



Connecticut Clean Economy Council

Q4 2025: November 21, 2025

Minutes not approved

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

Council Members Present:

Daniel O’Keefe (designee Andrew Lavigne), Ed Howell for Dante Bartlomeo, Dr. Kelli-Marie Vallieres (designee Tracy Ariel), Joanna Wozniak-Brown for Jeffrey Beckham, James Shavell for Martin Looney, Zachary Alexander for Cafferelli, Sara Harari for James Desantos, Katie Dykes (designee Bruce Ho), Joseph DeNicola, Adrienne Farrar Houel for Matthew Ritter, Robert Maddox for Stephen Harding, Charlotte Moller, Joseph Toner for Vincent Candelora, Catherine Awwad

Council Members Absent:

Garrett Eucalito, Jason Rojas, Matt McCooe, Bob Duff

Co-Chair Tracy Ariel calls the meeting to order at 11:02am.

Commissioner Daniel O’Keefe provided remarks at 11:06m. Commissioner O’Keefe highlighted affordability as a major priority for the Lamont administration, noting that Connecticut’s energy costs are significantly higher than the national average. He emphasized the need to advance clean economy investments that support job growth and carbon reduction, while addressing systemic design issues in the regional energy system that impact affordability. He encouraged the group to develop recommendations that balance clean energy progress with cost considerations.

Commissioner Katie Dykes provided remarks at 11:08am. Commissioner Dykes emphasized the need to align DEEP’s energy, sustainability, workforce, and economic development efforts. She noted current challenges, including changing federal policies, supply chain constraints, and high interest rates affecting clean energy project costs and predictability. She highlighted ongoing initiatives such as supporting offshore wind progress, expedited renewable energy procurements, streamlined permitting, multi-state clean energy efforts including nuclear, and investments in waste infrastructure and climate resilience. She stressed that achieving cleaner, more affordable, and reliable energy will require strong collaboration and communication across agencies and partners.

Commissioner Kelli-Marie Vallieres provided remarks at 11:15am. Commissioner Vallieres emphasized the importance of cross-agency collaboration to drive systems change in the clean economy, noting that energy, economic development, environmental goals, and workforce needs are closely connected. She highlighted the Council’s role in aligning short- and long-term priorities, incorporating employer input, and providing a single coordinated statewide approach to clean energy and workforce development. She stressed the need to build talent pipelines that match future job demand and ensure strong engagement from industry partners.



Co-Chair Tracy Ariel introduced Co-Chair Bruce Ho to provide Legislative Mandate at 11:17am.

Co-Chair Bruce Ho provided an overview of the Clean Economy Council's statutory purpose and responsibilities established under Public Act 25-125. The Council is charged with advising on economic development and workforce strategies that support climate mitigation, clean energy, resilience, and sustainability, with a focus on vulnerable communities. Key duties include coordinating state efforts across agencies, leveraging state and federal funding, supporting a technically skilled and enduring clean energy workforce, and advising the Governor and General Assembly. He noted the Council's diverse membership, quarterly meeting requirements, and upcoming reporting deadlines, including a biennial report due February 15 and a workforce transition plan due July 1.

Co-Chair Bruce Ho introduced Joseph DeNicola (DEEP) on a discussion of Council Priorities at 11:22am.

Co-Chair Bruce Ho introduced Joseph DeNicola (DEEP), who will lead efforts on implementing the Council's statutory direction. Joe emphasized the importance of identifying clear priorities within the Council's broad mandate—spanning climate mitigation, clean energy, resilience, and sustainability—and highlighted affordability as a shared concern. He invited members to provide input during the meeting and through follow-up communications. Joe then opened the floor for discussion on Council priorities. Members raised opportunities related to green buildings and energy efficiency, advancing Connecticut's leadership in clean energy finance, regenerative agriculture, and circular economy strategies. Workforce and labor representatives underscored the need to uphold wage standards, ensure Connecticut workers benefit from clean energy deployment, and address zoning and procurement challenges that push work to other states. Participants also noted concerns with regional grid structures contributing to higher costs. Overall, members agreed that the Council should prioritize affordability, clean energy deployment, and strong in-state workforce outcomes.

Joseph DeNicola (DEEP) introduced Co-Chair Andrew Lavigne to go over Next Steps at 11:47am.

Co-Chair Andrew Lavigne provides housekeeping items, including the timeline for the first biannual report, the next meeting date, and the Clean Economy Council website that is located at DECD.

Co-Chair Tracy Ariel gave closing remarks, and the meeting concluded at 11:50am.