

Alternative Fuels Workgroup Meeting Notes

Kickoff Meeting

7/29/2026

Attending:

DEEP: Emma Cimino, Acting Commissioner, Harrison Nantz, Chief of Staff, Tracy Babbidge, Bureau Chief, Paul Farrell, Pete Babich, Paul Kritzler, Wade Packer, Nicole Foertsch, and Megan Andrews

Chris Herb (CEMA), Floyd Vergara (CFAA), Paul Wessel (CTC), Sherrilin Dinello (CASBO), Jean Cronin, Brian Zepka (WRI), Daphne Dixon (CTC), Robin Cecere (DOED), Pamela Sucato (DOT), Graham Curtis (DOT), Kevin Moss (CGB), Sue Gander (WRI), Walter Mortin (CEMA), Donald DeVivo (DATTCO), Elias Petersen (Kolmar), Blaize Levitan (Branford Public Schools), Alice Kwak (WRI), Criag Peters (CTC),

Feedback on topics and potential additional participants:

- Workgroup to consider adding renewable diesel as part of the scope of alternative fuels to be evaluated.
- Several suggestions were made regarding additional work group members including:
 - Representatives from both public utilities-Include a representative from both Eversource and UI. It was noted that the utilities have a role in energizing school bus yards.
 - Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) as the administrator of the Sheff transportation system
 - School district operations directors and school district finance directors would provide important insight and perspectives.
 - Representatives of Gov Finance Officers Association-CT
 - Representatives of the propane industry
 - Representatives of the CT Association of Public-School Superintendents (CAPSS) and the CT Association of School Boards of Education (CABE)
 - Representatives from municipalities should also be invited to join the workgroup

Feedback on schedule and timeline:

- A suggestion was made to create a working document to enable workgroup members to keep track of topics and to provide feedback.
- A question was posed on the scope of the workgroup effort whether the focus was specifically on emissions reductions technology availability or if grid reliability would be considered. DEEP responded indicating that the intent was to have broad consideration of including but not limited to emissions associated with alternative fuels.
- As part of the discussion resource links were provided, specifically the Public Utility Regulatory Commission's (PURA's) links regarding vehicle-to-grid charging and grid resilience: See <https://www.dpuc.state.ct.us/dockcurr.nsf/All/9DA34425D1D1E9B885258E43005E38A4?OpenDocument>
- A question was posed on what the process would be to collect information and to receive feedback from school districts across the state. It was noted that DEEP would work on creating a publicly accessible website and share information collected with school districts and other interested stakeholders to raise awareness and encourage participation in the process.
- Boards of Education and Superintendents should be included as they would be responsible for creating the RFPs for EV buses and funding those contracts.
 - Sherrilin (Sherri) Dinello offered to assist in gathering information from meetings and report back to districts, as well as poll school districts and gather information from them to report back to the group.
 - Tracy Babbidge offered to reach out to the other organizations to include in the workgroup.
- A question was asked about issuing a press release about this group. DEEP offered to discuss public outreach with the Office of Communications.
- It was noted that costs and funding are primary considerations for school districts.
- Floyd Vergara from the Clean Fuels Alliance of America (CFAA) will be able to discuss biodiesel and renewable diesel.
- Through this process, it will be Important to discuss the benefits from these options as well to give full context since cost will likely be a primary factor.
- WRI offered to discuss and share their resources available with the workgroup at an upcoming meeting.
- DEEP confirmed the availability of a staff member to take notes for work group meetings.