



This special meeting of the Clean Energy Commission was conducted as a virtual meeting. A recording of this meeting is available on West Hartford Community Interactive at: <https://www.whctv.org/whats-new/702-clean-energy-commission-meeting>

August 26, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

1. Roll Call - **Commissioners present: Pelletier, Diviney, Dubuisson, Campanella. Other Attendees: Steve Sack, Julia Farber, Samantha Dynowski, Ilker Budak, Christine Feeley.**
2. Approval of Minutes - July 22, 2020. **APPROVED.**
3. Communications & Events
 - a. 8/26 1-2 PM Sierra Club, WH library event / Draft Energy Plan, <https://westhartford.librarymarket.com/events/get-energized-west-hartfords-clean-energy-plan-virtual>.
17 attendees attended this presentation of draft energy plan. A follow-up email will go out to registered people with links to HES program and plan.
 - b. 8/28 10-11:30 AM CT Energy Network HES event, flyer
Seminar to educated folks about FREE HES and enhanced rebates for limited period of time. We should think about how to promote in WH.
 - c. Ground-mount Solar.
Vote on whether to support Susan Prihar, a resident, who would like to approach Town Council to request Plan & Zoning to re-examine ground mount solar ban in residential zones in 2016. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED. Letter to be drafted from CEC.
 - d. Net Zero House
FYI to Commission. A resident is in planning to build a net-zero house in Town. Bernie and Catherine will keep CEC informed.
4. Energy Plan Draft
 - a. <https://www.westhartfordct.gov/resident-services/clean-energy/comprehensive-energy-plan>
 - b. Comments received, timeline, outreach
**Matt Hart has indicated that he would like time to comment on draft. He also believes it would be introduced through a subcommittee.
Smaller, editorial comments are being included in draft.
General discussion took place on 6 larger issues. See attached notes.
People encouraged to share draft and submit comments in writing.**
5. Any Other Business
6. Adjournment

"ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY WHO NEEDS SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN A MEETING OR PUBLIC HEARING SHOULD CONTACT SUZANNE OSLANDER, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, 860-561-7580 SEVEN DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING OR PUBLIC HEARING."

1. 2050 is too far out ----
 - But make sure a lot of work is done before then. Don't want it to pile up.
 - Good to have short and long term goals.
 - More visionary than scientific
 - Keep 2050
2. Concern that general public is skeptical of transformative new "smart" technology e.g, smart grid/microgrid/EVs, etc. for security, vulnerability, failure, hacking, etc.
 - The plan envisions transformation – are we pushing too much new tech...
 - Conservation – behavior changes and passive approaches are low tech and more secure...
 - There are multiple pathways.... And we need to be flexible...
 - Who works on public transportation??? Identify it as not addressed anywhere (that we can find) --- can we expand on the FastTrack idea..... West Coast has demonstrated that planning can "cause" reality... to occur.
 - Maybe use the term "modern" not smart.
3. Heating: More emphasis on low-carbon bio-fuels (either as transition or end?), ~~less emphasis on electrification/heat pumps~~
 - People should know there are options
 - We should follow state lead
4. Transportation: More emphasis on bio-diesel (either as transition or end?), ~~less emphasis on EVs~~
 - While still running equipment why not run bio diesel?
 - Perhaps the way to think about this is to view electrification as a turnover strategy...i.e. when it is time to replace – pursue electrification.
 - Other benefits of EV – noise, maintenance
5. Renewable Energy Credits versus locally sited renewable energy (regardless of REC ownership).
 - Do we care about an "official claim"? – focus will be that in the long term we will have local generation – or direct purchase - of renewables...?
 - Alternately – get "local" RECS (New England v. Texas Wind for example).
 - Track "our output" (even if we have sold RECs)...we have done the work – we should take some credit for the energy – without claiming or ignoring that we have sold the RECs
6. People seem very interested in "energy" and "climate" implications of Food (meat) & Waste (food scraps, recycling, etc.). Topics beyond where we drew boundary (Residential, C&I, Transportation, Clean Energy) in this plan.
 - It is reasonable for us to "push" food and trash issues that have energy implications... but we are not to establish "waste policy" (that is for others)
 - The history is that we developed the plan within a scope of being an energy commission.
 - What about trash to energy plant in Hartford?
 - Not a fan of incineration. Katherine Bruns is working on lowering trash volume – the hope is that with strong zero waste policies the Hartford plant won't need to be rebuilt.
 - Pragmatic approach let's "chew what we have bitten off" – and then think about broadening scope – or finding another partner (Conservation and Environment Commission for example).