

## MINUTES

### NEW HAVEN CLIMATE EMERGENCY TASKFORCE

#### REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 5:15 PM

The New Haven Climate Emergency Taskforce (CETF) was scheduled to meet on Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, but due to the Thanksgiving Holiday met on Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 5:15 PM to on Zoom (see link at end of agenda) to discuss the following items:

1. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting
  - a. *The CETF declined to approve the minutes from the previous meeting until Office of Climate & Sustainability staff confirm that this is necessary.*
2. Project updates from the Office of Climate and Sustainability (OCS) staff
  - a. City Ride n Drive on Wednesday, 11/15
    - i. The Office of Climate and Sustainability partnered with Greater New Haven Clean Cities to host a ride n' drive event for City staff. The event included a one-hour lunch and discussion about electric vehicles, and then staff could sign up for a 15-minute slot to try out a City-owned Chevy Bolt or Nissan Leaf. Devil's Gear Bike Shop also brought two eBikes for folks to try out! If you're a City employee and would like to try out an EV, let me know and I can set that up for you. Also, Devil's Gear has expressed that folks should come by and try out an eBike whenever they'd like!
  - b. Deisel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) submission pending BoA approval.
    - i. The Office of Climate and Sustainability is applying for a new all-electric street sweeper to replace an older model. If awarded DERA funding, the state will cover 45% of the costs of both the replacement vehicle and the charging station required to support it.
  - c. Chevy Bolts arriving for City
    - i. The City is in discussions to purchase additional Chevy Bolts to replace a number of gas-powered Light Duty Vehicles. This would require using some of the remaining \$2 million in the Office of Climate & Sustainability's budget.
    - ii. Northern Colorado Clean Cities has been working on an analysis of our fleet and is getting us recommendations for which vehicles we should be swapping out for electric alternatives. Their work will be instrumental in deciding which departments will receive new electric vehicles.
  - d. Working on agreements with solar developer Greenskies to install new solar arrays on landfill, City and school buildings
    - i. The Board of Alders approved the agreements at their meeting on 11/9.
    - ii. The next step for these arrays is to receive approval from the New Haven Solid Waste and Recycling Authority for the developers to be able to access the landfill site.

- iii. *Ginger Chapman: How are the solar panels going to be mounted on the landfill? I will ask Steve.*
- e. I Heart My Home canvassing campaign is underway!
  - i. A big welcome to our Youth@Work interns, Isaiah Hassell and Lewis Johnson III!
  - ii. We've been canvassing neighborhoods (with a focus on those with high shares of 2-4 family, owner-occupied homes) a couple evenings (5-7 pm or so) per week. Please join us! Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/sdQZAH1CzjShDfu19>
- f. The Office of Climate and Sustainability's joint application with Junta, Community Action Agency, NHS, and Yale has been selected for the EPA's [Environmental Justice Government-to-Government Program](#)!
  - i. Project Description: This grant will fund an initiative by the City of New Haven and community-based organizations (CBOs) to enroll energy-burdened New Haven residents in a new program aimed at the electrification of aging heating and cooking systems. These systems are often costly, inefficient, and can exacerbate health conditions related to indoor air quality, such as asthma and heart disease. Replacing these systems with new high efficiency electric appliances such as heat pumps and induction stoves can reduce energy bills, improve public health, and reduce climate pollution. Over the **three-year grant timeline**, the City will partner with local CBOs providing utility assistance to **enroll 400 households in energy counseling and energy efficiency programs and to electrify heating and cooking systems in 50- 100 "example project" households who have recently received utility assistance**. The City plans to concentrate engagement in disadvantaged community census tracts in **West Rock/West Hills, Newhallville, Dixwell, the Hill, Fair Haven, and the Annex neighborhoods**. Through resident engagement and implementation of the example projects in a variety of neighborhoods, the City aims to communicate and demonstrate the beneficial anticipated effects of home electrification: lowered greenhouse gas emissions and indoor air pollution, reduced energy burdens, increased resiliency through improvements to structures' passive survivability and installation of air condition systems for extreme heat-events. Through a **partnership with researchers at Yale University**, the City will evaluate the effectiveness of this program through **monitoring indoor air quality before and after conversions to heat pumps and electric stoves, weatherization, as well as conducting qualitative research (interviews and focus groups) before and after these interventions**.
  - ii. Although EPA notified us of our selection, they require us to go through a final negotiation process to discuss the workplan. We'll be having that negotiation at some point in the next few weeks.
- g. Shellfish shell recycling program
  - i. No new participants but OCS has continued to contact Fair Haven Oyster Company and the Luke.
- h. Incineration and recycling facility planned for North Haven
  - i. As a reminder, this would be a "materials reclamation facility" to be located just north of the town line with North Haven. The proposal includes incineration,

anaerobic digestion, and recycling facilities but the facility would primarily incinerate waste. 60% of material brought to the facility would be burned.

- ii. The facility is technically located beyond the town line, but the grading and several thousand pounds of fill for the development is located within New Haven, which is the part of the proposal that must be approved by City Plan.
    1. Other relevant info: part of the site (in North Haven) is on wetlands, and emissions from construction vehicles are also a concern for New Haven residents.
  - iii. City Plan stated that the public hearing would be kept open pending the results of the North Haven planning meeting.
  - iv. North Haven's planning meeting for the facility has been pushed back to Dec 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - v. We're continuing to meet with local activists (Chris Ozyck, Anstress Farwell, Laura Cahn, and others) and the Conservation Law Foundation about how to understand the approvals that the project would need in order to move forward.
  - vi. *Ginger: It will be very difficult to sort the waste if there's all these different components of waste management going on.*
- i. We raised the importance of engaging the Housing Authority on building retrofits and electrification with the Mayor, who contacted the Director of the Housing Authority, Dr. Karen DuBois-Walton.
    - i. We're working on setting up a meeting with a point person at the Housing Authority to discuss a pollution reduction goal and to work with them to build that goal into their retrofitting plans.
3. Discussion Items:
- a. We've been discussing using CETF funding for a climate campaign around induction countertop stoves. As a reminder, the current plan is to have two approaches.
    - i. The New Haven Health Department's (NHHD) Triggers Be Gone program provides supplies to low-income families whose family members suffer from asthma. Providing an induction cooktop to the 2 New Haven-based families that join the program each month for 6 months would cost \$2,960 including tax. Providing these families with a cookware set as well would cost \$2,871 for a total of \$5,831.
      1. Last meeting, Ginger recommended reaching out to researchers at Yale to do before and after monitoring of indoor air quality for these households. We reached out to Annie Harper, Krystal Pollit, and Daniel Carrion. They put together the proposal below (monitors are Purple Air):
        - *People who are chosen to receive the stoves will be invited to join the study. Those that agree would consent to the following (and would get a stipend):*
          1. *Agree to have an AQ (and possibly also a CO2) monitor installed in their home approx. 2 weeks prior to receiving/starting to use the cooktop (between 12-26 February)*

2. *All participants should be given/start using their cooktops at approximately the same time (first week of March).*
  3. *During the period that they have the monitors in their homes, they will complete a daily activity log (use of stove, type of cooking, use of incense etc.)*
  4. *The AQ/CO2 monitors will then be removed two weeks after they have started using the cooktops (last week of March).*
  5. *At that time, we will conduct a qualitative interview with each participant, asking them about interest in/thoughts about induction stoves, concerns about air quality and health etc.*
2. *Ginger Chapman: Will we give people a tutorial on how to use them?*
  3. *Max Teirstein: That would be a must.*
  4. *Kai Addae: I'm confused by the number of families vs. the rollout. We're adding 2 families per month, but this research plan is for 12 families starting in February. Where will the other 10 families come from?*
  5. *Max Teirstein: We're looking into reaching out to previous participants in the Triggers Be Gone program so that we have a sufficiently large sample.*
- ii. We also discussed a public-facing outreach and education campaign, including outreach to CMTs, farmers' markets, libraries, churches, and local grocery stores.
1. Lee and I put together the language below for an illustrative educational graphic, [like this one from the Sierra Club](#). Thank you so much to Lee for both writing and translating, especially during your first week at the Fair Rent Commission!! What do you all think? Spanish version is also available by request, just shoot me an email. We are working with a graphic designer to put the language below into a graphic. We may be able to review some ideas from Raheem at this meeting as well.

*Today, we spend about 90% of our time indoors. That's more than whales spend underwater!*

*Did you know that the air inside your home contains 2 to 5 times more pollutants than the air outside? These pollutants can seep in from the street and get trapped, or they can originate inside the house from cleaning supplies, building materials, and combustion sources, like smoking and gas-powered stoves.*

*Gas stoves are one of the leading contributors to poor indoor air quality, producing pollutants like nitrogen dioxide, radon, and carbon monoxide, which damage our lungs, increase our risk of cancer, and cause heart disease. Children living in homes with a gas stove are 42% more likely to experience asthma, yet there are no health-based standards for gas stoves. Venting your kitchen while cooking can help, but it is only a partial solution to the pollution that gas stoves release.*

*Electric induction cooking, on the other hand, doesn't have any impact on indoor air quality or health. Electric stoves and cooktops use less energy to provide the same amount of heat. As a result, homes with electric cooktops and electric*

*stoves have lower energy bills and contribute less to air pollution. Today's electric induction stoves and cooktops also perform just as well, if not better, than gas stoves, which can make your whole kitchen hot and cook your food unevenly.*

*Kai Addae: I think this language is good. The design matters a lot to make it really readable.*

*Max Teirstein: Yeah and we should trim down.*

*Ginger: The graphic should highlight the asthma and air quality points.*

*Kai: Highlight asthma, saving money on electric bills. Those are key points*

*Melissa: At the end, substitute "electric" for "induction."*

*Kai: Have a clear call to action at the end. "Get involved today!" Encourage people to do something.*

*Linda: Do you want to make any reference on the incentives coming?*

*Max: That's a good point.*

*Linda: You could add a link to the incentives or something to help it be evergreen.*

*Melissa: I'll just add that any state incentives won't come down until the end of 2024.*

*Ginger chapman: We should be transparent that the incentives aren't coming anytime soon.*

*Linda Reeder: If it were me and I made the financial stretch to buy a stove, and I couldn't get that paid for, I wouldn't feel good about this. Say that they're on the horizon. The costs in addition to the physical appliance—gas shut off, new electrical outlet installed.*

*Alder Rodriguez: We have to be realistic that everyone's income is different.*

*Linda made an excellent point. Some may navigate it easier. What is the cost to removing your gas and then dealing with UI? Not everybody is going to afford this. We have to be upfront about what the costs would be out of pocket.*

*Linda: I'd agree with that. Should we be crafting the campaign around air quality?*

*Ginger Chapman: The health impacts are really huge and important to consider.,*

*Melissa Kops: I think we were talking about portable indoor air cleaners—that could also help reduce the exposure from cooking, particulates at least. Not the gasses and things. It's not a carbon reduction measure but it is a harm reduction measure. If we're thinking about wildfires and the health impacts of climate change, indoor air cleaners are a resiliency measure. Having an air quality awareness campaign could be really effective—there are things in the home that can reduce their exposure. There are less expensive ways to do it than to buy a pre-packaged air filter. We should be doing this as a city, whether or not it's funded by this particular taskforce.*

- b. Reminder that the Taskforce has requested that Engineering provide an update on the City's air quality monitoring systems and the development of the air quality dashboard, once they are ready to do so.

- c. [Climate Pollution Reduction Grants](#): What should be included in SCRCOG's Priority Climate Action Plan?
- i. The Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program provides \$5 billion in grants to states, local governments, tribes, and territories to develop and implement ambitious plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollution. This two-phase program provides \$250 million for noncompetitive planning grants, and approximately \$4.6 billion for competitive [implementation grants](#).
    1. We worked with South Central Regional Council of Governments on their application to the Planning grant, which was awarded August 1. That funding will allow SCRCOG to develop a Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP).
  - ii. For the implementation phase ([NOFO here](#)), the City will be eligible to apply for funding to implement greenhouse gas reduction measures included in SCRCOG's PCAP (which will be submitted 3/15/2024). Implementation grant amounts will range from \$2 million to \$500 million. Deadline for application is April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.
    1. Municipal & environmental stake-holders in New Haven County are invited to a CPRG implementation workshop on Thursday, 11/30 from 10 AM-11:30 AM to discuss the EPA's Notice of Funding Opportunity to implement strategies from SCRCOG's Priority Climate Action Plan. Registration at [bit.ly/cprgimplement](https://bit.ly/cprgimplement). Thank you to Kai for requesting this be added to the agenda!
    2. *Max Teirstein: SCRCOG's PCAP will dictate what New Haven is able to accomplish with funding from the second phase of this plan, the implementation grants. If the climate measure is not included in the SCRCOG PCAP, New Haven would not be allowed to proceed with it (e.g., if we want to expand EV charging infrastructure, but nobody fills out the survey recommending that as a proposed measure in SCRCOG's plan for the region, New Haven would not be permitted to apply to use CPRG implementation grant funding for EV chargers).*

Zoom URL: <https://newhavenct.zoom.us/j/87476255985?pwd=UVIMS1NxOFVGNkxSQ3Bnd2ZiVWtrdz09>

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