

AGENDA

NEW HAVEN CLIMATE EMERGENCY TASKFORCE

REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24th, 2024, 5:15 PM

Present: Jeremy Schulick, Cameron Kritikos, Linda Reeder, Ginger Chapman, Giovanni Zinn, Florestine Taylor, Adam Marchand, Kai Addae, Alder Adam Marchand and Alder Carmen Rodriguez

Non-members Present: Steven Winter, Arinze Agu

The New Haven Climate Emergency Taskforce (CETF) met on Wednesday, July 24th, 2024 at 5:15 PM on Zoom (see link at end of agenda) to discuss the following items:

1. Welcoming new members! Cameron Kritikos and Jeremy Schulick have joined the CETF. Florestine Taylor has also been appointed and invited to join.
2. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting (6/26). A majority of the CETF (6 of 11 members) constitutes a quorum.
 - a. **9 Members present. Moved by Giovanni Zinn and seconded by Kai Addae. Motion approved.**
3. Project updates from the Office of Climate and Sustainability (OCS) staff:
 - a. Community Change Grant
 - i. We are now aiming for a July 31st submission. Attached is a summary of the main pieces of the proposal, spanning green infrastructure, transportation, housing, materials management, and workforce development.
 - b. I Heart My Home
 - i. Outreach & canvassing campaign continues with our Yale PPSF fellow Arinze Agu, our two Youth @ Work interns Lulu (returning champion) and Leslie. Since canvassing began, 227 participants (122 income-eligible) have enrolled and received I Heart My Home consultations. 36 participants (21 income-eligible) have received energy assessments in that time, and 3

more participants (0 income-eligible) have assessments scheduled. Some participants are part of multi-families, bringing the total number of units receiving consultations to 298 (157 income-eligible units). Numbers as of 7/19.

1. We are still looking for another part-time canvasser! Please help us spread the word of this great, \$22/hr opportunity.
- ii. We sent out a letter from the Mayor endorsing I Heart My Home! This letter was sent to nearly 7,000 owner-occupied, 1-4 family homes in the City's disadvantaged communities (as defined by [CJEST](#)).
- c. We have received our grant award for the EPA Government-to-Government Environmental Justice Grant, which will fund outreach and air quality monitoring of electrification of heating systems in homes with oil-based heating systems and electrification of gas stoves.
- d. We have received our grant award for the USDA Composting and Food Waste Reduction Grant, which will fund expanded food scrap diversion in New Haven Public Schools, 4 Big Belly food scrap collection containers, and technical assistance for food-related businesses to set up food scrap diversion.
- e. 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 Board of Alders approved this application. The EPA has indicated that they expect to notify applicants of selections in July.
 - i. The City is working with the Housing Authority and Parking Authority to complete the required Memorandum of Agreement that details the involvement of all three parties by August 1st.
- f. Shellfish shell recycling program: no update.

- g. Solar installations. The development permit for the landfill project was approved by City Plan. Final approvals are still needed from United Illuminating and CT DEEP. These projects have been delayed until spring of 2025.
 - i. *Steve Winter: School solar parking canopies are also delayed until 2025 due to the limited timeline for starting and completing projects in the summer months when school is out of session.*
- h. Styrofoam enforcement: OCS has been educating additional businesses, including Edgewood, Whalley Avenue, Sylvan Avenue, and Davenport Avenue.
- i. Housing Authority: Has completed their inventory of the mechanical systems in their portfolio buildings.
- j. Electric leaf blower and grass trimmer: Parks has continued utilizing the blower and trimmer in limited applications at Lighthouse Point Park.
 - i. *Steve Winter: Battery is heavy.*
 - ii. *Linda: Is it possible to get a couple of smaller batteries?*
- k. Purchase of bicycles for school-based bicycle education program: OCS has begun the purchase process for these bicycles in coordination with NHPS Athletics.

4. Discussion Items:

- a. The Climate Emergency Taskforce authorized using up to \$30,000 from its 2025 fiscal year budget to purchase bicycles for a bicycle education program serving New Haven students. It's possible that some of that funding will not be utilized but assuming we have \$20,000 left to spend for this fiscal year, what should our priority or priorities be for our remaining funding?
 - i. Last year's activities focused on funding for energy efficiency services to residents through \$35,000 funding for I Heart My Home, with remaining funds utilized for continuing to support Climate Justice Schools, the Clean Cooktops induction

countertop stove campaign, and the electric leaf blower and trimmer for the Parks Department.

- ii. The CETF should decide whether to support Climate Justice Schools (CJS) for another year. This was budgeted at \$6,300 last year.
- iii. With the remaining funds (\$13,700 assuming Climate Justice Schools is funded) we could focus on providing some service to residents or we could look to fund an initiative that tells an important story or we could fund the purchase of an item that improves the sustainability of City operations (e.g. a battery bank for electric lawn equipment, building off of the purchase we made last year). We need general direction how we want to approach our remaining budget for the year.
- iv. Ginger Chapman: Is \$14,000 enough?
- v. Linda Reeder: What would the technical support be used for?
- vi. Steve Winter: Technical support to provide support for RFP and next level design build contractor
- vii. Ginger Chapman: We should continue to support CJS. It has been impactful. We should get a report on how CJS is performing.
- viii. Cameron Kritikos: Where else would the funds come from?
- ix. Steve Winter: Last year we used Mayor's contractual budget but it was end of fiscal year with remaining funds.
- x. Giovanni Zinn: We could get started ahead of the grants funds arriving. The Housing authority, DOT, and Parking Authority are currently in planning process.
- xi. Jeremy Shulick: This proposal sounds reasonable.
- xii. Alder Marchand: This makes a lot of sense. This is the fastest way to fund it for this purpose.
- xiii. Ginger Chapman: The City team can hit the ground running.
- xiv. Giovanni Zinn: This can be a transformative project.
- xv. Ginger Chapman: Yale may have recommendations on who might be a helpful consultant

xvi. Giovanni Zinn: We have been in touch with Julie Paquette and will continue to be in touch with them.

- b. **Motion: Linda Reeder makes a motion to use \$6,300 to fund the Climate Justice Schools program and to use the remaining funds for this fiscal year (up to \$13,700) for technical assistance for the geothermal project, with a request a report on the outcomes of the Climate Justice Schools program. Seconded by Cameron Kritikos. Approved unanimously.**

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