

## NEW HAVEN CLIMATE EMERGENCY TASKFORCE

### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28TH, 2023, 5:15 PM

The New Haven Climate Emergency Taskforce met on Wednesday, June 28th, 2023 at 5:15 PM to on Zoom (see link at end of agenda) to discuss the following items.

Present: Max Teirstein, Steven Winter, Dawn Henning, Kai Addae, Douglas Hausladen, Linda Reeder, Melissa Kops

1. Project updates from the Office of Climate and Sustainability (OCS) staff
  - a. [E-Bike CHEAPR Rebate](#)
    - i. Max Teirstein provided an overview of the program:
    - ii. Today (June 28<sup>th</sup>), DEEP is launching its eBike Incentive Program, which will provide Point-of-Sale (POS) incentives to residents who purchase [an eligible ebike](#) from participating retailers. All New Haveners are eligible for the expanded Voucher+ rebate, which is equivalent to a \$1,500 discount on an ebike. The state has made \$1.5 million available for this program and will review applications after 10 days – if after 10 days the funds are exhausted, the program will prioritize applications from environmental justice communities. All of New Haven is an environmental justice community – we are prioritizing outreach within New Haven to our environmental justice neighborhoods where the need is greatest and air quality is worst.
      1. *Max Teirstein: Applications opened this morning. In first two hours there were 1,200 eBike voucher applications submitted.*
      2. *Max Teirstein: It could be possible for folks to get a free eBike.*
      3. *Kai Addae: importance of reaching out to suppliers and bike shops; can assist if given language for outreach*
        - a. *TODO: Max to provide Kai with language for outreach*
  - b. Shellfish recycling: under development
    - i. Max Teirstein provided an overview of the program:
    - ii. The City is partnering with [Collective Oyster Recycling & Restoration](#) (CORR) to rescue shellfish shells (oyster, clam, etc.) from local restaurants to be reused for the restoration of oyster reefs. Outreach to restaurants is likely to begin this month, lead by CORR.
      1. CORR is seeking a paved site of .25 acres or greater to store shellfish so that they can be cured
        - a. *Steven Winter: If anyone has connections to shellfish restaurants that is helpful*
        - b. *TODO: ask DPW about potential sites; ask them them about River St or Mitchell Dr*

c. *Dawn Henning: River St is floodplain – is that an issue?*

- c. Evaluating opportunities to install new solar arrays on landfill, schools
  - i. Steven Winter gave an overview of the solar RFP process so far:
  - ii. We are working closely with Engineering on evaluating RFP responses related to the installation of solar on City buildings (e.g. Q House, 424 Chapel St and the landfill).
    - 1. Deadline for solar submissions in the state’s Nonresidential Renewable Energy Solutions program is August 1<sup>st</sup>.
      - a. *Melissa: Capacity available at 424 Chapel St will be reduced by rooftop equipment*
- d. Launching outreach campaign for home energy efficiency, spearheaded by two new Youth @ Work staff for the month of July
  - i. Max Teirstein explained the plan for outreach in July:
  - ii. Two Youth @ Work students will join the Office of Climate and Sustainability for the month of July to spread the word about [I3MyHome](#), [HES-IE](#), other programs that benefit low-income homeowners in need of weatherization, electrification, and other home energy efficiency improvements.
    - 1. Plan is to focus outreach to homeowners and owner-occupied 2-4 families in Newhallville.
- e. Grants
  - i. Composting and Food Waste Reduction Grant submitted June 14<sup>th</sup>
    - 1. *Explanation of grant narrative from Max Teirstein and Steven Winter: Waste likely to go to anaerobic digester or Brightfeeds, who converts wasted food into animal feed*
    - 2. *Steven Winter: grant has a few parts: 1) Pilot of BigBelly compost bins which can be unlocked with RFID card or smart phone for large downtown residences; 2) Technical assistance for businesses in the Downtown area provided by Center for EcoTechnologies; 3) Support for Haven’s Harvest food rescue operations; 4) Composting in four New Haven schools.*
  - ii. US Department of Transportation Charging & Fueling Infrastructure Grant submitted June 13<sup>th</sup>
    - 1. *Explanation of grant narrative from Max Teirstein: \$1.7 million proposal for 5 charging stations, 2 faster charging stations (Dixwell, Fair Haven) and 3 pole mounted charging stations (The Hill, Newhallville, and Wooster Square). Focus on neighborhoods with high concentration of multifamily properties without off street parking, using the concentration of 2-4 unit properties as a proxy for this.*
  - iii. US Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry submitted June 1<sup>st</sup>
    - 1. *Explanation of grant narrative from Max Teirstein and Steven Winter: Urban Resources Initiative submitted one proposal, focused solely on environmental justice neighborhoods with no required local match. The City’s Tree System Coordinator, Annie Mixsell, submitted another*

*proposal, which would fund outreach related to and publication of a Citywide tree canopy plan.*

2. Update on Climate Emergency Taskforce budget
  - a. Steven Winter delivered an update on the remaining budget: The City has signed off on an agreement with NHS to fund the I Heart My Home (IHMH) program with the remaining CETF budget.
    1. *Max Teirstein: IHMH provided a proposal to reach 100-150 income eligible households.*
    2. *Steven Winter: The City will provide outreach support to help reach this goal. There may be opportunities to expand outreach beyond Youth@Work canvassers by bringing community volunteers into the IHMH outreach campaign*
    3. *Melissa Kops: What is the status of the outreach program funded by the utilities, the Community Partnership Initiative?*
    4. *Steven Winter: At the Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships I ran into Devan, the Eversource community engagement person, who said Community Partnership Initiative decisions have been delayed*
    5. *TODO: Reach out to utilities about Community Partnership Initiative*
3. Discussion Item:
  - a. Continuation of discussion of how the City can best increase participation in energy efficiency with renters and landlords. Energy grading was one idea that was discussed at the last meeting. One concern is adding to the administrative burden for both the City and the property owner. A grade that doesn't require in-person inspections but is based on public data would help address this concern.
    - i. Would a label generated automatically based on publicly available data (e.g. assessment data on home age, heating systems, etc.) be a valuable starting point? What would be the best way to structure this? Could a score be generated for all properties, and publicly posted for all of them or for rentals? Or for rental properties when they are sold or listed for rent?
    - ii. Montpelier VT requires grades of all properties sold. Read more [here](#).
      1. *Melissa Kops: It would make sense to provide a platform that starts with public data and then allows property owners edit it*
      2. *Melissa Kops: Shubhada Kambli at DEEP would be the person to ask about the Connecticut energy model that the state is developing based on the Vermont energy model which produces virtual energy labels*
      3. *Melissa Kops: If there was sufficient community outreach I think people would use this virtual energy score*
      4. *Melissa Kops: Could we also incorporate Energy Star data into the same GIS map?*
      5. *Steven Winter: Would we have more than one metric? I think that would be confusing*
      6. *Melissa Kops: There are other data sources we could add to a map of properties*
      7. *TODO: Reach out to state regarding energy model*

4. New membership

- a. Steve has reached out to the Mayor and President of the Board of Alders about adding Doug Hausladen, Ginger Chapman, and Lee Osorio to the CETF
- b. If you have anyone else in mind, please share with Steve and Max.

5. New items

- a. *Melissa Kops: One outcome of the Connecticut General Assembly 2023 session: a \$125 million in low interest energy retrofit revolving loan fund; it'll be administered through DEEP and they'll decide what to do with it (for example, they could work with the CT Green Bank on it). Legislators were worried about giveaways to landlords by instituting a grant program so instead they settled on a revolving loan fund*
- b. *Melissa Kops: it would be good to debrief with DEEP about some of the things they were trying to push (like energy labeling); Melissa will reach out to Shubhada and copy Max and Steve about scheduling a meeting.*