

AGENDA
NEW HAVEN CLIMATE EMERGENCY TASK FORCE
REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY, September 24th, 2025, 5:15 PM

Present: Latha Swamy, Linda Reeder, Doug Hausladen, Florestine Taylor, Jeremy Schulick, Melissa Kops, Ginger Chapman, Alder Carmen Rodriguez, Alder Adam Marchand

The New Haven Climate Emergency Taskforce (CETF) will meet on Wednesday, September 24th, 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 meetings (7/23 and 8/27). A majority of the CETF (6 of 11 members) constitutes a quorum.
 - a. Moved by Doug Hausladen and seconded by Ginger Chapman, approved unanimously.
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 has resumed school food waste diversion and is using USDA funds to support 4 schools that were previously funded through a ReFed grant.
 - d. EPA [Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program](#): Progress continues on the initial schematic design for the geothermal ground loop, with site visits to the Union Square development site and Union Station facility. Test geothermal boreholes are expected to be drilled in October.
 - e. Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA): No update.

- f. Shellfish shell recycling program: No update.
- g. Solar installations: Final electrical work is being done on the two solar parking canopies. Initial work has begun on the landfill project.
- 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. NHPS has purchased and outfitted a new container.
 - iv. At the last meeting, Doug Hausladen, Linda Reeder, Jeremy Schulick, and Melissa Kops were supportive of this proposal.
 - v. Doug: will move item as presented
 - vi. Ginger: seconded by Ginger
 - vii. Florestine: which students are eligible?
 - viii. Steve: the bikes are in a container and travel from school to school
 - ix. Passed unanimously.
- b. At its June meeting, Task Force members expressed interest in using funds this year for community education and engagement and at creating a plan of actions that need to be funded, including energy labeling. Are there specific areas for community education and engagement that the Task Force should be focused on? How would the Task for like to move forward with the energy labeling initiative?

- i. Melissa: Steve and I should get together to discuss. This would involve a disclosure of energy efficiency for residential dwelling units before someone chooses to rent or buy a unit.
- ii. Ginger: is this something the landlord would provide?
- iii. Melissa: we could write an ordinance for the landlord to provide utility bills for 12 months – this could happen in the absence of state action.
- iv. Linda: I think this is happening informally – I have called the utility companies and they have disclosed this to me.
- v. Melissa: The City could also look at publicly available information based on assessor data. This general estimate is 70% accurate. This is what Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership worked on in Montpelier.
- vi. Linda: I like the idea of separating it from the individual occupant. It could encourage assessments and weatherization.
- vii. Melissa: I think this requirement would be generate demand for assessments. If you require the disclosure it can generate demand for energy efficiency improvements.
- viii. Melissa: Burlington ties the requirement to rental licensing.
- ix. Steve: We had looked at the Burlington model but had problems triaging data.
- x. Ginger: What would be the cost of providing this program?
- xi. Steve: There would be administrative burden for enforcement with LCI
- xii. Ginger: What are next steps?
- xiii. Steve: The next steps would be coming up with a mechanism for segmenting out participants and meeting with LCI to see how they feel about it.
- xiv. Linda: Could the program be funded by fines from rental licensing?
- xv. Alder Marchand: These fines go into the general fund.

- xvi. Melissa: It could be funded by noncompliance fines.
 - xvii. Alder Marchand: How do you get people to participate? Is it voluntary? Or mandatory? Is it the carrot and the stick?
 - xviii. Florestine: I received an energy use communication from my cooperative breaking out my energy use.
 - xix. Linda: I received similar information from my utility.
- c. Further discussion of Jeremy's draft letter.
- i. Ginger: Let's edit it down and share it with the Mayor.
 - ii. Linda: We could have a shorter letter with an ask and a supplement with more detail.
 - iii. Jeremy: There is a segment about the harms of air pollution that is lengthy and a second segment about accomplishments of the office.
 - iv. Alder Marchand: All those ideas sound fine to make the letter shorter. The most important thing is what are you asking for – which is hard to say without the Mayor's plan for this office. The administration will work on their proposals for the budget before the end of the year. Is it an ask of the Mayor? Of the Board? It's not clear what the ask is and it would be better for 2 or 3 of you to meet in person with the Mayor's administration and ask what they are planning.
 - v. Florestine: I'd be interested in joining.
 - vi. Latha: I could give advice about the meeting.
 - vii. Ginger: I'd be interested in joining.
 - viii. Jeremy: I'll send an email out about resident volunteers joining the meeting.
- d. Climate Justice Schools request
- i. Steve provided an overview of the CJS request (\$15,500 vs \$6,300 last year).
 - ii. Florestine: was a report on outcomes provided?
 - iii. Ginger: the report provided good activity at each school.
 - iv. Jeremy: in favor
 - v. Ginger: in favor

- vi. Florestine: in favor
- vii. Moved by Jeremy. Seconded by Ginger. Passed unanimously.

Motion to Adjourn by Ginger Chapman. Seconded by Florestine Taylor. Passed unanimously.



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