

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Public Works Department, 4 Turkey Hill Road, Newtown
Thursday, April 20, 2023
Called to order at 7:04PM

*THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY
COMMISSION*

Present: Kathy Quinn, Allen Adriani, Derek Pisani, Damian Bednarz, Mike Oristaglio, Carol Walsh,

Absent: David Stout, Robert Bohn

Also Present: Director of Public Works Fred Hurley and one member of the public

Communications – K. Quinn sent an email from DEEP regarding greenhouse gas (att.).

Public Comments – None

Acceptance of Minutes – D. Pisani moved to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2023 meeting. M. Oristaglio seconded, all in favor.

Update to Smart Power residential storage program – K. Quinn announced that the launch date for Smart Power is May 9, 2023 at 6:30pm in the Council Chambers at the Municipal building.

Board of Selectman update, April 17, Earth Day April 22 – F. Hurley and K. Quinn presented an Sustainable Energy Commission update to the Board of Selectman on April 17th. Earth day is this Saturday at the Middle School from 10am-4pm.

10K Grant decision – The grant will likely be used for EV charging station at Edmond Town Hall.

Sub-Committees

EV Charging stations – F. Hurley reported that they have a location for the EV charging station at Edmond Town Hall (ETH).

Energy Storage – CPower sent a response regarding storage and emphasizes there is no real savings from demand response. There is also the liability of the batteries and heavy metals and who is responsibility for that. There are still a lot of things that need to be worked out. It is needed to stabilize the grid.

Portfolio Manager – No update

Status of solar projects

Buy All Program– They don't expect to hear if this will be moving forward until June or July.

Off site 1MW VNM – We should know in June if the state will refill the (queue) of the 1 MW. The projects that are on that is Middlegate, Ambulance, Library, Community Center and Edmond Town Hall, that would be the last of the buildings.

Other Solar Opportunities, Batchelder Site, Hawley School, High School Auditorium - No update

School Updates:

Hawley - Moving along.

RFP for Energy Management and Conservation Services – It is a performance contract and one company came forward to make a proposal. F. Hurley wrote a negative review.

Town Building Strategic Plan Committee – The town personnel are starting to meet on this and have two scanners coming in.

Municipal Energy Plan – No update

Social Media – No update

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED

Changes to recycling/composting efforts – The town has tentatively received a grant for unit based pricing and composting. It will be a pilot program which will be a volunteer program for pay as you throw (UBP). It encourages people to participate in the town's food scrap recycling program.

Lighting at FFH – K. Quinn reported that this is becoming more of an issue. The fix is very costly so they are changing the lights out slowly.

Next meeting is May 18, 2023

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Arlene Miles, Clerk

Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Climate Solutions

New Connecticut Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report Shows Overall Emissions Decline but Need for Further, Faster Reductions

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (“DEEP”) published its latest Greenhouse Gas Emissions (“GHG”) Inventory, the most comprehensive accounting of the state’s air pollution that contributes to climate change. While the state is making progress, there is work to be done to meet pollution reduction goals set by the legislature. The legislature established those goals to improve the health of Connecticut residents, create opportunities for Connecticut businesses, and reduce energy costs for all Connecticut residents.

In 2019, Connecticut had economy-wide emissions of 39.3 million metric tons of carbon-dioxide equivalent (“MMTCO₂e”) — a decrease of 13.9 percent since 1990. The peak was nearly 53 MMTCO₂e in 2004. The pandemic contributed to a low of 32.7 MMTCO₂e in 2020, but estimates for 2021,

with vehicle use back up, showed emissions approaching pre-pandemic levels.

“We are continuing our urgent work to do our part to mitigate the threat of climate change,” said **DEEP Commissioner Katie Dykes**.

“While we’ve made strides and met our 2020 target, we have much work ahead of us and only seven years to achieve our 2030 goal.

The transportation sector continues to be by far the largest source of our emissions, followed by residential sector emissions.

With climate change already impacting residents’ health, as well as our environment and our economy, we need the feasible policy solutions proposed in this report, before it’s too late.”

“It’s encouraging to see the work Connecticut has done on climate change mitigation is beginning to show results, but we have additional work to do,” said **House**

Environment Committee Chair Rep. Joe

Gresko, D-Stratford. “We need to do the work now to achieve these ambitious goals.”

“I’d like to thank Commissioner Dykes and the staff at DEEP for this comprehensive report,” said **Climate Caucus Chair Rep.**

Brandon Chafee, D-Middletown. “It not only documents the progress we’ve made in meeting our reduction goals, but it also provides a clear roadmap of policies to keep us on target in the future. I look forward to working with DEEP and my fellow legislators

to turn these proposals into law, ensuring future generations have a healthy environment and stable climate.”

“The GHG Emissions Inventory – regardless of the numbers – is a reminder that we need to be laser focused on taking action to address climate change,” said **Nathan Frohling, Director of External Affairs for The Nature Conservancy of Connecticut.** “Making significant progress every year is critical to meeting the greatest challenge we face to life on earth as we know it.”

The data provides a report card detailing 30 years of emissions, back to 1990, and includes estimates for 2021 emissions. Transportation remains the top emitter in the state and has not decreased significantly from 1990 levels. The report concludes by identifying a range of policy options to further reduce emissions and their associated impact, recognizing that the negative impacts of climate change and air pollution are often concentrated in Connecticut’s most overburdened communities.

Other high-level takeaways from the report include:

- Transportation in 2019 remains the largest source of emissions in the state, accounting for 40% of the state’s climate pollution, with the sector’s emissions essentially unchanged since 1990 even

as fuel efficiency has increased, thanks to increased driving miles.

- Residential heating surpassed the electric power sector as the 2nd largest emitter.
- Electric sector emissions were down 52% in 2019 from 1990 levels.
- In 2019 and 2020 (as in 2018), the transportation, electricity, and residential sectors together accounted for nearly three-quarters of Connecticut's GHG emissions.
- 2020 and 2021 saw significant declines in GHG emissions that were almost entirely induced by the COVID-19 pandemic and largely the result of reduced personal vehicle use.

The report's proposed policy solutions include an update to the state's Global Warming Solutions Act via [SB 1145](#) so that it aligns with the climate change science detailed in the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, as well as other policies and legislation currently being considered by the Legislature, such as Governor Lamont's [SB 979](#), which would adopt home energy labeling and increase urban tree cover.

The state first set targets in 2008, passing legislation which established a mandate to reduce statewide GHG emissions 10 percent below 1990 levels by 2020 and 80 percent below 2001 levels by 2050. In 2018, to guide progress toward the 2050 target, the

legislature added a medium-term target of 45 percent emissions reductions below the 2001 level by 2030. Last year, the legislature codified Governor Lamont's Executive Order 3 with the passage of Public Act No. 22-5, requiring Connecticut's electrical grid to be carbon free by 2040.

For the complete report, please visit [DEEP_GHG_Report_90-21_Final.pdf \(ct.gov\)](#), and for a slide deck summary, please visit [Connecticut GHG inventory update for 1990-2021](#).



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