CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE

Town Of Stonington

AGENDA

Special Virtual Meeting via Zoom

September 17, 2020 – 7:00 pm

**Meeting connection information is at bottom of this agenda**

1. Call to order 7:00 PM
2. Approval of draft regular meeting minutes: January 16, 2020
3. SustainableCT 2020 - town submittal in August ???
4. Letter of support for Mystic River Boathouse Park grant applications – vote needed.
5. Letter to Board of Selectmen – vote needed.
6. Other town activities:
   1. Vernon – install solar panels at police station & 3 schools at no cost to town. Expect to save $1.2M over 25 years. Project being handled by Earthlight Solar and Energy Solutions through Solarize Vernon, a state-backed program to allow residents to transition to solar energy at home at little or no cost.
   2. East Providence & Cumberland RI – install ground-mounted canopies over parking lots using new RI state incentive. [https://pbn.com/two-r-i-parking-lot-solar-arrays...](https://pbn.com/two-r-i-parking-lot-solar-arrays-approved-in-national-grids-first-round-renewable-energy-program/)
   3. Cranston, RI - Cranston City Council OKs $5 Million Climate Bond, will be on November ballot; potential uses for the money, including solar panels, LED lights, temperature controls and electric vehicle charging stations; the measure is designed merely to give future mayors and councils the authority to bond for renewable energy projects – an additional “tool” with which the city may work to reduce its carbon footprint
   4. Coventry, CT – achieved gold Solmart Status <https://solsmart.org/communities/coventry-ct/>
   5. EPA Climate Change: Resilience and Adaptation in New England (RAINE) database: <https://www.epa.gov/raine>
7. Governor’s Council on Climate Change GC3 – public notice posted at link for public comment period September 22 to October 21 for draft reports from the seven working groups. A series of virtual public forums will take place during the comment period. All of this is in preparation for final report due to governor in January 2021. <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Climate-Change/Climate-Change>
8. Connecticut Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management – Stonington has signed on as a participating town. CCSMM will explore ways to reduce the amount of waste… improve reuse, recycling, organics collection and other innovative solutions. <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-CCSMM?emci=9e361542-c1f2-ea11-99c3-00155d039e74&emdi=5f75244b-7df3-ea11-99c3-00155d039e74&ceid=945419>
9. Public awareness / outreach / conferences
   1. Stonington solar installation map [separate file]
   2. Save the Sound – Shared Solar:

<https://www.savethesound.org/what-we-do/climate-resiliency/renewable-energy-growth/shared-solar-ct/>

* 1. Connecticut Siting Council – Elmridge Golf Course solar application (public hearing Oct. 1)[click on pending matters and then look for #1410]: <https://portal.ct.gov/CSC>
  2. EnergizeCT – home energy audits are currently free of charge - [https://www.energizect.com/search/node/your home solutions list home energy solutions](https://www.energizect.com/search/node/your%20home%20solutions%20list%20home%20energy%20solutions)
  3. Resilient Connecticut / UCONN mini webinar series (replays available on youtube channel): <https://resilientconnecticut.uconn.edu/september-2020-mini-webinar-series/#overview>
  4. People’s Action for Clean Climate (PACE) - <https://pacecleanenergy.org/>
  5. Climate Mindset – TED Radio Hour, May 22, 2020 <https://www.npr.org/2020/05/21/860307097/climate-mindset>

1. FEMA FY 2020 Notice of Funding Opportunity for Hazardous Mitigation Assistance Grants <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/fy2020-nofo>
2. Grass Roots Fund – funds small grants to groups of citizens or non-profits for a variety of projects <https://grassrootsfund.org/>
3. Correspondence: email inquiry regarding Climate Change Emergency Declaration.
4. Items in the news:
   1. Fading Winters, Hotter Summers Make the Northeast America’s Fastest Warming Region, Inside Climate News, June 27, 2020 [if link doesn’t load go to insideclimatenews.org and search “fading winters” <https://insideclimatenews.org/news/26062020/hotter-summers-northeast-united-states-warming?fbclid=IwAR0LKa7kxAUzOvNc-GtplqCH6Epu4KdToErlkCixiohVDO8AzhX3Q5Zew_k>
   2. Commodity Futures Trading Commission’s Climate-Related Market Risk Subcommittee Releases Report <https://www.cftc.gov/PressRoom/PressReleases/8234-20>
5. NE Regional Climate Center –

<http://www.nrcc.cornell.edu/>

NOAA High Tide Bulletin – Fall 2020

<https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/news/high-tide-bulletin/fall-2020/>

1. 2021 Meeting Schedule – Jan 21; Mar 18; May 20; Jul 15; Sep 16; Nov 18. – vote needed
2. Comments from task force members / public / open discussion
3. Adjournment

Stonington residents and others with an interest are invited to attend the monthly meetings and participate in the discussions.

DON’T FORGET TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 3!!!

Recommended reading:

* Rising – Dispatches from the New American Shore by Elizabeth Rush
* A New Coast – Strategies for Responding to Devastating Storms and Rising Seas – Jeffrey Peterson

*“The climate crisis will be orders of magnitude worse than the pandemic if we do not take the action that we can still take to avert the tragedy that we see coming towards us“* -Tom Rivett-Carnac (Ted Radio Hour / Climate Mindset / May 22, 2020)

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Topic: Climate Change Task Force

Time: Sep 17, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83491404080?pwd=S1hWbXErNkgzZCtWTWFnNXFpZVptUT09>

Meeting ID: 834 9140 4080

Passcode: 358457

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+19292056099,,83491404080#,,,,,,0#,,358457# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbxR2Ce2qr>