

---

# **Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3)**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

---

**Meeting Date: June 8, 2022**

**Meeting Time: 10 am – 12 pm**

**Meeting Location: Gina McCarthy Auditorium, DEEP Headquarters**

**Zoom Recording: [Part 1](#) & [Part 2](#)**

## IN- PERSON ATTENDANCE

GC3 Members/Designees are bolded

<b>Name</b>
<b>Commissioner Katie Dykes, DEEP (GC3 Chair)</b>
Rebecca French
Alanis Allen
Sarah Watson
Ashley Benitez- Ou
Alex Rodriguez
<b>Deputy Commissioner Alexandra Daum, DECD</b>
Ann Gadwah
<b>Deputy Commissioner Brenda Bergeron, DESPP</b>
<b>Bryan Garcia, CT Green Bank</b>
Brianna DeVivo
<b>Commissioner Bryan Hurlburt, DoAg</b>
Charles Rothenberger
<b>Curt Johnson, Save the Sound</b>
Emily Pysh
George Bradner
<b>George Kral, Town of Guilford</b>
<b>Deputy Commissioner Jared Kosky, CDI</b>
<b>Secretary Jeffrey R Beckham, OPM</b>
<b>Jim O'Donnell, UConn CIRCA</b>
Kayleigh Royston
<b>Kevin Grigg, Fuss &amp;. O'Neill</b>
Lori Mathieu
<b>Commissioner Manisha Juthani, DPH</b>
Michael Barrera
Raquel Ocasio
Robert Lafrance
<b>Commissioner Shante Hanks, DOH</b>
Leticia Colon de Mejias

## ONLINE ATTENDANCE

Evan Dantos
Diane Field
Charles Leigus
Joe Canino
Joanna Wozniak-Brown
<b>Brenda Watson, Operation Fuel</b>
Susan Masino
Joel Gordes
Kevin Cini
Nicholas Georges

Alan Poirier
Kim Zigich
Meghan Bard
Rick Newton
Mary-beth Hart
Thomas Swarr
Jennifer O'Brien
Chris Phelps
Blake Hite
Amy Blaymore Paterson
Will Hinkle
Michelle Andrzejewski
Patrice Gillespie
<b>Aziz Dehkan, CT Roundtable on Climate &amp; Jobs</b>
Tim Shea
Caleb Hamel
Cary Lynch
Melissa Kaplan
<b>Deputy Commissioner Noel Petra, DAS</b>
Jennifer Delony
Maggie Hart
Lisa Prevost
Patricia Taylor
Shannon Laun
Nathan Frohling
Alixandra Rachman
Jillian Winterkorn
Laura Cahn
Ralph Jones
Wayne Cobleigh
Jeff Howard
Ryan Levandowski
Melissa Conway
Mary Hogue
Kristin Cianflone
Karen Jarmoc
Maureen Goulet
Bridget Teevan

Fintan Mooney
Graham Stevens
Lori Brown CTLCV
Allison Pilcher
Eric Hammerling
Jaime Krasnitski
<b>Lee Cruz, The Community Foundation of Greater New Haven</b>
CTDOT Bell
Mary Buchanan
Laura Bozzi
Amanda Clark
Leticia Colon
Connie Manes
Denise Savageau
Kelsey Sudol
Susan Eastwood
Julia Wang
Adrienne Baxter Save The Sound Intern (A B)
Sabrina Xie
Rachel Hiskes
Peter Millman
Lisa Fecke
Mark Mitchell MD
Diane Lauricella
Holly Lalime
Thomas Regan-Lefebvre
Melinda Decker
Nicole Freitas
Dave Reyes
Linda Kowalski
Brad Weeks
Sarah Krame
Christine Stuart
John Olin
Graham Stevens
Katherine Lund
Lilian Ruiz
Lisa Hayden

<b>Chair Marissa Gillett, PURA</b>
Kristin Foster
Bernard Pelletier
Robin kipnis
Phone Number 1
Phone Number 2

## AGENDA & NOTES

### Welcome by DEEP Commissioner Katie Dykes

Roll call by Rebecca French (see attendee list)

### GC3 Annual Progress Report (see slides)

Commissioner Katie Dykes remarked on legislative and programmatic progress on the 2021 recommendations of the GC3.

### Taking Climate Action in 2022 and Beyond – The Federal IIJA Opportunity and New State Statutory Authority and Funding

Discussion with the Council

Emily Pysh, DOT

Programs made possible because of IIJA

Still waiting on federal guidance

- National electric vehicle infrastructure program focuses on the installation of fast chargers for electric vehicles along alternative fuel corridors (\$50 million over 5 years)
- Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient and Cost saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program. Our resilience formula funding program should bring \$90 million to state over next 5 years. To protect infrastructure like federal aid highways. Will help make infrastructure more resilient to storms to protect what's already there and fund projects that need undertaking. Would like to address repetitive impacts from smaller, more frequent storms we have been seeing
- Carbon Reduction Program to reduce carbon emissions. Large planning component to identify a carbon reduction goal. Would like to identify opportunities for solar in rights-of-way and identify targets for VMT reduction.

-

Jim O'Donnell, UConn CIRCA

- CIRCA has grown in the last few years
- For the last year work mostly working on Resilient Connecticut Project
- Phase 2 concluded this year with identification of 67 projects in Fairfield and New Haven Counties. Those areas become (RORs) Resilience Opportunity Regions and were reviewed by towns and (COGs) Councils of Government. Looked for programs with co-benefits and opportunities and ended up with 7.
- Funding to support environmental justice mapping as well as climate planning
- Now making measurements of temperatures and heat stress in cities and that's projected to increase and lead to increased health disparities.
- Legislature approved \$5 million for CIRCA to continue prioritization and assessment program to eastern Connecticut and Hartford County and expanded to include new staff

- Collaboration with UConn School of Law has led to development of whitepapers, webinars, and policy ideas

#### Bryan Garcia, CT Green Bank

- PA 21-48 has elements of enabling affordable housing to participate in the residential renewable energy solutions program. It treats affordable housing as a residential property
- Battery Storage docket approves a 580 MW battery storage program behind the meter for residential and non-residential customers. It provides incentives upfront and an ongoing performance-based incentives over a 10 year period to deploy batteries behind the meter for residential with a prioritization to vulnerable communities. This will provide energy security to homeowners in the event of a grid outage. It will address resiliency and reduce rates for ratepayers.
- PA 21-115. Expansion of scope with environmental Infrastructure. We've been having conversations for last 9 months across parks and rec, land conservation agriculture, and water. Still in pre-development phase to figure what we can do to enable more private investment to support mor environmental infrastructure.
- C-PACE expanded to support resiliency and EV charging infrastructure, so we'll be working with CIRCA and DEEP on resiliency planning and developing the C-PACE tool
- Board voted for Smarty Loan will be allowed to be adapted to apply to environmental infrastructure
- Looking at climate smart agriculture with Department of Agriculture

#### Jared Kosky, Connecticut Insurance Department

- C4 I to be an annual Conference will be happening later this year in October
- Pursuant to June's special session PA 21-2 the insurance department is to file biannually with the general assembly disclosing the departments progress towards addressing climate related risks within the insurance industry along with regulatory and supervisory actions to bolster the resilience of insurers to physical impacts of climate change
- Department will issue a bulletin this year to provide guidance to Connecticut insurers on managing the financial risks of climate change. The department issued a notice in April seeking public comment on the proposed bulletin. They are currently reviewing comments and will release final bulletin later this year

#### George Bradner, CID

- Climate survey with National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC)
- Working with 15 states to modify that survey. The NAIC adopted a new standard for insurance companies to report their climate related risk in alignment with the international task force on climate related financial disclosure (TCFD). Companies will begin using that report format when they file their reports to California that will be heading the collection of this info in November
- Now a member of the sustainable insurance forum. One of 6 states.

#### Deputy Commissioner Alexandra Daum, Dept. of Economic and Community Development

- Communities Challenge Program and expanding criteria to resiliency and mitigation. 2<sup>nd</sup> round launching in fall
- Clean Economy Task Force. First meeting recently. Marrying of job creation and environmental responsibility

Deputy Commissioner Shanté Hanks, Dept. of Housing

*Remarked on the progress of climate action and future climate action in the Department of Housing*

Commissioner Bryan Hurlburt, Dept. of Agriculture

- The additional \$7 million allocated in general funding for Climate Smart farming
- The up to \$7 million in bonding allocation for climate smart agriculture and forestry practices
- The up to \$10 million in bonding allocation for food resource organizations.
- The \$5 million reallocation of Community Investment Act funds for farm manure management programs
  - o For all of these projects, the Department of Agriculture is still meeting internally on programmatic goals and timelines for these funding allocations and looks forward to working with the GC3 members and the Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry Working Group on ideas.

Commissioner Manisha Juthani, Dept. of Public Health

- DPH secured BRACE grant through the CDC which has been able to help establish a specific sector of DPH focused on climate and public health
- Main mission in the grant to set up an education program. Lots of opportunity to collaboration on that front.
- Working with Yale on that front and would like to collaborate with CIRCA as well.
- IJJA work
- Expanded funding for lead service lines and PFAS.
- Considering social vulnerability and environmental justice and developed a new scoring system to take this into account with applications going forward.

Deputy Commissioner Brenda Bergeron, Dept. of Emergency Services and Public Protection

- State Vulnerability Assessment Working Group working with partners around table as well as Chief Data Officer at OPM.
- Working on inventory of vulnerable assets and specifically developing a survey for agencies to use to help to rate the vulnerability of their assets. Close to finishing it
- We are in the process of updating the state natural hazard mitigation plan. In the early stages of it. It occurs every 5 years. Equity and social justice issues that the GC3 has highlighted will be a key part of the review and improvement of that plan

- We have been working on the BRIC program. Right now there are 11 projects totaling \$64 million that the applications were submitted to FEMA under the BRIC program. We should start receiving responses about these projects by the end of the month
- Our hazard mitigation and resiliency unit just finished with \$3 million from one of the storms and is in the process of working on projects for another \$19 million

Secretary Jeffrey Beckham, Office of Policy and Management

- We have an ongoing program of identifying a variety of projects in terms of energy efficiency, doing energy audits of our energy, especially our biggest energy using buildings those projects continue to take place with funding identified by our partners at DEEP along with the Green Bank. We're doing some solar projects around the state at state facilities, mostly at the former correction properties. The state office building at Capitol Ave has a solar project underway.
- This year's state budget, FY '23 with our proposal or agreement included vouchers for medium and heavy duty zero emission vehicles, a \$7 million climate smart farming grant program.
- The sustainable materials management program got another \$5 million
- DEEP, DOT and DPH are getting matching funds from ARPA or bond act for the bipartisan infrastructure bill. Needed funds available to be able to leverage those federal dollars for
- Funding for new personnel at agencies
- \$30 million in ARPA funds for lead abatement to help eliminate barriers to weatherizing older housing stock
- One of the biggest things we've been working on is the expansion of State Pier in New London which will facilitate a massive wind energy project
- A new position at OPM dedicated to climate policy, the climate infrastructure policy development coordinator. A specialist at OPM working with DEEP among other state agency partners.

Curt Johnson, Save the Sound

- Save the Sound and Housatonic Valley Association (HVA) are starting to look at culverts and the problems and opportunities they create for both better river connectivity and eliminating flood hazards
- Stormwater and potential for storm water utilities.
- Economic and job creation possibilities referring to green infrastructure projects at Prince George's County in Maryland
- One of our major utilities MDC may or may not be talking about no longer needing the last untapped major reservoir and 12,000 acres of land here in Connecticut and we may have an opportunity to step in as a collaborative and permanently protect forest land

**GC3 Opportunities in 2022 (see slides)**

Dr. Rebecca French, DEEP

*Full presentation will be given at a later date.*

## **Public Comments**

*Summarized or bulleted comments. For full comments please see the Zoom recording and/or audio transcript.*

Alex Rodriguez: First, regarding the closing slide on the estimated timeline of formation and reporting out, I am requesting that an extended deadline of July 15 be put in place to allow working group leads and subcommittee leads sufficient time to seek active participation and feedback in the cultivating of the reports. This is necessary from an equitable public participation point of view.

Second, in supporting an active public participation process, I am requesting the roadshow idea be revisited. I think DEEP should coordinate presentations and public comment opportunities in at least 3 geographically diverse areas of the state. This would be similar to the presentation DEEP held at the Sound School in New Haven pre-COVID. Perhaps New Britain, Putnam, and Stratford.

Lastly, for any public presentations and public comment solicitation taking place, I am requesting that non-NGO and non-governmental officials be compensated with gift cards and/or food & light refreshments for their time.

Robert LaFrance:

- Thanks members of GC3 and staff
- Important to engage folks even after they have retired because many are willingly to help out

Leticia Colon:

- Commend equity lens extreme effort to engage communities and to offer the opportunity to comment and accept those comments in a meaningful way
- Concerns with the lack of focus on climate, energy and environmental education.
- People of color are underrepresented in discussions on housing, the environment, energy, education and all of that we've talked about with rising sea level and the impacts of climate change. We're underrepresented in the careers were underrepresented in the uptake of services we don't have a black owned solar company in our state. We only have 3 minority vendors in the Energize CT Program
- I would like to see metrics that quantify things like business ownership employment access to programs and equal access to climate and environmental education. Implementer had language on climate education but would like to see plan or process to engage communities of color in CT on climate.
- We should seek information not in the room and formulate a process that allows communities to participate and have equal access to opportunities.

Ann Gadwah, Sierra Club:

- Speaking about the role that plastic production plays in climate change and as we move away from fossil fuels as an energy source the industry is pushing to make more plastic
- Plastic not very recyclable. Only about 9% of it is and the rest gets incinerated.
- Chemical recycling is also not a solution and is basically just incineration
- As we move forward should address the role of plastic production and recycling as it pertains to climate change

-

Bernie Pelletier:

- Starting to do some work at the municipal level on producing greenhouse gas inventories and would like to seek some guidance from both DEEP and the GC3 on what models, we choose what assumptions, we make, and how we coordinate in a beneficial way with the work that's done by DEEP.

Susan Masino:

- In Science and Technology Working Group established core values of climate equity and ecology
- Engaged in process of multi solving where you address climate change and also have other co benefits
- Lots of community based simple actions in the science and technology report that I hope can be revived and integrated.
- The Coal brook reservoir land is something we should consider that land is possibly something that we could hold in the public trust.

-

Aziz Dekhan, CT Roundtable on Climate and Jobs

- The CT Roundtable on Climate and Jobs is = working on transportation issues as it relates to workforce development.
- 20% of people in the state don't have access to a vehicle. If we can find a way to change that through ride sharing and EVs that are coming off leases at the State level

**Meeting Adjourned**

## Chat Record

00:49:20 Jeffrey Beckham: GIS office passed in implementer

00:49:44 Rebecca French: Thank you Jeff!

00:54:55 Jeff Howard (CT DEEP): Clarifications on GHG emissions associated with buildings: (1) The 'residential' and 'commercial' categories in the GHG inventory represent emissions from combustion of fossil fuels in buildings. A chunk of 'industrial' emissions does so as well. (2) Emissions from use of air conditioning do not show up in these categories. They contribute to 'electricity' emissions via consumption of electricity.

00:55:38 Charles Rothenberger: Thanks, Jeff. An important clarification.

01:00:08 Michele Helou: thank you Jeff. Do we have data on buildings - all sources? Typically building loads would include other electricity uses - lighting, appliances, plug loads, ventilation. cooling of course, as well as heating in the case of air source heat pumps.

01:00:56 Leticia Colon: I see some great work here Thanks DEEP- and others that worked to lift those pieces of legislation. To be very honest- some of this information skews our view and our work towards transportation, which is important, but misses the equity lens that safe housing/ and buildings has become more critical than ever. With the heat index changes, and the increase in storms, safe human shelters have never been more important, not just homes, but schools, workplaces, must also upgrade to offer AC and air filter upgrades for example. Additionally, how can we engage communities which have no access to any climate change education, not in schools, communities, TV, radio, none. How can POC's who have been left behind, be meaningfully engaged with no access to responsible educational materials which would empower them to participate?

01:01:05 Jeff Howard (CT DEEP): Michele, we have not routinely done those calculations, but we'll consider doing so.

01:01:39 Craig Peters: Is the 50 million over 10 years for infrastructure in designated corridors only for EV chargers or all Alt Fuels?

01:02:44 Andrew Mais: Unfortunately I have to leave now, but be sure to register for the free virtual first Connecticut Conference on Climate Change and Insurance Oct. 13-14 [https://portal.ct.gov/cidclimateconference/?language=en\\_US](https://portal.ct.gov/cidclimateconference/?language=en_US)

01:03:35 Garrett Eucalitto: Craig, it is \$50 million over 5 years for alt fuel corridors, EV hydrogen propane and nat gas.

01:04:00 Todd Berman: Thanks for the great briefing, I need to drop off.

01:06:23 Amy McLean: thanks I have to get to another call, good legislative state and federal overview.

01:06:34 Leticia Colon: I am not sure if I am a GC3 member- but -Who in this room is representing the Equity lens on how we ensure that we (at the state level) truly engage the people who have been historically left behind. Those who are not here today, weren't here yesterday, and can't be here unless they are empowered and engaged? How much have we (the state of CT) set aside to ensure that occurs fairly? Who is working to protect the rights of the POC renters? Forgive my efforts to shed light on those large holes in this plan. The Equity lens. This then directly relates to workforce planning- which requires education as well. There are job opportunities which POC communities could connect to if they were engaged and supported/ empowered. <https://efficiencyforall.org/wordpress/efa-ct-workforce-program/>

01:07:45 Rebecca French: Register for the Climate insurance conference here:  
[https://portal.ct.gov/cidclimateconference/?language=en\\_US](https://portal.ct.gov/cidclimateconference/?language=en_US)

01:08:58 Alex Rodriguez: So awesome!

01:08:59 Allen Kratz, Resilience Works, LLC: Could someone provide the list of states participating w/ Connecticut in the climate insurance initiative. Thanks.

01:09:13 Kip Kolesinskas: DOT should include review and update of stormwater management at all 60+ facilities as well

01:09:35 Rebecca French: we were able to get 8 additional states to join in on the NAIC Climate change report this year. MD, DC, PA, DE, RI, VT, MA & ME. The original states were NY, CT, WA, CA, MN and WI

01:10:21 Mark Mitchell: Where will the 12 CT Transit electric buses be deployed?

01:10:34 Harry White: Speaking of DOT, DOT destruction of the roadside forest in CT is contrary to climate science, rational engineering practice, and common sense, costs massive dollars, and destroys the rural aesthetic. They are creating hundreds of miles of invasive plant habitat, too. Nice that you are making a meadow while destroying hundreds of thousands of trees.

01:10:40 Allen Kratz, Resilience Works, LLC: Thanks, Rebecca. An important industry sector for our work.

01:11:59 Leticia Colon: Regarding climate action Learn about our national and local work here: <https://efficiencyforall.org/wordpress/efa-ct-workforce-program/> and here <https://efficiencyforall.org/wordpress/2021/06/25/leticia-colon-de-mejias-june-24-2021-better-buildings-us-doe-covid-recovery-economy-the-state-of-ee-and-supporting-information-on-the-path-to-an-inclusive-accessible-clean-energy-economy/>

01:12:23 Leticia Colon: and here <https://www.gewportal.org/>

01:12:59 Leticia Colon: And here September 30, 2021 Low-Carbon Small Business and Post-COVID Recovery- EESI Briefing Series: Workforce Wednesdays and <https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/093020workforce>

01:14:44 Craig Peters: Where will the 12 E buses be deployed?

01:14:50 Leticia Colon: Community engagement locally and nationally can be located here <https://youtu.be/BOaMWYgWmX4> and here <https://www.gewportal.org/what-we-do/>

01:16:07 Leticia Colon: Links to our congressional work can located here Leticia Colon Congressional Testimony April 20, 2021  
Leticia Colon Congressional testimony July 27, 2021 Have a blessed day.

01:16:36 lynne bonnett: Yeah, Brenda Operation Fuel!

01:17:11 Melissa Kops: Hear, hear! Thanks for your work, Brenda!

01:17:49 Leticia Colon: Operation Fuel - great job!

01:18:21 Brenda Watson: <https://operationfuel.org/eeday/>

01:18:44 Brenda Watson: Thank you Leticia and Melissa!

01:18:46 Mark Mitchell: Excellent Work, Brenda!

01:19:04 Brenda Watson: Thank you Lynn!

01:19:22 Wayne Cobleigh: Announcement today about buildings sector emissions in MA forming Clean Heat Commission  
<https://www.wbur.org/news/2021/09/21/massachusetts-commission-on-clean-heatnet-zero-goal>

01:20:15 Brenda Watson: Thank you Dr. Mitchell  
01:21:28 Ian Alexander: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEMHS/Press-Room/News-and-Announcements/2021/9-10-2021-DEMHS-Mitigation-Grants-BRIC-FMA>

Links to the 3 FEMA Mitigation grants administered by DEMHS

01:23:02 Rebecca French: ARPA = American Rescue Plan Act - funding from Congress to recover from COVID

01:25:21 Rebecca French: Big deal for DPH and State of Connecticut joining the CDC BRACE program Building Resilience Against Climate Effects.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/climateandhealth/BRACE.htm>

01:25:30 Patricia Taylor: CDC BRACE website -  
<https://www.cdc.gov/climateandhealth/BRACE.htm>

01:26:13 Leticia Colon: Lee- Equity Lens- I am not sure if you are seeing the chat- but I have placed links to the equity work we are accomplishing under these organizations- Efficiency For All, Green Eco Warriors Inc, the state of CT CWCSEO, State of CT Minority Initiative Board, State of CT Office of Workforce Strategies and our Congressional work, as well as the local Workforce development, and engagement of POC's statewide on climate action and healthy homes education.

01:27:39 Laura Bozzi: Big congrats to CT DPH on the BRACE grant! Connecticut was only 1 of 2 new programs nationwide to be funded.

01:28:37 Brenda Watson: I must jump off, thank you all for this amazing work.

01:32:27 Rebecca French: <https://www.hartfordbusiness.com/article/sweeping-power-grid-modernization-plan-hits-2-year-mark-with-small-business-interests-a-top>

01:33:13 Kimberly Stoner: CBA?

01:33:28 Peter Millman: Massachusetts is exploring the future of natural gas in its 20-80 DPU docket. Should the G3C recommend that Connecticut do the same?

01:35:32 Edith Pestana: that is great news!

01:36:58 Joanna Wozniak-Brown: We're excited to say that CIRCA is hiring an Environmental Justice Community Coordinator (Research Assistant 2).

<https://jobs.hr.uconn.edu/en-us/job/495563/environmental-justice-community-coordinator-research-assistant-2>

01:37:09 Daphne Dixon: Craig, the 12 EV Transit bus projects are in Stamford and New Haven. <https://portal.ct.gov/DOT/Publictrans/Bureau-of-Public-Transportation/Battery-Electric-Bus-Projects-and-Partners>

01:37:44 Leticia Colon: Green Eco Warriors is the only CT DAS certified minority run nonprofit. Some of our work can be located here. <https://www.gewportal.org/magazine/> We hope one day to be invited to participate as more than viewers- we would love to be "doers".

01:37:58 Claire Coleman: Lots of exciting job opportunities below supporting budgeting and policy for climate, environment, transportation, GIS/broadband, including federal funds management. Links below, please help spread the word:

01:38:27 Claire Coleman: Fiscal and Program Policy Section Director here. This is an exciting opportunity to help oversee and manage the allocation, distribution, and reporting tasks related to over \$4.2 billion of federal pandemic aid awarded to the Office of Policy and Management.

Fiscal and Program Policy Section Director here. In this position, you will lead the section charged with responsibility for programs and policies relating to transportation, corrections and criminal justice, the environment, and the operations of the State's constitutional officers and the Legislative and Judicial branches of government.

01:38:36 Claire Coleman: two (2) Leadership Associate (target class budget analyst) positions. here. his is an exciting opportunity to be part of a new unit overseeing and managing the allocation, distribution, and reporting tasks related to over \$4.2 billion of federal pandemic aid awarded to the Office of Policy and Management.

Broadband Mapping Coordinator (Associate Research Analyst) position. This recruitment is open to the public. The job posting can be found on the State of Connecticut Executive Branch Online Employment Center (OEC) and by clicking here.

01:39:06 Christine Hahn: Background on CDC SVI:  
<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/svi/index.html>

01:39:24 Anne Hulick: Have to hop off to another meeting but thanks to all for your great work.

01:39:54 Wayne Cobleigh: Stormwater utility fees would be a sustainable source of matching funds for municipalities for flood mitigation and combined sewer overflow projects available from grants in the federal infrastructure bill

01:42:02 Melissa Kops: Yes, Michele! Buildings are the largest emitter.  
<https://ctgbc.org/Impact>

01:42:13 Leticia Colon: Thank you Michelle - Additionally CT is experiencing flooding Now- that is harming low lying rental and IE properties.

01:44:45 Allen Kratz, Resilience Works, LLC: Wayne, yes: stormwater utility fees and, a real estate transfer fee that can be re-proposed to the Legislature.

01:46:30 Rebecca French: hi Folks. I know there are many GC3 working group members in the meeting today. Although for time constraints we are limiting updates to the 23 GC3 Members, please share information and programs and opportunities in the chat. They will be captured in the minutes.

01:48:44 Patricia Taylor: Federal strategy to combat extreme heat includes new initiatives at OSHA and funding for efforts to reduce heat-related illness and death. White House Fact Sheet yesterday at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/09/20/fact-sheet-biden-administration-mobilizes-to-protect-workers-and-communities-from-extreme-heat/>

01:49:16 lynne bonnett: yahoo mapping tool!

01:49:39 Harry White: Zero focus on proforestation, the protection of standing forests - the ONLY existing mechanism of sufficient scale to counter climate change. DEEP continues to ignore peer-reviewed science to continue destroying standing forests. This should be the #1 concern of GC3 as without this mechanism, all else is futile.

01:50:19 Wayne Cobleigh: The Reinvesting in Shoreline Economies and Ecosystems (RISEE) Act (federal) could play a pivotal role in directing how the U.S. funds coastal resilience by ensuring federal leasing revenue from offshore energy production is used to build coastal resilience in the states and communities closest to that energy production and setting up the National Oceans and Coastal Security Fund as a "sister-fund"

to the more inland-focused, Land and Water Conservation Fund. Hopefully it gets passed in the federal budget reconciliation process.

01:50:48 Frogard Ryan: The Nature Conservancy is hiring as well:

01:51:16 Kristin Barendregt-Ludwig: The Yale Center for Environmental Justice is hosting the 2021 Global Environmental Justice Conference on Friday, Oct. 29th, co-hosted by the Yale Center for Climate Change and Health and the Yale Sustainable Food Program. Panels focus on just transition: clean energy/housing, theories of change, and food systems. <https://ycej.yale.edu/conference-2021>

01:51:19 Allen Kratz, Resilience Works, LLC: Is there a link to the RFP for EJ urban forestry?

01:51:29 Michele Helou: Agreed Melissa! Leticia - state funded projects through DOH have a higher threshold for resiliency - we must meet state statues that require critical activities such as housing to be built above the 500 year flood elevation with dry egress. (market rate housing must be above the 100 year flood elevation). For reuse of existing buildings in the flood plain (old mills, for example), we must secure a Flood Management Certification from DEEP for resiliency and safety.

01:51:58 Eric Hammerling, CFPA:

<https://cturbanforestcouncil.org/grants/climate-change-grants/>

01:52:08 Leticia Colon: I am not sure how you are taking names for public comment- or how many people are still here to hear them, but I would like to make a comment. my name is Leticia

01:52:12 Kip Kolesinskas: The Working Lands Alliance is coordinating with partners and Dept of Ag to develop a potential soil health and resiliency program to capture additional expected USDA funding

01:53:09 Natasha Dolmon: Where will the recording, notes, and or/chat be located after the meeting? Is there a specific location for public records?

01:53:15 Frogard Ryan: 1.)DEIJ Director position for the Northeast; 2.) HR, Ops and Diversity manger here in CT and 3.) a Southeast CT Project Manager. Text or e-mail me if interested for links. All jobs are posted on nature.org and LinkedIn as well. Please spread the word.

02:00:29 aaron goode: unfortunately the focus group held in New Haven was not at a convenient location for most low-income residents

02:00:42 Maisa Tisdale: Is there a report or transcript from the Bridgeport focus group?

02:02:11 Mark Mitchell: When will the focus group report be available?

02:03:59 Craig Peters: In the transportation sector we saw an increase of 3% not a reduction of 10%. Is it time to support all the U.S. Department of Energy's alternative fuels such as hydrogen, propane , natural gas and bio fuels?

02:04:09 Rebecca French: @ Dr. Mitchell Yale was making formatting revisions, but we can post high level findings

02:04:25 Mark Mitchell: I have been working on guidelines for local governments for identifying and including the most at-risk communities in their local climate risk assessments.

02:05:19 Jeff Howard (CT DEEP): EIA data on GHG emissions ratio for propane vs. diesel and gasoline: [https://www.eia.gov/environment/emissions/co2\\_vol\\_mass.php](https://www.eia.gov/environment/emissions/co2_vol_mass.php)

02:05:40 Aziz Dehkan: TY everyone for the all work you do!

02:05:52 Mark Mitchell: Propane is a fossil fuel and will not help us meet zero carbon goals.

02:06:07 Leticia Colon: I have been here Waiting Leticia - Woman of color - State Commissioner- Climate Action leader- local employer- nationally awarded Equity/ Energy/ and Climate speaker -Nationally awarded building scientist- lifter of healthy homes efforts here in CT and Nationally- Still waiting .... meeting ends in 1 minute. Maybe next time we can place equity at the front end- I have another meeting - be well

02:09:16 Maisa Tisdale: I have to leave. I look forward to reviewing the comments at a later time.

02:09:43 Jeff Howard (CT DEEP): Propane Kg CO2/million BTUs = 62.9; comparable figures are 74.1 for diesel and 70.7 for gasoline. Also need to compare propane with EVs.

02:10:58 Jeff Howard (CT DEEP): EVs are far more efficient than combustion engines, and a significant % of electricity from northeast grid is from zero-carbon sources.

02:12:29 Peter Millman: Thank you Jeff for putting the supposed value of propane powered vehicles into perspective.

02:13:34 Mark Mitchell: I have also updated our stationary point source air pollution and communities of color map for CT.

02:14:07 Allen Kratz, Resilience Works, LLC: Excellent briefing. Thanks, everyone, for your work!

02:14:19 Kristin Barendregt-Ludwig: Thanks everyone! Andrew Steer's appointment as CEO in March 2021 comes as Bezos is slated to step down as CEO of Amazon later this year, turning the helm over to AWS CEO Andy Jassy. Bezos is expected to turn more of his attention to projects like the Earth Fund.

01:19:31 Alex Rodriguez: Woohoo! An in-person event! :)

01:19:45 Wayne Cobleigh: yes

01:20:00 Lee Cruz: Desiree,

01:20:08 Stephanye Clarke: Is there a date/time yet? How will that information get to community members here in NL?

01:21:55 Desiree Miller: The solar PPA equipment has a 20 year life. At end of 20 year term, Green Bank will remove the system

01:23:32 Mary Pelletier: will the funding for planning be allocated to municipalities or will there be a stipulation that progressive non-profits lead the process?

01:24:08 lynne bonnett: oh great news Edith, thank you.

01:24:30 Patricia Taylor - EHHI: Fantastic news on the EJ Screening Tool Map, Edith!

01:24:36 Lee Cruz: Have you looked into sharing information about the solar panel program via Community Foundations. Community Foundations fund a good number of the 501(c)3 nonprofits in CT and hence have contact info. Contact me at lcruz@cfgnh.org if you would like to discuss this.

01:25:28 Mary Pelletier: congratulations ! for finding funding for E.J. mapping tool

01:26:34 Rebecca French: @stephanye Clarke. No date/time yet. We look forward to working with you to get the agenda, date and time set.

01:26:55 Rebecca French: ...and getting the word out.

01:27:23 Mark Mitchell: Propane is a fossil fuel and will contribute to global warming. We need to move to electric buses.

01:27:28 Stephanye Clarke: ok. I need to sign off for another meeting -- looking forward to the update.

01:28:14 Shubhada Kampli: The federal government has plans to update EJScreen with the Climate and Environmental Justice Tool to inform equitable decisionmaking around its Justice40 Initiative. It sounds like the state's efforts will be complementary to - and hopefully integrated with - that.

01:28:17 Alex Rodriguez: @Mike Morrissey In CT we have also introduced the first electric transit bus in Bridgeport and the first electric school bus in Middletown.

01:28:31 Denise Savageau: Urban soil health program June 18 - hosted by Soil and Water Conservation Society -Southern New England Chapter  
<https://swcssnec.org/2021-summer/>

01:29:01 Katie Lund: Can you indicate in the chat what the New London meeting date is? Sorry I missed that date in the public meeting update.

01:29:08 Alex Rodriguez: CT DOT is seeking funding from US DOT for funding to replace 10 diesel buses with 10 electric transit buses.

01:29:34 Alanis Allen: @Katie Lund no meeting date yet, but will keep everyone updated

01:29:45 Rebecca French: @mary pelletier the statute passed in the special session in 2020 expands the applicants for the microgrid and resilience grant and loan pilot program to allow academic and non-profits to apply.

01:31:57 Anthony Cherolis: Has the proposed bill that would require an equity study of the CT CHEAPR EV Rebate Program been discussed? That proposed bill would also define a much more affordable e-bike as a 'battery electric vehicle' that could then be considered for a low-to-moderate income pilot incentive program.  
[https://cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill\\_num=HB06485&which\\_year=2021](https://cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill_num=HB06485&which_year=2021)

01:33:42 Edith Pestana: There will be a press release regarding the Mapping Tool hopefully this summer- Stay Tuned! No surprise that the White House is putting resources in the EJ Screen- there are many members of EJ organizations that now work for the Biden Administration.

01:36:52 Anthony Cherolis: Relative to the state's air pollution (important for disproportionate health impacts) reduction and ghg reduction goals, I'd like to understand better why CT DEEP felt that it was important that the overview bullet item relative to 'vehicle miles traveled (VMT)' is worded such that the state is allowing for increasing, polluting low occupancy VMT to increase year after year until 2030. The transportation working group, including myself from an equity and public health perspective recommended a goal for reducing VMT by 5% by 2030. The wording pushed by CT DEEP was "Eliminate growth in Vehicle Miles Traveled by 2030." That is a very different goal than a 5% decrease by 2030, and would encourage CT DOT to continue expanding interstates and funding projects for another 9 years that encourage more driving and sprawl.

01:38:46 Mark Mitchell: Do foundations offer EJ grants?

01:39:23 Alex Rodriguez: Thanks everyone!