
**Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3)
Financing Adaptation and Resilience
MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Date: July 17, 2020

**Meeting Time: 9:00am -
11:00am**

**Meeting Location: ZOOM
recording**

<https://www.adaptationclearinghouse.org/resources/financing-climate-resilience-mobilizing-resources-and-incentives-to-protect-boston-from-climate-risks.html>

ATTENDANCE

Working Group Member	Title	Organization	Present
Rebecca French, Co Chair	Director of the Office of Climate Planning	CT Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection	x
Andrew Mais, Co-Chair	Commissioner	CT Insurance Department	x
Deputy Commissioner Alexandra Daum, Co-Chair	Commissioner	CT Dept. of Economic and Community Development	x
Bryan Garcia, Co-Chair	President and CEO	CT Green Bank	x
Joseph MacDougald	Executive Director	UConn Law School Center for Energy and Environment	x
Claire Coleman	Undersecretary for Legal Affairs	CT Office of Policy and Management	x
James O'Donnell	Executive Director	CT Institute for Resilience and	
Patrick Brown	Assistant Vice President and Chief Technology Architect	The Hartford	x
David Sutherland	Director of Government Relations	The Nature Conservancy	x
Curt Johnson	President	Save the Sound	x
Kathy Dorgan	Principal	Dorgan Architecture & Planning	x
Wayne Cobleigh	Vice President	GZA	x
Dean Audet	Senior Water Resources Engineer	Fuss & O'Neill	x
Robert LaFrance	Policy Director	Audubon CT	x
Adrienne Farrar Houël	President and CEO	Greater Bridgeport Community Enterprises	x
Jennifer O'Brien	Program Director	Community Foundation for Eastern CT	x
James Albis	Senior Advisor to Commissioner Katie Dykes	DEEP	x
George Bradner	Director, Property and Casualty filings	CT Insurance Department	x
John Truscinski	Director of Resilience Planning	CT Institute for Resilience and Climate	x

Associated Staff & GC3 WG Members	Title	Organization	Present
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Brian Basso	GC3 Intern	DEEP	x
Nick Zuba		CT Green Bank	x
Eric Hammerling (Working & Natural Lands WG member)	Executive Director	CT Forest and Park Association	x
Max Cover	Intern	Save the Sound	x
Louanne Cooley	student	Uconn School of Law	x
Members of the Public			
Juliemar Ortiz	Connecticut Community & Government Liaison	Vineyard Wind	x
Jonathan Lee		Yale University	x
Tyler Anderson			x

AGENDA & NOTES

Welcome and Announcements

Agenda Item(s)

- Recap GC3 full meeting on July 15th
 - Recap content for financing section for the draft report
 - Next steps for the written report/provide EEJ with a presentation of the draft financing section for review
 - Presentations on the role of foundations and Philanthropies in financing adaptation and resilience
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Rebecca French – Recap of GC3 Full meeting on July 15th and recap of content for financing section of the draft report

- Goes over the barriers to financing section.
 - Covers from three main papers concerning financing climate change resiliency in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut
 - The section is now in a narrative format
 - Begin thinking of how barriers can lead to recommendations, but not all barriers necessarily need to be addressed
 - Members comment on the potential addition of relevant barriers

Curt Johnson

- How much federal funding are we losing because we don't have federal and state matching? - *Rebecca French*: Response - we don't have data on that, but FEMA requires a 25% match no matter the size of your project.

Robert LaFrance

- Lower the matching requirement
- Make the grant application process easier
- Make sure the engineering permits needed are already available
- CT Green Bank may be a good resource to address equity issues in financing

David Sutherland

- Are there grant programs that are easier for affluent communities to get because of their resources? - *George Bradner*: Sandy money went to more affluent communities
- How do we make it easier for vulnerable and less well resourced communities to get access to grant money?

Kathy Dorgan

- Comments: The Non-profit network is essential in laying the ground work for grant applications

Bryan Garcia - Next steps for the written report/provide EEJ with a presentation of the draft financing section for review

- Reviews equity lens criteria: We will use the dept of Homeland Security Community Lifelines Criteria

- Initial criteria will move to public dialogue to revised criteria and finally to climate financing mechanisms
- Initial Criteria: Community Lifelines: Provides indispensable services that enables the continuous operation of critical business and government functions and is critical to human health and safety, or economic security
- How do we then initiate public dialogue?
 - Depending on the project a community wants to initiate this would be paired with a suite of funding strategies
- Community lifelines: National Response Framework Recovery and support functions
 - Community planning and Capacity Building Recovery Support
 - Health and Social Services Recovery Support
 - Economic Recovery Support
 - Housing Recovery Support
 - Infrastructure System's Recovery Support
 - Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery and Support
 - *George Bradner*: these criteria are meant to help communities in their emergency response planning and preparation efforts
 - *Wayne Cobleigh*: Most projects involve every one of the community lifelines, they are all connected
- *Rebecca French*: How does the criteria fit into the Financing Section – Bryan Garcia: These will show weaknesses in financing mechanisms in terms of serving vulnerable communities
- *Joe MacDonald*: What part of State government would municipalities need to talk to discuss these community lifelines?
- *Bryan Garcia*: The main point is funding should be prioritized for vulnerable communities

Adrienne Houel: Role of Foundations Presentation

- Based on 2 examples of large foundations: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Kresge Fund – have a varied level of funding available to them for a diverse range of projects
 - Challenges to municipalities in finding funding
 - Qualifications
 - Capacity
 - Changing technology
 - Competition
 - Narrowness of grant scoping
 - Changing priorities
 - Funding limitations and restrictions
 - Funding shortfalls
 - Potential Solutions and Overcoming barriers
 - Recognize fluidity and change
 - Look for unique ways to meet program goals
 - Broaden focus
 - Form collaborations
 - Identify today's needs
 - Benefits of Foundations generally
 - Active partnerships in long-term goals

- Guidance on best practices and state of innovation in programming
- Specific project funding
- Financing for program designs, plans, and consultants
- Financing technical assistance and training
- Matching funds to leverage federal funding
- Funding “Sustainable CT” tasks
- Role of the State
 - Identify and define projects and programs
 - Indentify funding objectives
 - Aggregate funding from foundation and federal sources
 - Redirect funds to COGS, municipalities, communities and organizations

Jennifer O'Brien: Philanthropic support for funding climate resiliency and environmental justice

- Foundations are best suited to fund projects that need flexibility, are environmental justice related, work in connect engagement, or work in environmental education and conservation
- Can provide funding for grant matching, advocacy at the local and state level, coalition building
- Have leadership roles within the community
- Have a history of working with other funders and can bring those connections to the table
- Obtaining these funds often involves relationship building

Meeting Chat Notes and Public Comment

-  **Wayne Cobleigh**01:29:58

The recommendation for centralized and comprehensive planning and funding authority will need to assess the current decentralized governance now in use for resilience planning and project investments by State, COG and municipalities, NGOs, foundations

-  **Robert LaFrance**01:30:12

I like the idea of doing a template for each idea we have discussed. My sense is that creating a broad list of options can be thought about as different "tools" that can be selected depending upon political and economic situations.

-  **Jonathan Lee**02:07:46

Massachusetts has a Community Grant Finder page (<https://www.mass.gov/lists/community-grant-finder>) on its state website that lists all state-level grants for communities, categorized into general topics. This kind of one stop shop for all grants and grant-related resources would be

useful for municipalities (and community organizations) of varying sizes. I am unable to find as comprehensive a list on a webpage for Connecticut - this may be a small thing, but could this be another low-lying fruit for us?

-  **John Truscinski**02:11:13

Maybe a best practices section on utilizing foundation funding including sources in CT.