



Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3) MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: July 10, 2015

Meeting Time: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Meeting Location: Gina McCarthy Auditorium

DEEP Headquarters

79 Elm Street, Hartford

ATTENDANCE

Governor Dannel Malloy			
Working Group Members	Title	Organization	Present
Robert Klee (Council Chair)	Commissioner	Department of Energy & Environmental Protection	Y
Melody Currey	Commissioner	Department of Administrative Services	Y
Bryan Garcia	President and Chief Executive Officer	CT Green Bank	Y
Arthur House	Commissioner	Public Utilities Regulatory Authority	Y
John Humphries	Director	CT Round Table for Climate & Jobs	Phone
Scott Jackson	Under Secretary for Intergovernmental Policy Division	Office of Policy Management	Y
Nick Lundgren (on behalf of Commissioner Klein)	Deputy Commissioner	CT Department of Housing	Y
James O'Donnell	Executive Director	CT Institute for Resilience & Climate Adaptation	Y
Thomas Maziarz (on behalf of Commissioner Redeker)	Bureau Chief	Bureau of Policy and Planning, Department of Transportation	Y
Catherine Smith	Commissioner	Department of Economic & Community Development	Y
Lynn Stoddard	Director	Institute for Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University	Y
Don Strait	Executive Director	Connecticut Fund for the Environment	Phone
Katharine Wade	Commissioner	Connecticut Insurance Department	Y

Other participants: Additional staff and members of the public

AGENDA & NOTES

Welcome and Introductions

Presented by Robert Klee, Commissioner, CT DEEP

- Introductory remarks and welcome to the Gina McCarthy auditorium. Recognition of the leadership and passion Gina brought to the issue of climate change.
- Description of the challenge presented to the Council – to outline a path to reduce the state’s greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from approximately 40 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MMT_{CO₂e}) in 2012 to roughly 9 MMT_{CO₂} in 2050, in order to meet the long-term goals set in the 2008 Global Warming Solutions Act.
- Highlight of Connecticut’s climate policy and program achievements over the past decade.
- The Council is called on to demonstrate leadership by setting interim GHG reduction targets and to be a champion for climate resilience.
- The Council is intended to facilitate and sustain dialogue among members and other stakeholders in the state. Commissioner Klee hopes this forum will challenge traditional silos and foster multiple and diverse solutions.
- Request for Council members to state name and give a brief introduction to describe agency or organization’s participation in climate change actions or leadership to date, as well as perceived opportunities for additional future actions.
 - *Bryan Garcia, President and CEO, Connecticut Green Bank*
The Green Bank is committed to using limited public funds to leverage private capital to deploy clean energy. The Green Bank illustrates that economic benefits can be achieved through addressing climate change. Areas of opportunity for significant emission reductions include the transportation sector and residential thermal heating. Garcia also acknowledged the importance of resiliency and adaptation measures that also reduce GHG emissions. Notably, Garcia served as the Coordinator of the Governor’s Steering Committee on Climate Change.
 - *Melody Currey, Commissioner, Department of Administrative Services (DAS)*
DAS is responsible for bulk procurement on behalf of the state, which included securing a contract for green products that will save hundreds of thousands of dollars. Connecticut municipalities are able to purchase goods through the state at favorable pricing. DAS purchases fleet vehicles for the state agencies and is providing state officials the chance to use and familiarize themselves with the six electric vehicles (EVs) DAS currently owns or lends. DAS also plays a significant role in the design of new buildings and other construction services. Currey acknowledged DAS’s valuable ongoing partnerships with other state agencies, including DEEP, DECD, and DOT.
 - *Arthur House, Commissioner, Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA)*
PURA is statutorily charged with regulating investor owned electric and natural gas utilities, thereby striving for a balance between public safety, reliability and the provider’s right to a reasonable return on its investment. PURA’s decisions actively support the Governor’s goals of cheaper, cleaner, and more reliable energy. Examples of programs and initiatives include decoupling to align utility incentives with energy efficiency and working on sub- and net-metering policy. House noted that Connecticut

has clean energy sources but the state also has the most expensive electricity rates in the continental U.S.

- *Nick Lundgren, Deputy Commissioner (on behalf of Commissioner Evonne Klein), Connecticut Department of Housing (DOH)*
DOH strives to protect vulnerable populations and to end homelessness in Connecticut. DOH focuses on adapting to the current situation (i.e., “to do the best with what we have”) as well as investing early to plan for the future. For example, DOH is working with DEEP, the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, the Green Bank, and utilities to ensure energy efficiency and resiliency are important considerations in DOH’s ambitious housing rehabilitation program. A priority for DOH is to build more resilient housing, as evidenced by its Connecticut Shore Loan program and its application for funding from the federal government’s National Disaster Resiliency Competition. Lundgren also stated there are many lessons to be learned from Superstorm Sandy, including how the state can be better prepared in the future.
- *Katharine Wade, Commissioner, Connecticut Insurance Department (CID)*
Wade stated that the properties along the Connecticut coastline are collectively valued at over \$570 billion and insurance companies paid nearly \$1 billion for 200,000 covered claims as a result of the October Nor’easter, Tropical Storm Irene in 2011 and Superstorm Sandy in 2012. Connecticut is one of seven states where Connecticut-based insurance companies are required to complete the national Climate Risk Survey, and CID is in the process of administering the third annual survey. CID is also involved in Connecticut’s Long-Term Recovery Committee, with George Bradner (CID’s Director of the Property and Casualty Division) serving as the committee Co-Chair.
- *Thomas Maziarz, Bureau Chief, Bureau of Policy and Planning (on behalf of James Redeker, Commissioner), Department of Transportation (DOT)*
DOT’s latest strategic plan marks the first time the agency has made a major commitment to increasing sustainable transportation, signaling a significant expansion beyond the traditional policy focus on safety and infrastructure issues. Maziarz noted that it will take time for communities to fully benefit from the initiatives, as the strategic planning process encompasses a 30-year period. *CTfastrak* is an example of recent success: after a few months in operation the program is already exceeding expectations. However, longer-term gains from an investment like *CTfastrak* will influence land use patterns and will promote concentrated development along public transportation routes.
- *James O'Donnell, Executive Director, Connecticut Institute for Resilience & Climate Adaptation (CIRCA)*
Established in 2014 as a partnership between DEEP and the University of Connecticut (UConn), CIRCA is charged with climate adaptation research and planning. CIRCA staff translate global and national studies and data into forms that Connecticut municipalities can readily utilize. One of CIRCA’s goals is to increase stakeholder engagement in science and policy discussions related to climate change. O’Donnell also highlighted UConn’s contributions to addressing climate change, including the work of its Center for

Clean Energy and Engineering and the President's Environmental Policy Advisory Council.

- *Catherine Smith, Commissioner, Department of Economic & Community Development (DECD)*

Smith recognized Connecticut as one of few states that understands economic development and the environment are not opposing forces, but can be jointly achieved. DECD has identified green jobs (e.g., energy efficiency and fuel cell development) as one of the strategic industries in the state with the greatest potential for growth. Smith emphasized that the Council's work should be informed by stakeholders in our communities, including utilizing experience and expertise from the business community.
- *Don Strait, Executive Director and President, Connecticut Fund for the Environment (CFE)*

Connecticut Fund for the Environment has played a role in development of the state's climate policies, including passage of the Global Warming Solutions Act and low carbon fuel standards. More recently, CFE has advocated for greater expansion of mass transit options. CFE is also participating in Stamford 2030, a cross-sector partnership to build a more energy-efficient and resilient city. Acknowledging the state's ambitious 2050 target, Don Strait expressed confidence that the necessary GHG reductions are attainable and commended the Council for the diversity of perspectives represented.
- *Scott Jackson, Under Secretary, Intergovernmental Policy Division, Office of Policy and Management (OPM)*

Emphasizing that climate change is real and is affecting the state, Jackson spoke of his experience on the Governor's Two Storm Panel, formed in 2011 as a response to extreme weather events. As a former mayor of Hamden, Jackson also worked with town's energy and climate panel. He noted the role of municipalities in addressing climate change but suggested that ultimately there are greater opportunities for significant GHG reductions at the regional and state level.
- *Lynn Stoddard, Director, Institute for Sustainable Energy (ISE) at Eastern Connecticut State University*

Acknowledging leadership on climate change among higher education institutions in the state, Stoddard spoke of the commitments and ongoing initiatives as Eastern Connecticut State University and other participating colleges and universities. Collectively, Connecticut higher education institutions have pledged to reduce their GHG emissions by about a half million metric tons. Stoddard also spoke of leadership at the local level as seen through ISE's work on energy and sustainability policy. Notably, Stoddard served as Coordinator of the Governor's Steering Committee on Climate Change process.
- *John Humphries, Convener, Connecticut Roundtable for Climate & Jobs*

The Roundtable launched in 2012 through a partnership with labor groups and the Inter-religious Eco-Justice Network with the goal to dispel the myth pitting job creation against the environment. The Roundtable seeks to identify areas of common ground within the coalition as well as identify areas of disagreement in order to create space for an effective dialogue. The Roundtable issued a public call for renewed focus on climate

action planning in the state, and Humphries emphasized the importance of the Council's assignment to set GHG reduction targets between the 2020 and 2050 statutory targets. The Roundtable is working with labor groups to conduct a study on green jobs, which will complement the work of the Council.

- Commissioner Klee identified the following themes from the Council members' initial remarks:
 - Leadership and collaboration must come from all levels (e.g., municipalities, business, higher education, community) and facilitate a culture change.
 - Estimating the pace of GHG reductions and setting interim targets will be a fundamental challenge.
 - Promoting continued economic development, through green jobs and innovative financing, etc., is a critical component.
 - Developing sustainable communities is critical component.

Welcome and Council Charge

Governor Dannel Malloy

- Governor Malloy thanked the members for agreeing to serve on the Council.
- He stated that he could not think of any work more important than addressing climate change by developing a plan to meet the state's 2050 target. He urged the Council to develop comprehensive GHG emission-reduction strategies.
- Connecticut must leadership on climate change, both nationally and internationally, even though a single state's efforts cannot solve this global problem, he emphasized.
- Governor Malloy concluded by urging the Council to be mindful of the urgency of climate action.

Overview of Climate Change Action in Connecticut

Presented by Keri Enright-Kato, Director, Office of Climate Change, Technology & Research

- Brief overview of state actions to address climate change since 2001, including the 2008 Global Warming Solutions Act.
- Breakdown of Connecticut's GHG emissions since 1990, with details on the sources within the transportation and electric sectors. As of 2012, the state has already achieved the statutory 2020 GHG reduction target, but at a minimum, the emissions level must be maintained to 2020.
- Presentation of a graph showing potential GHG reduction pathways and timing for meeting the 2050 target based on linear reduction estimates.
- For more information, download the [meeting presentation](#).
- Commissioner House commented on the significant role of nuclear energy in the state and pointed out that if new nuclear resources are not brought on line to replace a facility slated to retire, this will lead to an increase in the use of natural gas.

Assessing Current State and Regional Strategies, Beyond 2020

Presented by Paul Miller, Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM)

- *Tracy Babbidge, Bureau Chief of DEEP's Energy and Technology Policy Bureau, introduced NESCAUM and explained the organization's proposed role as a contractor to provide modeling services that will help inform the Council's deliberations. NESCAUM is the oldest regional air association in the U.S., formed by the six New England states and New Jersey and New York. NESCAUM is a technical consultant and will serve as a resource to the Council in analyzing potential GHG reduction pathways.*
- Overview of NESCAUM's current and previous work on climate change in the region:

- Providing analytical support as part of Massachusetts's climate planning
- Conducting climate reduction "wedge" analysis for the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers.
- Examples of cost-competitive technologies to demonstrate the pace at which technology is advancing.
- For more information, download the [meeting presentation](#).
- Lynn Stoddard asked whether NESCAUM can also include any modeling of co-benefits; Tracy Babbidge confirmed NESCAUM's analysis will incorporate economic considerations. The commissioner expressed his strong support for funding co-benefit analysis.

Discussion of Proposed GC3 Guiding Principles and Organization, Council Deliverables, Meeting Schedule, and Staff Support

Presented by Robert Klee, Commissioner, CT DEEP and Keri Enright-Kato, Director, Office of Climate Change, Technology & Research

- Three guiding principles: commitment to analysis, leadership, and accountability.
- Working group structure during the exploratory phase — the Council's first six months.
 - The Council will be guided by commitment to analytical rigor, accountability, and transparency while also cultivating climate leadership among all stakeholder groups.
 - DEEP is proposing that three working groups be formed: Leadership, Accountability and Engagement. Each working Group may each have a series of subgroups, which could invite other stakeholders and experts to participate in the discussion.
 - Each working group meeting held during the exploratory phase will be led by two Council member co-chairs and will consist of both GC3 members and state-agency staff.
 - Council members were asked to provide feedback on the proposed working group structure within the next few weeks.
- Proposed timeline for the next six months:
 - The Council will develop a report by December 31, 2015, that summarizes the exploratory phase and proposes next steps.
 - The Council will develop a subsequent report in 2016 with more detailed recommendations for specific GHG reduction measures.
 - Working groups and potential sub-groups will meet frequently, as determined by the working group co-chairs.
 - For more information, download the [meeting presentation](#).
- DEEP proposed to hold Council meetings from 2 to 4 p.m. on the following dates:
 - September 15
 - November 13
 - December 16

Meeting locations will be determined in the coming weeks, and DEEP staff will consider holding meetings in different locations around the state.

- Klee encouraged Council members to provide feedback on all aspects of the Council during and after the meeting.
- Enright-Kato provided examples of the types of climate actions each working group may explore.
 - John Humphries commented that the Analysis Working Group did not show a mechanism for soliciting feedback from outside of the Council. Keri Enright-Kato stated that the process was not intended to exclude groups but, rather, to lay the groundwork and noted that the co-chairs will ultimately identify the best approach.

- Klee concluded by reiterating the Council's charge to set interim GHG reduction targets as well as recommend specific measures for the state to achieve the targets.

Public Comments

Facilitated by Tracy Babbidge, Bureau Chief of DEEP's Energy and Technology Policy Bureau

- Sixteen individuals provided comments. Remarks were limited to three minutes per person.
- The list of individuals who provided comments is included in Table 2, below.
- Common themes:
 - The Council's actions must protect Connecticut's natural beauty and environmental resources for future generations.
 - Consensus within the scientific community is that the climate is being disrupted, human activity has played a major role, and current impacts are widespread.
 - Particularly when used to shape policy, science should be comprehensive, objective, deliberative, and empirical.
 - The state should increase investment in and deployment of renewable energy technologies, including shared solar and wind.
 - The state should institute a carbon tax; and state funds should divest from fossil fuel investments.
 - Expanded use of natural gas in CT is at odds with the state's commitment to meet its GHG reduction targets.
 - The Council should be bold, act with a sense of urgency, and recommend early actions to reduce GHG emissions.
 - In the state's efforts to provide energy that is "cheaper, cleaner, and more reliable," the goal of *cleaner* should get priority.
 - The Council should utilize knowledge and expertise within the state, from the business community, non-profit sector, and other members of the community.
 - Increasing green jobs supports growth of the middle class.
 - DEEP should continue to report on past, current, and future climate actions.
 - The Council should consider including a legislative liaison as well the Executive Director of the Connecticut Coalition of Environmental Justice to serve as Council members.
- Written comments regarding the July 10 meeting will be accepted for the record until Friday, July 31, 2015. They should be sent to deep.climatechange@ct.gov.

Table 2 - List of individuals who provided comments during the meeting:

Name	Affiliation
Samantha Pilion	Congresswoman Elizabeth Esty's Office
Joel Gordes	Environmental Energy Solutions
Dr. Larry Gould	Professor, University of Hartford (speaking only on his own behalf)
John Harrity	President, Connecticut State Council of Machinists; Steering Committee member, Connecticut Roundtable on Climate and Jobs
Mike Pappa	Private citizen
Phillip Dooley	Dynage.com
Ben Martin	350CT
Brian Forshaw	Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative
Martin Mador	Connecticut Sierra Club
George Rawitscher	Mansfield resident
Chris Phelps	Environment Connecticut
Jeff Russell	Green Party
Charles Brody	Private citizen
Heather Burns	Connecticut Sustainable Business Council
June O'Neil	Board of Directors, Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice
Henry Link	Hartford resident and environmental engineer