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

Meeting Date: January 15, 2021
Meeting Time: 9:00 am - 11:00 am
Meeting Location: Zoom
[Meeting Recording](#)

ATTENDANCE

Attendee	Title	Organization	Present
Claire Coleman	Undersecretary, Secretary's designee	Office of Policy & Management	√
Matthew Fulda	Executive Director	Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments	√
Kevin Grigg	President & CEO	Fuss & O'Neill	√
Bryan Hurlburt	Commissioner	Department of Agriculture	√
Curt Johnson	President	Save the Sound	√
George Kral	Town Planner	Town of Guilford	√
Alexandra Daum	Deputy Commissioner/ Commissioner's Designee	Department of Economic & Community Development	√
Andrew Mais	Commissioner	Department of Insurance	√
James O'Donnell	Executive Director	UConn, Connecticut Institute for Resilience & Climate Adaptation	√
Heather Aaron	Deputy Commissioner	Department of Public Health	√
Frogard Ryan	Executive Director	The Nature Conservancy	√
Katie Dykes	Commissioner	Department of Energy & Environmental Protection	√
Garrett Eucalitto	Deputy Commissioner	Department of Transportation	√
Patrick Brown	Chief Technology Architect	The Hartford	√
Lee Cruz	Director of Community Outreach	The COMMUNITY Foundation for Greater New Haven	√
Bryan Garcia	Chief Executive Officer & President	Connecticut Green Bank	√
Debi Geyer	VP Environmental Health & Safety and Corporate Sustainability	Stanley Black and Decker	√
Marissa Gillett	Chairperson	Public Utilities Regulatory Authority	√
Aziz Dehkan	Executive Director	CT Roundtable on Climate and Jobs	√
Seila Mosquera-Bruno	Commissioner	Department of Housing	√
Brenda Watson	Executive Director	Operation Fuel	√
Rebecca French	Director, Office of Climate Planning	Department of Energy & Environmental Protection	√
Governor Ned Lamont			√
Phone Participant 1			√
Phone Participant 2			√
Phone Participant 3			√
Lori Demaine			√
newsroom			√
Alanis Allen			√
Kathleen Dorgan			√
George Bradner			√
Francia Alvarez			√
Amy Paterson			√

Allen Kratz			√
Rick Newton			√
Iris Kaminski			√
christina clayton			√
Goudarz Molaei			√
Jonathan Avery			√
Sena Wazer			√
James Albis			√
Mary Hogue			√
Frank Cervo			√
Anita Schell			√
Tim Hawley			√
Peter Hearn			√
Bernie Noonan			√
Chris Martin			√
Brian Thompson			√
Carmela Garofalo			√
Robert Bell			√
Evan Dantos			√
Diane Hoffman			√
Carol Youell			√
Betsey Wingfield			√
Fred Behringer			√
Jos Spelbos			√
Denise Savageau			√
Eric Hammerling			√
Jean Cronin			√
Alex Rodriguez			√
Charles Rothenberger			√
Patrick Comins			√
Tony Russell			√
Tamara Muruetagoiena			√
Rick Jacobson			√
Chet Arnold			√
Lori Mathieu			√
Lonnie Reed			√
Nathan Frohling			√
Lilian Ruiz			√
Christian Wolf			√
Peter Moss			√
Amanda Bunce			√
Steven Giannitti			√
Judy Raymond			√
Thomas Swarr			√
Lynn Towill			√
Lyle Wray			√
Ryan Levandowski			√
Connie Manes			√
Brent Rudolph			√
Randall Anway			√
Will Healey			√

Molly Ryan			√
Mary-Michelle (Mikey) Hirschhoff			√
Walker Holmes			√
Amber Garrard			√
Joseph Orefice			√
Holly Lalime			√
Connor Rockett			√
Jameson Davis			√
Kathleen Schomaker			√
Chris Donnelly			√
Jennifer Landau			√
Agathe Pierot			√
Jillian Winterkorn			√
Nancy Bowden			√
Susan Masino			√
Shannon Kearney			√
Alec Shub			√
Steven Wallett			√
shirley mccarthy			√
susan Barney			√
Rachel McLoughlin			√
Alan Poirier			√
Jennifer Kleindienst			√
Jonathan Steinberg			√
Katie Lund			√
Stephen Dodge			√
Steve MacAusland			√
Rachel Hiskes`			√
Aaron goode			√
John truscinski			√
Mary Pelletier			√
Michele Helou			√
Marcia Wilkins			√
Jeff Howard			√
CHERYL DUNSON			√
Lisa Hayden			√
Mark Bolduc			√
Diane Lauricella			√
Emily Alexander			√
George Bradner			√
Lori Brown			√
Doug Emmerthal			√
Alicea Charamut			√
Kimberly Stoner			√
Kimberly Stoner			√
Royal Graves			√
Hugh Birdsall			√
John Rountree			√
Diane keefe			√
Charlie Horn			√

Nora Rizzo			√
Joseph Mullin			√
Kayleigh Royston			√
Catherine Diviney			√
Melissa Kops			√
Laura Bozzi			√
Shubhada Kambli			√
Becky Bunnell			√
Edith Pestana			√
Peter Auster			√
Edith Pestana			√
nicole Lugli			√
Andrea Lubawy			√
Paul Hearn			√
Laura Cahn			√
Jerry Milne			√
Paige Rasid			√
lynne bonnett			√
Mason Trumble			√
HENRY LINK			√
Julie Cammarata			√
Chris Phelps			√
T. Michael Morrissey			√
melinda tuhus			√
Shawn O'Sullivan			√
Robert LaFrance			√
Ray Furse			√
Mary-beth Hart			√
Gannon Long			√
Susan Hibbard			√
kipen kolesinskas			√
Ruth Canovi			√
Susan Quincy			√
Diane Field			√
Marissa Rivera			√
Patricia Taylor			√
Andrew Droney			√
Thomas Easley			√
lisette henrey			√
ROger Kuhns			√
Andy Winslow			√
Michael Maiscalco			√
Ralph Jones			√
Anne Schmidt			√
Ken Dumais			√
Kiersten Chou			√
Paul Aresta			√
Diane Mas			√
Adelaine McCloe			√
Joanna Wozniak-Brown			√
Kris Kuhn			√

GC3 Meeting

January 15, 2021

Dave Dickson			√
Lonnie Reed			√
JoAnn Messina			√
Matthew DiBona			√
Mary Stevens			√
Megan Macomber			√
Neil Olinski			√
Shanté Hanks			√
Elias Petersen			√
Kimberly Lesay			√
Henry Auer			√
Wayne Cobleigh			√
Kirsten Rigney			√
Hallie Metzger			√

AGENDA & NOTES

Welcome and Announcements

GC3 Final Draft report posted to GC3 website: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Climate-Change/GC3/Governors-Council-on-Climate-Change>

Chair, Commissioner Katie Dykes, CT DEEP

Commissioner Katie Dykes welcomed GC3 members, working group members, the public, and Governor Ned Lamont to the meeting. The Council has reconvened to expand its focus from looking at how to reduce carbon emissions but also how to prepare Connecticut's infrastructure, communities, and people for the impacts of climate change. Today we are gathering to discuss the new report that we are putting out that covers over 60 near-term actions that we have identified for the state to undertake.

Governor Ned Lamont thanked everyone and expressed his appreciation for the work that the GC3 has accomplished. We need to continue to take the lead here in Connecticut. About 60% of our electric grid is now carbon free and over the next 5 years this will increase. We recently signed on to the Transportation Climate Initiative (TCI) and we have a much greater impact if we continue to sign on to regional initiatives and work with others. It is very important that we are removing these silos and bringing together municipalities, different agencies across the state, nonprofits, and the private sector.

Commissioner Katie Dykes thanked all of the 230 plus working group members who worked on this process, even throughout a pandemic. This report represents a number of firsts and expands on executive order 3. This work not only looks at mitigation but also looks at adaptation and resilience strategies. For the first time, the GC3 also asked that working groups look at recommendations through an equity lens. This is also the first time there has been a focus on working and natural lands. This report also represents the first update to the climate adaptation and resilience plan that has not been updated for 10 years. The report has 61 recommendations that are recommended near-term actions.

Presentation of Council's Near-Term Recommendations

Director of Climate Planning, Rebecca French, CT DEEP

The executive order that Governor Lamont issued in September 2019 had two main objectives. One was to monitor the state's implementation of the greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategies and the second was to develop and implement adaptation strategies to assess and prepare for the impacts of climate change. The structure of the Council consists of 23 council members and 230 working group members that were a part of 7 working groups.

This is the interim report with 61 near-term recommendations but the process will continue through December 31, 2021 with a final report to the governor.

Rebecca French presented the findings from the Science and Technology working group report regarding the impacts of climate change in Connecticut (findings summarized on presenter slides).

We have a 2030 target of a 45% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and an 80% reduction in emissions by 2050.

The Governor's executive order 3 also required that mitigation, adaptation, and resilience be looked at through an "equity lens". In response to this charge, the GC3 created the Equity and Environmental Justice working group to plan for engaging diverse stakeholders and evaluate recommendations through an equity lens.

Rebecca French thanked the seven working groups for all of their hard work over the last year. Together they represented over 100 different organizations, with 231 individual working group members, and held 186 public meetings in 2020. She proceeded to present a high-level summary of the 61 near-term recommendation developed by each working group (see presenter slides for recommendation summaries). She recommended visiting the full report for a more detailed version of each recommendation. <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Climate-Change/GC3/Governors-Council-on-Climate-Change>

Discussion on Implementation of the Near-term Recommendations

Commissioner Katie Dykes asked for the agencies to share the actions that they are taking or are currently under way that align to any of the recommendations or that work to advance some these recommended solutions (see documents attached below for a summary of the actions discussed during the meeting).

Discussion of the Continuation of the GC3 Planning Process in 2021

Rebecca French explained that the first task of the year is to start measuring success. There will be a quarterly assessment for the next year or so. We will also be continuing into phase 2 of the GC3 process which is starting to work on the final report due by December 31st 2021. In the upcoming report we will continue our annual update to the progress on mitigation strategies. We will be adding a working group to address the vulnerability assessment and inventory of vulnerable assets prepared by state agencies.

Public Comment

Iris Kaminski: Okay, thank you for taking my comment. I just wanted to thank you for all their great work that everybody did and I just really wanted the governor to revisit the tolls in Connecticut. I know that was off the table last year and I think that's an equitable thing to do. It will provide funding and maybe you could start with out of state cars only and also rethink fees on gasoline. I wanted to just remind you the numbers of how many people do not own cars and Connecticut and it feels like the people that are using less polluting resources are taking the burden and pollution.

Diane Keefe: Hi, thank you for taking the opportunity to let people share. I just wanted to note that the Quakers participated in the inaugural green liberty bond which was \$16 million, issued by the Connecticut Green Bank in July of 2020. My view is that magnitude should be 10 times as much. The green bond market is now close to a trillion dollars and we need to be bolder with what we are asking our legislators to do. Now is the time to scale up solar and fund solar on public buildings, on nonprofit facilities, and use the funds from the Green Bank to do initiatives that would enable our struggling restaurants to participate in composting and other climate related measures. I would love to see municipalities have access to a special fund that would enable these kinds of programs to be rolled out to lower income people. I recently

insulated my attic. The market cost of that insulation would have been \$1500 but with the subsidies available, it was less than \$400. Still \$400 is not affordable for many families, so I would like to see the state of Connecticut enable free installation for any homeowner whose income is less than \$50,000. Actually \$52,000 is 200% of the federal poverty line and it is exactly the level that democrats are talking about expanding Medicaid eligibility into. So we really need to work on measures to model climate justice through our economic choices. Thanks very much for all the work you are doing.

Alex Rodriguez: Hi everyone, I want to thank Commissioner Dykes, Rebecca, and all the working group leaders for this fantastic report. It's great to see our state taking action on climate change. One thing that that has been very clear during this meeting on final reporting is the spirit of togetherness. I think Governor Lamont spoke to that very well in the beginning. We have love for our communities and I love Commissioner Dyke's intention about really wanting to reduce the health and environmental burdens on communities of color in low income communities. Something that concerns me in particular in our state is the Killingly gas plant proposal. Regarding our intentions to address resilience in low to moderate income communities and communities of color, this is an opportune time to shut down this proposal. I would ask the governor to act by executive order to shut it down. Shut down the proposal and if there is any pushback from the ISO New England, I think everybody on this call has the governor's back. I think we all have DEEP's back if there are any negative ramifications that come from that. Shutting down the killing link gas plant a proposal is one of the priorities that we need to consider moving forward. And I thank you all for this time to speak.

Frank Cervo: Hi and thank you for the opportunity to thank governor Lamont for prioritizing this council, for Commissioner Dykes for leadership and hard work, and to all the council members also for all the hard work that they put into this super important process. I like to say two things. First, in the phase one report, I really appreciate the emphasis on protecting forests from development and other conversion. That is by far the biggest threat to forest in Connecticut, and I really appreciate the recommendations in this phase one report to help protect forests, especially the no net loss of forest policy. I would also like to highlight the work of the four subgroups of the Working and Natural Lands working group and again thank the membership of that subgroup and again highlight the report they put together. It's an excellent resource. They did an incredible job of outlining some of the challenges that Connecticut forests face and also some of the things that we can do to actively manage our forest resources in order to increase their capacity to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change. A big thank you to all of you for your hard work and thank you for recognizing me today.

Steve MacAusland: I am new to Connecticut, but I have been working with the community of faith throughout New England and nationally for a long time. We are very impressed with what you are doing here and want to get involved. We would love to know if there is any particular office that we should be talking to about all of the above. We understand the importance of energy conservation and efficiency. We are taking this ministry, not away from the pulpit, we will never do that, but we want to get involved in the in the business world. We have money to invest and that is taking this ministry into the marketplace. Thank you very much.

Denise Savageau: Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the GC3 planning process. Having served as a co-chair on the Infrastructure subcommittee, during the development of the first adaptation plan in 2011 it is exciting to see GC3 bring mitigation, adaptation and resiliency together. It is especially exciting to have Working and Natural Lands and the ecosystem services they provide acknowledged as nature based solutions to both mitigation and adaptation. My

comments today are focused on food system and food security as referenced in the public health and safety recommendation 51-h. If we have learned anything during the past year from the pandemic, it is about the vulnerability of our food system and the prevalence of food insecurity in our state. The pandemic was always viewed as a short-term emergency event although it may not seem that way. Now with the vaccine we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. The impact of climate change in our national food system, however, will not be short term and must be considered as we look at addressing food system security issues in Connecticut. Severe drought, extreme temperatures, wildfires, salt water intrusion, coastal and inland flooding, are presenting tremendous challenges to our traditional food sources in states like California, Florida, Arizona. Regional distributed food systems are increasingly important. Connecticut needs to focus on protection of prime and important farmland, especially in the Connecticut River valley that has some of the best soils and growing season in the world. As government Lamont stated earlier, regional solutions work best. Working with our partners in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont to protect the valley, with its rich farming heritage, needs to be a priority. Not only do we need to protect soils and the landscape scale, but we need to ensure that soil health is a major focus of any effort on farms and across the entire landscape in Connecticut. The Connecticut Council on Soil and Water Conservation is set up under State statute and brings together various state and federal agencies. Including the DEEP, the Department of Ag, Connecticut Ag Experiment Station, UConn, the five conservation districts, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, USDA Farm Service Agency, and the Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Council. We look forward to assisting with the implementation of the GC3 near-term actions and working on phase three of the GC3 report. Thank you.

Sena Wazer: Good morning all and thank you so much for the detailed report and for all of the work that you put into this plan. I am really excited by the dedication and commitment to climate action that we have heard on this call. I really just want to echo Alex Rodriguez's points and again bring up the Killingly power plant. I know that other activists have been repeatedly talking about this and I would like to ask why Governor Lamont and the Connecticut DEEP are continuing to allow and the GC3 has not come out strongly against the proposed natural gas power plant in Killingly Connecticut. We are committed to reducing our greenhouse gas emissions by 45% by 2030, but if built, Killingly would make it impossible for Connecticut to meet these very greenhouse gas targets and would release approximately 2 million tons of carbon dioxide each year. As a young person, as a student at UConn, I find it very troubling that our state is allowing this to happen. When old disproportionately threaten my generation's future and the current lives of many low income communities of color across the state of Connecticut. I would request that DEEP and Governor Lamont revisit the decision to permit the Killingly power plant because New England has made clear, it is a state decision whether or not we decide to build new power plants. Instead, I would ask that we continue to invest more in renewable energy and expanded energy efficiency programs. Thank you.

Kipen Kolesinskas: Hello, and thanks to Commissioner Dykes and to Rebecca for your leadership and contributions. I wanted to make three points, one of course to echo what Denise Savageau mentioned, of the power of green infrastructure. Our lowest cost is energy conservation and protecting what we have. We know what actions to take and the difference that they can make, so I think that is an important piece, not only for mitigation but for adaptation and resiliency. Second, let's not confuse this with a sustainability plan. There are still a lot of things that we need for sustainability that are not necessarily part of this plan and we need to make sure that we pay attention. As has been outlined by several people, the potential for unintended consequences, such as decisions we might make on renewable energy or transportation, that don't take us away from that path to sustainability as far as where we develop infrastructure and not losing critical prime

farmland and natural resource areas for renewable energy production. The third point is that this is a great opportunity as we take actions to not just use an interdisciplinary approach and hopefully this report will help guide people to who has expertise that they need to consider. We are each other's teachers. Let's use that as an opportunity. I think it is a great opportunity to move towards the path of sustainability. Thanks to everyone for their contributions.

Tim Hawley: Good morning. Thank you to everyone who has worked on these important solutions. I'm very glad to see the attention to equity and environmental justice issues. The increase in income inequality over the past 50 years makes that tremendously important. Energy conservation needs to be the first priority, as was just mentioned. Strategies like the Transportation Climate Initiative and housing improvements are key to successfully addressing the climate challenge. I would like to also make a couple of points on forests as a professional Forester. Forests are important but we have got to keep everything in perspective. Our emissions in Connecticut are close to 40 million metric tons of CO₂ per year and a forest only sequesters about 2 million metric tons. That is why we really need to have the first priority on conservation and then on other renewable sources. With that said, forest conservation is certainly part of solution, both for forest sequestration potential and for the wood products that sequester carbon and replace more carbon than carbon intensive steel and concrete. Over the past 60 years the world's population has increased about two and a half times while consumption of steel has increased 4.9 times and concrete is increased by more than 12 times while use of wood has only increased 1.6 times. We are using far less wood per capita than 60 years ago, even though wood has much less global warming potential than steel or concrete. Thank you.

Cheryl Dunson: Thank you. I'd like to start off by saying that after such a harrowing week it is so uplifting to hear the expertise, commitment, and enthusiasm of this group in addressing such a monumental challenge. I have to give a quick shout out to the governor for the expansiveness of the order and to the committee for its work and better positioning our state in responding to climate change. I am the president of the Greenwich Tree Conservancy. We were founded in 2007 because of a shared recognition that there was insufficient understanding of the role of urban trees in improving our health, our community, and our ecosystems. Since then, we planted over 5000 trees in our community. We haven't seen the interim report, but the photo that Rebecca showed, I was thrilled to see that the photo is capturing people planting trees in an urban environment. The fact that Commissioner Dykes has noted that there is a raised focus now on urban forestry and that there will be an urban forester as well as tools. As far as the tools, I would like to ask that one of those that be considered would be an urban tree canopy assessment because it is very difficult for us to know how we are doing if we do not have any baseline data or we cannot measure how we are achieving our goals in terms of tree plantings. I hope that will be one of the tools that will be developed. Urban forests provide many benefits to our communities because they are close to people, but that proximity also leads to stressors that are apart from what you have in core forest. I would also like to underscore the governor and what other commenters have said about the need for coordination. I really hope that this working group, especially across agencies in the state and from the state down to the local level, will continue. We have 61 recommendations but it is really important that we recognize that these are not silos, that how one action interacts with another. With DOT, it is great to have a commitment to electric vehicles, but we also need a commitment from CDIA. We need DOT to really look at its planning and design and its construction of climate change goals as well as its maintenance, specifically, clear cutting our rail and highway corridors for safety. If you look at it from a climate change lens, there are other safety issues involved, such as increased flooding and heat moderation factors. We are hoping that it is not just about looking ahead, but looking at current practices in agencies and how they could help move us forward to achieve our climate change goals. I would like to say that in closing, we thank the GC3 and the many

members of the working groups who contributed to this. The Greenwich Tree Conservancy looks forward to following and continuing to comment and participating in phase two and we are here to help you support the goals that will benefit our state and our nation. Thank you.

Kimberly Stoner: Hi and thank you very much for the opportunity to comment. I want to emphasize that I am commenting as an individual and to start off by saying that I asked earlier in the chat for the Connecticut Siting Council to be added to the list of agencies that need to be incorporated into climate planning for mitigation and adaptation. It is particularly important that it be integrated into a real planning process across the state that preserves important farmland that preserves forests and that also preserves biodiversity across the state. It is important that the restrictions that are put on permits from the Connecticut Siting Council be enforced and I believe that DEEP is responsible for enforcing those restrictions. Then I want to also just quickly mention the Killingly power plant. I went through the public comments. People 104 times said they wanted the Killingly power plants stopped. I think that is important and to end gas infrastructure and building new gas infrastructure across the state. If we are ending our emissions of greenhouse gases, we need to stop building new infrastructure to create more greenhouse gas emissions. This is not DEEP but I have written several letters now to the state treasurer asking that the state stop investing our own state pension funds in fossil fuel companies and in other companies that create greenhouse emissions. Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment.

Stephen Dodge: Thank you for the opportunity to comment. My name is Steven Dodge and I am from the National Biodiesel Board. I want to preface my comments by saying that all combustion is not bad, particularly when it relates to low carbon liquid fuel. We believe that the report should not exclude specific recommendations that relate to biofuels. It talks about renewable thermal technologies but no specifics related to biofuels. Biofuels are a bridge to a heat pump ultimately or some other source, but they are also a bridge to be 100, which is where the industry is going. Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and New York have concluded that biofuels and heat pumps are not mutually exclusive. There is a role for biofuels. My example quickly is that just last week, my furnace went without notice and I did not have the time to investigate new infrastructure. In my case, it was a natural gas furnace and my kids are home and it was below freezing. I had to stick with natural gas and so after the investment I'm making, for the next couple of decades, I'm going to be using natural gas. For heating fuel customers, there is an alternative that immediately provides for carbon reductions, particularly for those who can't afford heat pumps and we all know that heat pumps are really not good in all applications, there is a role. Ignoring the benefits of bio heat and the immediate carbon reductions in bio heat, ignores the central tenet of climate change and that is emission reductions today are more valuable than emissions reductions tomorrow. And that's not a point of contention that is a fact settled by physics. Biofuels do reduce NOx, they do reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and particulate matter. I will end by saying there was a reference earlier to DEEP's 2020 draft IRP that says "The state should consider whether public policy aims relating to biodiesel could be achieved merely by imposing a statewide biodiesel spending mandate to replace the existing mandate". We believe that specific recommendations should be included in this report as well. Thank you.

Mary Pelletier: I thank you very much for all the hard work that you are doing and thank you for governor Lamont's leadership. It is a totally impressive achievement and I must say, just briefly, it's not my topic to accept the approval of killingly. I hope the state will apply the GC3 recommendations to state properties, especially the state properties managed by DEEP as in the city of Hartford. I think there is a huge opportunity to make some changes to those properties right away. My other more important message is that I think Connecticut GC3 leaders can apply the goals that you have outlined here by connecting with Connecticut's cultural heritage community. Most

notably, in 2022 there is a national celebration of Frederick Law Olmsted's bicentennial of this birth. Frederick Law Olmsted, of course, is a native of Hartford. He was born and buried here, but he had a national and international reach by creating parks across the United States during the time of the Civil War. This is an opportunity for leaders in the environmental groups to reach out to cultural heritage groups who really don't understand the pressing issues surrounding climate change and ask them to not only explore Olmsted but also explore the important legacy of public parks and the work that Olmsted did merge things like drainage along muddy river back bay or the park river, to merge those conservation and revitalization efforts in a new 21st century kind of movement to save more places in high density urban areas, especially along riparian corridors that can survive these extreme droughts and mitigate the volatile flash flooding by having larger riparian corridors conserved. Thanks so much.

Robert LaFrance: I wanted to thank the Commissioner for the tremendous amount of effort that was put into this whole GC3 process. It was one of the most amazing things I've ever worked through and I just can't thank you enough. I think we were fortunate to be able to do it all on zoom, which was really amazing. Think about all the meetings we avoided and all the carbon we didn't actually expend because we did this all online. I just want to say particular thanks to Rebecca French who was amazing, running our Financing Adaptation work group. I sat on that particular committee, I thought it was fantastic that Brian Garcia brought us the equity lens, which I hadn't really thought about. I'm committed, as most people are here, to environmental justice and the notion of actually including that as part of the financing elements, that is really critical. I want to thank Curt Johnson and David Sutherland who were also on the Finance committee, from the environmental community because they had done such a great job as well as all the other advocates who've been involved in this, and most importantly, I want to thank you, Commissioner, for allowing your staff to work with us and to listen to us. We often don't get the opportunity to have folks really listen and I really feel that my voice was heard and other voices were heard and incorporated into the final report that you put together. I want to thank the governor, yourself and all of the staff at the department and the advocates who helped put that together. I'll close by saying, we got a lot of work ahead of us. Now, with general assembly starting up, I know a lot of this stuff will happen once the governor kicks off his budget proposals and we will start to move forward on a number of items that all the advocates are committed to moving forward to actually implementing a large portion of this agenda. Thank you.

Jillian Winterkorn: I want to thank Governor Lamont for demonstrating his leadership and Connecticut's commitment to climate action and to the GC3 members and public for establishing these recommendations. Eversource, including myself, is committed to the GC3, which has shown significant value, and we're committed to our company goals to be carbon neutral by 2030. I'm looking forward to working with these groups here to make sure that Connecticut is successful in meeting its climate goals. Eversource will be hosting an energy efficiency program roll out for 2021 and if that is of value to people here in further enhancing their climate initiatives, I would encourage you to attend. Thank you very much. This has been a great initiative to be part of and we look forward to continuing these efforts.

Jameson Davis: Thank you for the time to speak. I will be speaking on climate gentrification and just want to share my thoughts. There is a heightened vulnerability to unmitigated forced displacement by socioeconomically disadvantaged residents following a natural disaster, something like Sandy. Environmental or climate justification, it really occurs when there's an increase in providing amenities to a city, which then increases local property values, which attracts wealthier residents to a place that was previously polluted or disenfranchised, which then displaces the low-income residents. We heard presentations about sea level rise as well as some of the economic things that

are happening in certain communities. I just wanted to bring to light the climate gentrification and making sure that the goals that we have set are not indirectly causing harm to certain communities. Thank you very much.

Kathleen Schomaker: Thank you, Kathleen shoemaker in Hamden Connecticut, I'm our energy and sustainability coordinator and I can say amen to everything that has already been said, thank you everyone. I feel like we are a brain trust in sharp contrast to the horde that stormed the capital last week, so this is a proud moment for Connecticut. Thanks to everyone. A couple of things, I want to lift up our beautiful sustainable CT program that is nonprofit and all of the support that government agencies have provided to reach out to municipalities for specific actions in many of these regards that we've discussed this morning. I also want to exhort those of you who live in municipalities who haven't joined sustainable CT yet to seriously look into that. It is an exemplary program of its type nationally. The other thing is that we in Hamden have participated energetically in Live Green Connecticut's electric vehicle toolkit process. I also recommend this program to municipalities who aren't aware of it yet. There are many sponsors of that program on this zoom this morning and they did a marvelous job of giving us a tutorial. Both of these programs, Sustainable CT and Live Green Connecticut are great sources for the kinds of technical assistance that we on the ground and municipalities need. I'm thinking of things like learning more about the Transportation Climate Initiative and how we on the ground can respond to that. I'm thinking about the Volkswagen settlement fund and how we on the ground can figure out how to tap that funding for the work and our municipalities. There's a lot that we in local communities really want to tap into. Thank you.

Diane Lauricella: Thank you. I ask, especially with Marissa Gillette on the on the line today, a need based upon the question about the installation and something that Clean Water Action and others have suggested is to ask the legislature this session to reexamine the distribution of energy efficiency funds and to carve out a substantial amount for public outreach about the HES program, especially with income eligible. Eversource has many great programs but I do believe that they come up short as far as letting the public, that is their intended target, to actually understand what these programs can do. The public is in the dark and the time has come for entities such as Clean Water Action and other groups to actually have the money for public outreach on the ground in a billboard or a fancy TV ad, but actually teaching the public. Lastly, again, we must also remember that local is where it is at. I urge that we consider changing the role or adding to the role of the health directors both regionally and locally and we make sure that there is that sense of urgency on the local level because many local governments on this call and beyond have done a great job, but others have not. Because of this sense of urgency and the fact that we have an election cycle for local governments, this fall I ask everyone on this call to make these topics a topic for debate and discussion to enable us to have a faster, quicker, Better environment. Thank you.

NOTE: *Slides and presentations are available on GC3 web page: www.ct.gov/deep/gc3*

Additional written public comments submitted after the meeting are appended below.

Meeting Chat

00:41:42 Steve MacAusland: The Episcopal Church and the community of faith is checking in !

00:42:39 Diane keefe: The Quakers are here and thank Governor lamont for joining the Transportation Compact!

00:44:11 Patrick Comins: Wishing you a speedy recovery Governor!

00:45:20 Kathleen Schomaker: Thank you, Governor for issuing this Executive Order and instigating this important conversation and planning process.

00:48:43 Kathleen Schomaker: Thank you, Bryan Garcia, for your vision and leadership with CT Green Bank!

00:48:55 Steve MacAusland: Hope we can record this important conversatioon

00:49:39 Rachel Hiskes`: So many residents and sectors came together for these 60 priority actions to become reality! In the competing emergencies, climate legislation and actions are clearly a priority to so many in CT, especially environmental justice communities.

00:52:30 Eric Hammerling: Thanks for bringing Working & Natural Lands (Agriculture & Soils, Forests, Rivers & Wetlands) to the table as part of Connecticut's nature-based response to climate change!

00:53:11 Alicea Charamut: I second Eric's sentiment

00:58:05 Aaron goode: like the governor's background! 10/10 on Room Rater

00:58:35 Jameson Davis: With Sea Level rising at such an alarming rate. Has Climate/Environmental Gentrification been considered in this report? Climate gentrification disproportionately and negatively affects BIPOC and low-income coastal communities of color.

01:01:49 Gannon Long: So we expect both droughts and flooding to increase? Are mitigation strategies for both situations complementary?

01:03:43 Alicea Charamut: Gannon, interestingly enough, the some of the solutions to both are the same. This is why the working and natural lands groups focused on ecosystem services and how preserving these services protect our communities and citizens from these manifestations of climate change.

01:03:44 Gannon Long: Also Gov. Lamont, Glad to hear you and your hip are doing well, wishing you a speedy recovery.

01:04:07 Gannon Long: @Alicia, yes it seems like more green infrastructure and forestation would help for both, right?

01:05:13 Kimberly Stoner: Also, increasing soil organic matter and soil health mitigate both drought and flooding.

01:05:14 Alicea Charamut: Yes. As well as preservation of wetlands and riparian buffers along our waterways.

01:06:10 Alicea Charamut: Yes, Kim! Soils are too often overlooked.

01:07:02 Tim Hawley: Gannon - Yes, sustainable forest management improves resilience of forests to drought, severe storms, and rising temperatures.

01:07:14 Lilian Ruiz: Soils are the largest sink for carbon- and one we can manage!

01:07:33 Lilian Ruiz: Thanks Kim and Alicea for mentioning.

01:09:00 Lee Cruz: Yes. many thanks to Rebecca for all her work.

01:09:24 Bryan Garcia: Great job Commissioner, Rebecca and Team!

01:09:25 Lilian Ruiz: Rebecca, your work is outstanding! Thank you!

01:09:30 Gannon Long: Thanks the to the WOrking Nautral lands experts for chiming in on that question about droughts and floods :)

01:09:40 Gannon Long: Also Dr. French, your work has been extraordinary, thank you.

01:10:10 Rachel Hiskes`: This effort would not have been possible without Dr. French's leadership. Such an important climate leader in CT

01:10:36 Allen Kratz: Very impressive work, Commissioner, Council members, WG members, Rebecca and your staff.

01:12:24 Mary Hogue: Are there things that we should be doing in this new legislative session that can support this wonderful work in this report?

01:13:31 kipun kolesinskas: Protecting and managing working and natural lands is low hanging fruit for addressing climate change, and have so many co benefits like addressing food insecurity, habitat migration, flood prevention, etc.

01:15:54 Diane Lauricella: Thank you Gov. Lamont for Executive Order 3 and assembling the terrific team of Commissioner Dykes, Rebecca French, Marissa Gillett and the entire GC3 team! The approach was comprehensive and showed great growth beyond the silo mentality! So pleased that the public health and equity connections have been made. A big thank you!

01:19:08 Diane keefe: We need penalty pricing on P&C insurance based on climate risk, not just disclosure.

01:22:39 Patrick Comins: I need to go on to another meeting. Thank you for the opportunity to listen in. A representative from our Policy Committee will be reporting back to us on things I will miss in the rest of the meeting.

01:26:55 Rachel Hiskes: Electric vehicles are huge, what a great move DOT!!!

01:27:53 Rebecca French: TCI = Transportation and Climate Initiative

01:28:04 Kathleen Schomaker: Support the LiveGreenCT Electric Vehicle Toolkit program in 2021.

01:28:35 Aaron goode: Following California's lead, our neighbor Massachusetts has voted to phase out gas-powered vehicles by 2035. This is a logical corollary of joining TCI.

01:28:53 Gannon Long: @Aaron, agreed!

01:28:54 kipen kolesinskas: It is important that the State and municipalities model the behavior and actions recommended. Glad to hear DOT is on that path.

01:28:56 Rebecca French: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/News-Releases/News-Releases--2020/Statement-on-Transportation-Climate-Initiative-Program-Benefits-and-Consumer-Price-Protections>

01:29:21 Gannon Long: Garrett thank you for your leadership at DOT. Great to hear about progress there.

01:30:22 Diane keefe: What about creating more bike lanes on state routes. I've lived on Rt 53 for 30 years and was disappointed that it was repaved a few years ago without any bike lanes. Cyclists love to ride on that route and would love even a stenciled warning to cars to give space on the road for cyclists and pedestrians.

01:31:09 Gannon Long: Thank you Chair Gillett, your leadership at PURA is extraordinary.

01:31:18 Rachel Hiskes: Would love to hear from CIRCA and the COGs! Such important research and tools on climate change that could lead to policy solutions

01:32:17 Diane Hoffman: Thanks To Marissa Gillett and the PURA for their final decision on Docket 18-12-25 concerning UI's Target Risk Management program! Thanks to this decision our trees and people can breathe a lot easier!

01:32:28 Marissa Gillett: Thank YOU, @Gannon and @Brenda - really a pleasure to work with both of you.

01:35:01 Rachel Hiskes: Fuss and Oneill, have a look at Hartford! Central location and lots of municipal interest in LEED buildings, support a downtown economy

01:35:39 Gannon Long: @Rachel Hard second

01:37:34 Gannon Long: Wow, this is awesome Deb. Thanks for sharing.

01:39:04 lynne bonnett: Is B&D using solar to split water to produce the hydrogen for their fuel cells?

01:39:08 Brenda Watson: Thank you Commissioner Gillett. We are grateful to you and your team at EOE

01:40:07 Shanté Hanks: Good morning everyone. I would like to invite all interested to Resilient Bridgeport public forums that will take place in February. We will post dates on the Resilient Bridgeport & DOH websites. We are happy to report we are working towards 60% design and have been making great progress with the help of our sister agencies: DOT & DEEP. DC Hanks

01:41:04 Brenda Watson: Thank you for this update Shante!

01:41:50 Shanté Hanks: You're welcome

01:43:31 Aaron goode: It's very disappointing that Vineyard Wind has been slowed down by the Trump Administration

01:43:58 Aaron goode: we need those 800 MW of clean energy

01:44:49 Charles Rothenberger: True, but at least the delay has meant a better project design overall

01:45:44 Peter Moss: Besides increased energy efficiency, and the development of offshore wind, does the report recognize the essential importance of extending the life of Millstone as long as possible?

01:46:15 Rebecca French: FYI. We are borrowing a little time on the agenda from the next steps for Phase 2 to keep hearing from the GC3 members on these actions.

01:46:53 Kathleen Schomaker: these reports on next steps are very informative.

01:47:00 Steve MacAusland: Where and how can I get a directory of all the participants in this call ? stevemacausland@gmail.com

01:50:07 Rebecca French: Attendee names will be available in the minutes posted here within a week. <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Climate-Change/GC3/Meetings-and-Notices-2019-2015>

01:55:11 Gannon Long: @Peter, from the near term actions report:

"Maintain in-state zero-carbon nuclear generation and develop a long-term strategy to achieve a 100% Zero Carbon electric supply for Connecticut by 2040. Connecticut must retain zero-carbon nuclear power as it develops a transition plan to replace nuclear with zero-carbon renewables. A transition plan must consider the costs of nuclear retirement borne by ratepayers, the diverse mix of replacement energy sources, and economic, environmental, health, and social impacts of replacement. When planning the transition away from nuclear, economic and job impacts must be considered."

01:56:17 Rebecca French: If you want to provide public comment verbally, you can sign up by sending a chat to Alanis Allen.

02:04:03 Diane Lauricella: Thank you Deputy Commissioner Aaron! Public health connection is key to getting the public and local officials to connect the dots with climate change. Again, please try to find a way to revise local/regional Public Health Director's role/responsibilities as many do not feel it is part of their role. Would love to literally change their written state charter to include a sentence about climate change, environmental equity, pollution prevention.

02:07:49 Rebecca French: Read the final report here: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Climate-Change/GC3/Governors-Council-on-Climate-Change>

02:08:28 Steve MacAusland: Connected to Tesla and GM...

02:09:22 Charles Rothenberger: Diane, we are hoping that there will be legislation requiring climate impacts to be an explicit consideration in all decision-making. Part of the Mitigation Team's recommendations but unfortunately not reflected in this near-term report.

02:10:43 Rachel Hiskes: Ecological Landscaping Alliance just had a great webinar on natural habitats/urban forest patches, that can be seen here: <https://youtu.be/k8F2pdgFon0>

02:11:12 Curt Johnson: Thanks, Everyone. Save the Sound looks forward to working with all of you to move the short term financing recommendations - particularly bonding and stormwater authorities. Also supporting TCI. It will be a big lift and will require many voices.

02:15:59 Chris Donnelly: Good to hear about the commitment to urban forestry. State involvement in encouraging and helping to set direction in urban forestry is critical. Glad to hear that the state is stepping forward in this area as part of the GC3 effort. Certainly, urban forestry is an important element in climate considerations in all 3 areas - mitigation, adaptation and resilience.

02:17:11 JoAnn Messina: So agree with you Chris and we would like to assist with this focus.

02:17:12 Gannon Long: @Chris agree with everything you wrote - also want to add urban forests are a crucial equity strategy

02:18:15 Laura Bozzi: Could the State Health Improvement Plan be added to the list of relevant state agency planning documents?

02:18:27 Diane keefe: Summer youth conservation corps in our cities would be a great urban reforestation initiative for a just transition. Norwalk Mayor's summer jobs program always has many more applicants than jobs funded.

02:19:00 Kathleen Schomaker: Please someone convene a webinar delineating the implementation of TCI in CT for those of us who would like more detailed information. Thank you.

02:19:26 Kimberly Stoner: Please add the Connecticut Siting Council to the state agency list that need to be integrated into climate mitigation and adaptation efforts - particularly with a focus on environmental justice

02:19:33 Gannon Long: agreed @Kathleen, we haven't discussed TCI much yet

02:19:39 lynne bonnett: no waste management plan?

02:19:48 Gannon Long: Agreed Kimberly! Is the Siting Council here today?

02:19:56 Iris Kaminski: Revisit Tolls!!

02:20:26 Gannon Long: love that idea @Diane

02:21:59 Curt Johnson: Great comment about how our neighbors least responsible for pollution are suffering the most!

02:22:00 ROger Kuhns: Will there be a sub-working group that specifically delineates funding partnerships between towns & cities needing funding to take meaningful climate and emissions reduction actions in their communities with state funding avenues, and how these will link us to federal funding avenues. Thank you - Roger Kuhns

02:22:23 Bryan Garcia: Amen!

02:23:04 Bryan Garcia: Next Green Liberty Bond is coming out on Earth Day (April 22, 2021).

02:23:14 Amy Paterson: Agreed, Curt! Thank you for underscoring the need for implementing the funding mechanisms set forth in the Report which are essential to enabling action on addressing climate change from the community level - up. Thank you Governor Lamont, Commissioner, Dr. French, the members of the GC3, and all who have participated in moving this critical effort forward.

02:23:19 Bryan Garcia: www.greenlibertybonds.com

02:23:32 Iris Kaminski: Agree with Diane Keefe

02:24:09 Diane keefe: Yes, there is a lot of support for tolls in Fairfield County. While Democrats have a bigger majority and control of both Houses. Now is the time!

02:24:37 Patricia Taylor: It is exciting to hear that the state will develop and implement a environmental and health disparities map, working with E&E partners. Wonderful!

02:24:58 ROger Kuhns: What is the best path forward to develop line-item budgets in the State Budget for meaningful climate actions and other GC3 recommendations so underserved and less financially capable towns and cities can receive financial help for their emissions reduction programs, EV programs, building up-grade programs, climate and career education in schools programs, and so on? Thank you - Roger Kuhns

02:26:24 Diane keefe: Yes, don't allow KEC to be built.

02:27:16 Diane Hoffman: Thank you Alex Rodriguez!

02:27:45 Diane Lauricella: Yes Diane K.and Iris...tolls, rather than depending on "the Vices" to fund our government is key!. Need better messaging to help all understand the truth about a tolling program so that naysayers do not run away with their myths...

02:28:05 Henry Auer: Re Killingly, a way out may be not simply to cancel it, but to encourage NTE and others to participate in renewable energy projects as alternatives. A main idea may include new osshore wind within the states mandated effort.

02:29:07 Diane keefe: Yes GC3 could help a great deal by favoring a pivot to renewables by NTE

02:29:34 Eric Hammerling: Thanks to you, Frank Cervo, and to all of the outstanding people who both participated in the process associated with the Forests Sub-Group Report, and will be essential to many recommendations that we hope to keep moving forward!

02:29:34 Carol Youell: In order to avoid confusion #28a. refers to "permanent protection of forests FROM CONVERSION TO OTHER PURPOSES as clarified in the Forests subgroup report. Adding this clarification to the statement will help facilitate this goal.

02:30:05 Kris Kuhn: Renewable pivot, yes, cancel Killingly yes. Both!

02:32:13 Diane Lauricella: Yes Denise, and thank you for bringing important topic of soil health front and center!

02:32:15 Randall Anway: excelld

02:32:22 Amber Garrard: This is Eric Hansen. I want to second the written comments submitted by Audubon CT, CFPA, CLCC, and several other important conservation organizations in the state on January 6, 2021 to Commissioner Dykes. I would like to build on their recommendations of local food to include "Connecticut Grown" forest products and specifically call out the benefits of sustainably managed forests as part of Connecticut's working lands.

02:32:32 Randall Anway: excellent points denise!!

02:32:50 Katie Dykes: Thanks for the comment on insulation! Happy to share that Eversource and UI customers can sign up for for the Home Energy Solutions program for free at the Energize CT website, www.energizect.com . If you are an income eligible household, and your HES contractor recommends you get insulation, the vast majority of households will get that installed at no cost.

02:33:07 Susan Masino: Thank for these comments. Local resource use (and reuse), food security and soil health are all emphasized in the Science and Technology Report. This is also jobs and equity. Many benefits.

02:33:57 Gannon Long: Go Sena!!!

02:35:49 Laura Cahn: Banning use of herbicides would go a long way to protect our food supply, as they contaminate plants and animals. Herbicides poison air, soil, and water and do not eliminate unwanted plants.

02:35:53 Diane keefe: Eversource has done such a poor job in marketing the availability of Energize CT programs very few low income people know about the availability of free insulation. The PURA should open up for competitive bid the job of marketing available green energy programs. Eversource and UI have a conflict of interest in maintaining a centralized grid that will lose revenue when demand goes down.

02:36:20 Diane Hoffman: Thank you Sena Wazer! The Governor should revisit the decision on the Killingly Power Plant and if the decision is not changed, tell the people why.

02:37:24 Randall Anway: good points kipen!!

02:37:50 Gannon Long: @Diane an after action report on Killingly would be helpful for folks to understand why this project is moving forward despite consistent and vocal public opposition.

02:38:22 kipen kolesinskas: Very well stated Denise! Thank you!

02:38:50 Rachel Hiskes: Agree! Conservation land is key, and so many new building projects can eat up forest and agricultural land

02:39:09 Chris Donnelly: Well said, Tim.

02:39:13 Randall Anway: this kind of data is essential, tim - thank you!!

02:40:59 Gannon Long: Hartford has great data on the trees in the city, we need \$\$\$\$ from the state to keep planting them.

02:43:01 Randall Anway: trees provide so many co-benefits - thank you Cheryl!

02:43:01 Nora Rizzo: Check out the NESSBE Summit to continue these amazing conversations. Power of Place - Climate Action & Justice in the Built Environment <https://www.nessbe.net/>

02:43:12 kipen kolesinskas: Agriculture and food production in urban areas can go in hand with urban forestry. Can provide food, jobs, stormwater management, cooling, environmental justice

02:44:10 Gannon Long: Great point @Kimberly!

02:44:13 Curt Johnson: Thanks, Cheryl. Great to hear about urban trees. We may be back in touch with you! Curt Johnson

02:44:27 Diane keefe: Norwalk's tree canopy has declined dramatically as multifamily development has increased. The state needs to provide resources to our cities to replant multiple trees for every mature tree that is cut, especially within densely populated neighborhoods. The utilities need to be regulated more to justify their tree cutting. Many have complained that the utilities are overactive in response to last summer's storms.

02:46:14 Randall Anway: yes! thank you kimberly

02:46:32 Diane keefe: Agree with everything Kim Stoner said.

02:47:54 Diane Hoffman: Yes Kim Stoner- thanks for all of your comments! CSC must be a part of this process and thanks for your letters to the state treasurer regarding how our pension funds are invested!

02:49:22 Randall Anway: we need to improve readiness for electrification. longer term but critical

02:50:00 Diane Lauricella: Thanks for comments Kim!

02:50:30 Gannon Long: Wow! Thank you for sharing this incredible history, Mary.

02:50:35 Kathleen Schomaker: Cheers to Mary P for lifting up cultural heritage!

02:50:51 Bryan Garcia: Great idea Mary on Frederick Law Olmstead! He designed a park in "Little Liberia" in Bridgeport as well.

02:51:21 kipen kolesinskas: Biomass as an energy source also can have a role. Good land management can supply a renewable fuel source, new furnaces have very few emissions.

02:51:44 Diane Lauricella: Thank you Mary P. for your wise suggestions about value of urban rivers and parks!

02:51:48 Randall Anway: excellent points mary!!

02:51:57 Rachel Hiskes: Mary I like your Park River background! Fredrick Law Olmstead proud son of Hartford and father of Landscape Architecture. I agree with Bryan that the importance of Freeman Center/Little Liberia in Bridgeport is so key in cultural heritage

02:54:41 Rebecca French: If you have not had a chance to provide verbal comment, you can email comments related to this meeting to deep.climatechange@ct.gov

02:54:46 Gannon Long: Please share links for the Eversource event!

02:55:08 Rebecca French: or type in the chat

02:56:06 Kathleen Schomaker: Jameson Davis--thanks for lifting up challenge of climate refugees.

02:56:43 Denise Savageau: Link to comments made by Denise Savageau
https://1drv.ms/w/s!Avy3NgvDSIQ3yGf5K9rl-oA5_Byr?e=IbfuAo

02:58:07 Mary Pelletier: <https://www.olmsted.org/news-and-events/news/recent-naop-news>

02:59:05 Mary Pelletier: There will be a Zoom call regarding Ct' Olmsted 2022 celebration on January 19th at 11am

02:59:23 Steve MacAusland: Got religion ? The Community of Faith is here.
stevemacausland@gmail.com

02:59:31 Kathleen Schomaker: national league of cities as an

03:00:43 Mary Pelletier: to learn more, contact Dede Petri, National Association of Olmsted Parks, petridede@naop.org

03:01:46 Randall Anway: electrification readiness? eversource? ee? engagement? thank you diane!

03:02:05 Kathleen Schomaker: National League of Cities has an assessment tool for cities and towns to determine whether we are poised to be places to flee From or places to flee To in times of exteme whether events.

03:02:20 Diane keefe: Carver Center Norwalk grassroots tennis and person to person and Norwalk community health center are already embedded with low income communities. Let those institutions market energy efficiency programs to their constituents. It is urgent to help these families now. Community facilities should also have access to 2% funding for reroofing for solar plus storage projects.

03:02:44 Gannon Long: It would be great to hear a response/ update from DEEP on Killingly considering how many people have voiced those concerns throughout this process.

03:02:45 Mary Pelletier: Please note that I support the important comments of Denise S. regarding importance of state food security by increasing attention of farms

03:02:46 kipen kolesinskas: Excellent points on need to push municipalities and local officials

03:03:00 Mary Pelletier: thanks

03:03:01 Allen Kratz: Very informative meeting.

03:03:07 Diane Hoffman: Thank you!

03:03:16 susan Barney: thank you

03:03:21 Randall Anway: thanks!

GC3 Executive Actions

These are executive actions that the state agencies have taken to implement the recommendations of the Governor's Council on Climate Change.

Connecticut Green Bank

- **Revision to Vision Statement** – from “a world empowered by the renewable energy of community” to “a planet protected by the love of humanity”. This fits well with our “Green Bonds US” mantra for our Comprehensive Plan – which has financial meaning (i.e., green bonds as a financial instrument sold to American citizens to raise money to combat climate change) and social meaning (i.e., “green”...the environment, “bonds us”...brings us together, the environment unites us).
- **Inclusion of Vulnerable Communities Definition within Goal** – within our second goal “to strengthen Connecticut’s communities, especially vulnerable communities, by making the benefits of the green economy inclusive and accessible to all individuals, families, and businesses” – this is the definition from Public Act 20-05.
 - **Equity Metric** – from the statutory definition, we will focus on the Community Reinvestment Act portion to encourage more private capital investment from financial institutions in low-to-moderate income communities. We are working with the Department of Banking now on our equity metric framework, including (1) adopting low income (i.e., <50% AMI) and moderate income (i.e., 50-80% AMI) definitions within CRA, and (2) data collection and reporting on impact (e.g., investment, energy, economic development, environmental, etc.) in those census tracts (i.e., ≤80% AMI) within Metropolitan Statistical Areas
- **Establishing Investment and Benefit Targets** – “by 2025, no less than 40 percent of investment and benefits (e.g., jobs) from [Incentive and Financing Programs] is directed at vulnerable communities.” We are currently at about 25-30% based on our data. So, we have a ways to go to achieve what we need to, but with some time, planning, execution, and commitment we will get there!
 - We already have “Environmental Infrastructure” within our Comprehensive Plan, but we need enabling legislation to do it. So, the inclusion of Recommendation #57 with the GC3 report, and subsequently the Governor’s Bill, will enable us to support a debate at the legislature to broaden our authority.
 - We now have our award-winning Green Liberty Bond engine up and running – www.greenlibertybonds.com
 - Inclusion of resilience within C-PACE is a ‘no brainer’. We need enabling legislation and have that ready to go for E&T consideration.
 - We just released a report called “Mapping Household Energy and Transportation Affordability in Connecticut” that we worked on with Operation Fuel and the analysis was completed by VEIC, to begin to identify the equity issues with respect to transportation burden (i.e., percentage of household income spent on transportation). It is quite unaffordable in Connecticut – more so than the energy affordability gap! <https://www.ctgreenbank.com/ct-energy-transportation-costs-unaffordable/>

Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP)

- The Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) will continue its collaboration with the Department of Transportation, CT State Police and other state and local partners to complete a State Evacuation Response Framework as a piece of the overall State Response Framework.

- DEMHS will also continue to foster relationships with state and local partners through the CT Interagency Hazard Mitigation Committee to explore and prioritize future mitigation projects with the goal of incorporating climate change and GC3 recommendation elements into the project review and prioritization process.
- Finally, through the strong Emergency Support Function (ESF 15) External Affairs and Public Communications group, DEMHS will work with other partners to continue to enhance support for communication and outreach programs to educate residents about all aspects of preparedness, response and recovery for extreme weather events, including an emphasis on communication strategies for vulnerable and Spanish-speaking populations. This effort includes coordinating with state, local, and private sector partners to enhance access and functional needs (AFN) emergency preparedness and response to ensure safe and equitable access to communication and evacuation services and of medical care during natural disasters.

Department of Transportation (DoT)

- Battery Electric Bus integration into fleet
 - 2 BEBs put on road in 2020
 - 15 will be added in 2021
- DOT's Light Duty EV Charging Program
 - Level 2 EV chargers installed at DOT HQ in 2020
 - More to be installed in 2021 including at motorpool to start integration of EVs into state vehicle fleet
 - Alt Fuel Corridor signage has been installed along highways
- Complete Streets/Bike-Ped
 - 90 CCGP construction grants to municipalities for improved bike/ped connections to city, town and neighborhood centers (including 10 announced this week – assuming announced by Friday)
 - Every projects undergoes a bike and ped design review as part of DOT's Complete Streets design process
- Solar Power generation
 - 2 solar power generation projects in development at two DOT facilities in partnership with CT Green Bank
- Engineering Standards
 - Added a phrase “and new peak flow equations” to Engineering Standards below
 - DOT continues to pursue Best Available Science for data that supports engineering design standards and guidelines. Currently, in concert with USGS, DOT has updated flood-frequency estimates for streams and new peak flow equations. These updates are being integrated in the USGS “StreamStats” program, which estimates basin and climatic characteristics and streamflow statistics at ungaged stream sites.

Connecticut Department of Insurance

- This Department is working with industry to better understand their investment decisions related to fossil fuels.
- The Department is encouraging insurers to provide incentives to insureds to mitigate risk by providing credits for more resilient construction.
- Connecticut is leading the effort for insurance companies to submit their annual climate disclosures through the Financial Stability Board Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD). The TCFD is a market-driven initiative, set up to develop a set of recommendations for voluntary and consistent climate-related financial risk disclosures in mainstream filings.
- We encourage our insurance leaders to help develop investment vehicles which will help the state and its' communities to finance investments in resiliency and mitigation

- We've also been working with our state's insurers regarding more resilient construction standards.
- This year, the Department plans to host a conference with insurers and other financial institutions to develop methods to incentivize investments in climate resiliency initiatives.
- We are actively working with other states through the National Association of Insurance Commissioner's Supervisory Colleges to have insurers address their investments in fossil fuels in the hopes of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, a major contributor to *climate change*.
- The National Association of Insurance Commissioner's (NAIC) Executive Committee created a new task force focused on Climate & Resiliency on July 14. The task force will report to the NAIC Executive (EX) Committee and include several new workstreams. The task Force has been charged with coordinating all the NAIC's domestic and international efforts on climate-related risk and resiliency issues, including dialogue among regulators and with industry, consumers and other stakeholders.
- The International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS), which Commissioner Mais is a member, has developed a **draft Application Paper on the Supervision of Climate-related Risks in the Insurance Sector** and developed jointly with the Sustainable Insurance Forum (SIF) -- a leadership group of insurance supervisors convened by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The draft Application Paper provides background and guidance on how the IAIS supervisory material can be used to manage the challenges and opportunities arising from climate-related risks. The IAIS is the international standard-setting body responsible for developing and assisting in the implementation of principles, standards and other supporting material for the supervision of the insurance sector.

Department of Administrative Services (DAS)

- DAS is a member of the **Steering Committee for Executive Order No. 1** focused on reduction of GHG emissions.
- Data Collection: DAS has worked with DEEP to upload building energy use into EnergyCAP in order to better monitor and mitigate GHG emissions.
- Energy Audits: DAS recently administered ASHRAE Level Two Energy Audits of nearly 30 state buildings. The results of these audits will be used to help identify projects that may be good candidates for energy efficiency projects.
- Financing: DAS has partnered with local utility Companies, Eversource and United Illuminated, to help secure low cost financing for energy efficiency projects.
- Composting: DAS has implemented a composting program for the entire building at 450 Columbus Blvd.
- Electric Vehicle Conversion & Infrastructure: DAS Fleet has developed an extensive plan, including a detailed fiscal analysis of the prerequisites to fleet conversion.
- Solar PPA: DAS and other Executive Branch agencies have worked with the Connecticut Green Bank to execute a power purchase agreement for the installation and use of solar electric systems. DAS is working with the Connecticut Green Bank to determine the feasibility of installing solar arrays on buildings that may be good candidates.

Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA)

PURA has an overarching initiative called Equitable Modern Grid Proceedings which has 11 different tracks, including electric vehicles, storage, and smart meters. We recently issued a straw proposal for an electric vehicle program that takes cues from the EV roadmap from DEEP. We also issued a straw proposal that would look to incentivize behind the meter and in front of the meter for all consumer types. In addition, we are devoting resources to an affordability initiative.

Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD)

There have been two bundled procurements for offshore wind. Large, multimillion dollar economic and community development packages come along with these procurements. These bundles will go to train our workforce for offshore wind jobs and ancillary green jobs that may result after these initial installations and procurements.

Office of Policy and Management (OPM)

OPM plays a coordinating role and we have identified several areas where we can hone in on some of these implementation challenges and break down agency silos. We have been looking at what our programmatic efforts on adaptation and resilience and making sure that there is a focus on equity and investing in vulnerable communities. We have also been engaged in thinking about how our data analytics team can better help to coordinate some of the GIS mapping efforts. Our Office of Responsible Growth, which developed the state Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) is looking at how to better integrate greenhouse gas metrics and actions and some of the other recommendations on resiliency and adaptation into the next planning process for the POCD.

Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)

DEEP is partnering with DoT in an effort to seek implementation of the Transportation Climate Initiative (TCI), which will be critical to target greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector. A minimum of 35% of the proceeds from this program will be invested to support communities that are overburdened by air pollution and underserved by our transportation system. DEEP also released in December, a draft of our integrated resources plan, which maps out a path for the state to achieve a 100% zero carbon electric grid by 2040 and reflects the progress that we have already made today. Currently 65% of our energy supply is from zero carbon nuclear and renewable resources and we expect that by 2025 this will increase to 91%. Reaching a 100% zero carbon electric grid is possible and these recommendations help to move towards that. There were a lot of recommendations about urban forestry and so we will be hiring an urban forester and we are looking to expand our urban forestry program across the state. We are investing in community engagement to inform the planning process of the GC3 moving forward. In the GC3 report, there was a recommendation to develop a statewide environmental mapping tool to provide a visual representation of the spatial distribution of environmental and climate health vulnerabilities across Connecticut. DEEP is going to commit to provide the funding to develop and launch this tool.

Department of Housing (DOH)

DOH is overseeing the Resilient Bridgeport project funded by the US HUD CDBG National Disaster Resilience program. DOH invites all interested to Resilient Bridgeport public forums that will take place in February. DOH will post dates on the Resilient Bridgeport & DOH websites. We are happy to report we are working towards 60% design and have been making great progress with the help of our sister agencies: DOT & DEEP.

<https://resilientbridgeport.com/>

<https://portal.ct.gov/doh/doh/Sandy-Pages/Sandy-Programs/NDRC>

GC3 Non-State Agency Actions

These are actions that the non-state agencies have taken to implement the recommendations of the Governor's Council on Climate Change.

Fuss & O'Neill

About a year ago - recognizing the significance of climate mitigation and adaptation for all of our clients (agencies, communities, businesses and NGOs) - Fuss & O'Neill made the decision to consciously incorporate considerations of climate into all of our planning and engineering consulting service areas. We developed the position of Chief Resilience Officer within the company to lead this initiative (that individual is Diane Mas, copied). Actions we have and continue to take include:

- integrating climate change into our internal technical and management training and encouraging professional development related to climate mitigation and adaptation for all of our disciplines,
- incorporating consideration of climate change over the useful life of our projects into our planning and design work,
- working with our clients to find opportunities to reduce their risk from climate-related hazards.

In addition, we are converting our entire internal-combustion and hybrid vehicle fleet to PZEVs and planning to relocate our Manchester, CT offices to a more modern and energy-efficient facility with electric vehicle charging stations (eventually we want to go all-electric with our fleet).

The work of the GC3, including the recommendations in the working group reports and priority actions in the Phase 1 report, have confirmed that we made the right decision to be proactive on climate as the work of the GC3 over the past year or so has demonstrated the range of climate-related challenges and opportunities we face across the state.

Save The Sound

We would like to express our deep appreciation for the hard work and dedication shown by the appointees and workgroups of the GC3, the DEEP staff, and the members of the public over an intensive year of coordination, collaboration, and analysis," said Curt Johnson, president of Save the Sound. "Now we must move to action. It has been thirteen years since Connecticut established legal commitments to slash its climate pollution, and we are feeling the impact of climate change from stronger storms that batter our shores and disrupt our energy grid. Residents can't wait: we must pass legislation this year to establish accountability for meeting our greenhouse gas reduction targets, to enact the Transportation and Climate Initiative, to rapidly grow renewable energy and protect energy efficiency programs, and to invest in the resiliency programs that will prepare our communities for the future.

Legislative (Mitigation):

Global Warming Solutions Act Accountability:

- Establish a citizen suit provision to facilitate enforcement.
- Require greenhouse gas reduction targets be an explicit consideration in state actions.

Clean Energy: Codify Governor Lamont's 100% clean energy goal to provide statutory security that can be used in regulatory decision-making.

Electric Vehicles:

- Ratify the Transportation and Climate Initiative, establishing a declining limit on greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector.
- Establish state medium and heavy duty vehicle standards.

- Transition state fleet to 100% electric by 2030 for light-duty vehicles, and by 2040 for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles.
- Transition 30% of school buses to zero-emission by 2030, and 100% by 2040.
- Expand rebates for EVs to achieve 20% zero-emission vehicle penetration statewide by 2030 and 95% by 2050.

Protect Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy Funds

Legislative (Resilience):

Dam Disclosure: Improve public understanding of the risks of under-maintained dams and increase transparency by including on real estate disclosure forms a question about the presence of a dam on the property.

Sewage Right to Know Act: Improve the system for notifying downstream communities of sewage spills and ensure prompt, full notification. (This summer’s Mill River spill in Hamden/New Haven illustrates the need to improve this law; details: www.savethesound.org/2020/08/09/connecticut-needs-stronger-public-notification-of-sewage-spills.)

Stormwater Authorities: Give municipalities the opportunity to create local Stormwater Authorities to direct funds for projects that reduce local sewage overflows, filter runoff pollution, reduce flooding, and create more resilient communities. (New London is a successful example.)

Provide Resiliency Funding: Enhance resiliency bonding to ensure Connecticut can provide funding to the hundreds of nature-based projects—like green infrastructure and living shorelines—that are ready to be deployed for flood management and limiting sea level rise impacts.

Construction (Resilience):

Nature Based Solutions: we are developing and implementing 10 river and coastal projects (like Chittenden Marsh a shoreline softening project, funding for East Shore living shoreline, and a flood retention pocket park on the Mill River), as well as a slew of raingardens, in cities and towns throughout Connecticut. In the past four years, we’ve installed 28 rain gardens in environmental justice communities, they will divert 600,000 gallons of stormwater annually and reduce runoff to the West River in New Haven.

Culvert Assessment: we are embarking on an expanded river and culvert monitoring program that we plan to supplement with municipal support and youth engagement.

Administrative (Mitigation):

Shared Solar and Net Metering: Working before PURA to strengthen and expand Connecticut’s shared solar program and to ensure that both the valuation of distributed energy resources study and the new net metering/tariff results in promoting not detracting from solar progress in Connecticut.

Page Break *The Nature Conservancy*

Equity and Environmental Justice: Recommendations #1-4

Our work as it relates to Rec #4, “Establish Connecticut community resilience program.”

In 2007, TNC in Connecticut initiated a program for building resilience in natural and human communities in Connecticut. Since that time, TNC has continued to advance resilience in three ways with multiple projects and products under each:

- Resource and Decision Support Tools:
- Engagement with Communities across State of Connecticut
- Nature Based Projects and Solutions

Over the past decade, we have provided Community Resilience Building workshops to over 425 communities across 9 states and D.C., with 12,750 participants and 90,000 hours committed to resilience at the local level. We stand ready to work with the State to support development of a Connecticut Community Resilience Program.

Progress on Mitigation Strategies: Recommendations #5-23

Our work addresses Rec #12, “Achieve at least 66 percent zero-carbon electricity generation by 2030.”

We are working in support of:

Rec 12f: *Establish clear targets for offshore wind procurement and*

Rec 12h: *Identify transmission constraints and evaluate the need for new transmission infrastructure required to support a zero-carbon electric grid.*

We do this by being an active member of DEEP’s Commission for Environmental Standards (CES) re offshore wind. We are also active with partners on a regional basis to establish standards that protect marine ecosystems and better enable deployment of offshore wind by making permitting more timely. We are also deeply involved in the LIS Blue Plan which will enable timely decisions about offshore wind infrastructure coming thru Long Island Sound.

Finally, we have expanded our climate and energy policy program to work with partners in raising attention to the need for reforms in how ISO-New England manages the electric grid including addressing transmission constraints that could seriously restrict offshore wind.

Working and Natural Lands: Recommendations #24-48

Our work contributes to many WNL recommendations including Rec # 31, “Identify funding, programs, and resources needed for implementation of recommendations.”

TNC is a science-based organization that produces tools to better enable conservation and address climate resilience. For more than 10 years, a team of 150 TNC scientists have developed a comprehensive map of resilient lands and significant climate corridors across North America: the *Resilient and Connected Network (RCN)*. These sites, together with mapped climate corridors and movement zones can help sustain Connecticut’s biodiversity in the face of climate change. This state-of-the-art tool is ready for the State to utilize in fulfilling many of the WNL recommendations.

Operation Fuel

We use social media for our outreach and recently began to share updates from DEEP, PURA, as well as the Connecticut Green Bank.

We are also developing a kiosk that will allow for customers to pay their bills, apply for Operation Fuel grants, access Energize CT information, and information from the Connecticut Green Bank. This will serve as an intake site for those who do not have access to transportation or may not have access to a computer or WIFI.

Stanley Black and Decker

We have set new emissions targets to become “carbon positive” by 2030. That means making our own carbon footprint zero and additionally offsetting someone else’s carbon footprint.

The Hartford

We have a corporate goal of reducing our greenhouse gas emissions footprint by 2.1% on an annual basis translating to a 25.7% reduction by 2027 and a 46.2% reduction by 2037, which aligns closely to the

state's goals. By 2022 we will have converted 100% of our shuttles and security vehicles on our campuses to electric vehicles, we will have reduced use of Styrofoam to zero, we are anticipating reducing our water use by 15%, energy use in our facilities by 15%, and reduce our non-biodegradable and non-recyclable solid waste by 20%.

Subject: Comment submitted to GC3's Zoom meeting re: LMI energy retrofits
Date: Friday, January 15, 2021 at 12:02:31 PM Eastern Standard Time
From: Henry E. Auer
To: DEEP ClimateChange
CC: Henry Auer

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hon. Commissioner Dykes and Director French:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the GC3 final report this morning.

The magnitude of the need to electrify the built environment in Connecticut is daunting. There are about 1.4 million housing units in the state, and among renters, about 250,000 occupied by our LMI residents. The need is to carry out energy efficiency servicing and to convert space heating and cooling for these residents from fossil fuel-driven equipment to renewable thermal technology, in the time frame of the next two decades.

Connecticut has to develop effective policies, supported by sufficient funding, to undertake deep energy efficiency retrofits in the homes that our LMI residents occupy. A main policy challenge is to provide the incentives to landlords, who may not directly benefit from retrofits, to undertake such projects as a part of going to a 100% renewable energy economy in Connecticut.

Sincerely,
Henry E. Auer
Member, Connecticut Energy Network

Subject: Deny approval for Killingly Energy Center Center (KEC)
Date: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 5:01:44 PM Eastern Standard Time
From: robbs
To: DEEP ClimateChange

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

January 18, 2021

Katie Dykes
DEEP Commissioner
State of Connecticut
Hartford, CT

Dear Commissioner Dykes,

I want amplify the concerns raised by Kris Kuhn’s opinion piece in the January 6, 2021 edition of the CT Mirror CT Viewpoints regarding concerns on approval of “the imminent build-out of the Killingly Energy Center, KEC, a 650-MW natural gas power plant in northeastern Connecticut that is not needed, at a cost of over \$600 million.”

We have clear and undeniable scientific evidence that burning of fossil fuels is the primary cause of global warming that driving the catastrophic effects being wrought by climate change. The KEC project single-handedly destroys any chance CT has of reaching your stated goal of 100% carbon-free power by 2040. At full capacity, KEC will produce 2.2 million tons of CO2 annually, or 13% of Connecticut’s CO2 emissions.

The primary (70% to 90%) component of “natural gas” (a.k.a. CNG or LNG) is actually methane gas, which is 100x more heat-trapping that CO2. As such, it cannot be considered a “bridge fuel” as the backer of this plant, NTE, claims. This justification was personally refuted by you in 2019 at the annual conference of the League of Conservation Voters, where you declared, “Natural gas is a fossil fuel,

not a bridge fuel.”

As such, the KEC project is in direct conflict with the objective of Gov. Lamont’s executive order, which you supported, signed on Sept 6, 2019, for “strengthening Connecticut’s ongoing efforts to combat the effects of climate change” to ensure that the our communities are as resilient as possible to weather rising sea levels and increasingly powerful storms.

In announcing Executive order #3, Gov. Lamont stated “Climate change is an urgent, existential threat that must be tackled immediately, and under the leadership of this administration I am going to see to it that Connecticut remains a national leader on climate action. While the highest levels of our federal government are refusing to accept scientific facts, we need state governments to unite and address one of the most pressing international problem of our times. The effects of climate change are impacting our air, water, health, natural resources, economic, and the quality of life of every current and future citizen of Connecticut. We have an obligation to act now.”

And you supported the Governor when saying “Governor Lamont’s actions today cement Connecticut’s commitment to urgent action on climate change. By signing this executive order, Governor Lamont ensures Connecticut will have tools to plan for and address impacts like sea level rise and flooding, extreme heat events, and changes to ecosystems and habitats throughout the state. By incorporating resilience into our planning practices, and charting a path to a 100 percent clean electric grid, we can provide safety and security for future generations.”

Furthermore, it directly contradicts the goals, objectives, and recommended actions stated in the January 2021, GC3 Phase 1 Report: Near Term Actions.

As such, the KEC project must not be allowed to more forward. KEC is not needed for CT’s energy future and the emissions resulting from this project will directly offset any GHG reduction actions that CT undertakes to meet the stated GC3 reduction timeline.

Sincerely concerned citizen,

Robb Sauerhoff
Bridgeport, CT