

2026 Steering Committee meeting Notes

Tuesday, April 21st, 2026 | 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM

79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 061066 at the Gina McCarthy Auditorium, 5th floor

❖ **Welcome and Introductions - 10:00 am -10:15 am**

➤ David Barkin began the meeting by welcoming attendees and introducing the GreenerGov Co-chairs.

❖ **Commissioner Dykes, CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)**

➤ Commissioner Katie Dykes welcomed attendees and highlighted Connecticut's commitment to reducing emissions, waste, and water use with an emphasis on improving affordability and achieving cost savings in state government.

➤ The Commissioner reminded attendees of the purpose of this meeting, which was to evaluate the progress of GreenerGov, and spoke about state agency progress towards reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The Commissioner emphasized the importance of continuing to work on other goals including food waste diversion, electric vehicle (EV) fleet transitions, solar, and reductions in square footage.

➤ The Commissioner noted the importance of sharing our lesson learned and highlighted DEEP's recent initiative to share resources with municipalities, and to improve communications with state agencies. The Commissioner closed her remarks by expressing appreciation for the Senior Sustainability Officers and facility managers across the state agencies.

❖ **Secretary Wojcik, CT Office of Policy and Management (OPM)**

➤ Secretary Wojcik introduced himself as the newly appointed Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and continued his remarks by emphasizing the important work of OPM as a co-chair of GreenerGov. As an agency that manages the state's fiscal policies, the Secretary stressed the importance of using the agency's resources to advance GreenerGov and ensure policies and processes help deliver efficiency and sustainability.

- The Secretary went on to discuss the different initiatives within OPM, including identifying sites for solar installation across state agencies, highlighting the work of state agencies who have already installed solar or have plans do so, and the work being conducted alongside the Department of Administrative (DAS) and DEEP to ensure the state meets its infrastructure needs to install EV chargers.
- ❖ Commissioner Gilman, CT Department of Administrative Services (DAS)
 - Commissioner Gilman highlighted various efficiency and sustainability projects that DAS has advanced in partnership with agencies across the state. DAS, working with CT Green Bank and the Attorney General's (AG's) office, has been able to secure solar Power Purchase Agreement (PPAs) for 32 solar projects and has been working with the Governor's Office to plan the deployment of new solar installations using the \$60 million provided through the proposed FY26-FY27 budget.
 - The Commissioner continued her remarks by highlighting DAS's efforts to transition the state fleet to electric vehicles (EVs). Those efforts included coordination with state agencies to get EV chargers installed as well as issuing an invitation to bid to find a contractor to install EV hardware compatible with the EV AmpUp software on state EV chargers.
 - The Commissioner also highlighted work done in partnership with DEEP and OPM to establish a new Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) policy and announced a new EPP website that provides resources on state contracts, policy templates, and state and federal guidelines for both state agencies and municipalities.
- ❖ David Barkin went over the agenda for the rest of the meeting and introduced the meeting's keynote speaker, Bruce Becker, highlighting his important work in architecture and sustainability.
- ❖ **Keynote:** Bruce Becker, President of Becker + Becker **10:15 am -10:35 am**
 - Bruce Becker presented a case study on the Hotel Marcel in New Haven, which his firm designed using Passive House standards. He noted the importance of decarbonization while emphasizing its long-term financial benefits. He also noted

that investments in Passive House projects help reduce the need for grid infrastructure investments.

- Mr. Becker showcased the sustainable technologies built into Hotel Marcel including the well-insulated infrastructure, high-efficiency windows, air-source heat pump water heaters, battery storage, and a DC-powered control system, all of which contributed to improved efficiency and enhanced indoor air temperature and quality. For its operations, the hotel has been equipped with an all-electric kitchen, electric resistance dryers, and EV shuttles powered by on-site solar power. Mr. Becker noted that the use of EVs helped reduce fuel and vehicle maintenance costs.

❖ Comments/ Questions

- Secretary Wojcik notes the limitations of funding and time restrictions that come with trying to implement efficiency projects at state facilities and asked Mr. Becker for his perspective on which items are the most efficient and yield the most cost reductions per investment. Bruce notes solar, particularly solar PPAs, are the most cost effective and yield great returns and highlighted how Georgia has been installing solar on its state highways.

❖ **GreenerGov Annual Report Presentation – 10:35 am – 10:45 am**

- Research Analysts Jimena Fernandez and Wvarrda Saulat provided an update on Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 sustainability progress for State agencies. Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions rose about 3% in FY 2024 compared to FY 2023. However, GHG reductions since the baseline year FY19 have fallen by 28%, meaning we are on track to meeting our target of 32.53% by 2030. Average GHG reductions per year since 2019 are 7.55%.
- Water and sewer usage increased by 11% in FY24. Probable causes for this increase include hotter summers and water use at some facilities being tied to river levels. Since the baseline year FY20, state agencies have reduced their water usage by 7%, meaning state agencies are close to meeting the goal of 10% reduction by 2030.

- Due to the lack of consistent data, a waste baseline has yet to be established. The DEEP waste team has been working to create a baseline using metered waste from compactors to calculate a waste-disposed-per-employee metric, with an adjustment for on-site work vs. telework. They plan on applying this method across facility types and expect to set the waste baseline as FY 23 to account for post-COVID changes in the workplace.
- A recap of Executive Order (E.O.) 21-3 targets was provided, along with an update on when the report will be released. The presentation concluded with a look at the GreenerGov dashboard where users can explore statewide data, and the Interactive Map, where one can visualize important projects across the state.

❖ **Reducing Energy Use - Edward Howell, Department of Labor (DOL) 10:45am-11:00am**

- Edward Howell shared a success story of how DOL was able to reduce building operating hours and costs through building automation at their agency headquarters. A technician at DOL took initiative to conduct a systems evaluation to identify recurring issues and inefficiencies. The evaluation revealed that mechanical systems were running for excess hours. The technician performed in-house mechanical repairs and optimized the Building Automation System schedules to match occupancy hours. This helped reduce building operating hours by 54 hours per week, helping DOL achieve energy savings, lower costs, and reduced equipment wear without capital investment. DOL was able to demonstrate how optimization of existing systems can bring impactful energy savings.

❖ **Reducing Water Use - Shelly Mondo, Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) 11:00 am to 11:15 am**

- Shelly Mondo showcased an audit of CHFA's water usage that was conducted to understand the causes of the agency's large water consumption and address the underlying cause. The agency utilized guidance from state and federal resources

and calculated water consumption from their utility bills. In their analysis they examined water usage within restrooms and discovered that women, on average, use more water than men within their agency. Women had an average of three flushes per day, and men had an average of one flush per day. CHFA then analyzed water usage from hand washing utilizing a timed flow test to estimate the number of gallons of water being used per day.

- After collecting their findings from the analysis, CHFA sought recommendations from state resources and ultimately determined that it would not be cost effective to replace the restroom fixtures with low flow fixtures.
- Ms. Mondo noted that afterwards the agency went on to analyze water usage from its landscaping practices. They discovered that water usage for their agency increased significantly from April through October. The agency then changed landscapers, and the new landscapers found leaks in the irrigation system. After the leaks were repaired the agency realized savings of 466 CCF of water and nearly \$7,000 in cost savings. The agency decided to make it a yearly practice to check for irrigation leaks at the beginning of the spring season.
- Ms. Mondo ended her presentation by noting that the agency's next steps are to plant native, drought-resistant species, which require less irrigation and are better weather adapted, to further reduce water usage.

❖ **The Decarbonization Study – Nicholas Ross, Department of Administrative Services (DAS) 11:15am - 11:30am**

- Nicholas Ross from DAS presented preliminary results of the E.O. 21-3 heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) Decarbonization Study being conducted by the consultant firm Arup. Mr. Ross noted the purpose of the study is to develop a plan to retrofit existing fossil-fuel-based HVAC systems with systems capable of operating without carbon emitting fuels. The study deliverables are to include an action plan for facilities with decarbonization solutions and a comprehensive

database tool of all state-owned buildings with information on their baseline energy use, emissions, and decarbonization progress tracking.

- Mr. Ross noted the study was in its 3rd phase, with Arup working to complete energy and cost modeling. The 4th phase of this study is expected to be completed in the summer.
- Mr. Ross gave an overview of the information collected from state agencies and how that information was used for the assessment. He showcased preliminary findings on building project prioritization and ended the presentation by presenting a snapshot of the decarbonization database tool for the agencies to view data for their facilities.

❖ **Public Comment – 11:30:** no public comments were provided.

❖ **Closing – DEEP Facilitator - 11:30**

- Commissioner Katie Dykes gave closing remarks and thanked attendees for their hard work in helping make progress toward the GreenerGov sustainability targets.