

Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3)
Mitigation Strategies
MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: November 7, 2022

Meeting Time: 2:30 - 4:00 PM

Zoom Recording: [Mitigation Strategies Working Group Meeting Recording](#)

ATTENDANCE: GC3 Working Group Members in bold

Name:
Alanis Allen
David Barkin, Co-chair
Robert Bell, Co-chair
Steve Bright
Ginger Chapman
Hank Cullinane
Evan Dantos
Annie Decker
Aziz Dehkan, Co-chair
Daphne Dixon
Samantha Dynowski
Cathy Fletcher
Rebecca French
Nathan Frohling
Maureen Goulet
Paul Hearn
Adrienne Houel
Jeff Howard
Doris Johnson
Shannon Laun
Cary Lynch
Alex Maxwell
Huan Ngo
Christine O'Neill
Chris Phelps
Allison Pilcher, Equity and Environmental Justice Liaison
Meghan Portfolio
Kate Richard
Marc Richards
Jacob Robison
Alexander Rodriguez
James Root
Nicholas Ross
Charles Rothenberger
Lyle Scruggs
Anji Seth

Hailey Simpson
Becca Trietch, <i>Co-chair</i>
Mike Uhl
Sarah Watson

AGENDA & NOTES

Welcome: Alanis Allen, DEEP Liaison and Rebecca French, Director, Office of Climate Planning

Ground Rules:

- Meeting is recorded and a link will be posted
- Announcement that the chat is public record, but may be used for questions and comments by working group members
- Working group members are asked to post their names and affiliation in the chat
- Reminder that the discussion portion is reserved for working group members
- Announcement that non-working group members should mute and turn video off until public comment
- Shared additional working group participation guidance, which was informed by the EEJ working group

Welcome and Introduction of Co-chairs: David Barkin, Robert Bell, Aziz Dehkan, Becca Trietch

Presentation, CTDOT Current & Future EVSE Installations: Robert Bell

- CTDOT Headquarters have installed five charging installations for fleet, employees, and general public
 - All Level 2 chargers
 - Currently have 7 EV in their fleet
 - Have installed charging stations in New Haven and Thomaston
- Public Transportation:
 - 11 Battery Electric Buses
 - Bus Depots in construction in two municipalities
 - Level 2 chargers at multiple train stations
 - 5 service plazas also have charging stations
- Several more charging stations are in the project design process
- The fire on one electric bus has not delayed projects, there the fire is under review

Presentation, Comprehensive Energy Strategy: Becca Trietch

- Federal funding (IRA and IIJA) has provided significant opportunities
 - Majority in the form of tax credits, but there are substantial opportunities through the EPA and USDA
 - EPA funding will begin being allocated as early as February
 - To keep updated, the Federal Register can be very useful, as can Energy.gov

- Building out stakeholder engagement for Comprehensive Energy Strategy
 - Committed thus far to technical sessions
 - Written comment opportunities are occurring, and they are endeavoring to make them as accessible as possible to communities
 - Expanding stakeholder forums could be a good strategy
 - In 2023, they will draft CES
- Energy conservation and clean energy development plans in Bridgeport aligned with DOE priorities
- Began by creating partnerships
 - Developed Bridgeport Regional Energy Partnership (BREP)
 - Comprised of 45 members from all-communities in Bridgeport
 - Created community outreach plan in collaboration with community stakeholders and leadership members
- 9 elements of LEAP's scope of work (selection below)
 - Includes community outreach
 - Near-term community driven projects (environmental justice)
 - Community capacity cataloging and gaps assessment
 - Renewable energy tech workshops to inform communities what is available
- Notes they are hiring for a Community Engagement Coordinator

Presentation, USDOE Communities Local Energy Action Program (LEAP) -

Bridgeport: Adrienne Farrar Houel

- One of only 24 cities across the nation that received this opportunity
- Presented proposal to DOE about “Little Liberia” in the South End of Bridgeport, which has resiliency concerns
- Justice 40 gave strength to their proposal
- Bridgeport suffers from energy burden (50% of households), which is exacerbated by the volume of low-income communities (75%)

Questions and Breakout Group Discussions: *For full comments please see the Zoom recording and/or audio transcript*

- Working group members break into two groups: Transportation and Energy

Chat Record for Energy Breakout Group:

15:47:28 From Rebecca French, DEEP Office Climate Planning : IRP is the Integrated Resource Plan which is our energy supply planning document put out by CT DEEP

15:47:46 From Jeff Howard (CT DEEP) : Specifically electricity.

15:50:26 From Anji Seth : Can town energy task forces be employed for stakeholder input?

15:50:30 From Christine O'Neill (NVCOG) : Does the CES discuss Waste-to-Energy at all? I did not see it covered in the 2018 Plan.

15:51:27 From Shannon Laun, CLF : Is there funding available to update that analysis?

15:52:40 From Mike Uhl | System Smart : [Adrienne] How do you see this community engagement outreach and communication aligning with the Community Partnership Initiative offered by the Utilities (in relationship to the weatherization activities)? How do you think the Bridgeport scope supercedes it?

15:53:35 From Mike Uhl | System Smart to Rebecca French, DEEP Office Climate Planning(Direct Message) : I welcome the breakout. Just recognize that all the feedback can't be provided within that time window. It's a step in the right direction for more narrow topics.

15:54:01 From Lyle Scruggs : There is a potential win-win for utilities and disadvantaged communities with strong weatherization in these areas. Households that are getting energy subsidies will need fewer subsidies if their homes are weatherized. The utility will have less energy demanded from those areas AND thus pay fewer energy subsidies.

15:55:02 From Lyle Scruggs : Disadvantaged household will be more energy independent as a result.

15:57:35 From Adrienne Houel : Utilities are participating with BREP and so I expect their input going forward with specific programming. Wz has been cut back severely since Obama's AARA dried up and there is a world of buildings both residential and commercial needing weatherization. DEEP has a big program coming up, CAP agencies as well, so there is plenty of coordination to be done.

15:58:13 From Nathan Frohling, The Nature Conservancy : Congratulations Rebecca!

15:58:16 From Anji Seth : Congratulations, Rebecca!

15:58:31 From Maureen Goulet : Congrats!

15:59:05 From Maureen Goulet : I have to leave, thanks for an informative meeting.

15:59:13 From Adrienne Houel : Congratulations Rebecca!

16:01:42 From Mike Uhl | System Smart : What proportion of stakeholder feedback is received by DEEP in meetings that it organizes, compared to meetings where it participates amongst the community?

Public Comments: *For full comments please see the Zoom recording and/or audio transcript*

Alexander Rodriguez: Wants to comment about the interagency coordination related to current energy proceedings. Believes it is very important that DEEP and DOT regularly consult one another, as there is a large focus on decarbonizing the grid in EJ communities and longer-term transportation decarbonization efforts underway. This creates an opportunity to merge these initiatives in EJ communities.

Adjourn and Next Steps:

- Rebecca notes this is the last working group meeting for Mitigation Strategies
- Announces environmental justice joint working group meeting for November 14th from 4:30 – 6:00 PM
- Rebecca gives overview of upcoming EEJ meeting and what to expect
- Rebecca provides brief overview of timeline for the rest of the GC3 process

Resources:

[Biden-Harris Administration Seeks Public Input on Inflation Reduction Act's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund](#)
[DEEP Notice of Technical Meetings](#)

Chat Record:

00:20:09 Christine O'Neill: Hello! Christine O'Neill, Environmental Planner with NVCOG. Happy to be part of this important group.

00:20:29 Anji Seth: Hi, Anji Seth here, from UConn Geography. I am liaising from Science and Technology working group.

00:20:44 Aziz Dehkan: Hello. Aziz Dehkan, Executive Director CT Roundtable on Climate and Jobs

00:21:06 Shannon Laun: Hi all - Shannon Laun, attorney and CT state director for Conservation Law Foundation.

00:21:07 Nathan Frohling, The Nature Conservancy: Hello everyone, Nathan Frohling, Dir. of External Affairs, TNC

00:21:21 Daphne Dixon: Hi, Daphne Dixon, Live Green CT and CT SWA Clean Cities Coalition

00:21:31 Allison Pilcher: Hi all! Allison Pilcher, Policy Director with the Connecticut Roundtable on Climate and Jobs

00:21:45 Alexander Rodriguez: Hi all - Alex Rodriguez, Env. Justice Specialist, Save the Sound

00:21:59 Cathy Fletcher, City of Bridgeport: Hi everyone! Cathy Fletcher, planner at the City of Bridgeport

00:22:33 David Barkin:
<https://www.jobapscloud.com/CT/sup/bulpreview.asp?R1=221031&R2=4799MP&R3=001>

00:23:59 Shannon Laun: Becca, when will DEEP post the recordings and slides from the CES technical sessions?

00:24:26 Jacob Robison: Jacob Robison, Senior Project Manager, New Haven City Plan

00:25:11 Becca Trietch - CT DEEP: Hi Shannon! We're working on getting the recordings and slides posted this week.

00:25:44 Shannon Laun: Thanks, Becca

00:27:52 Anji Seth: Becca, could you post a link to where comments will be accepted?

00:28:46 Rebecca French, DEEP Office Climate Planning: If you would like to sign up for public comment, please send a direct message to Alanis Allen. Both members of the public and working group members can provide public comment. Public comment is the time to bring up off-topic items. We ask that the discussion focus on the presentation topics of the day as the presenters may not be prepared to answer all questions on any topic.

00:31:03 Becca Trietch - CT DEEP: Hi Anji! Yes, here is the notice that explains the written comment submittal process: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/energy/CES/Notice-of-technical-meetings-5--6CESFINAL.pdf>

00:31:48 Anji Seth: Thank you!

00:33:41 Rebecca French, DEEP Office Climate Planning: @robert bell. Is the charging infrastructure built out for the bus public transit system?

00:35:11 Rebecca French, DEEP Office Climate Planning: Can school buses use the bus public transit charging stations?

00:40:45 Rebecca French, DEEP Office Climate Planning: GGRF = Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund

00:42:10 Rebecca French, DEEP Office Climate Planning: Here is a link to the EPA Press Release about their public engagement process: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-seeks-public-input-inflation-reduction-acts-greenhouse-gas>

00:50:13 Anji Seth: so much great information. I will look forward to the slides. Thank you.

01:03:44 Rebecca French, DEEP Office Climate Planning: NREL is the Dept. of Energy National Renewable Energy Lab <https://www.nrel.gov/>

01:11:50 Rebecca French, DEEP Office Climate Planning: houel@greenteambpt.com

01:12:23 Daphne Dixon: Thank you Adrienne! Great presentation.

01:35:13 Mike Uhl | System Smart: [Adrienne] How do you see this community engagement outreach and communication aligning with the Community Partnership Initiative

offered by the Utilities (in relationship to the weatherization activities)? How do you think the Bridgeport scope supercedes it?

01:36:34 Lyle Scruggs: There is a potential win-win for utilities and disadvantaged communities with strong weatherization in these areas. Households that are getting energy subsidies will need fewer subsidies if their homes are weatherized. The utility will have less energy demanded from those areas AND thus pay fewer energy subsidies.

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