

AGENDA
NEW HAVEN CLIMATE EMERGENCY TASKFORCE
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24TH, 2024, 5:15 PM

The New Haven Climate Emergency Taskforce (CETF) will meet on Wednesday, April 15th, 2024 at 5:15 PM on Zoom (see link at end of agenda) to discuss the following items:

1. Approval of minutes from the previous 2 meetings. A majority of the CETF (6 of 10 members) constitutes a quorum.
2. Office of Climate & Sustainability Event: We invite you to celebrate Earth Day by attending our **Walking Tour of Food Scrap Diversion Initiatives in New Haven and Hamden** on **Friday, April 26th** from **2-4 PM**. We'll start at the Hamden Transfer Station where food scrap drop off is available, then go to Common Ground to see their aerated static pile system, and end at SCSU's new net zero building, with recovered food served by Haven's Harvest. Registration link: bit.ly/FoodResourceTour
 - a. Food scraps are more than 20% of the City's waste, and diverting food scraps from the waste stream will help save the City on disposal fees while reducing climate and air pollution. We have organized this tour to help community leaders and the public to learn about local composting initiatives and ideas for how we can divert more food scraps in the New Haven area.
3. Project updates from the Office of Climate and Sustainability (OCS) staff
 - a. EPA [Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program](#) – Implementation Grants. Application submitted of 4/1! We ended up applying for \$9.5 million in funding for a networked geothermal system serving Union Station and the 1,000-unit Housing Authority development planned for across the street. The system would provide renewable, low-cost energy to serve both locations' space heating and cooling needs. The system could be extended in the future so that other buildings in the

area can be connected in the future. The EPA has indicated that they expect to notify applicants of selections in July.

- b. I Heart My Home outreach & canvassing campaign continues. Since canvassing began, 125 participants (65 income-eligible) have enrolled and received I Heart My Home consultations. 23 participants (12 income-eligible) have received energy assessments in that time, and 14 (8 income-eligible) more participants have assessments scheduled. Some participants are part of multi-families, bringing the total number of units receiving consultations to 174 (86 income-eligible units). Numbers as of 4/19.
- c. Healthy Homes, Clean Cooktops project is complete. All six households participated in exit interviews with the Yale team and received stipends for their time and reports on the Yale students' findings. One of the six households' PM2.5 monitor failed to collect data. Although three of the households saw PM2.5 decrease after switching from cooking with gas to cooking with their induction cooktop, in two, PM2.5 increased after making the switch. Max will report results.
- d. EPA Government-to-Government grant. OCS is continuing final budget negotiations with EPA.
- e. Funding the Climate Justice Schools (CJS) program directly through New Haven Climate Movement (NHCM) for Fiscal year 2023-2024. We provided NHCM with funding for student stipends and materials purchases. The paperwork for teacher stipends has been approved and we are waiting for teachers to get the necessary signatures for payroll.
- f. Solar installations. Wetland and cultural surveys have been completed for the landfill project. Geotechnical work has been completed for the parking canopies.
- g. Styrofoam enforcement: No update for this month. We are planning the next round of verbal warnings and additional educational sessions, but the enforcement team won't be available for
- h. Shellfish shell recycling program: No update for this month.

- i. Housing Authority: Has not yet completed their inventory of the mechanical systems in their portfolio buildings.
 - j. EcoPark: The North Haven Inland Wetland Commission denied AB EcoPark's application on 3/28/2024.
- 4. Discussion Items: Report on remaining FY23-24 CETF budget and discussion of how to use remaining funds.
 - a. **CETF Budget Report:**
 - i. \$5,993.76 remaining
 - ii. \$35,000 spent to support NHS/I Heart My Home. The agreement for NHS was approved in FY22-23 but the funds were paid out in FY23-24. As a result the funds were drawn from the FY23-25 budget.
 - iii. \$6,300 committed to Climate Justice Schools.
 - iv. \$2,706.24 spent on the Clean Cooktops, Healthy Homes campaign.
 - b. **Contribution to City Bike Share**
 - i. At our previous meeting, we had discussed funding the purchase of two electric bikes for the bike share for \$5,500. However, in further discussion with the Parking Authority it would be difficult administratively to complete a legal agreement with the Parking Authority for this amount of funds before the end of the fiscal year.
 - c. **Proposal on Use of Remaining Funds**
 - i. Our proposal on the use of remaining funds is to 1) purchase trial units of one leaf blower and one string trimmer, batteries and battery harnesses, and a charging station and 2) purchase air filters for the Clean Cooktops, Healthy Homes participants.
 - ii. *Electric Leaf Blower and String Trimmer:* Members of the Climate Taskforce and the public have expressed concern about the climate air quality impacts of the use of gas-powered leaf blowers, string trimmers and other equipment used by the City and private contractors.

1. Kress manufactures purpose built for commercial electric landscaping equipment. Purchasing a trial electric leaf blower and string trimmer can help introduce City staff to new equipment and determine how to best electrify its landscaping operations.
 2. The Climate Taskforce could fund the purchase of the following Kress equipment: a 60 V 35 Newton backpack blower, a 60 V string trimmer and battery harness, 2 1.4 kWh batteries, and a 60 V 30 A AC charger for \$5,059.94.
- iii. *Air Purifiers:* The Taskforce will fund indoor air purifiers for the 6 participants in the Clean Cooktops, Healthy Homes program. All 6 participants said they would like air purifiers to improve their indoor air quality.
1. **DIY Purifiers:** We estimated that the per-person budget for materials would be \$73.50 (\$40 filter, \$30 fan, \$3.50 weather stripping). For all 6 households, that's \$441.
 2. **Buying Purifiers:** Based on this [HEPA Purifier](#) (\$100) and this [compatible replacement filter](#) (\$40) or [double-filter package](#) (\$50), the total cost per household is about \$140-50. Filters last 6-12 months and the purifier comes with a filter, too, so these could last them up to 2 years (3 yrs for 2-pack). For all 6 households, that's \$850-900.

d. Potential Funding for Bicycle Education Using Funds Next Fiscal Year

- i. Steve has reached out to Joel LaChance and Erik Patchkofsky, Physical Education, Health, and Athletics Director at New Haven Public Schools about the potential to fund a pilot of a bicycle program in a dozen K-8 schools next fiscal year. The program would begin at the start of the 2024-2025 school year.
- ii. The estimate of \$25,705 below would support 10 schools' participation in the full 5-class curriculum. Each class can support up to 50 students, meaning that up to 500 students can participate across the 10 schools.

	Item	Number of Units	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Fixed Costs	Bicycles	50	\$ 201	\$ 10,055
	Helmets	50	\$ 30	\$ 1,500
	Hair Nets/Caps	50	\$ 5	\$ 250
	Storage Container	1		\$ 4,000
	Container Delivery	1		\$ 150
	Outfitting Container with Racks	1 (50 racks)		\$ 750
Variable Costs	Transferring Container	10 (?)	\$ 150	\$ 1,500
	Cost of Technician	5 classes per school, 10 schools = 50	\$ 150	\$ 7,500
Total:				\$ 25,705

Classes are 45 minutes and teachers will do the actual instruction: bike safety, maintenance, and basic familiarity with bike (e.g., checking air pressure, recognizing whether the bike is safe to ride). A bike handler would also be available to assist in getting bikes out of the container, making sure they functioning correctly, and helping with setting up the instructional course (the “streetscape”).

The curriculum for these lessons (for all K-8 schools) would be similar to this curriculum from Washington DC public schools:

<https://dcps.instructure.com/courses/72860/pages/hpe-dot-02>

Zoom URL:

<https://newhavenct.zoom.us/j/88605944663?pwd=w00PVuwzMJlb67aPcCklq4rrd56afB.1&from=addon>

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