

Minutes

NEW HAVEN CLIMATE EMERGENCY TASKFORCE

REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27TH, 2024, 5:15 PM

The New Haven Climate Emergency Taskforce (CETF) will meet on Wednesday, March 27th, 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.
 - a. *A quorum was not present so previous minutes were not approved.*
2. Project updates from the Office of Climate and Sustainability (OCS) staff
 - a. Recycling Educator: We hired Rose Richi as a Recycling Educator. She's great!
 - b. EPA [Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program](#) – Implementation Grants.
 - i. Background on CPRG: As a reminder, [State](#) & [SCRCOG](#) put together Priority Climate Action Plans (PCAPs) for the first phase of the grant. In this “Implementation” phase, localities within the geographic territory of one of those plans can apply for funding to implement projects that reflect the climate pollution reduction measures that SCRCOG/DEEP have outlined in their PCAPs.
 - ii. The State PCAP includes a Networked Geothermal measure ([more on Networked Geothermal here](#)), so OCS is drafting an application for an Implementation grant for a geothermal loop serving Union Station and the 1,000-unit Housing Authority development planned for across the street. The loop would provide renewable, low-cost energy to serve both locations' space heating and cooling needs. Other buildings in the area can be connected to the loop in the future.

- c. I Heart My Home outreach & canvassing campaign continues. Since canvassing began, we've knocked on over 3,686 doors, and 108 participants (54 income-eligible) have enrolled and received I Heart My Home consultations. 18 participants (9 income-eligible) have received energy assessments in that time, and 18 (10 income-eligible) more participants have assessments scheduled. Some participants are part of multi-families, bringing the total number of units receiving consultations to 152 (71 income-eligible units). Numbers as of 3/22.
- d. Healthy Homes, Clean Cooktops project is underway—all participants have been using their induction cooktops for two weeks, with air quality monitors monitoring the before- and after-PM2.5 and CO2 content in the air. Monitors have been retrieved and Yale will process the results when they return from their breaks. Results will be shared with participants when they have a final close-out interview and receive their stipends.
- e. EPA Government-to-Government grant. OCS is continuing final budget negotiations with EPA.
- f. Funding the Climate Justice Schools (CJS) program directly through New Haven Climate Movement (NHCM) for Fiscal year 2023-2024. We have worked with NHCM on updated proposal and have requested proof of insurance from NHCM and a statement from NHPS stating that the CJS project continues to be an approved project by the BOE. The teachers for CJS will be paid through NHPS.
- g. Solar installations. Surveying has begun at the landfill and project planning is underway for the school parking canopies.
- h. Styrofoam enforcement: No update for this month.
- i. Shellfish shell recycling program: No update for this month.
- j. Housing Authority: Has not yet completed their inventory of the mechanical systems in their portfolio buildings.
- k. EcoPark: 2/28 Hearing before Inland Wetland Commission resulted in deferment of permit decision until their next meeting, 3/27. The firm

withdrew its New Haven City Plan application and has not yet resubmitted it.

3. 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 FY24-25 budget.
- iii. \$6,300 committed to Climate Justice Schools.
- iv. \$2,706.24 spent on the Clean Cooktops, Healthy Homes campaign.

b. **Indoor Air Quality Education Event**

- i. Per person budget for materials is \$73.50
 1. Filter: \$40, Fan: \$30, Weather Stripping: \$3.50
- ii. At 20 people, plus \$50 for refreshments, the total budget is \$1,550.

c. **Contribution to City Bike Share**

- i. The taskforce could fund the purchase of an electric bike for the bike share for \$2,750.

d. **Proposal on Use of Remaining Funds**

- i. The Taskforce will fund indoor air filters for all participants in the Clean Cooktops, Healthy Homes program (cost of up to \$441) and provides \$5,500 of funding to the New Haven Parking Authority for the purchase of 2 electric bikes.
- ii. *Steve Winter clarified that these eBikes would be added to the bike share fleet.*
- iii. *Doug Hausladen: The bike share is 100 bikes and 100 ebikes, plus 10 cargo bikes in May.*
- iv. *Ginger Chapman: Do they need them? Is there a better use for that money?*

- v. *Doug Hausladen: The goal is to buy another 100 bikes in the next two years.*
- vi. *Steve Winter: the money doesn't roll over into next year—it's use it or lose it. The procurement process takes a lot of time, so it may be easier to do something within City authorities. Purchasing things was fast for the clean cooktops campaign, and the event we described wouldn't utilize all of the remaining funding.*
- vii. *Ginger Chapman: Is the recycling coordinator also paid through CETF funds?*
- viii. *Steve Winter: The City receives 5 cents for each recycled miniature liquor bottle, so that money is funding her salary.*
- ix. *Ginger Chapman: Can those bottles even be recycled?*
- x. *Steve Winter: Not, not currently. There's a company that does mobile redemption centers and they're looking into a way to process and bale them for recycling. Current advice, however, is to throw nips in the garbage.*
- xi. *Alder Rodriguez: When is the recycling coordinator jumping on board?*
- xii. *Steve Winter: She just started in the last two weeks.*
- xiii. *Alder Rodriguez: Could we have her start on a recycling education and enforcement campaign in my ward?*
- xiv. *Steve Winter: I can't promise an exact date and time but Rose is very excited about community outreach and has a flexible schedule. We're just getting some materials drafted, including a small magnet that breaks down what is and isn't recyclable.*
- xv. *Alder Rodriguez: I know we have our CMTs, but it's more City departments that attend these meetings than residents. We should send out flyers. I would throw my hat in the ring to go around the community with Rose.*
- xvi. *Ginger Chapman: How well-versed is she in recycling?*
- xvii. *Steve Winter: I would say she's getting up to speed. She doesn't have a professional background in materials management.*

- xviii. *Ginger Chapman: I'm going to suggest she speak with Lindsay Crum at the Office of Climate & Sustainability at Yale—she instituted a game of separating recyclables from trash with prizes that people enjoyed.*
- xix. *Steve Winter: We've met with CJ May in Waterbury, Sherrill Baldwin, and other folks who have experience in this area.*
- xx. *Steve Winter: We want to make sure we're thinking about waste broadly so food scrap diversion is definitely a part of her scope of work.*

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

- i. Steve has reached out to 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. Erik will send estimates they have received.
- ii. *Steve Winter: Kids at specified grade levels could learn how to ride and do maintenance on a bicycle. With one shipping container and fifty bikes, they could get started in a dozen schools. The city is making investments in protected bike lanes and bike infrastructure.*
- iii. *Melissa Kops: Are there any budget numbers for that?*
- iv. *Steve Winter: I haven't looked over the quotes in detail yet but it looks like you could get 50 new bicycles and helmets and bells fitted out for kids for roughly \$20,000. We'd have to then invest in someone to maintain the bikes, paying for trainings for school staff, and a shipping container for moving the bikes (we could piggyback off a city contract for that).*
- v. *Latha Swamy: Are there any vocational programs in any of the schools for bike mechanics?*
- vi. *Steve Winter: I am not aware of anything like that but it would be cool to make it more than just PE!*
- vii. *Latha Swamy: Any other workforce development in the City or in ConnCAT that could be tied in, at a long-term scale perhaps?*

- viii. *Steve Winter: I think that's a great idea and makes a lot of sense.*
- f. Open Discussion
 - i. *Melissa Kops: Maybe let's just buy better products instead of doing a DIY situation for the air filters? There will be an ongoing replacement fee for filters so we have to make sure people know that. I just want to flag that because it might be higher-cost than you think. Unless I can train someone else to make the filters.*
 - ii. *Steve Winter: We may have an intern who could help with that.*
 - iii. *Steve Winter: Florestine Taylor, who was on the Environmental Advisory Council for a long time, is interested in the taskforce. Also someone named Cameron Kritikos from Yale applied. Those two could be good fits to join the group.*
 - iv. *Melissa Kops: We're one short of a quorum tonight. We should make people aware that at the next meeting we'll be making decisions about the budget.*
 - v. *Doug Hausladen: Gas-powered leaf blower legislation? Perhaps you all could reach out to Pavla and see what she needs help with.*

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