



Connecticut Clean Economy Council

Q2 2026: June 24, 2026

DRAFT Minutes

(Video recording available at: portal.ct.gov/ccec)

Council Members Present:

Joseph DeNicola for Katie Dykes (designee Bruce Ho), Dr. Kelli-Marie Vallieres (designee Tracy Ariel), Ed Howell for Dante Bartlomeo, Zachary Alexander for Bryan Cafferelli, Bryan Garcia, Robert Maddox for Stephen Harding, Charlotte Moller, Joseph Toner for Vincent Candelora, Catherine Awwad, Racquel Ocasio for Garrett Eucalito, Aziz Dehkan, Joanna Wozniak-Brown for Joshua Wojcik

Council Members Absent:

Andrew Lavigne for Daniel O’Keefe, Matt McCooe, Adrienne Farrar Houël for Matthew Ritter, Bob Duff, Joe Carbone for Martin Looney

Leah Fuhs calls the meeting to order at 11:03am.

Leah Fuhs conducts roll call at 11:06am.

Leah Fuhs Introduces the item to be voted on. Committee motions on voting items.

1. Q1 Clean Economy Council Meeting Minutes from February 6, 2026. Motion to vote made by Dr. Kelli-Marie Vallieres. No discussion. No nays. Motion passed at 11:07am.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Yay</i>	<i>Nay</i>	<i>Abstentions</i>	<i>Result</i>
1. Meeting Minutes from February 6, 2026, Q1 2026	12	0	0	<i>Motion passes at 11:07am</i>

Leah Fuhs provides Q1 updates at 11:08am.

Leah Fuhs reported that the Council finalized the following definition of Connecticut’s clean economy:

“Connecticut’s clean economy encompasses the industries, infrastructure, and workforce systems that advance sustainability, decarbonization, and climate adaptation while promoting equitable economic resilience, public health, and stewardship of natural resources.”

The definition reflects feedback received from Council members and was intentionally kept concise to ensure broad applicability.



Since the last meeting, staff have been:

- Refining Connecticut's Clean Economy Framework.
- Identifying priority sectors, occupations, and workforce needs.
- Developing the Clean Economy Regional Sector Partnership through stakeholder recruitment and governance planning.
- Engaging employers and key partners to identify workforce challenges and opportunities.
- Mapping the clean economy ecosystem and strengthening collaboration among industry, labor, education, workforce, and government stakeholders.
- Advancing workforce transition and career pathway initiatives to support future talent needs.

A kickoff meeting for the Regional Sector Partnership is tentatively planned for September.

Leah Fuhs introduced Mike Webb(OWS) provided an update on the workforce transition report at 11:10am.

- The report deadline has been extended to September 30.
- The report will examine:
 - The current state of fossil fuel workforce transition in Connecticut.
 - Workforce impacts of decarbonization efforts.
 - Existing workforce initiatives supporting affected workers.
 - Pathways into clean economy careers.
- OWS is collaborating with ICF, United Way, and DEEP. A draft report will be circulated to Council members for review and comment before final submission.

Leah Fuhs introduced Joe Perkus(OWS) to provide legislative updates at 11:12am.

Joe Stated the workforce transition report deadline was extended to October 1, the reporting requirements for the Council were modified from annual to biennial reporting and the next Clean Economy Council progress report is anticipated in 2028.

Leah Fuhs introduced Bobby Daly(OWS) to provide the bylaws development at 11:13am.

Bobby reported that staff are drafting bylaws for the Council using the Governor's Workforce Council bylaws as a model. The draft bylaws will be distributed prior to the next quarterly meeting and members will have an opportunity to provide feedback before adoption.

Leah Fuhs provided administrative updates at 11:14am.

Leah Foose shared that Andrew Levine has been working on updating Council membership and appointing authority lists for the CCEC website and developing a SharePoint file storage solution for Council documents and resources.

Leah Fuhs opened the floor for discussion at 11:15am.

Leah outlined preliminary focus areas for the Clean Economy Regional Sector Partnership:

1. Grid Reliability, Modernization, and Expansion



- Supporting electrification and increasing energy demand.
- Building a resilient energy future.
- 2. Workforce Transition and Career Mobility
 - Supporting workers and employers through the transition to a low-carbon economy.
 - Creating high-quality career pathways.
- 3. Future Energy Systems and Emerging Technologies
 - Energy storage.
 - Distributed energy resources.
 - AI-enabled infrastructure.
 - Other emerging technologies.

Members were encouraged to continue recommending stakeholders and industry representatives for participation.

Robert Maddox suggested in-person meetings for brainstorming sessions.

Robert Maddox recommended holding an in-person brainstorming session to generate actionable policy recommendations and foster collaboration among Council members. Kelli Vallieres and Tracy Ariel expressed support for exploring opportunities for more interactive and action-oriented engagement. Robert also requested that if September is the plan for the event, avoid the week of New York City Climate Week.

John Harrity discussed the Council's engagement and meeting frequency.

John Harrity observed that the long intervals between meetings make it difficult to maintain momentum and ongoing dialogue.

Joanna Wozniak-Brown suggested:

- Clarifying the Council's role beyond the required legislative report.
- Establishing performance measures and goals.
- Exploring subcommittees or workgroups.
- Expanding discussions of resilience beyond energy systems to include infrastructure, public health, and climate adaptation occupations.

Kelli Vallieres proposed creating action-oriented workgroups that could meet more frequently and advance priorities between quarterly Council meetings.

Cathy Awwad discussed the industry-led partnership structure.

Tracy Ariel and Cathy Awwad emphasized that Regional Sector Partnerships are industry-driven initiatives. Industry participants will determine priorities, while workforce, education, labor, and public-sector partners will support implementation and achievement of those priorities. Council members were encouraged to continue identifying employers and industry stakeholders who should be invited to participate.



Bryan Garcia discussed Legislative and Policy Developments

Bryan Garcia highlighted the passage of **House Bill 5340 (Public Act 26-127)**.

Key provisions include:

- Extension of residential and non-residential community solar programs through 2035.
- Long-term support for clean energy deployment.
- Opportunities for workforce development and job creation.
- Benefits related to decarbonization, resilience, and energy affordability.

Robert Maddox further noted challenges facing the solar industry due to changing federal policies and local opposition to solar development, emphasizing the importance of aligning workforce development efforts with broader energy policy considerations.

Leah Fuhs gave closing remarks and the meeting concluded at 11:36am.