



# Connecticut Climate Change

Governor's Steering Committee on Climate Change

## **MEETING MINUTES September 6, 2005**

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

C4 Attendees: Mike Chowaniec, David Goldberg, Chris James, Connie Mendolia, Chris Nelson, Lynn Stoddard, John Ruckes, Ray Wilson, Barbara Moser.

Handouts: 9/6 Agenda; 6/21/05 meeting minutes; draft outline and sections of annual report; FY 2006 proposed budget; draft outline for proposed GSC CT Climate Change Leadership Award; working draft – list of 38 actions.

1. **Public Comments** – There were no members of the public present.
2. **Approval of minutes from June 2005 GSC meeting** – The minutes were approved.
3. **Status of Annual Progress Report for Legislature** – Connie Mendolia presented a draft outline and sections for annual report. GSC provided the following comments:
  - Keep the printed document short and concise.
  - Provide search capability on web site so people can search human interest/success stories (e.g., what are other towns doing that I might do?).
  - Have fewer success stories in the printed document (1-2 per sector) and more on the web site.
  - Keep in the section on state government leading by example – there are lots of good stories to tell on state actions; biennial energy conservation reports from agencies to OPM may provide additional info for this section.
  - Submit report to legislative committees on February 1, 2006.

Commissioner McCarthy mentioned that CT received a grade of “B” on the regional report card on climate change progress. This was the highest grade in New England and up from last year’s B- for Connecticut.

4. **Budget Status** – Chris James provided an overview of the FY 2006 proposed budget. There is no request to the GSC at this point for additional money needed for any specific actions, but the GSC is on notice that additional money may be needed before the end of FY 2006. Further discussion included the following points from the GSC:
  - Talk to the Tremaine Foundation about additional money for priority items.
  - Seek funding from other foundations.
  - Coordinate with other states on events and broader public education campaign.
  - Look into developing a climate change booth with general information for public education.
  
5. **GSC Climate Change Leadership Recognition Program** – David Goldberg presented an overview of the proposed program. GSC suggested the following:
  - Create connections between success stories and leadership program (nominations, annual report, submission form).
  - Add to the committee to include representatives from towns, businesses, etc.
  - Link to other awards as potential nominations (e.g., Summer Savers).
  - Allow for openness and some flexibility in categories.
  - Give examples of GHG reduction actions in letter.
  - C4 should draft letter, submission form, etc. for GSC action at November meeting.
  - Plan for awards around Earth Day 2006 (not necessarily on Earth Day).
  
6. **Shared Savings Program** – Ray Wilson provided an overview of OPM’s research on the shared savings program, noting major issues. A report containing recommendations for implementing the program and outstanding issues will be provided to the Secretary of OPM by the end of September. GSC noted that shared savings may not be the right tool to provide incentives to state agencies to invest in energy efficient actions, and if it is not, we should spend time trying to find/develop the right tool rather than fixing the shared savings program. An energy conservation campaign is needed for state agencies.
  
7. **CT Climate Change Action Plan Implementation** – C4 presented implementation updates on the following RAs: Transportation: RA 8 Multi-state Inter-modal Freight, RA 9 Clean Diesel and Black Carbon; RCI: RA10 Appliance Standards, RA 24 Energy Benchmarking, State Agency Energy Roundtable; AFW: RA 37 Buy Local Produce; Electricity: RA 47 Government Green Power Purchase, RA 49 Clean Energy Choice, RA 53 Regional Cap & Trade; and Education: Insurance summit, CHP/EE/CE workshop.

8. **Other Business** – Chris James discussed Change a Light Day (October 5). C4 will look into further details. David Goldberg mentioned possible award at September 20- 21 energy workshop.
9. **Next Meeting** – Tuesday, November 8, 1:00 – 3:00 at DEP