

**TOWN OF WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT**  
**Special Meeting Notice**



**Zoom instructions**

**Dialing in by Phone Only:**

Please call: **646 558 8656**

When prompted for participant or meeting ID enter: **858 8321 6620** then press #

1. You will then enter the meeting muted. During Public Comment if you wish to speak press \*9 to raise your hand.

**Joining in by Computer:**

Please go to the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85883216620>

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Only if your computer has a microphone for two way communication, then during Public Comment if you wish to speak press **Raise Hand** in the webinar control. If you do not have a microphone, you will need to call in on a phone in order to speak.

1. During Public Comments if you do not wish to speak you may type your comments into the Q&A feature.

**AGENCY: Citizen Advisory Task Force on Clean and Sustainable Energy**

**DATE: February 17, 2021**

**TIME: 6:30 PM**

**PLACE: VIRTUAL MEETING**

**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment
3. Communications from Task Force Members
4. \*Discuss CT Energy Network Letter
5. Discuss and Begin Composing Draft Energy Plan for Windsor
6. Approval of Minutes
  - a) \*January 20, 2021
7. Adjournment

\*Backup materials



TO: Governor Ned Lamont  
Vicki Hackett, DEEP Deputy Commissioner of Energy

FROM: The CT Energy Network, c/o Clean Water Action/Clean Water Fund

CC: **Co-chairs/co-vice-chairs of the 2021 Legislative Environment & Energy/Technology Committees**  
*Michael Li, DEEP Bureau Chief, Energy & Technology Policy*  
*Marissa Gillett, Chairman, Public Utilities Regulatory Authority*  
*Bryan Garcia, President and CEO, CT Green Bank*  
*Rebecca French, DEEP Director of Climate Planning\**  
*Energy Efficiency Board members, c/o Linda King, Executive Secretary*  
*Richard Faesy & Glenn Reed, Energy Futures Group (consultants to the Energy Efficiency Board)*  
*Larry Rush, Avangrid & Ron Araujo, Eversource — EnergizeCT Program Administrators*

DATE: January 18, 2021 **\*The individuals listed above *in italics* received this letter prior to the opening of the legislative session. The signatories as shown on pages 4, 5 and 6 are pleased to distribute this letter now to the elected officials — Senators Needleman, Winfield, Cohen and Slap, and Representatives Arconti, Allie-Brennan, Borer and Gresko — who lead the two Legislative Committees specified above.**

**We the CT Energy Network are a group of hundreds of local volunteer Energy Task Force<sup>1</sup> members** who work on behalf of Connecticut's cities and towns for sustainable energy performance and the inherent benefits to public health and well-being. We are contacting you to share our perspective, to offer our Network as your resource to help advance energy efficiency and clean energy in Connecticut, and to request your support.

**Background:**

The Clean Energy Communities program was established years ago to incentivize cities and towns to implement energy efficiency, renewable energy and related educational initiatives. Each municipality that opted in signed a pledge to reduce municipal building energy consumption, and to procure an everincreasing amount of clean energy as part of its energy supply. Local government officials were encouraged by Clean Water Action and other NGOs to create clean energy task forces that would advise community leaders and help implement various actions. Together, we have been a primary force in recruiting new volunteer members of those groups, and carrying the important work forward. Solar panel installations and Community Innovation Grants (facilitated by the CT Green Bank and that entity's predecessor) and subsequently, Bright Idea Grants were awarded to municipalities that achieved prescribed successes.

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<sup>1</sup> In this document, the phrase "energy task forces" represents the various types of local volunteer groups that have been formed: energy and sustainability committees, task forces, green teams, 501(c)3s and officially appointed Commissions.



Unfortunately, after the legislature's 2017-18 diversion of ratepayers' energy efficiency funds, those incentives and much staffing support from the utility companies ended, which undermined our local efforts and contributed to a loss of active volunteers and community engagement.

### The Value of Our Network:

Our energy task forces provide excellent grassroots outreach and community-based public awareness campaigns. Over the years, our volunteers have successfully promoted such important programs as:

- The CTCleanEnergyOptions program for CT residents and businesses which expanded the market for renewable power sources,
- The Home Energy Solutions® program,
- Green speaker series programs at local libraries,
- Town SolarizeCT campaigns,
- EV promotional events and "zero waste" initiatives,
- Heat pump educational campaigns.

We have also sponsored and hosted forums and conferences on climate change, net zero energy schools, clean transportation (including electric school and public transit buses plus municipal fleets) and the environmentally responsible siting of renewables. We provide invaluable services to Connecticut citizens, municipalities and businesses. **We are the primary "on the ground" grassroots promoters, marketers, educators and implementers of these programs.** We know our communities well, and are especially interested in connecting "hard-to-reach" residents and businesses with CT's numerous energy conservation programs.



Last year, for example, a diverse crowd of energy efficiency practitioners and advocates met in Hartford at an *Efficiency For All* event to discuss how best to connect with underserved households. Two dozen of our Network's energy task forces were represented.

Many of our members also volunteer as Board members and thought leaders in an even wider network of like-minded NGOs. Looking ahead, we are eager to work at the local level to help shape state programs so that they better serve Connecticut's communities. Some of our Network's members are



currently working on the PURA study of Community Choice Aggregation as a tool to enhance local participation in Connecticut's journey to clean renewable energy, while others are working on community outreach campaigns designed to accelerate Heat Pump adoption.

We participate in many ways to help CT move quickly to a sustainable future — ways that some of you may not be aware of. Our terrific workforce of energy-literate volunteers helped develop and deploy the Sustainable CT program, and is now contributing greatly to the work being done for the Governor's Council on Climate Change. Several of our member towns are now working with HES vendors and launching new Home Energy Challenges to promote the timely weatherization of homes. As such, we stand ready to help revive our economy post-pandemic. Therefore, we feel it is time to make it clear:

Our Network of 60-plus energy task forces and commissions should be recognized at the state level as your essential partners in this work.



*The CT Energy Network convened in February of 2020 to explore the logistics and economics of net zero energy schools. Subsequent conferences have been virtual.*

### **We are seeking support and recognition for our important work.**

We strongly believe that our Network, if given the chance, can be an even more effective agent of change. Our energy task forces are sustained by volunteer talent, with varying (and sometime disappointing) levels of support from our municipal governments. Today, during the pandemic it is more difficult to maintain adequate numbers of volunteers. In addition, we believe we should have a stronger voice among Connecticut's policy makers and agencies.

Here are some suggestions for actions that would help us serve more effectively:

- Public recognition and support of the value of this Network of clean energy task forces. This could be in the form of a press release and an official letter from the Governor's office or DEEP to each municipality's chief elected official.
  - Such notices would encourage town officials to engender closer ties with their energy advisory groups to help stay abreast of Connecticut's ever-changing energy policies and sustainability practices. *If a municipality does not already have a group like this, the formation of one should be recommended. Every town can benefit from such a group.*

- We feel it is time to have CT Energy Network representation on the Energy Efficiency Board.<sup>2</sup> This person would be a member of an active local task force or commission.
- We also request that financial support akin to EnergizeCT's Bright Idea Grant program be reestablished so that the costs of local mailings and printing (at least) can be supported. This program could fit within the marketing and/or educational budget of the EEB.

Thank you for considering our suggestions for closer partnerships and collaborations. We would like to have a small delegation of our member task forces meet soon with members of your staff to discuss our efforts and proposals. And we are open to ideas you may have that will strengthen our Network's effectiveness and help you achieve your goals.

Cordially,

(Following is the list of signatories from dedicated *volunteer* local energy / sustainability groups and individuals.)

Bernard Zahren, on behalf of the Avon Clean Energy Commission  
 Ashford Clean Energy Task Force  
 Bloomfield's Conservation, Energy & Environment Committee  
 Branford Clean Energy Ad Hoc Committee  
 Brookfield resident and advocate Marcia Wilkins  
 Canton Energy Committee  
 Cheshire Energy Commission  
 Chester Clean Energy Task Force  
**CT Clean Water Action, Anne Hulick, Director**  
 Cornwall Conservation Commission/Cornwall Energy Task Force  
 Easton Energy & Environment Task Force  
 Melissa Everett, member of the Enfield Joint Facilities Committee  
 Sustainable Fairfield Task Force  
 Paula Panzarella, founding member of Fight the Hike  
 Hamden Energy Use and Climate Change Commission; Lawrence Rosenthal, Chairman  
 Martin Mador, Hamden EUCCC member and former chair  
 Hampton Green Energy Committee  
 Sustainable Litchfield Committee  
 Madison Energy & Efficiency Committee  
 Manchester Board of Directors

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<sup>2</sup> Such representation on the Energy Efficiency Board is permitted per Public Act No. 13-298, Sec. 16 (c) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall appoint and convene an Energy Conservation Management Board which shall include the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, or the commissioner's designee, the Consumer Counsel, or the Consumer Counsel's designee, the Attorney General, or the Attorney General's designee, and a representative of: (1) An environmental group knowledgeable in energy conservation program collaboratives; (2) the electric distribution companies in whose territories the activities take place for such programs; (3) a state-wide manufacturing association; (4) a chamber of commerce; (5) a state-wide business association; (6) a state-wide retail organization; (7) a state-wide farm association; (8) a municipal electric energy cooperative created pursuant to chapter 101a; **and (9) residential customers.** The board shall also include two representatives selected by the gas companies. The members of the board shall serve for a period of five years and may be reappointed. Representatives of gas companies, electric distribution companies and the municipal electric energy cooperative shall be nonvoting members of the board. The members of the board shall elect a chairperson from its voting members. If any vote of the board results in an equal division of its voting members, such vote shall fail.



## Manchester Sustainability Commission

Peter Millman, Member, Mansfield Sustainability Committee  
Middletown Clean Energy Task Force, Jen Kleindienst, Chair  
Dmitri D'Allessandro, Middletown resident  
The Jonah Center for Earth and Art in Middletown and Portland  
Milford Energy Advisory Board  
New Haven Climate Movement  
New Haven Energy Task Force, with special support from member Henry Auer  
Henry Lowendorf, Chair, Greater New Haven Peace Council  
North Haven Clean Energy Task Force  
Diane Keefe, Norwalk advocate  
Diane Lauricella, Norwalk advocate dba Environmental Innovations; Sustainability Planner  
Portland Clean Energy Task Force  
Ridgefield Action Committee for the Environment  
Ridgefield Energy Task Force  
Kristen J. Quell-Garguilo, Ridgefield resident and Adjunct Professor, SUNY Westchester Cmty. College  
Roberta Barbieri, Ridgefield Resident  
Simsbury Clean Energy Task Force  
Stephen Wagner, South Windsor resident and clean energy advocate  
Stafford Energy Advisory Committee  
Interreligious Eco-Justice Network, Tolland  
Environmental Committee, St. John's Episcopal Church, Vernon  
Jeffrey A. Boulrice, Chairman, Vernon Energy Improvement District Board  
Adelheid Koepfer, Sustainability Advocate, Wallingford  
West Hartford Clean Energy Commission  
Joel Gordes, Environmental & Energy Security Strategist, West Hartford  
Sustainable Weston; Amy Kalafa, Chair  
Deirdre Doran, Board Trustee of Lachat Town Farm's Friends of Lachat, Weston; former TF chair  
Sustainable Westport, with special support from members Pippa Bell Ader, Sam Carpenter,  
Dawn Henry & Tony McDowell Wilton Go Green, Inc.  
Windham Energy Commission  
Windsor Climate Action Team

### The primary contacts for our Network include:

Andy Bauer, [andytbauer@gmail.com](mailto:andytbauer@gmail.com); Kate Donnelly, [kate@donnellycolt.com](mailto:kate@donnellycolt.com); Kenny Foscue, [kfosc@snet.net](mailto:kfosc@snet.net); Patrice Gillespie, [patricegillespie@mac.com](mailto:patricegillespie@mac.com); Anne Hulick, [ahulick@cleanwater.org](mailto:ahulick@cleanwater.org)

### Additional individuals and entities in favor of our Network forming stronger partnerships with statelevel entities include...

(Below are the names of supportive legislators, Mayors/First Selectmen, non-profit organizations, business leaders, etc., who have asked to be listed here to date. They are groups and individuals who to some extent receive financial compensation for their work that at least in part advances sustainability, and who are aligned with us volunteers.)

State Representative Bobby Gibson — 15<sup>th</sup> District, Bloomfield and Windsor  
City of Bridgeport, Joseph Gresko, Sustainability Director  
Connecticut Citizens Action Group, Tom Swan, Executive Director  
Earth Forward Group, Diana McCarthy-Bercury, Principal  
Hamden Energy Efficiency Coordinator Kathleen Schomaker  
Middletown Mayor Ben Florsheim  
Michael Harris, Energy Consultant and Middletown Energy Coordinator  
Mark Robbins, MHR Development in Norwalk  
Ridgefield First Selectman Rudy Marconi  
Stamford Mayor David R. Martin  
State Representative David Michel — 146<sup>th</sup> District, Stamford  
State Representative Mary Mushinsky — 85<sup>th</sup> District, Wallingford  
State Representative Geraldo Reyes, Jr., 75<sup>th</sup> District, Waterbury  
State Representative Jonathan Steinberg — 136<sup>th</sup> District, Westport  
State Senator Will Haskell — 26<sup>th</sup> District, Wilton and six other municipalities





**Citizen Advisory Task Force on Clean and Sustainable Energy  
VIRTUAL MEETING  
January 20, 2021  
Special Meeting**

**UNAPPROVED MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Weiner called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Present were Committee Members; Neil Chaudhary, Jeffrey Dyreson, Barbara Peyton, George Slate, Eric Weiner, and Elizabeth Yetman.

Staff: Peter Souza, Town Manager; Scott Colby, Assistant Town Manager

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT- None**

**3. COMMUNICATIONS FROM TASK FORCE MEMBERS**

Eric Weiner mentioned to the group that Pamela Stratton had resigned from the group. He thanked her for her service and time with the group and wished her well.

Jeffrey Dyreson had nothing to report.

Neil Chaudhary discussed that he would be reaching out to the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters for a future meeting. He stated that they are currently hosting their annual meeting and could potentially be available after March.

Barbara Peyton had nothing to report.

George Slate inquired the process for filling the vacant position on the task force. He also provided his approach for developing the plan.

Elizabeth Yetman agreed with Mr. Slates comments.

**4. DISCUSS AND BEGIN COMPOSING DRAFT ENERGY PLAN FOR WINDSOR**

Members discussed their ideas of items to potentially include in the draft energy plan for Windsor.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOVED by Mr. Weiner seconded by Mr. Slate to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2020 meeting as presented.

Motion Passed 6-0-0





Citizen Advisory Task Force on Clean and Sustainable Energy  
January 20, 2021

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**6. ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by Mr. Slate and seconded by Mr. Weiner to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Motion Passed 6-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott W. Colby Jr.  
Assistant Town Manager