

MINUTES
NEW HAVEN CLIMATE EMERGENCY TASKFORCE
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JULY 26TH, 2023, 5:15 PM

Present: Dawn Henning, Ginger Chapman, Alder Carmen Rodriguez, Linda Reeder, Kai Addae, Lee Osorio, Doug Hausladen, Steven Winter

The New Haven Climate Emergency Taskforce (CETF) will meet on Wednesday, July 27th, 2023 at 5:15 PM to on Zoom (see link at end of agenda) to discuss the following items:

1. New membership
 - a. Doug Hausladen, Ginger Chapman, and Lee Osorio have officially been added to the CETF!
 - i. *Doug Hausladen introduced himself as former alder and TTP director*
 - ii. *Lee Osorio introduced herself as NCAT director*
 - iii. *Ginger Chapman introduced herself as recently retired from Yale as the leader of the sustainability department*
 - b. If you have anyone else in mind, please let us know.
2. Project updates from the Office of Climate and Sustainability (OCS) staff
 - a. [E-Bike CHEAPR Rebate](#)
 - i. DEEP receive 1,200 applications in the first few hours. The application period was closed after 10 days. DEEP has not disclosed how many applications were received or when vouchers will be awarded.
 - ii. 22 [bicycle shops participating](#) in the program. 42 [eligible bicycles](#).
 - iii. OCS staff visited environmental justice neighborhood management teams ahead of the program launch and during the application window.
 1. *Steven Winter: additional rounds of funding are expected*
 2. *Doug Hausladen: 500 people received awards, \$500,000 in total, \$1,000 per award*
 3. *Doug Hausladen: Connex credit union still has financing*
 - b. Working on applications to state incentive program to install new solar arrays on landfill, City and school buildings
 - i. OCS staff is working with Finance, Engineering, and Greenskies Clean Energy on submissions for the landfill, 2 (or potentially 5) school parking lots, the Q House, and 200 Wintergreen (NHPD facility)
 1. Deadline for solar submissions in the state's Nonresidential Renewable Energy Solutions program is August 1st.
 - ii. Array size and financials – the landfill could \$100,000 in rent payments per year
 1. *Alder Rodriguez: you can use solar panels in historic district, correct? Has residents in City Point who have them but they aren't visible from the street*

2. *Steve Winter: Yes, that's correct – as long as they are not visible from the public right of way*
- c. Outreach campaign for I Heart My Home with 2 Youth @ Work interns is underway
 - i. The Climate Taskforce used its remaining budget to fund I Heart My Home energy counseling for New Haven households.
 - ii. Max, Steve, James and Mlebinge (the two Youth @ Work interns), and Amelia (Yale President's Public Service Fellow) have canvassed Newhallville and Amity, with a focus on homeowners and owner-occupied 2-4 families in Newhallville.
 - iii. In the first two weeks, we have canvassed 1066 addresses and enrolled 28 households on the doors.
 1. *Ginger Chapman: how many people are interested?*
 2. *Lee Osorio: Is there targeted outreach to Spanish speakers?*
 3. *Steve Winter: We are planning additional canvassing in the Hill and Fair Haven; materials are in English and Spanish but Spanish-speaking team members would be important*
 4. *Ginger Chapman: I have been in touch with People's Action for Clean Energy (PACE) about HeatSmart, PACE's heat pump education campaign*
 5. *Steve Winter: we should organize a heat pump education event*
 6. *Dawn Henning: heat pumps is a misnomer; the selling point for homes without central air is cooling*
 7. *Steve Winter: would any of you be interested in participating in canvassing?*
 8. *Lee Osorio: is this the most effective strategy? Could you reach out to local housing providers and authorities*
 9. *Steve Winter: we are open to other outreach strategies and other housing providers*
 10. *Ginger Chapman: let's talk to Bernie about public engagement*
 11. *Steve Winter: Abode is doing heat pump education we could connect with them; let's add this to the agenda for our next meeting*
 - d. Green STEP high school energy efficiency and green construction program concluding this week
 - i. Roughly 100 students enrolled, and just under half are from New Haven
 - ii. Students receiving introductory classes and certifications on LEED design, healthy homes, building science performance and analysis, blower door tests, and healthy homes
 - e. Grants
 - i. OCS assisted the City's small contractor development program and Earth Forward Group in submitting an application in partnership with New Haven Regional Contractors' Alliance, JUNTA, and Emerge to the Department of Energy's Buildings Upgrade prize program.
 1. The grant would fund small contractor training in building performance assessment, heat pump sizing and installation, health and safety barriers to energy efficiency, and building envelope improvements. The grant would also fund community engagement and education regarding

energy efficiency and electrification benefits and rebates in the Fair Haven neighborhood. With these two approaches, the project aims to create a replicable model building evaluation and energy efficiency/electrification improvements.

- ii. The Recycling Education and Outreach grant (in partnership with the Health Department) and Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling grant (in partnership with West Haven) have been moved to the Merit Review process of the EPA review.

f. Shellfish recycling: under development

- i. OCS is partnering with [Collective Oyster Recycling & Restoration](#) (CORR) to rescue shellfish shells (oyster, clam, etc.) from local restaurants to be reused for the restoration of oyster reefs. Outreach to restaurants has begun.

- 1. CORR has lease a site in East Haven
- 2. Shell and Bones plans to participate. Il Gabbiano is interested in participating.
 - 1. *Dawn Henning: how did they get permission for placing shell anywhere?*
 - 2. *Steve Winter: the program is working with the state's aquaculture division but I am not sure how they get permission for placing shell in the ocean*

- ii. Styrofoam

- 1. *Alder Rodriguez: we have folks who clean the sound; these food vendors will be educated on environmental impact; I'd like to follow up with Mark Clinton to make sure that he doesn't get resistance to enforcing this*
- 2. *Steve Winter: yes, environmental impact and littering was part of the messaging*
- 3. *Alder Rodriguez: there is a plastic bag ban, correct? In Branford family members have brown bags and brown take home containers; would be interested in plastic bag legislation*
- 4. *Steve Winter: we are also interested in interested in this; local enforcement legislation is required*
- 5. *Doug Hausladen: local ordinances for enforcement state legislation is a common theme – there is a law that is idling of engines; you could have TT&P enforce this; this would be a local ordinance to create per state statute as well*
- 6. *Doug Hausladen: it'd be great to have local producers of compostable systems that people use as alternatives; claires and B natural use compostable containers*
- 7. *Ginger Chapman the anaerobic digester doesn't take compostable utensils*

3. Discussion Items:

- a. Incentivizing energy efficiency and electrification through rebates
 - i. Some cities and towns have used federal funding from the American Rescue Plan to provide rebates for energy efficiency and electrification as a form of

economic assistance. South Portland, Maine's [Electrify Everything](#) rebate program is one good example, offering rebates of \$1,200 for an air source heat pump, \$400 for a hot water heat pump, and \$100 for an air sealing energy assessment. Do we think this would be an effective strategy for New Haven? Should rebates be open to all or income-based? Or both open to all and increased for low- and moderate-income households? What would meaningful incentive levels be for heat pumps, water heaters, and insulation?

1. *Alder Rodriguez: how much do these cost*
2. *Steve: there's traditional heat pump and mini splits*
3. *Kai Addae: if we were doing something at the city and town level to really address the landlord tenant divide*
4. *Steve: you could elevate the incentive for providing to tenants*

b. Linda shared a link to a [Union of Concerned Scientists report on diesel emissions in Connecticut](#), which are especially high in New Haven given the interstate corridors. Most of these emissions come from medium and heavy duty vehicles. The [legislature authorized DEEP to adopt California's emissions standards](#) for medium and heavy duty vehicles. Professor [Douglass Brugge at UCONN](#) has studied air quality impacts of highways.

i. What funding opportunities or partners could we engage to study or address this issue? Is there interest in addressing this through the Taskforce budget this year (e.g. through a vehicle purchase or funding charging station installations to power future vehicles)?

1. *Ginger Chapman: school buses run on diesel; those buses are running through New Haven daily*
2. *Steve Winter: issue of contractual extension with board of education*
3. *Linda Reeder: a multi year problem of addressing the production of these particulates; we should address it from the other direction – identifying the neighborhoods that have the greatest risk or helping them to buy air purifiers or filters – this is a long term solution to reduce the particulates, air purifiers could help in the immediate term; air purifiers could be a funded with grants*
4. *Steve Winter: we could ask Giovanni about monitoring system – we could put this on agenda for next meeting*
5. *Ginger Chapman: pollution in neighborhoods – Yale is funding through public health and climate center – going door to door and monitoring air quality with bicycles that go by in the Dwight neighborhood*
6. *Kai Addae: I believe this is heat monitoring, not air quality; study is currently recruiting volunteer cyclists; kai can forward link to enroll*

c. Continuation of discussion of energy grading as a strategy for increasing participation in energy efficiency with renters and landlords.

i. Steve and Melissa met with DEEP about this idea. If an energy label was made available publicly and landlords were allowed to revise it, there was concern about landlords making revisions that couldn't be verified. DEEP is updating

their agreement with Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships and may try to pilot some form of energy labeling, which we could participate in.

d. *Ginger Chapman: add to next meeting agenda:*

https://www.buildinggreen.com/newsbrief/affordable-housing-gets-billions-resilience-retrofits?mc_cid=722fabb0bb&mc_eid=55a7bf98be

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