

NEW HAVEN CLIMATE EMERGENCY TASKFORCE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23rd, 2023, 5:15 PM

The New Haven Climate Emergency Taskforce (CETF) will meet on Wednesday, August 23rd, 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, Linda Reeder, Melissa Kops, Ginger Chapman, Latha Swamy, Alder Carmen Rodriguez

1. Project updates from the Office of Climate and Sustainability (OCS) staff
 - a. Working on applications to state incentive program to install new solar arrays on landfill, City and school buildings
 - i. Steve Winter provided an overview of these developments.
 - ii. OCS staff worked with Engineering and Greenskies Clean Energy on submissions 2 school parking lot canopies (each 200kW AC), the Q House (125kW AC), and 200 Wintergreen (NHPD facility) (166 kW AC).
 - iii. OCS staff and Engineering are also working with Greenskies on a submission for solar on top of the landfill (750 kW AC), due September 14th.
 - b. Successful canvassing campaign for I Heart My Home!
 - i. Steve Winter provided an overview of these developments.
 - ii. The Climate Taskforce used its remaining budget to fund I Heart My Home energy counseling for New Haven households.
 - iii. Max Teirstein, Steve, James and Mlbebinge (the two Youth @ Work interns), and Amelia (Yale President's Public Service Fellow) canvassed Newhallville, Amity, Dixwell, and the Hill, with a focus on homeowners and owner-occupied 2-4 families.
 - iv. OCS canvassed a total of 2,073 addresses and enrolled 55 households. An additional 6 came from word of mouth and 8 from NHS, who said that it's likely some of those signups were from canvassing. A total of 69 households signed up since the campaign began.
 - c. Submitted: SustainableCT application for Gold designation
 - i. Steve Winter provided an overview of the application process.
 - ii. Our industrious Yale President's Public Service Fellow, Amelia Fortgang, worked tirelessly this summer to get this application organized, met with countless folks from the City and partner organizations, wrote tons and tons of documentation, to help us get our application submitted.
 - iii. Gold certification is new this year and requires municipalities to reach a higher points threshold (earned by completing environmental actions) and to take action on issues related to climate change and equity.
 - d. Drafted: 2021 Greenhouse Gas Inventory. SLIDES HERE:
https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1y_f3yB-L7HfxU6ZciqNIsGH1XvXmeMYB2iDb2u91iis/edit?usp=sharing

- i. Max Teirstein presented findings from the 2021 greenhouse gas inventory.
- ii. OCS has completed the 2021 Greenhouse Gas Inventory. Results are still under review and we're working on the best way to get it out. Preliminary findings:
 1. Emissions fell by 5% between 2019 and 2021, but much of this decline is due to a pandemic-induced drop in driving activity. The City's top sources of GHG emissions are gas-powered passenger vehicles, the commercial and residential consumption of electricity, and the burning of fossil fuels for home, commercial, and Yale University's uses.
 2. *Max Teirstein: there are some methodological changes since 2019. In 2021, cumulative emissions were 1.08 MMT, a decrease of about 5%. But even with a 5% decline, we are not on track to meet our 2030 goal. Top emitting sectors are transportation, residential fossil fuel, and electric power, which is consistent with the state (60% of emissions). Electric power emissions increased—the grid was a little more carbon intensive in 2021 than 2019. Industry is a smaller emitter than Yale power plants.*
 3. *Max Teirstein: Largest decrease in emissions was in transportation sector – 19%; this is attributable to the pandemic. Cars are the majority of vehicle miles traveled on New Haven roads. New Haven saw a 15% decline in VMT. Nationally, there was a sharp rebound in VMT, but in New Haven the DOT projects that VMT has only recovered 1%.*
 4. *Max Teirstein: Biggest priorities for New Haven: electrifying homes and businesses, expanding renewable energy, and investing in clean transportation (bike, scooter, microtransit, EV adoption)*
 5. *Melissa Kops: If you add the amount of Yale fossil fuels that are attributable to commercial buildings, it would increase commercial buildings' estimate significantly. How do you classify emissions? There's the source of the emissions and the sector of the emissions – buildings would be the largest sector if you grouped them all together.*
 6. *Max Teirstein: buildings are about ¾ of our emissions but end use of electricity would need to be untangled.*
 7. *Dawn Henning: when we look at decreases and increases, we want to attribute it to something that changed; it is interesting to see that the grid was less reliant on clean energy overall.*
 8. *Dawn Henning: need to clarify what scope of emissions is included in the presentation.*
 9. *Ginger Chapman: is it calendar year? Yale uses fiscal year*
 10. *Max Teirstein: it is calendar year, except Yale distillate fuel oil data (Yale power plant data is calendar year).*
 11. *Ginger Chapman: it would be good to include scopes and a slide explaining it.*
- e. Under development: Zoning for EV Readiness Ordinance
 - i. Steve Winter provided an overview of these developments.

- ii. Through the DOE's Clean Energy to Communities Program (C2C), OCS & Greater New Haven Clean Cities are working with DOE and National Renewable Energy Laboratory experts to draft an EV ordinance.
 - 1. 1-2 Family Residential: 1 EV Ready space per unit
 - 2. Large residential: 5% EVSE (10+ spaces); 15% EV-Ready, 80% EV-Capable
 - 3. Commercial/Office: 10% EV-Ready (10+ spaces); 15% EV-Capable
- iii. Terminology:
 - 1. EV-Capable = electrical conduit leading to parking space + panel capacity that can support future EVSE at the space
 - 2. EV-Ready = electrical panel + raceway with conduit to terminate in a charging outlet
 - 3. EVSE/EV-Installed: EV charging stations installed
- iv. Also working with NREL to quantify on-street versus off-street parking capacity, which will help us understand the need for EVSE citywide and on a neighborhood scale.
 - 1. *Ginger Chapman: Have you talked to other municipalities?*
 - 2. *Steven Winter: Not directly, but we reviewed lots of lists of ordinances (e.g., Southwest Energy Efficiency Project, US Green Buildings Council, NREL provided some links to ordinances they thought were good).*
 - 3. *Alder Rodriguez: Have you polled residents to see who would afford to purchase an EV? We need to think about our seniors. You're talking about an ordinance for bringing this forth, but you have to make sure people can afford to move from gas to electric. My ward has a diverse income population, so we don't want anyone to be left behind.*
 - 4. *Steven Winter: Thank you for your comment. This would be for new construction. We wouldn't be requiring homeowners or residents to retrofit for EVs. We wanted to weigh more heavily on electrical conduit that would be easy to retrofit in the future. EVs are now a really small % of vehicles sold, but they're the fastest-growing sector. If you don't do any of the wiring upfront, it will be much, much more expensive to go back and do it later. On the affordability side, we wanted to make sure folks are aware of the [state's rebates](#), which apply to all New Haven residents. So ultimately, only developers of new construction will see any cost burden due to the ordinance—nobody else will have to make sacrifices through the ordinance we are proposing.*
 - 5. *Steven Winter: Federal rebate is a tax credit. \$7500 for vehicles that meet certain domestic production requirements, which requires at least \$7500 in federal taxes. You can also lease a vehicle, and whoever's leasing it to you can take the credit.*
- f. Shellfish recycling: under development
 - i. Steve Winter provided an overview of these developments.
 - ii. OCS 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.

1. Shell and Bones and Il Gabbiano are participating.
2. 1375 pounds of shellfish shells diverted so far.
 1. *Steven Winter: We're live with this program. If you're connected to any restaurant owners, let us know.*
 2. *Dawn Henning: Have you found out any more about permissions for putting the shells in the Sound?*
 3. *Steven Winter: Not yet.*
2. Funding the Climate Justice Schools program directly through New Haven Climate Movement (NHCM) for Fiscal year 2023-2024:
 - a. Steve Winter brought this proposal to the table for discussion and feedback.
 - b. Rather than dealing with the administrative complexity of funding Climate Justice Schools through New Haven Public Schools, NHCM has proposed to act as fiduciary for the funds and disburse them to teachers and students participating in the program.
 - c. NHCM plans to reuse teacher and student contacts from last year and start small with 3 schools Here is a proposed budget:
 - i. \$4,300 per school = One teacher full-year stipend (\$1000), student intern stipends (\$100/month x 9 months = \$900, x 3 interns = \$2700), and \$600 for printing, material, activity, and event expenses. For 3 schools, this totals \$12,900.
 1. *Kai Addae: So is NHCM a nonprofit?*
 2. *Steven Winter: NHCM is a fiscally-sponsored project of the New Haven-Leon Sister City project.*
 3. *Kai Addae: So what staff would administer it?*
 4. *Steven Winter: Chris Schweizer would administer it. He's staff on the Sister City project (the only staff member).*
 5. *Ginger Chapman: Is there a more specific description of how funds will be used?*
 6. *Steven Winter: We can ask for more information.*
 7. *Kai Addae: We used to have a more detailed proposal, but because the project keeps getting refunded, we haven't needed that in a while. Good opportunity to make one again.*
 8. *Dawn Henning: We need some sort of letter to the Board of Ed in addition to the proposal to make sure they're on board.*
 9. *Steven Winter: I can follow up with the Board of Ed to discuss mechanics. It might be simpler if the NHCM is paying teachers so they don't have the same contractual obligations as the Board does. I can also check with procurement about what, process-wise, would be involved here. There was a proposal to the Board of Alders to update the procurement process, but that hasn't been reviewed yet so there probably are hurdles in procurement.*
 10. *Ginger Chapman: I don't know if the payment setup will cause drama somewhere else. It sounds like they're trying to work around the bureaucracy.*
 11. *Steven Winter: Do folks know how teachers are recruited and selected?*

12. Dawn Henning: What schools are they working with?
 13. Steven Winter: I didn't ask what schools the teachers they want to work with again are at.
 14. Dawn Henning: Is this a training the teacher program?
 15. Ginger Chapman: It's working with teachers (and a student intern who helps) to provide content, lesson plans, etc. There are certain things that students have to learn every year, I'm not sure how this is being integrated though.
 16. Linda Reeder: There are a lot of educational materials online that do integrate the sustainability content with the required subjects.
- d. The CETF voted unanimously in favor of moving forward with this proposal on a provisional basis, provided that the CETF receives answers to outstanding questions regarding City procurement policy, Board of Ed approval, and NHCM's detailed budget.
3. Discussion Items:
 - a. Carryover from last meeting: [HUD Green Resilient and Retrofit Program](#) (Thank you to Ginger Chapman)
 - i. Goal is to decrease energy consumption by 25% and GHG emissions by 50%. Funding available for property owners to add resilience & efficiency measures to recapitalization projects already in progress (\$140 million [Elements Awards](#)), for properties in earlier stages to be designed to highest standards of efficiency (\$400 million [Leading Edge Awards](#)), and for recapitalization investments in efficiency, carbon reduction, and resilience (\$1.47 billion [Comprehensive Awards](#)).
 - b. Greenhouse gas inventory and the Climate Emergency Taskforce budget
 - i. How does the results of the latest City greenhouse gas inventory inform our decision about where to allocate our \$50,000 budget for this fiscal year?
 1. Melissa Kops: We have another \$35,000 to spend this year, right?
 2. Steven Winter: Yes.
 3. Melissa Kops: Last year we spent it on I Heart My Home.
 4. Linda Reeder: Transportation? How is that paid for?
 5. Steven Winter: The Parking Authority is handling the Bike Share. We've had some conversations about scooter services—Lime, Bird, etc.—and most places are able to set up scooter services without public subsidies for the service. There might be physical changes that have to be made to accommodate scooters, but I think Traffic & Parking can pay for that out of their budget.
 6. Linda Reeder: Have you done research on what's happening in other cities?
 7. Steven Winter: Yeah, I think there are cities that are overrun with scooters. I know Paris recently voted to undo scooters. Newer scooters have answers to some of the technological problems that older ones had. Alarms when they've been lifted off the ground for too long, geofencing to limit riding them where they're not permitted. If you decide scooters have to be parked somewhere, you can set it up so the

scooter continues charging people until they've been parked in a designated area.

8. Steven Winter: My thought is along the lines of what Melissa is saying—transportation is a big emitter, but is there something else creative we can do with buildings?
9. Melissa Kops: Outreach, an event, a climate campaign of some sort.
10. Dawn Henning: We even talked about reaching out to someone to use the money to fund that.
11. Melissa Kops: Posters, graphics, events.
12. Kai Addae: I have the old notes on that somewhere, I can send them out to everyone. From about a year ago.
13. Melissa Kops: Hot plate giveaway? They're a couple hundred dollars each, maybe a little more. I know Public Health is getting on board with the whole gas stove thing.
14. Steven Winter: yeah, doing something with the health department could be a way to broadcast to a larger audience. Could find families that have asthma, offer to replace their stoves or give them some money toward that.
15. Linda Reeder: Rebates will be made available soon to help out with that. Last time I talked about the diesel hotspots and you reminded me that Melissa had some sort of box fan filter hack. Not only does diesel have physical health impacts, but it contributes to dementia, too. That could be something we do with the health department.
16. Steven Winter: Giovanni is doing some work in air quality monitoring. We could see what his plan is for that.
17. Melissa Kops: I'd love to do a DIY air filter demonstration.
18. Linda Reeder: There's still COVID around also so it would have multiple benefits.
19. Melissa Kops: This is somewhere we're lacking in our messaging. It's important to have an indoor air purifier to make sure we reduce buildup of particulates inside the house as well. Your largest source of exposure to pollution is indoors—more concentrated outdoors, but you spend more time inside.
20. Melissa Kops: Also, a demonstration using an induction stove. I know a chef in New York that does demonstrations on how to use an induction stove.
21. Latha: links to education campaigns: <https://www.sierraclub.org/san-francisco-bay/blog/2021/08/building-electrification-heat-pump-water-heaters-illustration-vrinda> and <https://www.sarahlawrence.edu/alumni/reunion/art-exhibit/2022/vrinda-manglik.html>
22. Linda Reeder: Could tie it into restaurant week!
23. Kai Addae: Farmer's Markets as well.
24. Steven Winter: How late do the summer ones run?

25. Dawn Henning: Usually until right before Thanksgiving.

- c. Linda shared a link to a [Union of Concerned Scientists report on diesel emissions in Connecticut](#), which are especially high in New Haven given the interstate corridors. Most of these emissions come from medium and heavy duty vehicles. The [legislature authorized DEEP to adopt California's emissions standards](#) for medium and heavy duty vehicles. Professor [Douglass Brugge at UCONN](#) has studied air quality impacts of highways.
 - i. Can Engineering provide an update on potential air quality monitoring systems the City can deploy to monitoring NOx, VOCs, PM2.5, etc?
- d. Heat pump education campaign
 - i. Steve Winter reached out to Bernie Pelletier at People's Action for Clean Energy (PACE) but hasn't heard back yet about whether we should work with PACE or Abode directly on a heat pump education event.
 - ii. Should we focus on one or more educational events (e.g. at libraries)? What are other first steps here?
 1. *Steven Winter: NHS is planning a Heat Pump 101 event in September. Aimed at anyone who's interested in learning about Heat Pumps. September 19, 6:00 PM. In person: NHS of New Haven, 333 Sherman Avenue, Building 3. Doors open at 5:30 – refreshments served. Online: please email kfay@nhsofnewhaven.org for registration link*

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