

MINUTES
NEW HAVEN CLIMATE EMERGENCY TASKFORCE
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10TH, 2024, 5:15 PM

The New Haven Climate Emergency Taskforce (CETF) met on Wednesday, January 10th, 2024 at 5:15 PM and discussed the following items:

1. Approval of minutes from the previous two meetings – because the Taskforce is making decisions regarding spending the funds in the Climate Emergency Taskforce budget (such as supporting I Heart My Home), it is necessary to provide meeting minutes to the City’s Procurement Department.
 - a. Members of the Taskforce asked: who is the quorum and what constitutes approval?**
2. Project updates from the Office of Climate and Sustainability (OCS) staff
 - a. Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) submitted to CT DEEP.
 - i. OCS and the Department of Parks and Public Works applied for a second all-electric refuse to replace an older model. If awarded DERA funding, the state will cover 45% of the costs of both the replacement vehicle and the charging station required to support it.
 - b. Chevy Bolts purchase.
 - i. The City is in the process of purchasing additional Chevy Bolts to replace gas-powered light duty vehicles.
 - ii. Greater New Haven Clean Cities and Save Energy Coalition estimate that each vehicle purchased will save the City \$1,000 annually. OCS will share the Clean Cities report once it is finalized.
 - c. The OCS proposal to the USDA Composting and Food Waste Reduction was selected for funding. The proposal would help Haven’s Harvest food rescue, expand school-based composting, provide technical assistance to food-related businesses, and pilot using Big Belly containers for composting at larger downtown apartment buildings. The full proposal is attached.
 - i. Members of the Taskforce inquired about which schools will be participating in composting.**
 - ii. Steve: The schools participating have not been identified.**
 - d. I Heart My Home canvassing campaign continues.
 - i. We’ve been canvassing neighborhoods (with a focus on those with high shares of 2-4 family, owner-occupied homes) a couple evenings (5-7 pm or so) per week. Please let us know if you’d like to join!
 - ii. Members of the Taskforce asked about where canvassing is occurring.**
 - iii. Steven Winter: Mostly we have been canvassing in the Hill.**
 - e. Healthy Homes, Clean Cooktops

- i. OCS is working with the New Haven Health Department to recruit 6-12 families from the City's Healthy Homes, Lead Abatement, and Triggers Be Gone program to participate in our Healthy Homes, Clean Cooktops campaign.
 - ii. NHHD is confident they can recruit at least 6 families before mid-February, when Yale researchers will begin indoor air quality monitoring.
 - iii. Families will receive a \$100 stipend in addition to their cooktop and cookware set.
- f. Funding the Climate Justice Schools program directly through New Haven Climate Movement (NHCM) for Fiscal year 2023-2024:
 - i. The Taskforce voted to move forward with the proposal on a provisional basis, given that (1) NHCM can provide a more detailed budget (which they have), and (2) Steve can confirm the City procurement process doesn't prove to be an obstacle (which it may be).
 - 1. New Haven Public Schools will continue to pay teachers for their participation. OCS has submitted a request for a contract for NHCM so that they can provide student stipends and purchase supplies.
- g. Shellfish shell recycling program
 - i. Three restaurants are now participating (Shell and Bones, Cast Irone Chef Oyster Bar & Chop House, and Fair Haven Oyster Company).
 - ii. Four bushels of shells have been donated to Sound School for their Oyster Reef Ball project.
 - iii. OCS is conducting outreach this month with Lewis, our Youth@Work intern, to reach additional restaurants serving shellfish.
- h. Solar installations
 - i. The City is working with the Solid Waste Authority on an agreement to access the City landfill.
 - ii. The solar array at the landfill would have a capacity of 750 kW.
- i. Housing Authority decarbonization
 - i. OCS has met with Housing Authority staff to raise the idea of setting a decarbonization goal for the Housing Authority and moving off of fossil fuels during building retrofits and in new construction. The Housing Authority is conducting an inventory of building mechanical systems and determining whether HVAC systems can be moved to heat pumps at their East View Terrace property. OCS and the Housing Authority plan to meet again in February.
 - 1. **Melissa Kops: Was there any discussion about weatherization of older Housing Authority units?**
 - 2. **Steven Winter: The discussion with the Housing Authority focused mainly on heating and domestic hot water systems.**
 - 3. **Melissa Kops: what if existing housing is not energy efficient?**
 - 4. **Steven Winter: Eastview Terrace is 15 years old.**
 - 5. **Melissa Kops: The 2015 International Energy Efficiency Conservation Code was a big jump in required efficiency improvements that wasn't implemented until after 2015.**
 - 6. **Steve: We can raise this issue with the Housing Authority.**

3. Discussion Items:

- a. Request for more information on the status of the New Haven Parking Authority bike share request for proposals, if it is available.
- b. Reminder that the Taskforce has requested that Engineering provide an update on the City's air quality monitoring systems and the development of the air quality dashboard, once they are ready to do so.
- c. Remaining Climate Emergency Taskforce budget. After funding Climate Justice Schools and the Healthy Homes, Clean Cooktops campaign with New Haven Health Department, there will be roughly \$35,000 remaining in the Taskforce budget. What other priorities should the Taskforce fund this fiscal year (ending June 30th)? Here are some ideas:
 - i. One idea that we've mentioned in the past would be to fund other forms of mobility. The state's electric bicycle rebate was exceedingly popular – if the Taskforce were interested, OCS could reach out to CT DEEP to see if we could provide funding for electric bike rebates using the system that CT DEEP has set up.
 - ii. Alternatively, the taskforce could potentially support the bikeshare system, if the Taskforce has more information about how it is set up and it is at a point to receive funding before the end of the year.
 - iii. Another idea relates to tiny homes/ADUs. The administration recently submitted a proposal to the Board of Alders to enable more properties to host accessory dwelling units (ADUs), including removing the owner occupancy requirement and allowing for new detached ADUs. The Climate Emergency Taskforce could provide a prize for an ADU that is sustainably built, energy efficient, and meets the City's zoning requirements. This design would be open to any member of the public for use in their ADUs.
 - iv. Other ideas?

Composting

1. **Steven Winter: We could also support incidentals for school-based composting.**
2. **Melissa Kops: Composting at City Hall could be a good use of funds. I take all of my compost home.**
3. **Linda Reeder: I like something at the ideas of doing something at the school or public housing so that it can have a big impact.**
4. **Doug Hausladen: I like the composting at City Hall – it's a nice confined project that the taskforce has the ability to execute**
5. **Linda Reeder: Composting at City Hall would be walking the walk.**
6. **Steven Winter: We could support schools incidentals as well.**
7. **Linda Reeder: The food service vendor is involved in reducing food waste where I work.**
8. **Latha Swamy: The food service department runs food distribution for NHPS and its facilities people that dispose of composting. The Food Policy Division focused on composting grant when it was first released – we focused on the municipal system but there are many layers of**

buy in needed. We worked to expand composting at Common Ground to make them a model for other schools.

9. Dawn Henning: What are the schools that are currently composting?
10. Latha Swamy: It changes all the time as staff and students move on. This grant is a continuation of previous efforts in having more models.
11. Dawn Henning: where does the compost go?
12. Steven Winter: it is planned to go to the Southington anaerobic digester.
13. Dawn Henning: Could peels and wheels help address this issue?
14. Latha Swamy: it's a business and there's tension between their model and a citywide municipal system. Peels n weels is able to use .01% of what the city's solid waste demand.
15. Latha Swamy: Resources need to go towards education and socialization; early on I learned we did distribute bins for composting.
16. Steven Winter: This could have been backyard composting.
17. Latha Swamy: There was institutional interest then from Public Works; if the group is interested in this there could be a push on this issue.
18. Steven Winter: We can work on budget and talk about this at one of our next meetings.

Bicycle Education

19. Melissa Kops: I like the idea of using e-bikes and schools to get students interested in human-powered mobility; some sort of engagement with the schools on e-bikes; they may turn 16 and need mobility options outside of cars; there could be a program for how to safely ride a bike and providing them to some bicycle access or e-bike access
20. Linda Reeder: What percentage of school students take the bus already? Young people have strong legs and could use regular bikes
21. Steven Winter: you could provide classes with NCAT potentially and support the bikeshare
22. Doug Hausladen: classes that are sponsored by taskforce could be offered; NCAT currently offers these with donor support
23. Latha Swamy: Partnering with CPEN could make sense; they have a trailer of bikes on the Canal Path in Newhallville

Indoor Air Quality

24. Linda Reeder: we could organize an event to educate the public about indoor air quality as climate change worsens air quality
25. Melissa Kops: I can provide an estimate of how much it would cost to build an air filter with a small fan
26. Steven Winter: Max and I can pencil out a budget for this idea.

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