

## MINUTES

### NEW HAVEN CLIMATE EMERGENCY TASK FORCE

#### REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, 5:15 PM

The New Haven Climate Emergency Taskforce (CETF) met on Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 at 5:15 PM on Zoom (see link at end of agenda) to discuss the following items:

Present: Ginger Chapman, Linda Reeder, Alder Carmen Rodriguez, Melissa Kops, Jeremy Schulick, Doug Hausladen, Steven Winter

1. Approval of minutes from the previous meetings (9/24). A majority of the CETF (6 of 11 members) constitutes a quorum.
  - a. Moved Ginger Chapman. Linda Reeder seconded. 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 and is similarly being challenged.
  - 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. Wilbur Cross is going to begin food scrap collection next week.
  - d. EPA [Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program](#): Progress continues on the initial schematic design for the geothermal ground loop. Test geothermal boreholes are expected to be drilled in November due to supply chain delays.

- e. Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA): OCS and CAO are researching potential for an electric street sweeper.
- f. Solar installations: Carport systems have been tied into electrical switch gear at both schools. Permission to operate is expected by the end of November. Grading and ballast installation has begun on the landfill project (see drone photos [here](#)).
  - i. Florestine Taylor: Is there training or local hiring for solar?
  - ii. Steve Winter: I can follow up about this
- g. Styrofoam enforcement: No update.
  - i. Ginger Chapman: What is going on with projects that have no updates?
  - ii. Steve Winter: We had been waiting on the Health Department hiring a sanitarian to continue this work.
  - iii. Alder C Rodriguez: Continued enforcement, and in particular enforcement at Long Wharf, is important.
- h. Housing Authority: No update.
- i. Electric leaf blower and grass trimmer: No update.
  - i. Steve Winter: I can update CETF after meeting with Parks at next meeting.

### **3. Discussion Items:**

- a. Environmental Justice meeting regarding Global Partners petroleum storage facility tomorrow 6:30-8:00pm at Salperto Community Center.
  - i. Jeremy Schulick: What would be an outcome? How can the community environmental benefits agreement mitigate emissions?
  - ii. Steve Winter: A positive outcome could be community benefits agreement for monitoring and/or mitigation (e.g. keeping tanks cool or encouraging EV use).
- b. The Task Force has approved \$7,500 for the NHPS bike education program and \$15,500 for the Climate Justice Schools program. There is \$27,000 remaining in this year's budget and Management and Budget informed us that there is a carry over of \$15,226.78

available for the Task Force to use: a total of \$42,226.78 is available.

OCS and Engineering are working on initial design of the co-collection sorting facility at the Transfer Station and need to complete some initial geotechnical drilling (\$14,250) and environmental testing to inform the design (\$5,200).

NHPS has expressed interest in purchasing a third set of bicycles, which would allow the bike education program to reach all second grade students each year. The purchase of an additional 50 bikes plus another set of helmets and hair nets would be \$15,000.

Doug Hausladen: How much would be remaining at the end of the year?

Steve Winter: \$7,776.78

Doug Hausladen: Is the sorting facility a large project? Would it fall within design?

Steve Winter: This would help advance the project while we advance funds.

Ginger Chapman: Are there any other sources of funds? When might you know how long the project would be delayed?

Melissa Kopps: Is it possible that we don't get the grant?

Steve Winter: It's impossible to rule this out.

Doug Hausladen: I like the idea of getting every student being able to bike. But I had understood we could get to every school with 2 containers.

Steve Winter: We can clarify this.

Doug Hausladen: What about an older age cohort? Ideally we would engage with students at grades 2, 6, and 10, and there is different educational content at each grade level.

Steve Winter: We can ask about 6<sup>th</sup> grade vs 2<sup>nd</sup> grade for the third potential container of bikes.

c. Further discussion of energy labeling.

Steve Winter: Need to set up a meeting with LCI about willingness to begin this work. Do they have capacity, are they able to issue and enforce? What are the processes.

d. Further discussion of Jeremy's draft letter.

- i. Ginger Chapman: Are we providing this to the Mayor directly?
  - ii. Linda Reeder: My understanding was to send to the Mayor and he can decide how to use it.
  - iii. Alder C Rodriguez: It's important to work with the Mayor and inform the Board at the appropriate time.
  - iv. Jeremy Schulick: It would be good to have a subcommittee finalize the language electronically (Jeremy, Ginger, Florestine, and Linda).
  - v. Steve Winter: I can take a look at the air pollution and accomplishments language.
- e. Ginger: What happened to department planning?
- i. Steve Winter: We are planning on meeting with Department heads about fleet, facilities, and operations. We will establish a schedule for monthly meetings.

Motion to adjourn: Linda Reeder moved, Ginger Chapman seconded.

Approved unanimously.



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Steven Winter is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

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