

## MINUTES

### NEW HAVEN CLIMATE EMERGENCY TASKFORCE

#### REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2023, 5:15 PM

Present: Steven Winter, Max Teirstein, Dawn Henning, Ginger Chapman, Linda Reeder, Doug Hausladen, Melissa Kops, Alder Adam Marchand, Lee Orsorio, Kai Addae, Giovanni Zinn

The New Haven Climate Emergency Taskforce (CETF) met on Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 5:15 PM to on Zoom (see link at end of agenda) with an in person option in Mayor's Meeting Room 2 at City Hall (165 Church St, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor) to discuss the following items:

1. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting
  - a. **All present members unanimously approved the minutes.**
2. Project updates from the Office of Climate and Sustainability (OCS) staff
  - a. Buckeye Terminal: Permit Applications at 143 Forbes Ave and 280 Waterfront St.
    - i. Buckeye Energy Holdings LLC ("Buckeye") owns oil tanks at 143 Forbes Ave and 280 Waterfront St. The Title V permits for these two facilities are up for renewal (as they are every 5 years), and Buckeye must complete a public participation process as a component of both permit applications.
    - ii. Buckeye has **not** withdrawn its application for the Forbes Ave Title V permit. They will be forced to resubmit the permit application. Because they are adding new oil tanks to their facility, they will likely have to move forward with an environmental justice plan.
      1. *Ginger Chapman: So they're adding on new tanks?*
      2. *Steve Winter: DEEP has determined that these three tanks are now emitting at a level that crosses a threshold requiring recertification of these specific tanks.*
  - b. New Haven was recognized as the only city in Connecticut to be certified by Sustainable CT at the Gold level of certification. New Haven also achieved Sustainable CT's "Climate Leader" designation.
    - i. To receive Gold certification, towns must achieve the Climate Leader designation and complete actions for which SustainableCT has awarded 750 or more points. We achieved Climate Leader in April, and thanks to the efforts of many City departments, New Haven community groups, our amazing intern Amelia Fortgang, we reached 1010 points.
    - ii. To achieve Climate Leader designation, municipalities must demonstrate that they have acted to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions and prepare their communities for the impacts of climate change, while saving money, improving public health, and building community.
      1. *Douglas Hausladen: Can you share the certification report?*
      2. *Steve Winter: Yes, we can share the report with the taskforce.*

- c. The City and Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven were recently awarded a \$50,000 grant through United Illuminating's [Community Partnership Initiative](#) program, which will assist the City in outreach to low- and moderate-income residents and small businesses.
  - i. The City of New Haven and Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) will engage City agencies and the many community-based organizations to which they are connected to increase Home Energy Solutions - Income Eligible (HES-IE) enrollment, deep energy saving measures, and heat pump adoption among income-eligible residents, renters, and residents with limited English proficiency. Special focus will be placed on DEEP-designated environmental justice census tracts in the West Rock/West Hills, Newhallville, Dixwell, the Hill, Fair Haven, and the Annex neighborhoods. Referrals will be made to NHS' I Heart My Home program to guide residents through the HES-IE process. The City will provide and analyze assessment data to identify one to four family properties that are best candidates for HES-IE work.
    - 1. *Steve Winter: Let us know if there's a community meeting or group that you think would be interested in hearing about this.*
- d. Working on agreements with solar developer Greenskies to install new solar arrays on landfill, City and school buildings
  - i. The agreements were favorably recommended by the City Services and Environmental Policy Committee to the full Board of Alders.
  - ii. Attorneys for the City and Greenskies Clean Energy are working on the final language of these agreements.
- e. I Heart My Home canvassing campaign is underway!
  - i. 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>
    - 1. *Alder Marchand: Caroline and Frankie need to let the current alders know before canvassing in their wards.*
    - 2. **Max Teirstein: Thank you alder, we will let them know.**
- f. Funding the Climate Justice Schools program directly through New Haven Climate Movement (NHCM) for Fiscal year 2023-2024:
  - i. The Taskforce voted to move forward with the proposal on a provisional basis, given that (1) NHCM can provide a more detailed budget (which they have), and (2) Steve can confirm the City procurement process doesn't prove to be an obstacle (which it may be).
    - 1. We've received approval from the City for students to be paid through the NHCM, but our Finance Department is looking at whether and how NHCM can compensate New Haven Public School teachers.
      - a. *Steve Winter: Unfortunately this hasn't been a straightforward process, but hopefully in the next week or two we'll have an answer on that.*
- g. Shellfish shell recycling program

- i. No new participants but OCS has continued to contact Fair Haven Oyster Company.
    - h. Incineration and recycling facility planned for North Haven
      - i. OCS participated in a meeting regarding the proposed “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.
        - 1. *Steve Winter: They sent a proposal to the CPC to do grading work. Their site sits between two elevated railroad tracks, so they want to fill that gap and remove the trees in it. There was also a meeting of the South Central Regional Council of Governments about the big-picture proposal here. The next meeting of the CPC is November 8<sup>th</sup>, so if you’d like to comment on their proposal, this is a good opportunity. They’ll also have to apply for a Title V air quality.*
        - 2. *Ginger Chapman: Would the anaerobic digester take food waste? From New Haven?*
        - 3. *Steve Winter: Yes, you’d send everything in and they’d mechanically separate organics from inorganics. They do plan to harvest the gas from the organic material in the digester, and then taking the leftover digestate (solid material) and burning that as well.*
    - i. We have raised the importance of engaging the Housing Authority on building retrofits and electrification with the Mayor and intend to coordinate with the Housing Authority to set an emissions reductions goal and work with them to build that goal into their retrofitting plans.
      - i. *Steve Winter: We’d like to see a retrofit process oriented around heat pumps and electrification for the Housing Authority.*
3. Discussion Items:
  - a. Request for more information on the status of the New Haven Parking Authority bike share request for proposals, if it is available.
    - i. *Douglas Hausladen: We have 5 respondents to the request for proposals from August. 3 of the 5 suggest reusing the old bikes and also adding new eBikes. We’ve scheduled meetings with those 3. From there we’ll try to procure a manager/operator and start conducting community outreach.*
    - ii. *Alder Adam Marchand: Steve, any thoughts about what is going to happen with the big ad panels that are in the public right of way and were fundamental to the funding mechanism from the previous operator?*
    - iii. *Steve Winter: Previously, these big panels had advertisements on them intended to fund*
    - iv. *Douglas Hausladen: Those are owned by the TT&P so the new bike share will not have anything to do with those. They will be maintained for as long as they exist, but if they’re run over they’ll remove them. The City doesn’t have the capability to remove them, the City would have to bid that out.*

- 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.
  - i. *Giovanni Zinn: That'll probably be next month.*
- c. At our last meeting we talked about using some of the remaining CETF funding for a public climate campaign around induction countertop stoves. We've begun mapping out what that would look like. This campaign would be timed to take place in the months ahead of the federal rebates for high efficiency electric home appliances so we wouldn't initiate it until we have more visibility into when those rebates will be available.
  - i. Products: NYT's [Wirecutter](#) recommends [this two-burner induction stove \(\\$232\)](#), which seems [similar in price](#) to other induction cooktops. NYT's [Wirecutter](#) also recommends [this magnetic cookware set \(\\$225\)](#).
    - 1. *Steve Winter: It would be about \$450 per household. Cooktop would plug into the wall and replace the function of a gas stove.*
  - ii. The New Haven Health Department's (NHHD) Triggers Be Gone program provides supplies to low-income families whose family members suffer from asthma. NHHD estimates that 4 families per month are part of the program, which is regional so it'd be reasonable to estimate that 2 families per month are from New Haven.
    - 1. *Steve Winter: This is a county-wide program.*
  - iii. Providing an induction cooktop 2 families per 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. *Ginger Chapman: Do you think the School of Public Health would be interested in looking at the indoor air quality before and after? It's been challenging to make the case for gas stove replacements. We're trying to push the health end of it.*
    - 2. *Steve Winter: That's a great idea! **We should reach out to YSPH and some other groups that do air quality monitoring (purple airs, etc).** I know Annie Harper has used some purple air monitors to look at work with renters and indoor air quality.*
    - 3. *Giovanni Zinn: An interesting thing about purple airs and indoor air quality: we use purple airs to monitor ambient air pollution. There was one sensor in East Rock with sky-high readings. We realized it was an indoor sensor, and every time the person who owned it would make breakfast, the air quality plummeted.*
    - 4. *Steve Winter: Are IKEA indoor air monitors doable?*
    - 5. *Giovanni Zinn: They have an LED-based sensor that flashes green, yellow, or red, so you can create a system of reading the flashes into the computer but it requires some electrical work.*
    - 6. *Steve Winter: Do you all like this idea of working with Health Department families?*
    - 7. *Linda Reeder: I like it. Since you're targeting people that have a defined need for health, that would be a great use of the cooktops.*

8. *Lee Osorio: This sounds absolutely wonderful. A lot of this gets really confusing quickly, so it would be interesting to conduct a multilingual outreach and education process around induction cooktops with schools and other groups.*
9. *Steve Winter: I think that's right-on! What Max and I were trying to talk about in the last meeting was—what's a good mechanism for that? What would feel fair? [proceeded to point iv, right below]*
- iv. We could also raffle off the induction stoves through CMTs. There are 12 CMTs, so if we wanted to do one induction stove per CMT, that's another \$2,960. It'd be difficult to ensure that residents only participate in their neighborhood's raffle.
  - a. *Steve Winter: If you're doing a real raffle that people pay into, you'd have to register with the State of Connecticut.*
  - b. *Linda Reeder: first you suggested a very limited kind of delivery, but now you're talking about a broader campaign.*
  - c. *Steve Winter: Yeah, sorry if it's not clear. These two campaigns would happen at the same time, or rather they are multiple strategies under the same umbrella campaign. One would be meeting a specific health need, the other would be broadcasting a public health message.*
  - d. *Linda Reeder: I still think a broadcast strategy would work much better if it's paired with the federal rebates and incentives.*
  - e. *Steve Winter: So we should move forward with the narrower strategy now and then wait for the federal rebates for the broadcast?*
  - f. *Alder Marchand: I like a pilot like this.*
2. Alternatively, we could bring them to CMTs, farmers' markets, libraries, churches, and local grocery stores and select winners from one common pool.
3. Components of outreach strategy:
  - a. Online strategy:
    - i. Post a flyer to City socials in English & Spanish (Coordinate with Health Department, LCI, Healthy Homes as well)
    - ii. Other partners to share: Asthma/Allergy groups? Neighborhood Housing Services, Community Action Agency, New Reach
    - iii. Send to City employees
  - b. News Media strategy:
    - i. Visiting local radio outlets such as La Voz, WYBC, and the New Haven Independent
    - ii. Have the Independent post a writeup
    - iii. Press Conference
  - c. In-person outreach:

- i. Raffle off cooktops at Farmer’s Markets, CMTs, Church events
    - ii. Induction stove demonstrations at upcoming events (from Independent calendar):
- 4. Frame campaign around health benefits of induction cooktops and removing fossil fuel combustion from the home. [We spend 90% of our time inside—more than whales spend underwater.](#)
  - a. Brainstorming names for campaign:
    - i. Clean Cooking, Clean Air Campaign
    - ii. Elm City Induction Electric Stove Initiative
    - iii. Now We’re Cooking with Electromagnetism!
    - iv. New Haven Cooktops: Healthy, Electrified, Functional (NH CHEF)
      - 1. *Ginger Chapman (via chat): I like this name: New Haven Cooktops: Healthy, Electrified, Functional (NH CHEF)*
    - v. "SMART-COOK New Haven" (Safer M\_\_ Air / Sustainable Meals Achieved with Radiant Technology Cooktops in New Haven)
  - b. *Steve Winter: We’d welcome any help we can get on this! Like a graphic based around the whales fact?*

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