



SPECIAL MEETING – AD HOC SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE COMMITTEE AGENDA

**MAY 14, 2025, 5:00 PM
BY ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING**

To allow public access, anyone may access a meeting by telephone and/or Zoom, or a recording in the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. Specific instructions and links can be found at norwalkct.gov/meetings.



Members of the public may call in to participate. Callers will not be able to see the meeting participants. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, dial *9 on the phone and you will be called on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. All speakers must state their name and address. Comments must be on a topic on the agenda, and are limited to three minutes. Anyone disrupting the orderly conduct of the meeting, including by using threatening, hateful, or sexually-explicit language, will be removed. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to provide "live comments" may also use the Zoom meeting platform. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, click the "raise your hand indicator" and you will be called by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. All speakers must state their name and address. Comments must be on a topic on the agenda, and are limited to three minutes. Anyone disrupting the orderly conduct of the meeting, including by using threatening, hateful, or sexually-explicit language, will be removed. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via email in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be included into the record, they must be submitted by 12:00 p.m. the day of the meeting. Please email Katie O'Leary at koleary@norwalkct.gov with the subject line "Public Comment" to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER**
- II. **ROLL CALL**
- III. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
- IV. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**
 - A. **Regular Meeting: April 9, 2025**
- V. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Earth Day Recap**
 - B. **Green Team Kick-off Review**
 - C. **New Office of Sustainability and Resilience Webpage**

D. Community Sustainability Task Force

VI. ADJOURNMENT

**CITY OF NORWALK
AD HOC SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 9, 2025
VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING**

ATTENDANCE: Johan Lopez; Chair, Heather Dunn, Josh Goldstein, Nora Niedzielski–
Eichner

STAFF: Jodi Trendler, Director of Sustainability and Resilience

OTHER: Ann Wennerstrand, Tom Livingston

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Lopez called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Mr. Lopez called the roll as reflected above

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Diane Lauricella
21 Little Fox Lane

Ms. Lauricella said she was looking forward to the presentations about the possibility of the city joining the Global Covenant of Mayors. This was something she looked into when she was helping with the Mayor’s energy and environmental task force. She referred to the slideshow as presented in the agenda and added several steps she was also hoping to hear about. She also indicated she felt there has to be a ban on artificial turf fields. She also stated her wish to be appointed to a sustainability committee as part of a blue ribbon task force..

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IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting: February 12, 2025

**** MS. DUNN AND MR. GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Director of Sustainability and Resilience Introduction.

Ms. Trendler presented a slide show showing her goals for helping to make Norwalk the greenest city. She started by saying her job is funded through 2026 by an ARPA grant. And a fellowship in conjunction with The Association of Climate Change Officers. Her presentation went as follows:

- Defining the *Greenest City*
- Sustainability Implementation
- Operationalizing sustainability
- Resourcing information, funds, support, and educational outreach

Ms. Tendler then gave an overview of her 16 monthly which included the following:

- Establishing the *Greenest City* accounting process.
- Establishing an ongoing *Green Team* to define the goals and targets and prioritize implementation strategies.
- Identifying resources and support actions
- Creating Community education and outreach to include a newsletter, monthly events, and coordinating community organizations.

Ms. Tendler next discussed greenhouse gases, their sources and impact. She then stated they would be coming up with the definition of *greenest city*. She noted greenhouse gasses would be the primary indicator for that. Ms. Tendler defined her role As the person who coordinates, analyzes and assists.

She presented a slide that showed the co-benefits to the public and listed the reasons why people want to be in Norwalk. She noted the major sources of greenhouse gases in the city.

Ms. Tendler then presented a series of slides showing where Norwalk is currently at. She also discusses the IPCC recommendations and the plan to be net zero for greenhouse gas emissions

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by 2025. She then brought up the Global Covenant of Mayors and their role in helping to achieve this goal. She noted the state already has goals, and the city will be aligning its targets with the state and the IPCC. Ms. Tendler presented a slide showing the city's targets.

Mr. Lopez asked how Ms. Tendler envisioned getting community members involved. Ms. Tendler reiterated it would involve using community organizations to consistently bring the community together. The idea is to make community efforts less redundant and limit competing for resources.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner was interested in outreach to the non-English speaking members of the community. And engaging organizations that don't have environmental issues at the top of their agenda. Ms. Tendler said she wanted to make sure all the members of the community were represented. and would be reaching out for help.

B. Greenest City Initiative Discussion

a. Earth Day Planning

Earth Day planning was not discussed

b. Global Covenant of Mayors Commitment

The Global Covenant of Mayors Commitment was not discuss.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. DUNN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
China Mayhew
Telesco Secretarial Services

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Proposal to Establish a Community Sustainability Task Force

Submitted to: Chief of Staff, Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee Council Members

Submitted by: Jodi Trendler, Director of Sustainability and Resilience

Date: 4-18-2025, 5-2-2025

Purpose

This proposal recommends the formation of a Community Sustainability Task Force to serve as a collaborative advisory body that supports the City's efforts in meeting its environmental, economic, and social sustainability goals. This Task Force will help engage residents and businesses, develop actionable strategies, and provide transparent guidance on the City's climate action initiatives. Establishing a Community Sustainability Task Force is a cost-effective, equity-driven, and strategic way to deepen community involvement in the City's sustainability journey. This collaborative model will support better outcomes, increase transparency, and strengthen the partnerships necessary for long-term climate resilience and environmental justice.

Background and Need

As the City continues to implement its Climate Action and Resilience Plan, it is essential to include diverse community voices in shaping and accelerating sustainability efforts. A task force comprised of residents, business leaders, nonprofit representatives, youth, and technical experts can:

- Foster, maintain, and expand grassroots engagement
 - Provide local insight and innovation
 - Ensure equitable access to sustainability benefits
 - Build community trust and transparency
 - Identify and support funding and partnership opportunities
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Proposed Mission

To advise and support the City Council and Sustainability Office in developing, promoting, and evaluating sustainability policies and initiatives that advance climate action, equity, and resilience throughout the city.

Key Responsibilities

1. **Community Education and Engagement**

Raise awareness, engagement, and provide education around community sustainability issues. Lead outreach initiatives to engage neighborhoods, schools, and civic groups in sustainability programs and projects.

2. **Equity and Inclusion**

Ensure that sustainability strategies consider the needs of historically underserved communities.

3. **Advise on Implementation**

Review and provide feedback on sustainability projects, policies, and metrics.

4. **Program Innovation**

Propose pilot projects or partnerships to improve sustainability and resilience.

5. **Progress Monitoring**

Help track progress toward the City's GHG reduction, energy efficiency, waste diversion, and climate adaptation goals.

Structure and Membership

- **Composition:** 25–45 members
- 2 members from each, A,B,C,D, and E Common Council voting district serving in the following roles, plus additional members (not mutually exclusive):
 - 4-10 representatives from community-based organizations
 - 1-2 PTA representatives
 - At least 2 youth (ages 16–24)
 - 2 small business representatives, 1-2 major employer representatives
 - 1 Chamber of Commerce representative
 - 1 environmental justice advocate
 - 1-3 faith-based representative
 - 2-4 local developers or architects, representing different project scales
 - 4–6 Subject matter experts from at-large community members
 - 1 City Council liaison (non-voting)
 - Sustainability and Resilience Office Staff

- **Selection Process:** Public application with selection by the Mayor’s Office, Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee, and Sustainability Office, with selection to reflect the city’s geographic, demographic, and economic diversity.
- **Term Length:** 3 years (with staggered terms), with a maximum 3 terms reappointment
- **Meeting Frequency:** Monthly, with additional work groups as needed.
 - Meetings will be open to the public and held at accessible locations (e.g., City Hall, Norwalk Public Library, or virtually)
 - Optional working groups may meet between full sessions to focus on priority topics (e.g., building decarbonization, clean energy, climate justice, sustainable mobility)
 - Meeting agendas and notes will be published online to ensure transparency (*Location?*)
- The Task Force will be Chaired by an elected Task Force member, or Co-Chair team. Additional leadership positions will include secretary and communications coordinator, who will collaborate with the Office of Sustainability and Resilience, as well as Chairs for any established subcommittees.
- Staff will provide meeting coordination, background materials, communication, and feedback as necessary.
- Recommendations will be delivered to the Sustainability Office, Ad Hoc Common Council Sustainability Committee, and relevant City departments.

Timeline

Milestone	Date
Council Approval	[Insert Month, Year]
Application Period Opens	+1 Month
Task Force Appointed	+2 Months
First Meeting	+3 Months
First Annual Report	+12 Months

Budget and Staff Support

Minimal budget is required, primarily staff time for outreach, meeting hosting, and facilitation. Translation services may be required. Staff from the Sustainability and Resilience Office will provide logistical support.

Examples of Successful Models

1. Bedford, NY - Bedford 2030

Bedford 2030 addresses the urgent issue of climate change through the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and preservation of natural resources. We organize a grassroots effort in our community to achieve aggressive climate action goals identified in the Bedford Climate Action Plan.

<https://bedford2030.org/>

2. Boston, MA – Green Ribbon Commission

A collaboration between public and private sectors to advance Boston’s climate goals. Provides strategic recommendations to city leadership.

<https://www.greenribboncommission.org>

3. Ann Arbor, MI – A2Zero Ambassador Program

A volunteer task force that supports outreach, energy efficiency, equity, and resilience strategies aligned with the city’s A2Zero Plan.

<https://www.a2gov.org/sustainability>

4. Minneapolis, MN – Sustainability Advisory Committee

Advises the Mayor and City Council on environmental issues, ensuring a transparent and community-driven process.

<https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/boards-and-commissions/scseac/>

5. Burlington, VT – Net Zero Energy Advisory Committee

Supports the city’s goal of becoming a Net Zero Energy city by 2030, engaging community leaders and experts.

<https://www.burlingtonelectric.com/net-zero-energy-roadmap>

6. Portland, OR – Climate and Health Equity Task Force

Centers community voices in decision-making around climate investments, with a focus on health equity.

<https://www.portland.gov/bps/climate-action/climate-justice>