



This special meeting of the Clean Energy Commission will be conducted as a virtual meeting. Members of the public may view the meeting on West Hartford Community Interactive: Comcast Channel 5, Frontier TV Channel 6098, YouTube and www.whctv.org. Members of the public may also provide comments on agenda items by calling at the scheduled date and time and using the following access code:

March 24, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Call 1 (408) 418-9388

Access Code: 129 173 4178

Password: XvDQKJ4Hq54

MEETING MINUTES

1. Meeting Opening

- a. Call to order – 7:00pm
- b. Roll Call – We have a quorum, James Capella, Catherine Diviney, Bernie Pelletier, Dave Mello, Joe Campanella, Chris Nelson, Max DuBuisson
 - Residents – Students (Evan Piccioli, Corina Chang, Arlo Tucker, Zoe Weissman), Areej Nitowski, Daniel Johnson, Phil Huerter, Nicholas Matone, Hendree Milward, Jen Evans, Christine Feely, Julia Farber, Stephen Sack
- c. Approval of Minutes – February 24, 2021 - PASSED

2. Old Business

- a. Energy Plan Draft, <https://www.westhartfordct.gov/resident-services/clean-energy/comprehensive-energy-plan>
 - Status – May/June approval of the plan from Matt Hart
- b. Public Art & EV Chargers
 - Public Charging stations in Bloomfield, West Hartford, Simsbury – Looks like it's going to take off
- c. Climate Emergency – discuss draft of resolution – Hendree and the students with Citizens Climate Lobby shared a presentation and asked us to accept the resolution (attached).
 - Catherine shared that the town manager is generally supportive, and that he indicated one path to introducing the resolution to Council is for CEC/CCL to work together so that a petition is not required.
 - Discussed some possible difficult topics for town council – Carbon pricing, carbon tax, pressure on 2050 no combustion vehicles, clarify the structure of the climate change commission and how it fits into WH

- WH CEC will talk with town manager and will bring the topic to vote on the resolution at our next meeting (Bring to Town Council in May/June possibly)
- d. Commission reports (standing agenda item):
- Community communication network: Joe Campanella/ Chris Nelson/Mike Matthews – Joe to reach out to Renee McCue, pending.
 - Connection with Sustainable West Hartford Facebook page: Joe, Chris, Mike Matthews – Uptick in members (from 240 to 280). Need to make sure they're WH residents or joining the group for the right purpose. Possibly use digital marketing through FB to increase members.
 - Town Clean Energy Webpage: Catherine, Max Dubuisson, Mike Matthews – Town is open to hiring interns to work the webpage
 - Youth representation: Catherine - pending
 - Heat Pump and efficiency education campaign: Bernie, Joe – pending, discussed with assistant town council and Bernie thinks there's a path forward, update at next meeting
 - Energy outreach to LMI: Bernie, Max – priority of the State is equity and environmental justice, HES audits will still be free to LMI people. Can make a difference in our town if we reach this community.
 - Outreach for Sierra Club RF100: Joe, Chris, Mike Matthews, Samantha Dynowski – Working with Christine Feely
 - EV car event: James Capella - pending
 - Public transit champions: Catherine – Wait until we're through Covid for direction
 - Community engagement with Sustainable CT: Catherine
 - Explore Sustainability plan (broader than Energy Plan): Bernie, Catherine, Bruns, S. Sack
- e. Creation of a Sustainability Task Force – Recruiting 20 people by March 31st, there is a lot of interest (not as diverse as we hoped). Catherine to converse with Matt Hart tomorrow on this topic. Possible to attract a more diverse base, is a blind grant possible to compensate those who might need it in order to participate?
3. New Business
- a. March 30- 6:30PM - Your Town, Our Planet - Mayor Cantor / Catherine presenting/
Register here:
<https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=7013q000001kptHAAQ>
 - b. 2021 NESSBE - the Power of Place - March 25 and 26:
<https://www.nessbe.net/registration>
 - c. Updated EEB incentives/ HES IE – Free HES audits end on April 1st, it will cost \$50.
 - d. Stephen Sack, a republican, to join the commission. Sent his resume in but hasn't heard anything back.
4. Staff Report – Catherine's submitted a CMAQ grant proposal for EVs/Town Fleet – Passed the 1st round at CRCOG, now competes at the CTDOT level. (2 Chevy Bolts for building inspectors and an EV Charging Station). Working mainly on Sustainability Advisory Group and planning a Community Resilience Building Workshop with the Nature Conservancy (Through Sustainable CT) which will be in May.

5. Public Comment –Daniel is rehabbing his house and trying to be more energy efficient. Great to hear all of the work being done. Ask Katherine Bruns to be on the next call about the trash/material issue within WH (and CT).

6. Adjournment – 8:37pm

"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."

WEST HARTFORD CLIMATE EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, “Continued emission of greenhouse gases will cause further warming and long-lasting changes in all components of the climate system, increasing the likelihood of severe, pervasive, and irreversible impacts for people and ecosystems”¹; and

WHEREAS, rising levels of carbon in the atmosphere will increase the frequency and intensity of heat waves, droughts, floods (by a factor of 5 to 10), and storms (comparable to those of Superstorm Sandy every 5 to 10 years), as well as sea-level rise and the spread of novel diseases²; and

WHEREAS, Connecticut is a coastal state with significant land, property, and commerce at risk from accelerating sea level rise, which will cause irreversible destruction to the state, impacting all connecting communities, the wider region, and economic interests state wide; and

WHEREAS, the natural areas in and around West Hartford that we all enjoy like Spice Bush Swamp, the West Hartford Reservoir, Trout Brook, and our wonderful parks, risk decreased biodiversity, temporary closings due storm damage, and reduced usability in the middle of the day due to heat; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense has stated "Assessments conducted by the intelligence community indicate that climate change could have significant geopolitical impacts around the world, contributing to poverty, environmental degradation, and the further weakening of fragile governments³;" and

WHEREAS, marginalized populations in West Hartford and worldwide, including people of color, immigrants, Indigenous communities, low-income individuals, people with disabilities, outdoor laborers, and the unhoused are already disproportionately affected by climate change, and will continue to bear an excess burden as temperatures increase, and disasters worsen;⁴

¹ the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the world's most respected organization for study of research on climate change, stated in its [2014 Fifth Assessment Report](#)

² [Yale Climate Change and Health in Connecticut 2020 Report](#), [Governor's Council on Climate Change](#), and NASA's [Effects of Changing the Carbon Cycle](#)

³ [United States Department of Defense, Quadrennial Defense Review Report 2010](#), page 85

⁴ The United Nations [Report: Inequalities exacerbate climate impacts on poor](#)

WHEREAS, implementing climate mitigation strategies now will be less costly upfront, rather than trying to reverse climate damages in the future⁵; and

WHEREAS, world leaders from 197 of countries including the United States, recognize the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by adopting the Paris Agreement⁶; and

WHEREAS, limiting warming to the 1.5°C target this century will require a transformation of every sector of the global economy over the coming decades⁷; and

WHEREAS, the nations of the world currently have the economic and technical resources to avert this crisis; and⁸

WHEREAS, climate change is fundamentally a shared problem requiring collective action, Individual and municipal responsibility by itself are insufficient to address the problem's scale.

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the Town of West Hartford joins New Haven, New Britain, Bridgeport, and Middletown in recognizing an on-going climate emergency that threatens the existence of our civilization and the natural world; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of West Hartford rises to the challenge of creating upward political pressure by calling for state, federal, and global efforts to restore and maintain near pre-industrial global average temperatures and greenhouse gas concentrations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of West Hartford will form a town Climate Change Commission either by adding a new commission or repurposing an existing commission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the aforementioned West Hartford Climate Change Commission shall have student representation with voting privileges from Hall and Conard High School, as younger citizens will be disproportionately impacted by the consequences of a changing climate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Climate Change Commission's primary task is to persuade other Connecticut towns and cities to pass Climate Emergency Resolutions and to influence state legislators and the governor to pass substantive climate legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the secondary priority of the Climate Change Commission is to set goals and catalyze action to reduce West Hartford's carbon footprint which in turn will support the commission's primary goal of advancing a model for other towns to follow; and

⁵ The Natural Resources Defense Council Report: [The Cost of Climate Change](#)

⁶ The United Nations website, [The Paris Agreement page](#)

⁷ IPCC special report, 2014 fifth assessment report (see footnote 1)

⁸ Nicholas Stern from the London School of Economics, Chief Economist at the World Bank: [The Economics of Climate Change](#)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of West Hartford adopts and implements a plan to power our community with 100% clean energy by 2050 or earlier, such as the 2020 Energy Plan proposed by the Clean Energy Commission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of West Hartford supports the development of carbon pricing legislation, such as carbon fee and dividend; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of West Hartford calls on the State of Connecticut, the United States Congress, the President of the United States, and all governments and people worldwide to declare a climate emergency, initiate a Climate Mobilization to reverse climate change and the ecological crisis, and to restore a safe and sustainable climate for all living beings on earth.

NOTES

, including submerging of the federal I-95 corridor

<https://www.fema.gov>

WHEREAS Connecticut's Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3) established in its Phase 1 Report that Connecticut could expect by 2050 serious adverse changes, including increase in mean sea level in Long Island Sound of 20 inches, an increase in flood risk by a factor of 5 to 10, high water levels comparable to those of Superstorm Sandy every 5 to 10 years, a temperature increase of 5F compared to the 1970-1999 baseline, resulting in a quintupling of above-90F days per year from 5 to 25 and a 30% reduction in days with frost from 124 to 85, increased drought risk and resulting increased risk of low water availability, increased risk of extreme precipitation events, and stronger hurricanes with faster winds and higher precipitation; and (Hartford)

WHEREAS emissions reductions targets set by the governor's executive orders (45% greenhouse gas reduction by 2030 and 80% greenhouse gas reduction by 2050), the Transportation Climate Initiative (transportation emissions reduction of 30% by 2032), and the Integrated Resources Plan (zero emissions from electrical generation by 2040) require dramatic expansion of renewable energy systems at a rapid pace; and (Hartford)

Within the next 10 years (though we should plan to complete our transition within 5 years for time to assist other nations). We MUST mobilize with the same unequivocal fervor and urgency as is done for an international war, but this time in collaboration and aid to each other.

West Hartford's achievement of 100% Clean Energy power for municipal utilities by solar offsets are an example of the commitment to achievement of carbon reductions by this town.

Notably, that action plan and a Declaration of Climate Emergency do not have to exist exclusively from one another and in fact, can function in a very intertwined way. A Climate Emergency Declaration is meant to show where Hartford's priorities lie, influencing the allocation of resources, and time. This additional commitment to the climate crisis would only help further the Stewardship Initiative's cause. In addition, the Climate Emergency Declaration we have proposed is a reflection of the values and priorities of Hartford citizens, who have felt the brunt of the climate crisis. Declaring a climate crisis not only acknowledges that unequal burden, which will only be exacerbated as the crisis worsens, but also demonstrates a commitment to work towards solutions.-Hendree via Jordan's comments on the Q&A