



Climate Change Task Force
Town of Stonington
152 Elm Street
Stonington, Connecticut 06378

Officers

Rick Newton
Chairman

MaryEllen Mateleska
Secretary

Members

Dennis Unites

Susan Hibbard

Lyndsey Pyrke-
Fairchild

Julia Parry

Sharon Lynch

Michael Serra

Jane Dawson

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Climate Change Task Force

Milne Center for April 18, 2024 – 5:15 pm
(Entrance is on north side of Milne Center near picnic tables)

Hybrid Format (zoom connection information below)

1. Call to order 5:15 PM
2. Minutes for approval: March 21, 2024 Regular meeting
3. Correspondence:
 - a. Stoneridge – April 26, 2024 (Rick)
 - b. March 28, 2024 email from First Selectmen's office accepting F. Pandolfi resignation from the CCTF.
 - c. April 13, 2024 email to First Selectman forwarding the CCTF revised priority listing rankings.
4. 2024-2025 Budget: \$500K for coastal adaptation approved by BOS cut by BOF eliminated from budget (vote 5-2-0 – second consecutive year with no funding); all funding for EV charging stations cut by BOF. Referendum is April 30, 2024 if approved at April 22, 2024 town meeting.

From an article in the The Day April 13, 2024 regarding East Lyme's budget:

Hall said the situation illustrates the need for another new initiative in the proposed budget that puts \$22,500 into a Coastal Resiliency Fund to help the town prepare for the future amid climate change.

The move was recommended by representatives of the credit rating agency Standard & Poor's during discussion on how to make the town more attractive to lenders in order to secure optimal interest rates, according to Finance Director Kevin Gervais.

The credit rating agency in published analysis said the ability to adapt to climate-related disasters is increasingly being looked at as a factor in creditworthiness.

"It wasn't a huge investment, but the mere fact that we created the Coastal Resiliency Fund is a signal to the rating agencies that we know this is a liability out there, and we want to work toward funding it," Hall said.

5. Tasking:
 - a. Board of Selectmen priorities:
 - i. Input for Phase II of zoning regulations update (Phase II sustainability / environment / open space will be first of five topics – draft complete – implementation will be after all Phase II items are completed [est.

- 2025]) Lights Out Connecticut – proposed draft ordinance for lighting - <https://bit.ly/3vPqyx0> CIRCA announced a new tool: Climate Resilience Zoning Library <https://bit.ly/3FQuz5u>
- ii. Revisit CCTF Priority List (complete) [forwarded separately is a list from the town engineer of capital projects that was included in the budget book].
 - iii. Assist in SustainableCT Climate Leader qualification: <https://bit.ly/3Rlf7gw>
6. Plan of Conservation and Development update (no meetings since Dec.)
 7. Status Update:
 - a. Flood Prevention, Climate Resilience and Erosion Control Board –Meeting monthly – agendas and minutes on town website
 8. CT Legislative Session – Through May 8, 2024
 - a. Governor’s Legislative Proposals: <https://bit.ly/487kc9n>
 - i. Senate Bill 11 - An Act Coordinating Connecticut Resiliency Planning and Broadening Municipal Options for Climate Resilience. <https://bit.ly/42yKcJA>
 - ii. House Bill 5052 – An Act Supporting Solar Energy in Schools. <https://bit.ly/42z0bHm>
 - iii. House Bill 5004 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CERTAIN CLIMATE CHANGE MEASURES <https://bit.ly/3ThSKkV>
 - b. Link to Environment Committee: <https://bit.ly/488jMPP>
 - c. CTLCV Watch List: <https://www.ctlcv.org/watchlist.html>
 9. Grant opportunities:
 - a. Current Nature-based solutions funding database (National Wildlife Federation): <http://bit.ly/3kuxtpO>
 - b. LIS Resiliency Hub (replaces LIS Sustainable & Resilient Communities: Comprehensive List of Current and Future Funding opportunities: <https://www.lisresilience.org/>
 10. Public awareness / outreach / conferences:
 - a. From BOS minutes: 1) SHS replacing boiler (unsure if any green alternatives were considered); 2) town applying for congressionally directed spending funding for Circus lot park; 3) Coastal Resiliency grant application for living shoreline will be submitted
 - b. First Thursdays Communities Webinar Series: Energy Efficiency Solutions for Small Businesses – May 2, 2024 noon to 1 PM. <https://bit.ly/3PXyMty>
 - c. New Atlas - April 9, 2024 - 90-GWh thermal energy storage facility could heat a city for a year <https://bit.ly/3vFqDUO>
 - d. AP News – April 10, 2024 - UN climate chief says humans have 2 years left 'to save the world' <https://bit.ly/4aOblei>
 - e. BBC - April 9, 2024 - European court rules human rights violated by climate inaction <https://bit.ly/3xzY62N>
 - f. Scientific American - April 5, 2024 - Renewable Energy Shatters Records in the U.S. <https://bit.ly/3UfE8mu>

Mission Statement: The mission of the Climate Change Task Force is to identify climate resiliency risk and community vulnerability within the town of Stonington, and assist the town in determining priorities, actions and solutions to mitigate these risks.

g. From CPACE email:

[CT town is first in state to go all in on electric school buses. And its app shows location.](#)

- *Hartford Courant.* "Starting in July, some Connecticut students will be boarding quiet school buses that emit no pollutants. The school district is the first in the state to go to an all-electric fleet, which it will accomplish in five years. "There was a really comprehensive referendum for our request for proposal that we put in Branford...The 2024-25 school year will have all new buses and vans, though just 13 of the 60 will be electrified this year. The rest will still be diesel-powered...The buses are coming from Zūm, a San Francisco company founded in 2018 by CEO Ritu Narayan. The company's buses bring students to and from 4,000 schools from California to Massachusetts..."It's expensive, but it's better than anything else we had on the table...The overall impact on our transportation budget from this school year to next school year, it's an 8% increase in our transportation line. But after a few years, that's going to level out, and in public education budgets when you have high predictability what your budget is going to be for any predictable line, that's helpful.' "

From the podcast "Everybody in the Pool":

- h. Micro-farms: <https://babylonmicrofarms.com/>
- i. Urban EV charging: <https://www.itselectric.us/how-it-works>
- j. Decentralized solar power <https://enphase.com/homeowners>

11. Comments from task force members / public / open discussion

12. Adjournment

13. Next meeting: May 16, 2024



Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82400130006?pwd=N1p2SHFjWWWhIV3JZSHlvMWt3YWZRQT09>

Meeting ID: 824 0013 0006

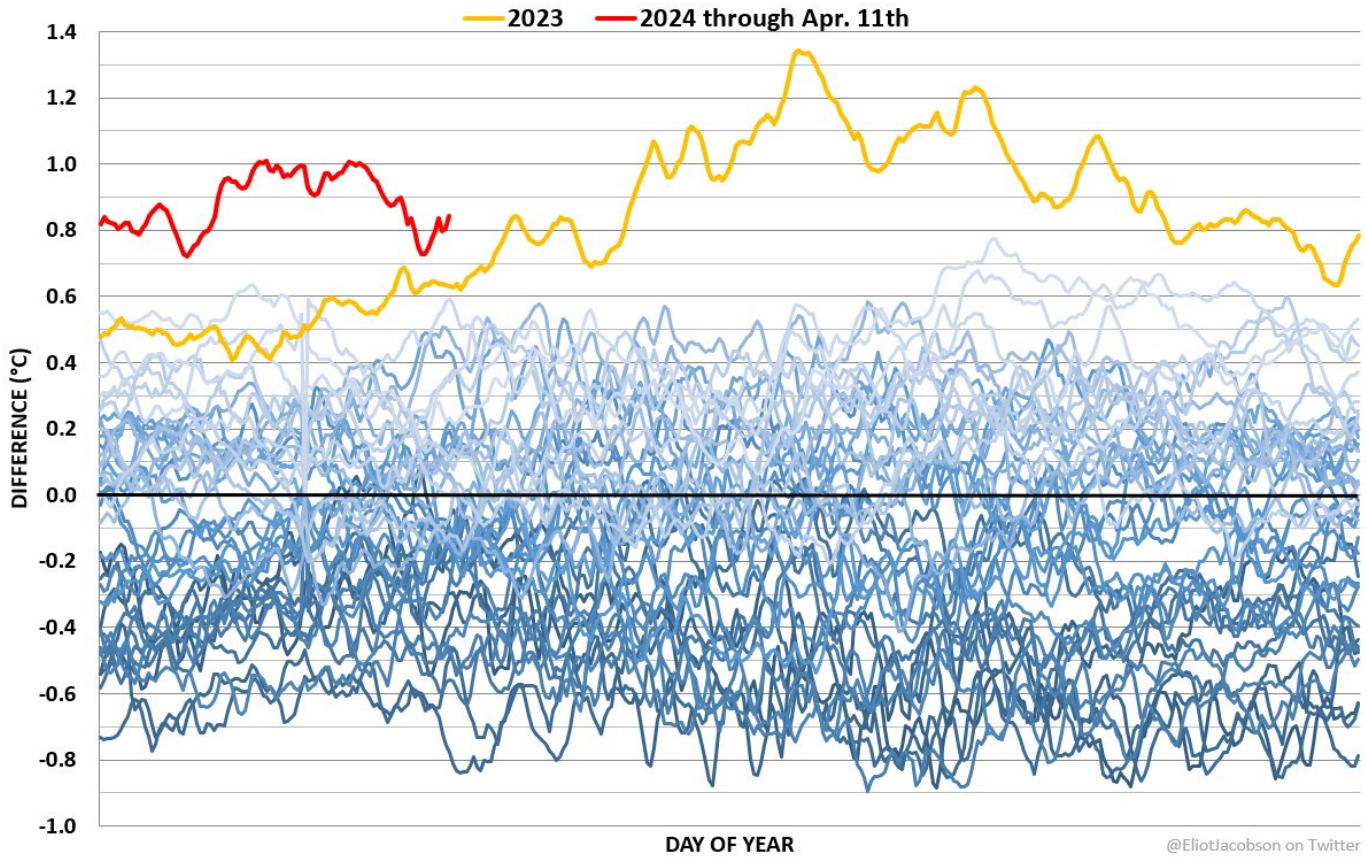
Passcode: Climate

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

Mission Statement: The mission of the Climate Change Task Force is to identify climate resiliency risk and community vulnerability within the town of Stonington, and assist the town in determining priorities, actions and solutions to mitigate these risks.

North Atlantic Sea Surface Temperature Anomaly: 1982-2024 (Difference from 1991-2020 Mean)

Data: https://climatoreanalyzer.org/clim/sst_daily/json/oisst2.1_natlan1_sst_day.json



Mission Statement: The mission of the Climate Change Task Force is to identify climate resiliency risk and community vulnerability within the town of Stonington, and assist the town in determining priorities, actions and solutions to mitigate these risks.