



Connecticut Climate Change

GSC Meeting Minutes from 2006:

January 10, 2006

April 4, 2006

July 11, 2006

October 17, 2006



Connecticut Climate Change

Governor's Steering Committee on Climate Change

MEETING MINUTES

January 10, 2006

GSC Attendees: Commissioner McCarthy, Undersecretary Mengacci, Commissioner Yelmini, Commissioner George, Chairman Bowles, Ned Hurle (for Commissioner Korta).

Other attendees from Climate Change Coordinating Committee (C4) and other agencies, guests.

Handouts:

- Agenda
- November 2005 meeting minutes
- High performance building info

1. **Public Comments** – There were no comments from the public.
2. **Approval of minutes from November 2005 GSC meeting** – The minutes were approved.
3. **Plan for Submission of Annual Progress Report to Legislature** – The GSC thanked C4 for their work in putting together the report, especially Connie Mendolia. GSC members signed the cover letter. The report will be submitted to the legislature at the beginning of the session.
4. **Implementing Governor's energy efficiency directive** – Mary Healey, Consumer Counsel, discussed the background and strategy for improving efficiency at state agencies, including the use of the most beneficial rate analyses and an energy score card.
5. **2006 Legislative Proposals** –
 - DEP reported on progress of the feebate report and diesel plan.
 - DPUC reported on: decoupling of revenue and sales of electricity and gas companies, which is tied to reducing disincentives for conservation; Class III RPS; and the possibility of revisiting the establishment of oil and natural gas conservation funds.
 - CCEF reported on high performance buildings and proposed: (1) setting up a response sub-committee of the C4 that would include members from the DEP, DPW, and CCEF, and (2) involving the GSC where necessary to support and weigh in on legislation. GSC was supportive of the proposals.

6. **Measurement and Verification** – C4 reported that DEP inventory of GHG will occur through reports from major air pollution stationery sources (bottom up) and the update to the statewide GHG inventory with EPA (top down). Additional strategies are needed. C4 proposed a C4 summit in 2006 to develop a measurement and verification plan. GSC charged C4 to follow up on this.
7. **Next Steps for GSC Agencies** – Reports were given from the following agencies:
 - DOT – presented a thorough plan to reduce energy use throughout DOT facilities and operations (energy management systems, efficiency in garages, computers, lighting, environmental purchasing, etc.)
 - DEP – ongoing efforts to reduce waste, additional energy efficiency measures, increase staff use of hybrid fleet vehicles, ongoing clean energy purchase
 - DSS – hosted energy efficient lighting sale
 - CCEF – plan to inventory computer energy use, look into clean energy purchase
 - DAS reported that they were not sure if or how they would be able to fill the Environmental Purchasing position since Barb Moser left DAS.
8. **CT Climate Change Action Plan Implementation** – C4 presented implementation highlights:
 - signing of RGGI agreement by 7 northeastern states including CT;
 - approval of regulations on GHG reductions from vehicles (“Pavley”);
 - draft of stakeholder report on high performance buildings;
 - planning to continue educational workshops with the insurance and financial services sector.
 - DAS discussed the state’s telecommuting policy: it is allowed in most state agencies on a limited basis (but not to managers), the policy was updated in the last 6 months, there are many issues that make it difficult to allow telecommuting.
9. **Other Business**
 - OPM discussed the state employee conservation campaign. OPM is waiting to hear from the Governor’s office and hopes to kick off the campaign in January 2006.
 - GSC discussed the need to coordinate incremental policies and decisions among the agencies for long-term broader implications.
10. **Next Meeting** – April 4, 2006. GSC meeting times and minutes will be posted on www.ctclimatechange.com



Connecticut Climate Change

Governor's Steering Committee on Climate Change

MEETING NOTES

April 4, 2006

1:00 – 3:00 p.m., DEP, Russell Room

GSC Attendees: Commissioner McCarthy, Undersecretary Mengacci, Commissioner Yelmini, Commissioner George, Ned Hurle (for Commissioner Korta).

Other attendees from Climate Change Coordinating Committee (C4) and other agencies, guests.

11. **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

12. **Approval of Minutes** from January 10, 2006 GSC meeting

Minutes were approved.

13. **Trinity College intern project highlights**

Brief summary and presentation of intern climate change work for C4 during spring semester:

- Kim Bass developed paper summarizing high global warming potential gases in CT and potential strategies (Recommended Action 34 Reduce High Global Warming Potential Gases)
- Jason Koman and Jesse Stamell assisted C4 workgroup with Climate Change Leadership Awards Program (RA 54 Public Education and Outreach)
- Patrice Barrett presented her work with DSS on increasing electronic food stamp purchase at farmers' markets (RA 37 Buy Local Foods)
- Ryan Harrity presented his findings on climate change education and outreach to young adults (RA 54 Public Education and Outreach)
- Karin Jakubowski, Coordinator for CT Science Center Collaborative, presented an update on "Cool It: The Climate Change Challenge." Students Laura Gretz and Lauren Fuller assisted with this project. (RA 54 Public Education and Outreach)

GSC thanked the students for their work.

14. **Legislative Update** – Chris James provided an update on climate-related bills this session: high performance buildings, sulfur content in home heating oil, feebates, oil and gas conservation funds, and clean diesel.

15. **CT Climate Change Leadership Awards Program**

David Goldberg described the C4 committee's process for developing the program and soliciting and evaluating nominations. The C4 recommended 5 awards for GSC consideration:

- Sandy Fry of the Capitol Region Council of Governments for creating the Harford area's "Bike to Work" initiative.
- Chad Vincente, a 7th-grade student at Mansfield Middle School, for encouraging fellow students, families, town employees, and the general public to sign up for Connecticut's clean energy option.
- Pitney Bowes, Inc. of Stamford for supporting renewable energy equivalent to 10% of Pitney's U.S. and U.K. home office electricity use.
- The Town of Suffield for its action and commitment to preserve forest and agricultural lands.
- Colin Bennett from Westbrook for educating students and the general public about climate change and clean energy.

The GSC voted to accept the recommendations for award winners and advised C4 to mail out notification letters and invite all nominees to the awards ceremony on April 18. Each GSC agency agreed to provide \$100 to fund an awards lunch and recognition plaques.

16. **Measurement and Verification**

Bryan Garcia reported on a proposal to develop a monitoring and verification plan for the CT Climate Change Action Plan. GSC stressed the importance of presenting a positive vision and focusing on co-benefits. M&V is not just measurement, but also an educational tool on the benefits of GHG action. GSC asked C4 to develop the proposal further.

17. **Feedback on Annual Progress Report to Legislature**

Chris James reported on a meeting between C4 members and Clean Water Action, Environment Northeast, ConnPIRG, and CT Fund for Environment to discuss their 2/9/06 comment letter to Governor Rell. The groups are interested in public awareness; further stakeholder involvement, perhaps a stakeholder workshop on actions in one sector; and determining progress on implementing the CT Climate Change Action Plan. The goal is to work together on high priority actions. GSC noted that it is important to continue to communicate with these groups and convey GSC priorities.

18. **GSC Agency Highlights**

Reports on Climate Change Action Plan implementation and agency GHG reduction efforts:

- Chris Nelson reported on RGGI progress on model rule.
- Bryan Garcia reported on Clean Energy Week highlights: Culmination of West Hartford/New Haven Challenge; Legislators' day; Clean Energy Communities Luncheon; Ribbon cutting of PV installation in Middletown.
- Ned Hurlle reported on the Governor's "2 Million Mile Ride Challenge" using the NuRide rideshare matching program.
- Commissioner Yelmini introduced Don Casella, who will be the new DAS representative on C4. He will assist with the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing program.

- OPM reported: 1) the state employee energy conservation program is on hold until there is a decision regarding a new department of energy; 2) OPM is conducting a pilot to report energy savings on each PC; 3) there has been tremendous response from state agencies on the Demand Response Initiative.
- DPUC is starting their annual review of the Clean Energy Option program.

19. Other Business

20. Next Meeting – July 11, 2006. GSC meeting times and minutes are posted on www.ctclimatechange.com

Handouts:

- Agenda
- January 2006 meeting minutes
- CT Climate Change Leadership Awards information
- Measurement and Verification Proposal



Connecticut Climate Change

Governor's Steering Committee on Climate Change

MEETING NOTES

July 11, 2006

1:00 – 3:00 p.m., DEP, Holcombe Room

GSC Attendees: Commissioner McCarthy, Undersecretary Mengacci, Commissioner Yelmini, Commissioner George, Chairman Bowles, Ned Hurlle (for Commissioner Korta).

Other attendees from Climate Change Coordinating Committee (C4) and the public.

21. **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

22. **Approval of Minutes**

April 4, 2006 GSC meeting minutes were approved.

23. **Measuring Progress on Reducing GHG Emissions**

C4 presented plans for a fall workshop to re-engage stakeholders in the CT climate initiative and measure progress on GHG reductions for some of the actions in the Climate Change Action Plan. The Recommended Actions that would be measured fall in the Electricity and

Residential/Commerical/Industrial sectors and include: appliance standards, government energy efficiency measures, green campus initiative, combined heat and power/Class III of the RPS, state clean energy purchase, and GHG cap and trade program (RGGI). The workshop will focus on identifying tools available to help with measurement and co-benefits of the actions. The EPA's Clean Energy Environment State Partnership Program has offered to help identify tools and do training in use of the tools. The fall workshop would be followed by 2 – 3 training workshops in the spring – fall of 2007 in the use of the tools. C4 hopes to hold the initial workshop in October or November 2006 at the Pocantico conference center. C4 has requested funding from the Tremaine Foundation (\$15,000) and Rockefeller Brothers Fund to support the workshop.

The GSC asked C4 to focus the first workshop on re-engaging stakeholders and re-energizing the public. Other GSC input:

check with CEEF on how they measure progress, focus on actual GHG reductions from the actions (not re-evaluating the GHG reduction projections in the Climate Change Action Plan), focus on actions other than RGGI since there are already many workgroups and stakeholders addressing cap and trade, ensure the GSC/C4 is guiding the process.

24. Status of GSC Requirements

C4 reviewed the table of “Legislative Climate Change Requirements for GSC.” Many tasks are complete or in process. C4 sought input from GSC on format for the report on progress in 2006 and developing an amended plan to reach long-term goals of 75-85% reductions (see next agenda items).

25. Annual Report on 2006 Progress

C4 presented a discussion outline and asked for input on the format, content, and timeline for the annual report on progress in 2006. GSC directed C4 to develop a web-based report (more climate friendly than hard copy), with hard copies of a short fact sheet or executive summary. The GSC was pleased with the 2005 report but asked C4 to get additional feedback from other stakeholders, particularly legislative contacts. The 2006 report should: include more quantification of progress and a discussion of how we will measure progress and include success stories, especially highlighting the 2006 Climate Change Leadership Awards Program winners. The report should be ready to submit to the legislative committees at the beginning of the 2007 legislative session, which opens January 3.

26. Development of Amended Climate Change Action Plan to Reach 75-85% GHG Reductions, due January 1, 2008

GSC discussed planning for the amendment of the Climate Change Action Plan to reach the long-term goal of 75-85% reductions below 2001 levels. The GSC noted that this is a completely different exercise than development of the current action plan and that it really requires more of a visionary approach and national focus. It was noted that transition to a hydrogen economy will be a major element and that we should rely on existing and ongoing regional work that CT is participating in on this issue (including efforts by CCEF, Environment Northeast, and CT Center for Advanced Technology). It will also be important to engage businesses to take advantage of new technologies.

27. CT Climate Change Leadership Awards Program

GSC was pleased with the success of the first Climate Change Leadership Awards Program (the awards ceremony was held in April 2006). GSC suggestions for improving the program next year: improve marketing to solicit more nominations; announce the program earlier (prior to the legislative session); highlight web case studies from the 2006 awards; and create specific awards categories for different sectors, especially youth. C4 committee will meet to further define the program for next year and report back with a plan at the next GSC meeting.

28. Climate Change Education

- EPA Grant Proposal on “Marketing Energy Efficiency to the Consumer: The Northeast Climate Protection Partnership” – New England states have begun to share more information on individual state climate change education initiatives and to seek greater collaboration on a regional campaign. In June, SmartPower submitted a grant application to EPA for \$500,000 on behalf of the New England states (partners include CT DEP and CCEF, MA, ME, NH, RI, and NESCAUM). The proposal is to create a marketing and messaging toolkit for widespread consumer awareness and education to

- reduce GHG through energy efficiency. The NE states will also seek funding for regional climate change education from other sources. GSC asked C4 to ensure that the messages developed do not conflict with CT Energy Efficiency Fund and utility program messages on efficiency.
- Proposal to Tremaine Foundation to fund education projects – In addition to the \$15,000 requested from Tremaine Foundation for measuring progress, C4 has requested \$15,000 for climate change education. \$9,000 would support regional climate change education, specifically supporting meetings of New England states to enable collaboration; \$6,000 would be available for CT workshops with targeted sectors. GSC suggested that Tremaine funds could be used to support the Climate Change Leadership Awards Program, perhaps award money for a school.
 - Additional Insurance and Financial Services sector workshops – DEP, CT Insurance Department, and Treasury staff continue to discuss future workshops, especially focusing on investment opportunities for hedge funds, asset management, real estate, and venture capital industries.

29. GSC Agency Updates and Other Business

- Business and agency commitments to support municipal Clean Energy Communities efforts – Bryan Garcia explained that if a business located in a Clean Energy Community makes a commitment for over 1 million kwh of clean energy, the community will be eligible for additional PV solar installations. The clean energy purchases by Wesleyan in Middletown and DEP in Hartford were cited as examples.
- August 1 Forum on RGGI Consumer Benefit Set-Aside – This forum seeks input on how the 25% allowance for CT might be used to compliment existing efforts to enhance energy efficiency and clean energy.
- Other – GSC received an invitation to a July 13-14 workshop in NYC to address impacts of climate change on coastal cities.

30. Next Meeting – October 3, 2006. GSC meeting times and minutes are posted on www.ctclimatechange.com



Connecticut Climate Change

Governor's Steering Committee on Climate Change

MEETING NOTES
October 17, 2006
1:00 – 3:00 p.m., DEP, Russell Room

GSC Attendees: Commissioner McCarthy, Commissioner Yelmini, Chairman Bowles, Ray Wilson (for Undersecretary Mengacci), David Goldberg (for Commissioner George), Ned Hurlle (for Commissioner Korta). Other attendees from Climate Change Coordinating Committee (C4) and the public.

31. **Public Comments** - There were no public comments.
32. **Approval of Minutes** - July 11, 2006 GSC meeting minutes were approved.
33. **Status Update: Workshop on Measuring Progress on Reducing GHG Emissions** – C4 reported on Oct 24 - 26 workshop, which was held at Harkness Memorial State Park. Participants discussed the importance of measurement, how to approach measurement, tools available, and had detailed discussion on measuring progress on 7 actions in the Climate Change Action Plan.
34. **Status Update: Annual Report on 2006 Progress** – C4 presented a report outline and asked for input. GSC asked that the report include: challenges to accomplishing climate change goals, an introduction acknowledging the sea change in public acceptance of climate change, a discussion that our current focus is on implementation and measurement, and discussion of climate change impacts on the northeast (from Union of Concerned Scientists report).
35. **Status Update: 2006-2007 CT Climate Change Leadership Awards Program**
A letter will be sent out soon from Commissioner McCarthy to announce the 2007 program and solicit nominations. GSC approved a \$500 budget to fund the 2007 program (for marketing and plaques). GSC provided the following suggestions: coordinate the awards ceremony with other events, if possible, and get feedback from last year's awardees.
36. **Development of Amended Climate Change Action Plan to Reach 75-85% GHG Reductions** – GSC stressed that current efforts should focus on measurement and implementation of the current Climate Change Action Plan, rather than re-engaging stakeholders to develop an 85% GHG reduction plan. In light of limited staff resources, we need to focus on current short-term

commitments. The long-term plan will require national and regional action and coordination.

37. Briefing on Recent Reports:

- *CT's Energy Vision* – Ray Wilson gave an overview, stating that most items require legislation. It will be important to incorporate measurement from the start and document energy and GHG savings.
- *Comparative Assessment of Consumer Awareness of Clean Energy in CT and the US* – Bryan Garcia provided an overview: for the first time global warming was identified as the single more important environmental issue in CT, 97% of residents have heard of global warming, 52% think global warming has impacted CT, 74% think CT leaders can do something about global warming, but 51% believe CT leaders have done nothing at all.
- *Climate Change in the US Northeast* – Chris James provided an overview of this report by Union of Concerned Scientists: under high and low emissions scenarios temperatures and precipitation will increase, winters will be warmer, snow fall will decrease.

38. GSC Agency Updates and Other Business

- Governor Rell passed an executive order to create an Office of Responsible Growth within OPM.
- DPUC is supporting CT Clean Energy Options for its entire load (approx 669,000 kwh/year).
- DPUC is performing an annual review of the Clean Energy Options program.
- DPUC, DEP, and CCEF are collaborating with NE states to review the RPS program.
- DOT summarized Transportation Roadmap (PA 06-136) projects related to climate change: New Haven-Springfield commuter rail project; New Britain-Hartford busway; enhanced access to commuter rail, Danbury, Waterbury, New Canaan branch lines, etc.
- DEP will organize one-on-one meetings between DEP and each GSC agency to discuss Action Plan implementation and discuss how the GSC process is working.