
**Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3)
FINANCING AND FUNDING ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE
WORKING GROUP
BREAK OUT SESSION NOTES**

Meeting Date: 10/7/2020

Meeting Time: 5:20-6

Meeting Location: ZOOM

ATTENDANCE

Wayne Cobleigh
Rebecca French
Mary Pelletier
Alexandra Daum
Tanya Dwyer
Allen Kratz
Amy Paterson
Ann Pratt
Bryan Garcia
Charles Rothenberger
Curt Johnson
David Blatt
David Sutherland
Diane Hoffman
Diane Lauricella
Frogard Ryan
George Bradner
Heather Aaron
James Finch
Joseph Wraithwall
Kelly O'Brien
Kimberly Stoner
Kris Kuhn
Lynn Johnson
Nathan Frohling
Patrice Gillespie
Peter Hentschel
Randall Anway
Rick Newton
Rick Norris
Robert Bell
Robert LaFrance
Samantha Dynowski
William Cavers
Yuliya Kalmykova
Zell Steever

AGENDA & NOTES

Wayne Cobleigh – notes question about helping municipalities with funding? Notes that this was a top recommendation from the Working Group (WG).

George Bradner – Need to have a dashboard of projects that are known for the state to tap into when federal funding becomes available, FEMA BRIC program one example.

Mary Pelletier – Siloed funding problem. Is there funding for nature?

Wayne Cobleigh – FEMA BRIC does provide funding.

Mary Pelletier – Incentive funding for watershed scale funding?

Curt Johnson – Recommendation for \$35M/year for nature-based solutions. Noting that federal grants require state matching funds. Lack of funding for engineering and implementation. Nature-based solutions \$500K to \$3-5M cost, which is why state bond funds important.

George Bradner – Looking for ways to fund projects?

Mary Pelletier – Recommend pilot for 4-6 watersheds to include coastal, upland and inland communities looking for visible results.

Wayne Cobleigh – Notes Resilient Connecticut as an example for an overall state forum and putting together projects at a regional scale.

Bryan Garcia – Suggestion in response add funding 6 pilots as part of the Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund 10% set aside.

Jim Finch – Noting PA19-77 climate change and coastal resiliency funds allowing municipalities to start setting aside funds to be the match. Connecticut has the short-term investment fund, set up something like a mutual fund to help communities save funding for project that there may be a need for this. It is the infrastructure for setting that up. The short-term investment fund is a good way to start. Branford is putting PA 19-77 into place. Look at resilience projects as long-term liabilities. The rating agencies as part of their ESG analysis have looked at those endeavors as being favorable

Robert LaFrance – Municipal conveyance would be a way to put funds into the municipalities savings for resilience projects.

Wayne Cobleigh – Could we set up something like a state match for any funds a municipality puts away?

Jim Finch – Inequities of FEMA reimbursements. If matched funds from wealthier funds that could exacerbate the inequity challenge.

Diane Lauricella – Suggestion for sources of funding 1) Selective enforcement of environmental law for funds. 2) climate penalty for insurers in Connecticut fund climate-damaging industries throughout the world.

George Bradner – CHUB and AIG and Hartford looking at what they are insuring in this area.

Samantha Dynowski - Study \$245 billion invested in fossil fuel companies from insurance companies and insuring fossil fuel companies. Assessing a fee when they insure or invest in those companies. Proceeds from lawsuits is another source of funding.

George Bradner – how do we balance not wanting insurance companies to leave

Samantha Dynowski – Companies located in Connecticut should respect what we are trying. Those companies leaving is a risk for employees.

Curt Johnson – Noting gross profits petroleum tax as a palatable tax as opposed to the gas tax. Banding together with 10-11 other states to fund the Transportation and Climate Initiative for carbon fees.

Mary Pelletier – State gives funds to municipalities and could incentive that through the dollars distributed to municipalities. Implementation of projects on state property grounds in Hartford to advance climate change resiliency.

Samantha Dynowski – concerns that it is necessary to set a minimum percentage for funds spent on climate equity.

Rothenberger – explanation of Transportation and Climate Initiative. Set an emissions cap and emissions under that cap can be sold and reinvested in additional mitigation or adaptation measures. Robust conversation around the equitable use of those funds.

Rebecca French – Flagging the statutory language for enabling stormwater authority

Curt Johnson – Bond funds could be used as an incentive to municipalities to start these authorities.

Bryan Garcia – Connecticut advocating at a national level for a national green bank and prioritizes vulnerable communities with a percentage of investment.

George Bradner – Reinsurance companies creating bonds to insure the barrier reef there. Monies are paid out to go and repair the reef. It is paid for by the businesses along that shoreline. How could we work with the insurance industry to create a bond to make an investment.

David Sutherland – Clarified that the CT Green Bank is interested in both an Environmental Infrastructure Bank at the state and federal level.

Rebecca French – Asking for feedback on recommendation to Governor that he convene the foundation and philanthropic community on the topic of climate change.

Mary Pelletier – Hartford Foundation for Public Giving is one of the largest in the country. Need to

fund upstarts and unproven efforts to spur innovation. Concern that foundation and philanthropic community could be risk adverse.

Tanya Dwyer – Concerned about relying on philanthropy and often missing things that are crucial. Suggestion to create a market for entities that are doing good things, such as carbon credits for sustainable farming and fixing the coastline for carbon sequestration.

Jim Finch – following up on comment in chat on credit unions that are getting involved with helping on social justice issues. Could we do the same on climate issues? Credit Unions are community-based, but may not be looking at these opportunities.

Mary Pelletier – Noting the developers are not covered. Developers are pushing on municipalities. Need to rethink residential sprawl and those are developer-driven conventions that are not particularly green.

George Bradner – might cover this issue under Strategy #2

Chat Record

17:34:22 From Rebecca French : Everyone should feel free to share feedback from the chat as well.

17:35:15 From Tanya Dwyer : Have we considered off-sets e.g. companies that cannot get to carbon neutral immediately can pay farmers for carbon sink credits. CT or private company like Nori can track the carbon sinking and carbon credits with block chain technology for transparency. Sorry if this is already in the repost, I'm not familiar with the recs yet!

17:36:17 From Joseph Wraithwall : I know we've discussed them before, but invigorating the resources available to municipalities to address climate impacts in updated Local Hazard Mitigation Plans allows for both pre- and post-hazard mitigation funding

17:40:32 From Mary Pelletier : It would be helpful to have pilot projects in multiple locations, inland and coastal, so as to explore a range of implementation strategies.

17:41:35 From Rebecca French : The main message here is we need to build capacity to be more competitive for federal funds.

17:41:42 From Joseph Wraithwall : For those who are interested, I believe the source of that funding for Resilient Connecticut was the National Disaster Resilience Competition from the federal Housing and Urban Development Agency using Community Development Block Grants.

17:41:46 From Rebecca French : For Strategy 1.

17:41:58 From Robert LaFrance : is there a link to follow Resilient CT?

17:42:09 From robert bell : unfortunately have to leave in a few minutes to get to a 6:00 apt

17:42:20 From Rebecca French : resilientconnecticut.uconn.edu

17:42:34 From Curt Johnson : Agree we have a big backlog on projects and we need to find funding. Good point Wayne. We need big state funding.

17:42:59 From Robert LaFrance : Thanks Rebecca!

17:43:15 From Kimberly Stoner : Have written to the State Treasurer saying we should stop putting investment into fossil fuel funds. This sounds like a great alternative investment.

17:43:17 From Mary Pelletier : In order to be more competitive for federal, and foundation funding, there needs to be collaborative support from local, state and regional environmental organizations. Incentive funding for collaboration might help.

17:43:28 From FRogard Ryan : Can we learn from what MA and RI are providing in terms of funding of Community Resilience building and subsequent projects?

17:43:34 From Rebecca French to Wayne Cobleigh(Privately) : Can you screen shot all of the participant names for me for our notes? I cannot do it while I am screen sharing.

17:44:10 From Curt Johnson : Mass is providing significant tens of \$millions. RI a bit less. Important.

17:44:42 From Kimberly Stoner : Also - insurance companies - it would benefit them to invest in resilience projects instead of putting billions in investment in fossil fuel companies.

- 17:44:45 From FRogard Ryan : +1 Curt Johnson
- 17:44:53 From Amy Paterson : Enabling legislation (i.e. not a mandate) to give municipalities the option to establish a buyer's conveyance fee program would allow them to raise funds for the resilience fund, as well as nature-based solutions including land conservation. This is a recommendation in the Forest Sub-Group Report.
- 17:45:29 From Rebecca French : Thanks to Forests subgroup from Working and Natural Lands for the great idea on financing options
- 17:46:11 From Curt Johnson : Equity needs be considered as Jim Finch describes. Mabe tiered approach.
- 17:46:52 From Rebecca French to Wayne Cobleigh(Privately) : Can you check if you can share your screen again?
- 17:47:41 From Kimberly Stoner : They also insure those fossil fuel projects.
- 17:47:45 From Wayne Cobleigh to Rebecca French(Privately) : Still cannot host message
- 17:48:14 From David Blatt : Or perhaps equity suggests that no state funds be spent to secure affluent coastal residential communities at all. They can raise their own funds to put into their 19-77 accounts.
- 17:49:33 From Kimberly Stoner : Also state pension funds are invested in fossil fuel companies.
- 17:49:36 From Lynn Johnson : Amen Samantha!
- 17:50:04 From Ann Pratt : Excellent recommendations Sam!!
- 17:51:16 From Allen Kratz : Link to Mass. news release announcing \$11.1M in Massachusetts Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program: <https://www.mass.gov/news/baker-polito-administration-awards-111-million-in-climate-change-funding-to-cities-and-towns>
- 17:51:34 From Rebecca French : Really appreciate all of the feedback on ways to focus the revenue strategies on the cause of the problem - carbon emissions. Please add in the chat as well so we capture all suggestions.
- 17:51:51 From Kris Kuhn : What about funding and finance of renewables and the development of a green work-force?
- 17:52:30 From Kimberly Stoner : Even if there headquarters move, they still have markets here.
- 17:52:49 From FRogard Ryan : Thanks for sharing, Allen. Mass. is setting an example.
- 17:52:58 From David Blatt : Why tax insurance companies for insuring fossil fuel industries instead of taxing fossil fuel industries directly? I.e., carbon tax.
- 17:53:03 From James Finch : <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/finance-saving-investing/opinion-climate-change-has-now-reached-a-tipping-point-among-global-investors/ar-BB19q5S0>
- 17:53:20 From Samantha Dynowski : Here's report on investments based on data from CA Dept of Insurance: <https://www.insureourfuture.us/ct-insurance-report>
- 17:53:31 From Samantha Dynowski : Re: what is insured is not so transparent. We find out when documents are made public, usually for public projects like the TransMountain pipeline
- 17:53:49 From Lynn Johnson : Have we reached out to Insurance Companies to ask them to be a part of the conversation?
- 17:53:50 From Mary Pelletier : What about offer incentives to insurance companies that prioritize green energy and municipalities that advance green infrastructure. Perhaps incentives would be more effective than fees.
- 17:53:56 From Rebecca French : Any thoughts on the Transportation and Climate Initiative? Do participants know about this option?
- 17:54:06 From Samantha Dynowski : Yes, I have been in conversation with insurance companies.
- 17:55:14 From Joseph Wraithwall : If there is legislation to enable resilience improvements via a PACE program, the program should also expand to residential properties. CA has done this solely for residential properties in county-run PACE programs, and Maryland is expected to pass a much larger program in their next legislative session. This isn't a priority financing option, and benefits would be small, but I would imagine it makes more sense to write it broadly rather in case legislation is

17:55:16 From Lynn Johnson : Good Samantha. Bryan, have we asked Insurance companies to be part of this Committee?

17:55:44 From Mary Pelletier : Funding from the State to municipalities could prioritize municipalities where planners genuinely implement greener projects.

17:55:48 From Rebecca French : Mark Mitchell is former head/founder of Connecticut Environmental Justice and a member of the GC3 Equity and Environmental Justice Working Group.

17:55:54 From Bryan Garcia : The Hartford is involved on the GC3

17:55:57 From Samantha Dynowski : Mary: Insurance companies are helping cause the climate crisis by investing in fossil fuel companies, so I don't feel we should be incentivizing them to make profits. They shouldn't have us coming and going

17:56:19 From Joseph Wraithwall : The Equity and Environmental Justice Mapping sub-group said they have been in touch with this group about their recommendation to develop an environmental justice mapping tool that could be used to direct resilience funding like CA and WA. Is that reflected in the report?

17:56:35 From Rebecca French : TCI = Transportation and Climate Initiative.

17:58:10 From Lynn Johnson : Great Bryan! Has there been a conversation with them about funding green projects vs investing in fossil fuels?

17:58:28 From Curt Johnson : Yes. EJ mapping is proposed as a funded option within the appendix along with EJ community support and low income community based organizations being trained up to apply for and manage projects.

17:58:54 From Rebecca French : Not sure we are going to get to it tonight, but we also recommend the Governor convene our foundation and philanthropic community on this topic to be partners.

17:59:07 From Allen Kratz : The Mass. Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program is one of the initiatives funded by a \$2.4B environmental bond that voters approved in 2018.

<https://mailchi.mp/074ed0ba8463/resilience-works-monthly-issue-1-grants-news-ideas-to-use-5809380?e=%5BUNIQID%5D>

17:59:46 From Amy Paterson : Thank you all very much. I need to leave early. We welcome comments on the Forest Sub-Group Report, particularly in this context, on the Funding and Financing Recommendations. Definitely some important overlap with those here. Have a terrific evening!

18:00:16 From Rebecca French : New York is doing that - minimum of 35% invested in climate justice communities, I believe is the language they are using.

18:00:59 From Rebecca French : Responding to Tanya I think made comment about setting a minimum.

18:01:17 From Wayne Cobleigh to Rebecca French(Privately) : I got screen shots of the breakout room participants

18:01:25 From Rebecca French to Wayne Cobleigh(Privately) : Thank you.

18:01:31 From Allen Kratz : In N.J. recently, environmental justice advocates took issue with DEP for TCI (and RGGI) cap/trade programs, saying carbon emissions should be eliminated, not capped.

18:01:49 From Rebecca French to Wayne Cobleigh(Privately) : Just need the list of names. For some reason zoom does not autosave them.

18:02:22 From Mary Pelletier : Please include the need for the State to focus funding spent managing state properties to adhere to green best practices. In addition, the State can also encourage municipalities receiving State funding advance comprehensive planning for climate resiliency.

18:02:53 From Wayne Cobleigh to Rebecca French(Privately) : The MA environmental bond has not yet been funded but the state is investing \$11M per year in their municipal vulnerability preparedness program for climate resilience projects

18:03:23 From James Finch : Did New haven do this

18:03:28 From James Finch : CCM

18:04:05 From Mary Pelletier : Stormwater authorities would be very helpful. However there needs to be expanded public education about the benefits of a stormwater authorities, so as to encourage state elected officials to approve stormwater utilities.

18:04:07 From george bradner to Rebecca French(Privately) : I have a major storm front

coming through here! Hope power stays on.

18:04:33 From Allen Kratz : NJ authorized formation of stormwater utilities in 2019; so far, none have been formed. By contrast, there are several in Maine -- notably Portland, which currently is funding a mitigation project with that funding.

18:04:48 From Charles Rothenbergere : Capping and reducing emissions puts us on the path to eliminating emissions. There's no "off" switch that can be flipped overnight.

18:05:34 From James Finch : 15

18:05:36 From Rebecca French : Email written comments deep.climatechange@ct.gov

18:05:54 From Samantha Dynowski : Concerned with socializing the costs of climate change; those causing should be at the top of the list for fees

18:06:06 From Curt Johnson : If we authorize stormwater utilities and provide matching state funds, then it will greatly incentivize their formation.

18:07:28 From Bryan Garcia : Working with Senator Markey, Blumenthal and Kamala Harris, we have been advocating for a National Climate Bank

18:07:31 From Bryan Garcia : [https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/2057/cosponsors?q={%22search%22:\[%22national+climate+bank+act%22\]}&s=3&r=1&overview=closed&searchResultViewType=expanded](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/2057/cosponsors?q={%22search%22:[%22national+climate+bank+act%22]}&s=3&r=1&overview=closed&searchResultViewType=expanded)

18:08:21 From Rebecca French : Sorry about the acronym on the last bullet. ADU = accessory dwelling unit - essentially allowing to build another dwelling on your current property

18:08:39 From James Finch : Thank you

18:08:58 From Samantha Dynowski : Again, insurance companies should not profit when they are causing climate change. Perhaps only insurance companies that have committed to divestment should be allowed to be part of this

18:10:37 From Lynn Johnson : Thank you Bryan, a national climate Bank would be very exciting! I learned alot from you today!

18:11:11 From Allen Kratz : Kudos to Council: This is first time I've seen this much attention to philanthropic assistance.

18:13:02 From James Finch : Is there a role for financial cooperatives (credit unions) ?

18:13:34 From Bryan Garcia to Rebecca French(Privately) : I gotta run Rebecca - good discussion! I will send some notes tomorrow to the group.

18:14:57 From Diane Hoffman : Thanks Tanya Dwyer!

18:15:03 From Lynn Johnson : Thank you Tanya!

18:15:39 From Mary Pelletier : Perhaps this group ought to outline a schedule of action. As noted previously, it would be helpful to recommend 4-6 pilot projects that involve a comprehensive consolidation of ALL the GC3 Working Group recommendations. By selecting 4-6 pilot watersheds, 2-3 that flow through coastal cities and 2-3 inland watersheds, such as the North Branch Park River, that flow through rural, suburban and inland communities, the GC3 can consolidate recommendations for exponential benefits, and to increase innovation, collaboration and visible improvement/change.

18:15:43 From Rebecca French : Like to know more about that Carbon Credits you are referring to Tanya. Can you share a link in the chat for reference?

18:15:56 From Kris Kuhn : I join in thanks, Tanya Dwyer.

18:16:13 From Mary Pelletier : I totally agree with Tanya Dwyer.

18:16:42 From Tanya Dwyer : Nori is a blockchain company in the Northwest that is working with large farmers to create carbon credits that are verified as scientific carbon sink

18:17:05 From Rebecca French : deep.climatechange@ct.gov

18:17:07 From Samantha Dynowski : Thank you!

18:17:37 From Tanya Dwyer : Nori.com (I have no affiliation. I just like the transparency of their process)

18:18:20 From James Finch : <https://www.firmsofendearment.com/>

18:18:52 From James Finch : Today's greatest companies are fueled by passion and purpose, not cash. They earn large profits by helping all thier stakeholders thrive: customers, investors, employees, partners, communities, and society. These rare, authentic firms of endearment act in powerfully positive ways that stakeholders

18:19:02 From Rebecca French : Developers (i.e. private sector is a critical area). I think we are going to look at this area in more detail in 2021 in incentives we provide to developers at the state

level. If a state agency provides any funding they are required to be consistent with floodplain management rules, but if there are no state dollars involve only the municipality has a say.

18:19:04 From Diane Lauricella : Great discussion All! Let's focus on rewarding good behaviors but review accountability for "bad" behaviors...

18:19:16 From James Finch : That was for the firms of endearment.

18:19:27 From Kris Kuhn : Thank you.

18:19:28 From Mary Pelletier : thanks!

18:19:31 From James Finch : Thank You

18:19:33 From Allen Kratz : Great discussion!

18:19:37 From FRogard Ryan : Thank you!

18:19:56 From Diane Hoffman : Realtors need to advise new property owners of tree regulations that impact the property the person is looking to purchase.

18:20:14 From Diane Hoffman : thank you!

NOTE: *Identify if slides or presentations are available on GC3 web page: www.ct.gov/deep/gc3*