

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

Meeting Date: October 19, 2022

Meeting Time: 1:30 - 3:00 PM

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

ATTENDANCE: GC3 Working Group Members in bold

Name:
Alanis Allen
Paul Aresta
David Barkin, <i>Co-chair</i>
Stephanie Bahramian
Robert Bell, <i>Co-chair</i>
Tom Bontly, Science & Technology Liaison
Steve Bright
Ginger Chapman
Leticia Colon de Mejias
Hank Cullinane
Evan Dantos
Daphne Dixon
Mary Donegan (she/her)
Cecelia Drayton
Samantha Dynowski she/her
Paul Farrell
Kathleen Fay
Cathy Fletcher
Rebecca French
Nathan Frohling
Maureen Goulet
Jack Healy
Adrienne Houel
Shubhada Kambli

Melissa Kops
Gannon Long
Emma MacDonald
Tenee Mack
Robert Maddox
Alex Maxwell (he/him)
Michele Melley
Huan Ngo
Christine O'Neill
Bernard Pelletier
Chris Phelps
Francis Pickering
Allison Pilcher, Equity and Environmental Justice Liaison
Kate Richard (she/her)
Alexander Rodriguez
N. Ross
Charles Rothenberger
Lyle Scruggs
Lynn Towill
Becca Trietch, <i>Co-chair</i>
Mike Uhl

AGENDA & NOTES

Welcome: Alanis Allen, DEEP Liaison

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

Welcome and Introduction of Co-chairs:

Introduction: David Barkin, Robert Bell, Aziz Dehkan, Becca Trietch

- Comprehensive Energy Strategy: 2 technical sessions upcoming on October 3rd and November 4th
- Federal highway administration approved electric vehicle charging program under the IIJA
 - Working on program roll out now

Role of the GC3, Rebecca French, Director, DEEP Office of Climate Planning:

- Overview of the GC3 charge:
- Launched in September of 2020 with Executive Order 3 and presented the report of their findings and recommendations in January 2021
 - 61 recommendations were advanced to the Governor
- Executive Order 21-3 was signed in December of 2021 and advanced additional initiatives, like expanding the role of equity and environmental justice
 - Also expanded the duration of GC3
- Working groups were reconvened in 2022 after an open call for members and reshuffling of the group topics
 - Created cross cutting working group themes
 - Ensured utilization of equity and environmental justice lens
 - Strengthened work across municipal and regional officials
- Currently in implementation mode for the working groups following policies and other work done by agencies
- Leveraging new and expanded state and federal climate programs, which is a change following the Biden Administration
- Timeline review: annual reporting requirement culminates in a presentation to Governor in December

Presentation, 2022 CT Building Code: Changes to the Energy Code, David Barkin:

- First state to adopt 2021 ICC Family of Codes
 - Connecticut has often been behind on codes, so this is significant
 - Efficiency increases for state construction
- Summary findings:
 - Code has evolved from 2015 to 2021
 - HVAC New requirements:
 - Data enter mechanical load components
 - Demand controlled ventilation
 - Increased equipment efficiency requirements

- Lighting:
 - Additional LPD reductions
 - Automatic control of receptacle loads
 - Daylighting controls requirement
- Envelope:
 - Air leakage testing requirements
 - Infiltration reductions
 - Interlocking operable openings with HVAC system
- Energy Impacts:
 - Moving to this code results in significant energy cost savings and reduced gas emissions both annually and cumulatively
 - Projects increase in job creation from adoption of codes
 - Average new-home builds would see reduced costs

Presentation, *High Performance Building Standards, Greener Gov., Connecticut Clean Economy Council, Shubhada Kambli:*

- High performance building standards:
 - Standards help to achieve goals related to energy and emission conduction while driving economic growth
 - These apply to both new construction and renovations, including certain state buildings and schools
 - 2021 the General Assembly passed a law to allow DEEP to update high performance building codes
 - Currently reviewing the International Code to incorporate decarbonization into the high-performance regulations
 - On track to release the standards by the end of the year
 - Intent it to begin implementation by June 2023
- Greener Gov:
 - Gov. Lamont expanded the state's "lead-by-example" program to shift from energy efficiency to carbon emissions
 - Charged the executive branch with reducing environmental impacts
 - Target of 45% reduction of GHG emissions by 2040, as well as other targets in water consumption decreases
 - Have a public-facing dashboard to share target progress and achievements with the public
 - Currently in the process of finding a consultant to assist with decarbonization effort
 - Question - Nathan Frohling: Can Shubhada speak more about the consultant position?
 - Are required to do a level of strategic planning to ensure a certain level of decarbonization, which hasn't happened, so they need some support to assist in this initiative

- Connecticut Clean Economy Council:
 - Goal is to identify opportunities made available from the state and federal government to scale local economic opportunities related to climate change
 - Council will form working groups to address different sectors
 - Expected to convene quarterly
 - Will conduct need assessments to inform the state strategy
 - Intend to prioritize equity initiatives
 - Details are still forthcoming

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

- Question - Melissa Kops: Will there be a focus on zero energy in the high-performance standards?
 - Michelle Melley: Yes, we are looking at this. We are working towards the goal of zero energy.
- Question - Francis Pickering: Building code improvements seem to address the building itself versus the site, like through zoning and orientation. Is there an intent to address this?
 - Michelle Melley: Yes, there are EOs that require a certain amount of solar installation
 - David Barkin: In meeting the standards, the orientation of buildings will impact the ability to meet those standards, so while there is no mandating, it is something to consider in implementation
- Question - Lyle Scruggs: What is the turnover of housing affected by updating code? Is there some analysis for retrofits or innovation?
 - David Barkin: Building code applies to new construction, so if you aren't changing the building, you aren't obligated to make it compliant
 - Lyle Scruggs: How much impact do we expect over what period?
 - David Barkin: Systems in residential homes will operate on a replacement cycle instead of a new-build cycle. There are incentives for utilities to comply, as well.
- Question - Gannon Long: State buildings are charged with being carbon-free. What are the plans to transition the newly acquired plant to zero-carbon?
 - David Barkin: The state is planning to spend the money needed to replace systems, but it's not yet known the exact plan as an engineering study will need to take place.
- Question - Melissa Kops: Is there a clear carbon reduction strategy along with an emissions strategy? Are there electrification goals for state buildings? Is the Governor intending to propose a stretch code this year?
 - Melissa also recommends not having orientation standards for solar, as it can be too prescriptive

- Ryan Ensling: As of now, the focus is on decarbonization, and electrification will follow
- David Barkin: The high-performance code really is a stretch code
- Rebecca French: Typically hear agency proposals for agencies and Governor's bills in December and January
- Comment – Bernard Pelletier: Urges people to prioritize decarbonization with the recently purchased power plant. Also notes that parking lots are untapped potential to contributing to solar power.
 - David Barkin: Agrees that parking lots are a no-brainer
- Question – Francis Pickering: Responding to Melissa and says that orientation could be a more cost-effective approach
 - David Barkin: Agrees that passive strategies can be advantageous
- Question – Leticia Colon de Meijas: What is the update on removing barriers to efficiency on 1-4-unit housing?
 - Ssubhada Kambli: Refers the question to a colleague
 - Leticia Colon de Meijas: Concerned that she cannot serve her clients at Energize CT without this information
 - Rebecca French: Noted that the EEJ group met yesterday (10/18) and will be working on highlighting existing resources and how EEJ is being factored into their implementation efforts
 - Leticia Colon de Meijas: Urges the group to demonstrate more intentionality around vulnerable groups who are experiencing environmental injustice
- Question – Christine O'Neil: Notes that all agencies are supposed to implement food waste diversion programs by 2024, but that we are currently very behind on that. Are there steps being taken to rectify that?
 - Ryan Ensling: Started pilot project on organics that was implemented last month. Intend to work collaboratively to increase composting, but challenges have arisen among low office attendances. This may lead to a shift in programming to schools, carceral systems, and other places that are open more reliably.
 - Christine O'Neil: Open to further conversations and collaboration on this topic
- Question – Stephanie Bahramian: Partnered with direct composting and raising money to designate pick-up sites, which would increase reach without increasing price. Notes this is working well in Bloomfield, and she would like to work with others to scale this.
 - Rebecca French: Going to refer this comment to Materials Management

Public Comments: *For full comments please see the Zoom recording and/or audio transcript*
None

Closing Comments:

Adjourn and Next Steps:

Resources:

[Technical Session: Comprehensive Energy Strategy](#)

[GC3 Working Group Reports](#)

[GC3 Phase 1 Report, Jan. 2021](#)

[Greener Gov](#)

[Greener Gov Dashboard](#)

[EO 21-3](#)

Chat Record:

00:23:22 Rebecca French, CT DEEP Climate Planning: To rename, hover over your name and click on the "... " and select "rename"

00:24:00 Kathleen Fay: Kathy Fay, NHS of New Haven, member - buildings subcommittee of working group.

00:24:18 Rebecca French, CT DEEP Climate Planning: Rebecca French, Director of the Office of Climate Planning

00:24:26 Cathy Fletcher, City of Bridgeport: Hi all. Cathy Fletcher, planner, from City of Bridgeport.

00:24:51 Becca Trietch (she/her) - CT DEEP: Here is the notice for the upcoming Comprehensive Energy Strategy Technical Sessions:
[https://www.dpuc.state.ct.us/DEEPEnergy.nsf/c6c6d525f7cdd1168525797d0047c5bf/b451e9314c2eb801852588e0004c5c11/\\$FILE/Notice%20of%20technical%20meetings%205%20&%206_CES_FINAL.pdf](https://www.dpuc.state.ct.us/DEEPEnergy.nsf/c6c6d525f7cdd1168525797d0047c5bf/b451e9314c2eb801852588e0004c5c11/$FILE/Notice%20of%20technical%20meetings%205%20&%206_CES_FINAL.pdf)

00:24:54 Allison Pilcher - CT Roundtable on Climate & Jobs: Hi everyone! Allison Pilcher (she/her), Policy Director for the Connecticut Roundtable on Climate and Jobs

00:24:56 Mary Donegan (she/her) - UConn: Mary Donegan, Urban and Community Studies (urban planning) faculty, UConn

00:27:11 Francis Pickering: Francis Pickering, Western Connecticut Council of Governments

00:27:28 Christine O'Neill (NVCOG): Christine O'Neill, Environmental Planner - Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

00:28:55 Bernard Pelletier: Bernie Pelletier, PACE (People's Action for Clean Energy)

00:30:11 Tenee Mack: Hi everyone, Tenée Mack, Energy Efficiency Programs Manager - Operation Fuel

00:31:38 Alex Maxwell (he/him), Fuss & O'Neill: Hello! Alex Maxwell (he/him), Fuss & O'Neill | Mitigation Strategies Working Group

00:31:44 Alanis Allen, DEEP Office of Climate Planning: Working Group Reports:
<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Climate-Change/GC3/GC3-Working-group-reports>

00:39:14 Cathy Fletcher, City of Bridgeport: Nov 14

00:39:19 Alanis Allen, DEEP Office of Climate Planning: ^^

00:40:25 Alanis Allen, DEEP Office of Climate Planning: January 2021 GC3 Report:
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/climatechange/GC3/GC3_Phase1_Report_Jan2021.pdf

00:40:41 Gannon Long, Operation Fuel. she/her: can you share this in presenter mode please? Thank you, it's easier to see that way!

00:41:55 Stephanie Bahramian: please see above

00:49:34 Alanis Allen, DEEP Office of Climate Planning:
https://www.energycodes.gov/sites/default/files/2021-07/ConnecticutResidentialCostEffectiveness_2021_0.pdf
https://www.energycodes.gov/sites/default/files/2021-07/Cost-effectiveness_of_ASHRAE_Standard_90-1-2019-Connecticut.pdf

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fneep.org%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Fmedia-files%2F2021%2520IECC%2520One-Page%2520rev%252020211221.pdf&data=05%7C01%7CDavid.Barkin%40ct.gov%7C1f601d5196fe4b33817308daad19ff2f%7C118b7cfaa3dd48b9b02631ff69bb738b%7C0%7C0%7C638012624573948123%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ADA5s%2FH4ln3ygYq9i8dBcEOYNDmwz7NKlkYTplGq%2Bws%3D&reserved=0>

00:49:48 Alanis Allen, DEEP Office of Climate Planning: ^links from presentation

00:50:25 Michele Melley: What entity conducted this residential code analysis? Is this something CT did or FED government?

00:50:49 Starley Arias (CT DEEP): Shubhada Kambli
Director of Building and Transportation Decarbonization
Bureau of Energy and Technology Policy
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
Email: Shubhada.Kambli@CT.Gov

00:52:21 Lyle Scruggs: What is the "turnover" of housing stock affected by updated codes? Is there some sort of analysis of retrofit or innovation (sorry if these were answered in part of the the talk that I missed)

00:57:26 Rebecca French, CT DEEP Climate Planning: Fun facts from GC3 2021 report: Recommendation 7d was . Proactively use building codes to accelerate energy efficiency. The State should continue to keep pace with adopting the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and consider strategies to further enhance opportunities to improve energy efficiency through high-performance and stretch codes and construction and renovation practices

00:58:27 Rebecca French, CT DEEP Climate Planning: <https://portal.ct.gov/GreenerGov>

00:58:35 Ryan Ensling (CT DEEP): <https://data.ct.gov/stories/s/GreenerGov-CT-Dashboard-Progress/g8sp-hjfk/>

01:02:28 N Ross: FYI - The 2021 IECC residential analysis study was performed by DOE's Pacific Northwest National Lab.

01:03:23 Gannon Long, Operation Fuel. she/her: how does the CDECCA plant on Capitol Ave in Hartford that the state just bought, which is mostly depreciated and runs on natural gas, fit into the state's plan for zero carbon buildings by next year?

01:03:31 Maureen Goulet: <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-08/case-study-social-impact-bonds-for-housing-revitalization-richmond-california-2021-08-23.pdf>

01:04:19 Maureen Goulet: Just adding info on EPA Brownfields project that was done in Richmond CA using social impact bonds and brownfields remediation funds to address homes that needed rehabilitation.

01:06:31 Gannon Long, Operation Fuel. she/her: question for DAS (and anyone else with knowledge on this): how does the CDECCA plant on Capitol Ave in Hartford that the state just bought, which is mostly depreciated and runs on natural gas, fit into the state's plan for zero carbon buildings by next year?

01:09:50 Rebecca French, CT DEEP Climate Planning: presenters today were addressing actions from E021-3: <https://portal.ct.gov/ConnecticutClimateAction/Executive-Order/Executive-Order-No-21-3>

01:13:10 Samantha Dynowski she/her Sierra Club CT: + Gannon Long. Transitioning CDECCA from polluting fossil fuels to clean energy is the first opportunity to meet the provisions in EO 21- 3 to plan for all state building heating and cooling to be zero carbon. Will improve air quality in Hartford, public health and address climate. The time is now for this project.

01:15:00 Gannon Long, Operation Fuel. she/her: My question refers to to EO 21-3, part 3D, which states: "By 2023, DEEP and DAS shall develop a plan to retrofit existing fossil fuel-

based heating and cooling systems at state buildings to systems capable of being operated without carbon emitting fuels."

01:16:22 Leticia Colon de Mejias: What is the progress on helping 1- 4 unit housing to help remove barriers to efficiency thermal upgrades, or solar and mini split combos? When we reported the barriers we noted that 1- 4 unit housing has the highest rates of barriers- but the plan that has been laid out has no help for 1-4 units in CT.

01:17:28 Gannon Long, Operation Fuel. she/her: so the state didn't have a plan before buying it? hmm. Thanks David, please let us know how the public can stay up to date on this.

01:17:32 Leticia Colon de Mejias: Back up data is for healthy homes can be reviewed here. <https://efficiencyforall.org/wordpress/2021/03/01/addressing-health-and-affordability-challenges-for-low-income-families/>

01:20:18 Leticia Colon de Mejias: ++ Melissa on saving energy is state buildings, and MK- does electrification also include solar when you say it? Because LMI and renters still are having no access to solar in CT. Solar has not reached the LMI or communities of color- which is the opposite of shared equity on clean energy- Our Gov. had an exc order on equity as it related to climate. What is the state doing to ensure EQUAL access efficiency and solar in 1-4 unit housing in CT.

01:20:22 Mike Uhl | System Smart (he/him): Related to the earlier question re: existing buildings and homes - Has the State quantified the proportion of the carbon goals that are dependent on efficiency improvements in existing homes? If the state is unclear about the current and planned programs operated by the Utilities (as just stated), do you have a strategy on reaching the State goals such that the Utility or Federal programs are clear to support them?

01:20:26 Christine O'Neill (NVCOG): Is the Building Code phasing out gas hookups in new construction?

01:21:37 Samantha Dynowski she/her Sierra Club CT: + Leticia Colon de Mejias on placing a focus on serving low-income households in EJ communities with more funding for energy efficiency, solar and building electrification

01:21:37 Leticia Colon de Mejias: Also if Equity is important should we be looking at the equity lens on energy and equity which was laid out by volunteers and Marriane Engelman Lado and myself and students- What is the purpose of creating documents or orders if no one reads or follows them?

01:24:13 Gannon Long, Operation Fuel. she/her: Regarding CDECCA and DAST would also be great if the state could consider an ownership model of the plant that doesn't remove it entirely from Hartford's tax rolls. That is an inequitable approach to dealing with fossil fuels in an environmental justice community with high asthma rates.

01:24:45 Leticia Colon de Mejias: What is the state doing to ensure equal access to information that would inform and engage the communities in planning, or accessing any of these offerings? How will those who are not informed be informed and engaged- if no one intentionally ensures equal access to basic information like climate education, or energy education.

01:28:52 Francis Pickering: Apparently my connection glitched so -- what I intended to say was that solar orientation can make a substantial difference in energy demand. Use of performance rather than technology based standards may result in buildings taking a lowest cost approach to achieve energy use reductions, which sometimes may result in more appropriate solar orientation.

01:29:11 Melissa Kops | CT Green Building Council: ++ Leticia 1 - 4 unit housing should have access health barrier remediation.

01:34:11 Leticia Colon de Mejias: If you don't own a Car- how will education on EV help you- they use the bus..

01:35:11 Leticia Colon de Mejias: How sick is it that demand reduction lowers pollution- EV's increase pollution - and because EV's are heavier when they drive the release more PFAs than gas cars. EV= Elc increase

01:35:37 Leticia Colon de Mejias: HOW DO PEOPLE get on EJ working groups?

01:36:43 Stephanie Bahramian: No Leticia, we all know you and your work and please don't undermine the work of others

01:37:07 Stephanie Bahramian: And quite frankly I am tired of listening to you shout

01:42:19 Leticia Colon de Mejias: DEEP is lying and rubber stamping and it is sick nasty and it is exclusion of the meaningful engagement of People of color. You have left us with have NO access to solar- that is exclusion. ALSO it is exclusion to exclude people who know what you are doing- because you want to play smoke and mirror games with our lives. When you exclude our voices- you harm us- when you lie to us you harm us- when you play hide the money - you harm us- and that hurts.

01:44:14 Leticia Colon de Mejias: DEEP allows the green bank to fund specific companies to come to CT and take the work from the CT residents and businesses- DEEP lifts the IPC and Green bank and the rich in general- they get the EV-s while we get the power plants- WTH? ALSO - why would this plan exclude experts from presenting on real work and real outcomes that have been REAL and documented for over 10 years now?

01:47:23 Christine O'Neill (NVCOG): Stephanie, totally agree with that example.

01:48:42 Leticia Colon de Mejias: @stepahine Bahramian - not offense - If you knew the truth about EJ in CT or EJ anywhere- you would not say that- You have no idea what has happened to our communities- it is sick what they do our people- it is an election year.. they should care about us- we are humans also . I don't care what you think- because you clearly don't care about people who have nothing and have been overlooked this entire time by DEEP and the state of CT. Solar for all has not reached US - yet we keep funding fake research by fake people that are PAID highly .. EJ matters- and If people had a chance or any information maybe they could connect???? BUT THEY DON'T HAVE ANY INFO _ and they picked EV to educate on - as if those in need- want an EV - vs a house that is livable? or a job? or safety?

01:49:11 Cathy Fletcher, City of Bridgeport: Stephanie - can you please share the link to the program?

01:49:45 Alanis Allen, DEEP Office of Climate Planning: You can send to DEEP.ClimateChange@ct.gov

01:50:05 Leticia Colon de Mejias: @stephaine - Or they could use the budget - to tell people - which is called education- and education would connect them to your work... they have budgets.. they can educate on TV- radio- schools- community centers- the Y- ect ... keep going your work is important!

01:50:25 Gannon Long, Operation Fuel. she/her: @Cecelia, would love to see Hartford pick up on that composting plan!

01:50:44 Leticia Colon de Mejias: <https://efficiencyforall.org/wordpress/efa-ct-workforce-program/>

01:50:52 Stephanie Bahramian: https://www.patronicity.com/project/bloomfield_organic_waste_curbside_pickup_program#!/

01:51:00 Leticia Colon de Mejias: <https://efficiencyforall.org/wordpress/publications/>

01:51:10 Huan Ngo: Thank you, all!