

MINUTES

NEW HAVEN CLIMATE EMERGENCY TASK FORCE

REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY, January 28th, 2026, 5:15 PM

The New Haven Climate Emergency Taskforce (CETF) will meet on Wednesday, January 28th, 2026 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 (1/7/2026). A majority of the CETF (6 of 11 members) constitutes a quorum.
2. Project updates from the Office of Climate and Sustainability (OCS) staff:
 - a. Community Change Grant and EPA Government-to-Government Environmental Justice Grant: the City's lawsuit was sent back to federal district court, where the court will consider whether the government has the authority to cancel wholesale grant programs.
 - b. USDA Composting and Food Waste Reduction Grant: OCS received a one-year extension of the grant from USDA to provide additional time for the grant-funded food scrap diversion in the New Haven Public Schools.
 - c. EPA [Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program](#): The second thermal conductivity test across from Union Station has begun and reached a depth of 730 feet. This 850 foot borehole should be complete soon after the snow storm.
 - d. Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA): DPW uses Ford 750 trucks, a Ford 650 hook truck, Freightliner M2 and Freightliner Class 8 six wheel dump trucks. OCS will evaluate whether there is an electric alternative for the hook truck.
 - e. Solar installations: Carport systems expected to be energized at the beginning of February. Progress continues on the landfill project, which is expected to be energized at the end of March.

- f. Styrofoam enforcement: No update.
- g. Housing Authority: No update.
- h. Electric leaf blower and grass trimmer: the Parks Department has developed a rubric for evaluating purchases of small equipment, which requires the evaluation of electric equipment as part of each purchasing decision. Parks plans to work with OCS on a long term (e.g. 5 year) plan to electrify its small equipment (i.e. weed whackers, string trimmers, blowers).

3. Discussion Items:

- a. Funding request: The Office of Climate and Sustainability is requesting \$20,000 in funding for tax advising for the geothermal project. This advice is critical for obtaining the federal clean energy incentives.
- b. Energy labeling.
- c. Department plans. Parks and OCS have are planning to proceed with investment grade energy audits of priority facilities at 720 Edgewood Ave (Parks HQ), 180 Park Road (Parks Operations and Pardee Greenhouses), and 776 Whalley Ave (Coogan Pavilion). identified priority facilities for energy improvements. OCS will set up a meeting with the new NHFD chief.
- d. Ongoing funding of climate and sustainability work.



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