6 of 11 members) constitutes a quorum. A quorum was not present.
2. Project updates from the Office of Climate and Sustainability (OCS) staff:
 - a. Community Change Grant: This grant has been terminated by the EPA. The City is challenging this termination and the Government-to-Government termination. The case is the fourth circuit court of the appeals, with its next hearing scheduled for 9:30am on 10/23.
 - b. EPA Government-to-Government Environmental Justice Grant: This grant has been terminated by the EPA.
 - c. USDA Composting and Food Waste Reduction Grant: OCS submitted their financial and progress reports for the 1 year anniversary of the grant.
 - d. EPA [Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program](#): Progress continues on the initial schematic design for the geothermal ground loop.
 - e. Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA): No update.
 - f. Shellfish shell recycling program: No update.

- g. Solar installations: Racking is complete on the two parking canopies and mobilization for erosion control and a small amount of tree removal at the landfill begins this week.
- h. Styrofoam enforcement: No update.
- i. Housing Authority: No update.
- j. Electric leaf blower and grass trimmer: No update.

3. Discussion Items:

- a. With Community Change Grant funds, the City was able to purchase 50 additional bicycles for New Haven Public Schools. New Haven Public Schools are requesting funding from the CETF to pay a part-time bicycle technician for the upcoming school year and for bike helmets and hairnets. The funding requests are as follows:
 - i. \$6,000 for a bicycle technician
 - ii. Up to \$1,500 for bike helmets/hair nets for 50 bikes
 - iii. D. Hausladen, L. Reeder, G. Schulick, and M. Kops expressed support for this use of CETF Funds
 - iv. BOE said they can fund purchasing the bike container, moving the container, and outfitting the container
- b. Possibility of carryover funds from a prior fiscal year, OCS is verifying if this additional funding will be available to the task force for this financial year
- c. Updates on Department reporting
 - i. Steve met with the Mayor to discuss what strategy would be most effective for engaging Departments in reporting about what reductions can be made in emissions. OCS will plan to meet with the leadership of one Department per month and work with the Departments to find opportunities for emissions reductions in their buildings, fleet, and operations.

OCS will obtain fleet data from the City's vehicle inventory and GPS data and review vehicle use cases with the

Department. OCS will create and review a list of facilities and discuss with the Department where to prioritize efficiency and electrification improvements. OCS will create and review a list of gas/diesel powered equipment and look into electric alternatives.

1. Northern Colorado Clean Cities vehicle fleet inventory—CETF could get in touch with them about creating an updated inventory (G. Schulick)
 - a. S. Winter: would likely be more efficient to run through specific vehicle uses for each department
2. S. Winter: CETF/OCS could look at procurement and how City purchases are made—broader changes to procurement policies

d. OCS Letter of Support

- i. D. Hausladen: we can brainstorm on who our audience should be—could make it an OpEd, or letter to Mayor, would be good to look at the CETF's mission statement
- ii. G. Schulick: Original audience was Board of Alders/Mayor
- iii. M. Kops: We should give the Mayor a chance to get the letter and respond it before publishing the letter as an OpEd
- iv. L. Reeder: Can we wait until September to send the letter, or should we try to send it out now? Ask people to vote by email
- v. S. Winter: Might be better to have people sign individually rather than as an official task force action since Alders and City staff are part of the Task Force
- vi. G. Schulick: Would probably be best to get a quorum to approve the letter in its current form, then share it with the Mayor
- vii. L. Reeder: Might be good to see if other organizations are interested in sending their own letters of support

- viii. L. Reeder, D. Hausladen, G. Schulick: We should invite the Mayor to a CETF meeting
 - ix. G. Schulick asking S. Winter to send him additional bullet points highlighting the work the CETF and OCS have done towards school composting, bicycle education, and the Climate Justice Schools program
 - x. D. Hausladen, M. Kops: might be helpful to highlight all the community organizations OCS and CETF have interacted with
- e. G. Schulick: our organization is organizing a ride and drive for Sun Day, and all are welcome!



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