

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 24th, 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. *Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.*
 - b. *Attendance: Linda Reeder, Ginger Chapman, Melissa Kops, Alder Rodriguez, Lee Osorio, Alder Marchand, Steven Winter, Max Teirstein*
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.

- i. *Alder Rodriguez: There is a large development of 150 units at 10 Liberty being built.*
 - ii. *Steve Winter: That development is really close by and so could be connected to the network in the future.*
 - iii. *Alder Rodriguez: They've just been approved through Community Development. It would be great for you to connect with them early on.*
 - iv. *Steve Winter: We'd already been in touch with them about tree planting. It would be good to follow up on that, too.*
 - v. *Alder Rodriguez: They want to break ground as soon as possible, but tree planting and neighborhood beautification would be awesome. Alder Rodriguez said she would make an introduction for OCS.*
- 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 isn't available right now.
 - i. Brian Wnek and Max have identified areas of the City that still need to receive educational sessions over the next month or so, and then follow-ups will begin for further enforcement (verbal warnings, citations, etc.) once Health Department staff are available again.
 - 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.
3. *Ginger Chapman: Yale folks should donate their monitoring equipment.*
4. ***Ginger Chapman moved to approve the use of the remaining \$5,993.76 in Taskforce funds for air purifiers and electric landscaping equipment. Funding allocation was approved by unanimous vote of all voting members of the Taskforce (Linda Reeder, Ginger Chapman, Melissa Kops, Alder Rodriguez, Lee Osorio, Alder Marchand).***

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 \$26,755 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
	Bike Assembly	50	\$21	\$ 1,050
	Cost of Technician	5 classes per school, 10 schools = 50	\$ 150	\$ 7,500
Total:				\$ 26,755

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>

Discussion on bicycle education proposal:

Steve Winter: They suggested the third grade. You could do as many as a dozen third grades. This would constitute about half of the taskforce’s budget. If it goes well, the main ongoing costs would be the technician. For all the schools, you’d need about \$20,000 for the technician annually. Piloting this program could lead to institutional buy-in. Is this something you’d like us to continue to pursue with NHPS? We can work with them to flesh out costs and get more details. We can aim to approve it at our May or June meeting.

Alder Rodriguez: This is all contingent on the budget for the next fiscal year that is currently before the Board of Alders. As a point of hygiene, this would be for students to learn bike safety, correct?

Steve Winter: Yes, bike safety and some basic bike maintenance. Also part of the point of the program is to help kids understand whether a bike is safe to ride.

Alder Rodriguez: You'll be using the same helmets?

Steve Winter: There are caps included in the budget to avoid the spread of hair lice and for hygiene.

Steve Winter: The cycle track on Edgewood is almost ready and there are lots of new opportunities for folks to ride their bikes so the timing is good and it'll demonstrate how important this curriculum is for all the schools.

Zoom URL:

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

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Phone US: [+13052241968](tel:+13052241968), [88605944663](tel:+188605944663)# or [+13092053325](tel:+13092053325), [88605944663](tel:+188605944663)#
one-tap:

Meeting <https://newhavenct.zoom.us/j/88605944663?pwd=w00PVuwzMJlb67aPcCklq4rrd56afB>
URL: [.1&from=addon](https://newhavenct.zoom.us/j/88605944663?pwd=w00PVuwzMJlb67aPcCklq4rrd56afB)

Meeting 886 0594 4663
ID:

Passwor0jYZL5Gj
d:

Join by Telephone

For higher quality, dial a number based on your current location.

Dial:

US: +1 305 224 1968 or +1 309 205 3325 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 931 3860 or
+1 929 205 6099 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 564 217 2000 or +1 669 444 9171 or +1

669 900 6833 or +1 689 278 1000 or +1 719 359 4580 or +1 253 205 0468 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 360 209 5623 or +1 386 347 5053 or +1 507 473 4847 or 833 548 0282 (Toll Free) or 877 853 5257 (Toll Free) or 888 475 4499 (Toll Free) or 833 548 0276 (Toll Free)

Meeting 886 0594 4663
ID:

Passwor67161212
d:

International numbers