



Connecticut Climate Change

Governor's Steering Committee on Climate Change

Meeting Agenda

March 10, 2010

1:00 – 3:00 p.m., DEP Russell Room

1. Public comments
2. Approve minutes from October 14, 2009 and December 8, 2009 GSC meetings
3. Education and outreach (GSC Priority #3)
 - Agenda and details for March 13th GSC municipal summit
 - Launch of new climate change website
 - 2010 CT Climate Change Leadership Awards program and timeline
 - Earth Day 2010
4. Current GHG Strategies Spreadsheet (GSC Priority #1)
 - Revised GHG strategy spreadsheet, includes strategies to make progress in meeting GHG targets and updates to Connecticut Climate Change Action Plan
 - Modeling and process for stakeholder input
5. Adaptation Subcommittee (GSC Priority #4)
 - Final report on climate impacts
 - Current work on recommendations for adaptation
6. Other GSC priorities
 - Federal action to address climate change (GSC Priority #5)
 - Regional coordination (GSC Priority #6)
7. Other reports due
 - Final report *2009 CT GHG Inventory*
 - Final report *Energy Saving Improvements in State Facilities and Operations, 2009: State Agencies Leading by Example*
8. GSC budget and funding (GSC Priority #2)
 - 2010 Tremaine grant
 - Other funding ideas from C4

2010 GSC Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, March 10, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – GSC meeting

March 13, 9:00 – 3:30 – Municipal Summit on Climate Change at Yale

April TBD – GSC meeting (in lieu of meeting, conference call or email vote for CCCLAP)

June TBD - Climate Change Leadership Awards Ceremony

Wednesday, June 16, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – GSC meeting

September TBD – GSC meeting



Connecticut Climate Change

Governor's Steering Committee on Climate Change

MEETING MINUTES

October 14, 2009

Meeting Participants

GSC Attendees and Designees: DEP Commissioner/GSC Chair Amey Marrella, OPM Undersecretary John Mengacci, Colleen Kissane (DOT), Peggy Diaz (DPUC), Bob Wall (CCEF), Don Casella (DAS).

Other Participants: Climate Change Coordinating Committee (C4) staff and members of the public.

Agenda and Notes

1. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

2. Approve Minutes

June 25, 2009 minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Federal Updates

- *Federal climate change legislation and State Voice*

The US House bill passed and there is now a proposed Senate bill. DEP has been monitoring and providing comments on federal climate legislation through the "State Voice," which is an effort of the states to provide perspective on the role of the states in federal climate legislation. Governor Rell has been a strong advocate of federal climate legislation. The major issues relate to a proposed federal greenhouse gas cap-and-trade program. Some of the questions regarding a federal cap-and-trade program include whether the cap is tight enough, what sectors will be included, what counts as an offset, how RGGI states will transition to a federal program, if allowances are transferable, and if/how long states will be pre-empted from state or regional cap and trade programs.

- *Federal climate regulation*

In the absence of federal legislation, a federal climate change program could also be developed and implemented by EPA regulation under the Clean Air Act (CAA). The US Supreme Court ruled in 2007 that CO₂ fits within the definition of "air pollutant," and as a result could be subject to regulation under the CAA. Resultantly, EPA has taken a number of steps to regulate GHGs under the CAA, including the issuance of a proposed "endangerment finding." An endangerment finding is a prerequisite to regulation by EPA of specific GHG sources. In anticipation of finalizing the proposed endangerment finding, EPA has begun to issue proposed rules to regulate both mobile and stationary sources of CO₂. Draft EPA rulings include: a greenhouse gas reporting rule, combined federal tailpipe standards and vehicle efficiency standards, and the proposed permitting of large stationary sources of CO₂. EPA has also issued a rule that will enable CA, CT (and 13 other states that have opted into the CA program) to implement the CA GHG tailpipe emission standards.

What's next for the RGGI region?

NE states are discussing RGGI linkages to other sectors, specifically through the development of a regional low carbon fuel standard that would decrease carbon intensity of transportation and heating fuels. Other RGGI linkages include discussion states proposing cap and trade programs in the west (Western Climate Initiative) and Midwest.

4. State Updates

1. GSC Agency Updates

- DEP - Commissioner Marrella attended the "[Governors' Global Climate Summit 2: On the Road to Copenhagen](#)." The conference was sponsored by Governors from a number of states, including Connecticut, and focused on mitigation and adaptation and highlighted the important role of subnational governments (i.e., state and local governments) in developing a dialogue leading to the upcoming global climate negotiations in Copenhagen. Participants, including Governor Rell, signed a [declaration](#) "committing to work together to pursue clean transportation and mobility, support national climate change legislation, include forests in climate policy development, acknowledge the need for adaptation efforts and recognize the role of subnational governments in the discussions on the next global climate agreement being negotiated in Copenhagen this December." In another initiative, Comsr Marrella participated in the [Georgetown State-Federal Climate Resource Center](#) dialogue to promote the role of states in federal climate change policy.
 - OPM – 91% of ARRA funds have been obligated. Breakdown of ARRA funding: 1) \$38.5 million for CEEF programs including Home Energy Solutions, Energy Opportunities (C&I), and small business targeted programs; CCEF programs including solar thermal, geothermal, PV, and fuel cells; and efficiency improvements and clean energy at state facilities; and 2) \$9 million to 143 smaller towns for Energy Conservation Block Grants. OPM has also applied to DOE for \$3.8 million to fund an Energy Star appliance rebate program.
 - CCEF – Governor Rell issued a [press release](#) on October 14, 2009, announcing the launch of the CCEF Solar Thermal Incentive Program. CCEF is working on green jobs, specifically tools and curriculum for technical schools to develop solar PV and thermal systems. CCEF just completed the 5th in a series of regional workshops for Clean Energy Task Forces, partnering with Clean Water Action, which has produced a guidance booklet for CT towns on applying for Community Block Grants.
 - DOT – New Britain-Hartford Busway is in final design. DOT applied for ARRA funding for New Haven- Springfield Commuter Rail. [American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials](#) is addressing transportation and climate change. For transportation projects, 5% of construction costs of the project have now been set aside for bike-pedestrian infrastructure.
 - DAS – Between May 2007 and October 2009, the number of hybrids in the State fleet increased from 267 – 426 (from 5.99% of fleet to 11.54% of fleet).
 - DPUC – DPUC conducted rate reviews of two out of the state's three gas companies. In both cases, the DPUC approved rate decreases of 3.2 % from present revenues for Southern CT Gas and the CT Natural Gas companies. Also, the DPUC recently rendered a decision approving the 2009 CEAB Plan for the state's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). The IRP Plan is a comprehensive review of the state's energy/ reliability needs going forward. It is developed by the utilities and is acted on and reviewed by the CT Energy Advisory Board (CEAB) which once its review is completed, the report is filed with the DPUC for a final review and adoption or rejection process. The decision notes that this is a transitional year for IRP, and that next year's report is intended to have a more comprehensive plan of energy resources since the 2009 Plan depended largely on projects still underway from the 2008 Plan.
2. Implementation of CT's Global Warming Solutions Act – A [handout](#) summarizes progress on implementation of the Global Warming Solutions Act and another [handout](#) summarizes work by the Adaptation Subcommittee.

- The Adaptation Subcommittee workgroups are working on their reports on climate impacts and the next meeting of the Adaptation Subcommittee is November 17th. The Committee will seek public input on the draft report, which is due at the end of the year. A draft report should be made available to the GSC at their next meeting.
- GSC agencies must report on activities to improve energy efficiency at their agencies and identify policies and regulations to reduce GHG emissions. This report is due January 1, 2010. GSC directed C4 to report back on progress on this report at the next GSC meeting.
- DEP is preparing an updated GHG inventory, based on 2007 emissions data. The updated inventory should be available soon.

3. Preview of redesigned climate change website

C4 showed a preview of the redesigned State climate change website. The existing site, www.ctclimatechange.com has been in use since 2003, with funding and support from the CT Clean Energy Fund and the Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation. The site redesign has been funded by the Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation. The site focuses on demonstrating CT leadership on climate change – both mitigation and adaptation, highlighting solutions, featuring stories of CT “heroes” that are addressing climate change, helping users find info on CT Climate Change Action Plan and progress in meeting GHG targets. The site seeks to be interactive, upbeat, solutions-focused, and user friendly. The website should be ready to launch in November and C4 suggested focusing on a launching strategy. GSC directed C4 to develop a website launch marketing strategy for discussion at the next GSC meeting.

The site redesign work included designing a new CT climate change logo. C4 detailed the process for logo redesign and showed the proposed new logo, called “tipping point,” which was designed by Bertz Design using Tremaine Funds . GSC expressed concerns about the logo, particularly the cropping of the words “climate” and “change.” After discussion, GSC provided meeting participants the opportunity to recommend a logo design and “tipping point” was chosen as the new CT climate change logo, with the condition that C4 explore other cropping options with the designers.

4. Municipal climate change outreach program and website addition

The new climate change website includes an interactive section for towns that will provide direction from the GSC on climate actions that CT towns should take. The site will allow towns to identify their accomplishments and share information with other towns. In addition, the site will provide a toolkit of resources and/or incentives available to CT towns on climate actions.

Commissioner Marrella asked C4 to develop plans for a summit for municipal officials and clean energy task force members to learn about climate change actions. The summit should be scheduled for Saturday in the first quarter of 2010 and highlight resources available to help towns with climate action and best practices. The C4 was tasked to develop draft plans for the summit for discussion by the GSC at their next meeting.

5. Discussion of GSC Priorities for 2010

The following possible GSC priorities for 2010 were discussed briefly: outreach to municipalities (including the summit and the website), business outreach (integrating CEEF business sustainability challenge), an update of the CT Climate Change Action Plan since the Plan is almost five years old (perhaps in a different kind of format). GSC tasked C4 to develop a proposed list of 2010 priorities for the next GSC meeting.

GSC requested the scheduling of a GSC meeting for early December to follow up on the action items GSC requested from C4. In addition, the 2010 quarterly GSC meetings will be scheduled.



Connecticut Climate Change

Governor's Steering Committee on Climate Change

Meeting Minutes, December 8, 2009

Meeting Participants

GSC Attendees and Designees: DEP Commissioner/GSC Chair Amey Marrella, DPUC Vice Chairman Jack Betkoski, III, CCEF Chair Norma Glover, Jim Redeker, Bureau Chief of Public Transportation and Interim Bureau Chief of Policy & Planning at DOT.

Other Participants: Climate Change Coordinating Committee (C4) staff and members of the public.

Agenda and Notes

9. Public comments

Henry Link (Enviro Energy Connections) suggested that the GSC sponsor a statewide competition on energy use, similar to the energy efficiency competition that has been run in West Hartford schools last year and this year. Competitions also could span into other sectors beyond schools.

10. Approve minutes from October 14, 2009 GSC meeting

Commissioner Marrella noted a need to refine the October minutes and requested that the GSC hold off on approving the minutes until the next meeting. In the mean time, GSC members were asked to review draft minutes and send any necessary edits to DEP.

Welcome new GSC members

Commissioner Marrella welcomed two new members to the GSC: 1) Norma Glover, Chair of the CT Clean Energy Fund Board of Directors, and 2) Jim Redeker, Bureau Chief of Public Transportation and Interim Bureau Chief of Policy & Planning at DOT.

11. Proposed plan for GSC Municipal Symposium on climate actions

The C4 reported on the formation of an ad hoc advisory group to provide input on outreach to municipalities on climate action and the municipal summit. The group includes individuals from active clean energy task forces in 8 towns. Based on the advisory group's input, C4 provided an overview of the Draft Proposal: [GSC Municipal Symposium and Program to Support Municipal Action on Climate Change/Sustainability](#). GSC expressed enthusiasm and support for the municipal summit, acknowledging CCEF's success in developing the CT Clean Energy Communities Program and building a core of enthusiastic local volunteers. GSC discussion resulted in the following direction to C4:

- Continue summit planning and work on details necessary to hold the summit.
- Invite both clean energy task force members and chief elected municipal officials.

- Explore the possibility of holding the summit at the CT Science Center. Participants could then tour the exhibits after the workshop. Vice Chairman Betkoski volunteered to contact the Science Center on behalf of the GSC. Alternate location is DEP headquarters.
- Provide a list of climate actions to municipalities at the summit and ask them what actions they want to take next. Ask towns to identify 3 actions for support from the GSC.
- Coordinate with Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) and the Council of Small Towns (COST) in planning the summit.
- Determine two possible dates, based on the discussion with the CT Science Center. Members of the GSC plan to attend.
- Develop a detailed plan for the summit (e.g., potential dates, location, speakers, draft agenda).
- Draft an invitation letter for the Governor's signature. The letter could be sent by either the Governor or the GSC.

12. Proposed plan for CT Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) update mechanism and progress tracker

C4 presented the draft [CT Climate Change Action Plan Progress Tracker](#) with color coding to show the status of actions and explained that the spreadsheet is intended to be a living document that will be updated regularly to track the list of GHG actions for CT and the status of implementation. The document will include actions in the CT Climate Change Action Plan, requirements of the CT Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA), and additional GHG measures need to meet CT's GHG targets under GWSA. GSC agreed that this is a useful format and directed C4 to:

- Revise the spreadsheet for discussion at the next GSC meeting to include recommendations on actions to be added or deleted;
- Add actions that towns tell us are important after the municipal summit;
- Continue to include "carrot" and "stick" actions – although actions like public education and municipal outreach may not be quantifiable in terms of GHG reductions, these are tremendously valuable and should be on the GHG list;
- Suggest other graphical representations to summarize and effectively communicate information on implementation status of Climate Change Action Plan (2005);
- Provide a revised spreadsheet to GSC at their June meeting that includes additional GWSA strategies and proposed changes to the CCAP list of actions. The GSC will then seek public comment on the comprehensive list of GHG strategies in the spreadsheet.

13. Proposed plan for launch of new climate change website

C4 provided a brief overview of the redesign of the state climate change website, www.ctclimatechange.com, which was funded by the Tremaine Foundation and will include a municipal toolkit on climate actions. C4 reviewed a [Draft Outline for Launch of New Climate Change Website](#). GSC agreed with the website launch approach and provided the following direction to C4:

- Ensure the site will be updated regularly;
- Draft a letter for the Governor's signature to announce the municipal summit and the launching of the new website;
- Feature aspects of the new website (e.g., climate heroes) in Earth Day 2010 outreach, the 40th anniversary of Earth Day;
- Perform outreach, within available resources, on the new website.

Proposed GSC priorities for 2010

C4 presented [Proposed GSC Priorities for 2010](#). The consensus of the GSC was to endorse and accept the priorities as proposed. GSC had the following comments on the priorities:

- 1) Develop 5-year update to CCAP that incorporate additional GHG reduction strategies to meet GWSA requirements: As noted in Item 4 above, C4 is directed to update the progress tracker list for the GSC's next meeting. GSC noted that "continued stakeholder input" means input beyond this process.
- 2) Develop budget and evaluate options to support GSC work: C4 suggested the exploration of creative "out-of-the-box" opportunities. GSC agreed and asked C4 to present some ideas.
- 3) Provide targeted education and outreach, including municipal summit and outreach to businesses, etc.: See discussion under Item 3 above on municipal summit, which will be the sole focus during the 1st quarter of 2010. The remainder of 2010 will include outreach to businesses, the Climate Change Leadership Awards, and municipal follow up efforts.
- 4) Adaptation Subcommittee: The final report of the Adaptation Subcommittee on Climate Change Impacts in Connecticut will be presented to the GSC at their February meeting.
- 5) Track and encourage participation in federal action to address climate change: C4 and agency staff should track federal climate proposals that are relevant to their respective agency.
- 6) Participate in regional coordination on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

14. Updates on reports due:

- Adaptation Subcommittee Report – The working groups, with the exception of the Public Health workgroup, have drafted reports on climate impacts, which are posted at <http://www.ctclimatechange.com/Adaptation.html>. There will be two public informational meetings on the draft reports: December 17 in Hartford and the evening of January 12 in New Haven.
- Report on energy improvements to GSC agency facilities and policies to reduce GHG emissions – C4 reported that it has nearly completed a draft of this report; it will be completed the week of December 14 and then provided to the GSC for review. The report will be submitted to the Secretary of OPM and Commissioner of DEP (as required by GWSA) during by the first week in January.
- 2009 GHG Inventory Update – The 2009 Update to the CT GHG Inventory has been [posted on the DEP website](#). There is a 30-day public comment period, which ends on January 7, 2010. The inventory will be finalized shortly after that. The final inventory will be presented to the GSC at their February meeting.

2010 GSC Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, February 10, 2010, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 16, 2010, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

September 2010 – TBD