

Climate Emergency Taskforce Meeting 4/27/2023

Attendance: Steve Winter, Max Teirstein, Dawn Henning, Melissa Kops, Latha Swamy, Linda Reeder, Giovanni Zinn

**1. Project updates from the Office of Climate and Sustainability staff**

- a. Began work with SCRCOG on application to Climate Pollution Reduction Grant for regional emissions reduction planning*

Steven Winter gave an overview of the grant:

- i. There will also be a separate implementation grant after this one, which is solely a planning grant
- ii. Proposal led by SCRCOG (2/3rds of towns in SCRCOG, 1/3<sup>rd</sup> Naugatuck Valley)
- iii. Latha Swamy: ICF offered assistance with May 31<sup>st</sup> full application, ICLEI is also offering technical support on many parts of it and we're already a member. They told Latha that our application would be strongest if we can show a robust public participation process and that we're building on a framework that already exists.
- iv. Latha Swamy: Food Policy Division funding runs out within the year, Latha is looking to fund it through the grant. Fits into the broader narrative through the lens of food systems as climate mitigation and the Division being a model for the region.

- b. Submitted EPA Government-to-Government Grant Application*

Steven Winter gave an overview of the grant:

- i. 2 RFP were posted, one to pick entities involved in heating assistance in New Haven (Community Action Agency and Junta were selected) to identify households with aging oil heating systems, and one to help residents identify subsidies and programs for electrification (NHS was selected). Yale researchers would study indoor air quality to examine impact of the switching from oil heat to heat pumps.
  - ii. There will be 20 grant awards, so the odds of receiving a grant are slim.
- c. Began work on EPA Charging & Fueling Infrastructure Grant*

Steven Winter explained the initial outline of the grant:

- i. We're focused on the community program part of this grant solicitation and are seeking to expand electric vehicle charging, especially in lower-income neighborhoods where we don't have publicly accessible charging. There is also an alternative fuel corridor program in the grant solicitation, so we posted two RFPs (community & corridor). Due end of May. Hoping to take advantage of CT utilities' rebates for EV charging or to find a private partner to provide the 20% non-federal match required by the grant program.
- d. Working with Transportation, Traffic & Parking, New Haven Parking Authority, Via on application to CT DOT Microtransit Pilot Program*

Steven Winter gave a brief overview of the proposal:

- i. Rideshares (6 passenger vans), but with a fixed affordable rate. Union Station and Tweed would be destinations in the proposal. We're advocating for them to move forward with electric vans.*
- e. Assisted GreenSTEP introduction to green construction, energy efficiency, and in NHPS*

Steven Winter discussed the introduction on Green STEP to NHPS.

- i. Green STEP introduces high school students to energy auditing, basics of HVAC, energy efficiency principles to students over the summer. Aim is for half of ~100 participants to be from NHPS.*
- f. Began electric refuse fleet assessment with Roundtrip EV and Department of Parks and Public Works.*

Steven Winter explained the free electric refuse fleet fit analysis that Roundtrip EV is working on:

- i. Roundtrip is collecting data on our trash truck operations and financials to determine which trucks we can replace with new electric trucks. They'll connect with Giovanni on suitable charging.*
- ii. United Illuminating also reached out to us about the vehicle to grid pilot we could pursue using the trash truck we have ordered.*
- g. Expert Match Program – we have been matched with experts from Argonne National Laboratory to develop a roadmap for electric vehicle charging, which we anticipate will assist with zoning updates and plans for publicly-accessible neighborhood charging stations.*

Steven Winter explained the objectives of the Expert Match program:

- i. Program pairs with someone from the national labs to help with a local infrastructure problem. We aim to fast track an EV zoning ordinance and the get assistance with the logistics of public EV charging stations.*
- h. Northern Colorado Clean Cities / Save Energy Coalition looking at New Haven fleet data to make recommendations for the whole fleet.*

## **2. Update on Climate Emergency Taskforce budget**

Steven Winter gave an update on the remaining Taskforce budget:

- a. The primary users of the heat pump training would be local HVAC companies. There are only 3 HVAC companies registered in the City's Small Contractor Development program. We have scheduled a meeting with United Illuminating about the Heat Pump Installer Network but this point we haven't developed a clear plan for expanding the audience of a heat pump contractor training.*
  - i. Looking at the heat pump registration for the state, it's almost entirely HVAC contractors and we only have 3 HVAC contractors in the Small Business Development Program. Would we try to expand to a larger audience (e.g. unregistered contractors in the county or West/East Haven)? We're*

recommending to not move forward with this now. Majority of the work of the training is for the HVAC contractors.

- b. *Through the Government-to-Government grant requests for proposals, we received a proposal from Neighborhood Housing Service's (NHS) I Heart My Home program, which guides households in 1-4 family properties through energy efficiency upgrades and electrification. With our remaining funding, NHS could assist 125-150 households with energy efficiency and electrification counseling.*
    - i. NHS originally offered to provide energy counseling services for 400 households through the \$1 million we applied for in Government-to-Government, and we already did the procurement for G2G.
    - ii. How would the 125 households be selected?
      - 1. We'd focus outreach on income-eligible homeowners, but are open to figuring out how to reach out to those households would be engaged.
    - iii. *Melissa Kops moves to move forward with funding I Heart My Home, Latha Swamy seconds the motion with no discussion. Voting members of the taskforce are in unanimous agreement.*
- 3. New membership**
- a. *Please let us know if you have recommendations of new members for the Taskforce.*
  - b. *Discussion of ideas for outreach to new members.*
- 4. Other**
- a. **Action Item for OCS Staff:** Reach out to the Parking Authority about the library of electric cargo bikes that Engineering requested last year.
  - b. Engineering applied to a grant from FEMA for a heating/cooling shelter at Hillhouse HS.