

# **Town of Newtown, CT**

3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT

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

The Sustainable Energy Commission held a regular meeting Thursday, February 16, 2017 in shared meeting room 3 of the Municipal Center located at 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT 06470.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Kathy Quinn at 7:00p.m.

**Present:** Chairman Kathy Quinn, Allen Adriani, George Brown, Jeff Jorgenson, Mark Sievel, Thomas Snayd, Dave Stout, Barbara Toomey

**Also Present:** Graham Clifford, Chuck Litty

**Communications:** The CT Green Bank 2016 PACEsetters awards are March 2, in North Haven. Newtown Forward is a political action group. Before the Floods will show at the Edmond Town Hall at 1:00 on March 5 followed by a question and answer period.

**Public Comments:** none.

**Acceptance of Minutes:** Mr. Brown moved to accept the minutes of 1/19/17. Ms. Toomey seconded. All in favor.

### **Business**

#### **Discussion and possible action:**

- a. **Status of Landfill Solar Project:** no update; waiting on start date from Solar City.
- b. **Reed School solar project:** Penetration on the roof has begun, the snow has slowed the project down.
- c. **Solomon Solar project:** There is a memorandum of understanding; nothing will be done until the state decides on virtual net metering.
- d. **MLS Group – Nunnawauk Meadows – solar:** no update.
- e. **Batchelder site:** no update.
- f. **Grant Funds –** A \$9,000 check has been received; Mr. Hurley will move forward on purchasing an EV charging station for Fairfield Hills.
- g. **Energy Savings program update**

**Municipal Center:** This project may be complete.

**Waste Water Treatment Plant:** This project should be complete soon.

**Next Projects:** Ms. Quinn is still waiting on Mr. Faiella to see if the schools are interested in having anything done at Head 'O Meadow; Mr. Hurley will also reach out to him. The Library has a new director starting March 1. Ms. Quinn contacted Bob Geckle who said the library had an audit done, are working with Eversource and have done some work. She is waiting on further information from the Board of Trustees. Ms. Quinn moved to reassign JK to the Public Works department until there is more information on the Library. Mr. Adriani seconded. All in favor.

Rec'd. for Record 2/21/2017  
Town Clerk of Newtown @ 3:57 PM  
Debbie Andria Halstead

- h. **Microgrid feasibility study:** no update. Ms. Quinn & Mr. Hurley attended a meeting on resiliency. It is possible to cross streets with the lines.
- i. **Street Lighting:** no update. A vendor offered to do the RFP at no charge.
- j. **Funding for High School program:** not discussed.
- k. **High School Sustainability course:** Ms. Toomey said the greenery course is being revamped, possibly into more than one course. Ms. Quinn shared information on education through energize CT (att.). Mr. Stout stated there is a Panoramic Program that creates a curriculum for students interested in energy and renewables.
- l. **Dashboard for website:** There are dashboard links to Solar Edge with tools to create interface. It is live and updates regularly. Mr. Stout thinks there should be something to show what's been produced by all systems, year to date, on the main town web site. Links can be put on the Sustainable Energy webpage. Mr. Brown suggested a year over year analysis, showing the results of the improvements made. Clean energy vs. total energy.
- m. **Fracking waste – request to the Board of Selectmen for action:** Ms. Quinn would like to send a request to the Board of Selectmen for referral to the Legislative Council for an ordinance on banning the processing of fracking waste in Newtown. Mr. Jorgenson asked if this was different from any other toxic waste or chemical processing regulations that might already exist. Mr. Brown said this is specific to fracking waste. Mr. Stout said he does not think fracking waste is considered hazardous material at this point because it is being allowed to be used in a variety of different places and there is conflicting data. Mr. Jorgenson thinks we need to know more about it before putting it in front of anybody else. Mr. Sievel is not opposed to it but feels he doesn't know enough about it. Ms. Quinn said that there is a temporary ban on it now but in case there isn't a statewide ban Ms. Quinn wants to have an ordinance to protect the interest of the town; it could have a negative impact on the town if nothing is done about it. Mr. Stout said that if more communities stood behind the ban then the state might reinforce the ban. Ms. Toomey said it is best to err on the side of caution as companies won't reveal what is in the waste. Mr. Brown moved to supply the Board of Selectmen with information for review. Ms. Toomey seconded. All in favor.
- n. **VW Settlement:** no update.

**Additional Items for discussion:**

- 1. **Sustainable CT:** Mr. Litty said a consortium of municipal leaders and the Institute of Sustainable Energy at Eastern are heavily involved. They are taking a slow, deliberate approach. The idea is to create a program where municipalities can become certified for sustainability actions. There will be a user friendly website to help you understand what has to be done to achieve certification. This will be modeled by the sustainablejersey.com program. This is expected to up and running in six months; they are looking into securing more long term funding. The website for CT is sustainablect.org.
- 2. **Municipal Energy Plan:** no update.
- 3. **Energy Star Portfolio Manager:** Ms. Quinn handed out information on the energy usage on primary buildings. After reviewing it appeared the numbers may not have been accurate. The high school usage is too high to qualify for SBEA. Ms. Quinn will re-

check the numbers with Eversource. An investment grade audit has been completed on all municipal buildings. The information has been applied, using the SBEA program.

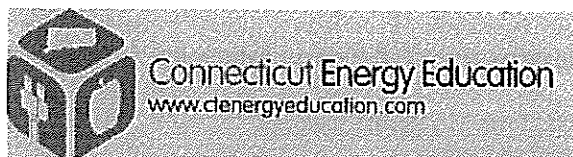
4. **Web Site:** no update.
5. **Bridgeport Eco-Park:** no update.
6. **Organic Recycling:** no update.
7. **Earth Day** – Earth Day is April 22, 2017, on the lawn of Middle Gate School.

**Adjournment:** Having no other business, the Sustainable Energy Commission adjourned their regular meeting at 8:20pm.

The next regular meeting will be held on March 16, 2107.

*Attachments: Energize CT - education*

Submitted, Susan Marcinek, clerk


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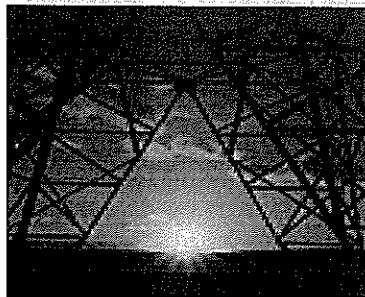
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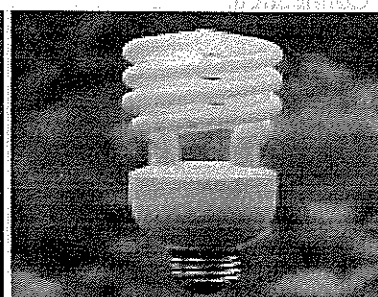
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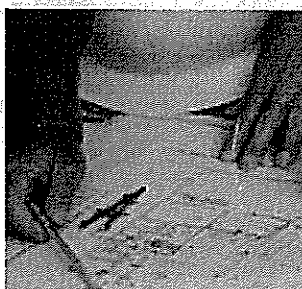
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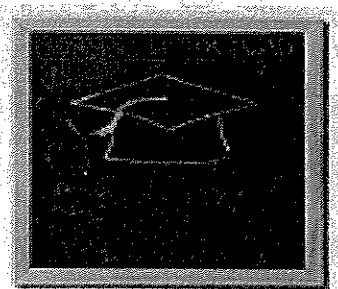
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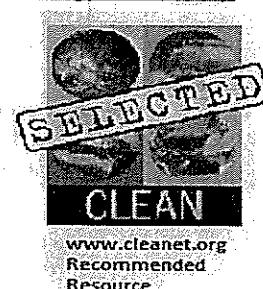
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To view the CT Energy Education Connecticut Science Framework Correlation Grid, [click here.](#)

To learn more about questions you may have about Connecticut energy information, including Energy Efficiency, Clean Energy Options, Utility Information for Restructuring, Energy Assistance, Environmental Issues, Consumer Issues and Research & Public Policy, visit Connecticut Energy Information at [www.CTEnergyInfo.com](http://www.CTEnergyInfo.com)

Connecticut Energy Education is funded by Connecticut electric ratepayers through the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund. The Institute for Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University provides the educational materials, development and administration for the program.



At Eastern Connecticut  
State University



## Ideas For Becoming a CT Green LEAF School

- **Provide Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education.** Examples of successful environmental and sustainability education initiatives include: implementing nationally recognized programs (e.g., Project Learning Tree, Project Wet, Project WILD, or Food, Land and People) connected to state standards, project-based and service learning in the community, STEM partnerships with businesses or universities, sustainability fairs, environmental restoration projects, and outdoor classrooms.
- **Improve the Health and Wellness of Students and Staff.** Successful school strategies would include: participating in the Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Tools for Schools program, integrated pest management, green cleaning

programs, daily exercise and health classes (for example, yoga and dance fitness programs), vegetarian food choices, farm-to-school partnerships, butterfly/vegetable/rain gardens, hydroponics and greenhouses, and outdoor classrooms/nature areas.

- **Reduce Environmental Impact and Cost.** A school can achieve this goal through several initiatives including: student energy teams, onsite renewable energy systems and learning, student involvement in planning building additions, recycling and composting programs, paperless classrooms, walk-to-school programs, and attaining Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), ENERGY STAR® and Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS) and other green building rating standards.

## Becoming a Connecticut Green LEAF School

Every school is unique and starts at a different level. The Connecticut Green LEAF Schools program will recognize schools that have made significant progress toward greening their schools, as well as those that are just beginning. The program can help all schools on their journey to becoming green and is an important application of the CT Environmental Literacy Plan found at [www.coeea.org](http://www.coeea.org).

- **Planting Seeds:** This level is for schools assessing their baselines and in the earliest stages of developing their sustainability plans. This level lays the foundation for a more sustainable school community in the future.
- **Growing Green:** This level is for schools that have made significant progress in meeting the three primary goals of the Connecticut Green LEAF Schools program, but need additional assistance to achieve some goals.

- **Connecticut Green LEAF Schools:** Schools that have made significant progress in all three goals will qualify for Connecticut Green LEAF Schools recognition.

## Green Ribbon Schools

This is a U.S. Department of Education recognition program for K-12 schools that have made significant progress in reducing their environmental impact, improving student and staff health, and providing effective environmental education. This recognition is part of a larger U.S. Department of Education effort to identify and disseminate knowledge about practices proven to result in improved student engagement, academic achievement, graduation rates, and workforce preparedness, as well as a government-wide aim to increase energy independence and economic security. The state can nominate up to four Connecticut Green LEAF Schools annually for the Green Ribbon Schools award.

## For More Information

Further information about the Connecticut Green LEAF Schools program, including a list of resources to assist in greening your school, can be found at:  
[www.ctgreenschools.org/ctgreenleaf.htm](http://www.ctgreenschools.org/ctgreenleaf.htm)

Questions about the program should be sent to:  
[ctgreenleaf@ctgreenschools.org](mailto:ctgreenleaf@ctgreenschools.org)

Schools that participate will receive program support, resources and curriculum, professional development and learn best practices from school "mentors."



**CONNECTICUT  
GREEN LEAF  
SCHOOLS**

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healthy, green schools for all.*



## What is a Connecticut Green LEAF School?

**The Connecticut Green LEAF Schools program is a collaborative effort of the Connecticut Departments of Construction Services, Education, Energy and Environmental Protection and Public Health, as well as many Connecticut environmental and educational organizations created to promote green and healthy schools for all. The Connecticut Green LEAF Schools program guides and recognizes schools for striving toward three essential goals:**

**Provide Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education.** The school will focus on interdisciplinary learning featuring relationships between the environment, energy and human systems, civic engagement with the local community, and connections to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) content and practice.

**Improve the Health and Wellness of Students and Staff.** A school must strive to integrate school environmental health programs, nutritional and fitness standards, and quality outdoor time to meet the second goal of the Connecticut Green LEAF Schools program.

**Reduce Environmental Impact and Cost.**

A Connecticut Green LEAF School will ensure that its environmental footprint is small by ensuring that the school's buildings maximize energy and water efficiency, focus on waste reduction and recycling, and promote alternative transportation use.

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*Every school is unique and starts from a different level. The Connecticut Green LEAF Schools program can help your school on its path to becoming greener!*

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### Why Become a Connecticut Green LEAF School?

Connecticut Green LEAF Schools are healthy, productive learning environments for students, educators and administrators. Studies show that a green school raises student academic achievement, saves money and improves the health of students and staff. Schools with strong environmental literacy education build critical thinking skills by designing curriculum that provides interesting and relevant contexts for learning core concepts and skills in state standards and assessments. These schools are energized by a mission to make a difference in their school and community.

- **Academic Benefits:** Environmental education contributes to overall academic achievement and higher performance on standardized tests when it is strategically integrated into the curriculum. Students learn more effectively within a real-world, experiential-based context combined with traditional textbook-based approaches.
- **Health Benefits:** Going green offers many health benefits for students and staff, including improved nutrition and physical health. A focus on healthy eating, physical activity and healthy environments pays off in decreased obesity, asthma and other illnesses while increasing attendance.
- **Reduced Costs:** Green schools are energy efficient, have lower utility costs, conserve resources and reduce waste. Savings on energy, waste and water bills is extra money that can be put into academic programs.



*Leading, Educating, Achieving and Fostering healthy, green schools for all.*