

**MINUTES**  
**NEW HAVEN CLIMATE EMERGENCY TASKFORCE**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, MAY 22<sup>ND</sup>, 2024, 5:15 PM**

The New Haven Climate Emergency Taskforce (CETF) met on Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 at 5:15 PM on Zoom discuss the following items:

*Members in Attendance: Alder Marchand, Doug Hausladen, Kai Addae, Melissa Kops, Ginger Chapman*

*Non-members: Max Teirstein, Jim Farnam*

1. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting. A majority of the CETF (6 of 10 members) constitutes a quorum.
  - a. *A quorum was not present, so minutes were not approved.*
2. 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. OCS presented this plan to the Board of Alders’ City Services and Environmental Policy Committee and are responding to their questions. The EPA has indicated that they expect to notify applicants of selections in July.
    - i. Because the City submitted the application in partnership with the Housing Authority and Parking Authority, we are required to submit a Memorandum of Agreement that details the involvement of the Housing Authority.
  - b. I Heart My Home outreach & canvassing campaign continues. Since canvassing began, 131 participants (67 income-eligible) have enrolled and received I Heart My Home consultations. 31 participants (19 income-eligible) have received energy assessments in that time, and

9 more participants (3 income-eligible) have assessments scheduled. Some participants are part of multi-families, bringing the total number of units receiving consultations to 181 (89 income-eligible units). Numbers as of 5/17.

- c. Healthy Homes, Clean Cooktops project is complete. We are awaiting the students' final report on project outcomes and will provide a summary if it is delivered before this meeting. At our last meeting, the CETF voted to move forward with purchasing air purifiers and replacement filters for all 6 participants. We've begun the procurement process for [these purifiers](#) (\$100/ea) and this [2-pack of replacement filters \(\\$47 per 2-pack\)](#). Filters must be replaced every six months to one year.
  - d. EPA Government-to-Government grant. OCS is continuing final budget negotiations with EPA.
  - e. COMPLETED: 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. Teachers have been paid.
  - f. Solar installations. An application for development permit for the landfill project has been submitted to City Plan and will be heard at the next meeting on June 19. Geotechnical work has been completed for the parking canopies.
  - g. Styrofoam enforcement: No update for this month. We are planning additional educational sessions next week.
  - h. Shellfish shell recycling program: No update for this month. Governor Ned Lamont today announced the launch of [Connecticut's first-ever oyster trail](#) and highlighted the shell recycling effort!
  - i. Housing Authority: Has not yet completed their inventory of the mechanical systems in their portfolio buildings.
3. **Discussion Items:**
- a. **CETF Budget Report:** Report on remaining FY23-24 CETF budget and wrapping up discussion of how to use remaining funds.

- i. \$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.
- ii. \$6,300 committed to Climate Justice Schools.
- iii. \$2,706.24 spent on the Clean Cooktops, Healthy Homes campaign.
- iv. *As of last meeting:* \$5,000 for Parks to receive an electric leaf blower and grass trimmer, and accompanying batteries, battery harness, and charging station. To be delivered Wednesday. We'll follow up with them soon to check in on how it's going!
- v. *As of last meeting:* \$1,000 for our 6 Healthy Homes, Clean Cooktops participants to each receive an air purifier and accompanying air filters. Order is currently processing.

**b. Potential Funding for Bicycle Education Using Funds Next Fiscal Year**

- i. Steve is meeting soon with Joel LaChance, Erik Patchkofsky (Physical Education, Health, and Athletics Director), and members of the New Haven Coalition for Active Transportation (NCAT) to go over what we're proposing and gather feedback. We will revise the budget below according to that discussion.
- 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
<b>Fixed Costs</b>	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
<b>Variable Costs</b>	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
<b>Total:</b>				\$ 26,755

**c. Community Change Grant**

i. The City and six community-based orgs are collaborating on a proposal for the [EPA Climate and Environmental Justice Community Change grant program](#), aimed at funding community-driven solutions to climate change and air pollution. This coalition is called the “Elm City Climate Collaborative.”

1. The City of New Haven Office of Climate and Sustainability will serve as the Lead Partner, and Greater Dwight Development Corporation will be the required Statutory Partner. Joined by St. Luke’s Development Corporation, the Newhallville Community Services Development Corporation, Community Action Agency of New Haven, Neighborhood Housing Services, and Junta for Progressive Action.
2. This is open-ended by design, but proposals must fit into one of eight Climate Pollution Reduction strategies and four Air Pollution Reduction strategies (see [page 3 of this link](#)).

ii. This is a competitive grant program with funding level of up to \$20 million. The EPA will accept and review proposals until November 2024, though we plan to submit our plan to EPA by mid-August. If it is not accepted, we can refine and resubmit based on EPA feedback.

iii. **Discussion:**

1. **Suggest ideas for what to include in the proposal.** What ongoing work could have a transformative impact with some more funding? What issues are being left out of the conversation around climate in New Haven and should be prioritized in this proposal?

- a. *For sharing:* Submit your ideas here at the Call for Ideas Form: [https://bit.ly/NewHaven\\_Climate](https://bit.ly/NewHaven_Climate)  
WORD Version of survey [here](#) / PDF version [here](#)  
(Spanish versions coming soon). **These are due by May 29.**

2. **Get involved in a Work Group or other aspects of the work.** The coalition will be convening 3-4 Work Groups to help then review and assess all these possible initiatives and craft the proposal. Sign up for these groups or other roles in the work [here](#). This work will all take place between now and a planned mid-August submission.

- a. **Working groups are having their first meeting on the evening of May 29<sup>th</sup>.** Sign up for a work group at this link to attend: [LINK](#)

*iv. Brainstorm:*

- Ginger Chapman: Peels & Wheels is great, but to scale that up to a municipal organics composting system would be amazing. There was a time when Quantum Biopower and some other solid waste entities had been discussing a large-scale municipal effort. What ever happened to those conversations?
- Melissa Kops: I think the funding could be used for composting at City Hall, municipal facilities, and schools. It could be a smaller chunk of the funding, but composting needs to be part of this.
- Melissa Kops: What about municipal buildings? We could make a master building inventory for all municipal buildings. Getting a good inventory of existing buildings and understanding their energy usage would help us plan and strategize. If we had money for this, we could hire someone to do it.
  - o Ginger: You really want a team of engineers to do that work.
  - o Melissa: I was really just talking about a more basic level—utility bill data. But sure, let's hire a consultant to give us an informed plan to meet our electrification resolution. In addition, a strategic roadmap toward meeting the electrification resolutions.

- Melissa: This is only \$20 million, so we're going to use this up pretty quick. But it could fund the staffing and planning to put into place an energy benchmarking program for existing buildings, perhaps just in some zones of the City if the funding is insufficient for a citywide program.
- Max Teirstein: The Elm City Climate Collaborative (EC3), the coalition of organizations leading this community-driven proposal, intends to evolve into a more permanent partnership that extends beyond the terms of the grant. Even if your suggestions are big swings that may not work for this grant, they are still useful for the EC3 and may end up in a future proposal or something.
- Kai Addae: I really like all of Melissa's ideas. Going up with something comprehensive to address buildings—both commercial and residential. A bigger push overall in getting a real sense of where we are and where we need to go.
- Doug Hausladen: I also support the idea for putting together an inventory—maybe even beyond municipal buildings, an inventory of every building in New Haven and its energy needs. Some sort of building permit that we could filter for? That would help.
  - o Melissa: You could look in the property tax records. You can get a sense of how energy efficient the buildings are based on heating type and other information.
  - o Doug: You could narrow the denominator toward how many people you're trying to target.
- Alder Marchand: I have two ideas. My first is geothermal. Yale is implementing a geothermal project, and the City is trying to get money for geothermal. There ought to be some way for this to be practical to do on a larger scale. We have lots of large apartment buildings. We should be finding ways to ascertain the potential of implementing geothermal systems.
- Alder Marchand: My second idea relates to electricity generation. Solar is part of that, but what else could we be doing locally to generate electricity? Should we create our own utility, weaning ourselves off of UI? That's

probably a bundle of studies, if we want to be ambitious, but generating our own electricity would be a huge game changer.

- Jim: We're really looking for folks to join our working groups. We have a meeting of the working groups next Wednesday at 6 PM. Sign
- Jim: We also have technical assistance for this work. We're ideally looking for a project that has no or insufficient funding, but that we really want to do, and having a group from out of town coming to work on it wouldn't disrupt other work. Greening parking lots was an example of the kind of idea we're looking for.
- Melissa: As I'm digging into this, I really think that residential energy labeling is perfect for this grant. Energy labeling is essentially the idea that people have a right to know the energy efficiency of the homes and apartments they move into, so they can evaluate the total cost of renting or owning. By documenting the energy efficiency of buildings, it provides us with a better idea of which units need energy retrofit. The reason we'd be able to do it is because we're allowed to monitor and regulate the emissions within our city.
- Doug: I always promote adding big dollars to bike share for expansion into more e bikes or e scooters.
- Ginger: Water is an issue we should talk about.
- Jim: There are 12 strategies that EPA put out—8 climate, 4 pollution.