



REGULAR MEETING – AD HOC SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE COMMITTEE AGENDA

JUNE 10, 2026, 6:00 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 Jodi Trendler at JTrendler@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 Minutes: 5-13-2026**
- V. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Task Force Update**
 - B. **Energy Programs Updates**
 - C. **Sustainability and Resilience Plan Update**

D. ClearPath 2.0 GHG Platform Overview

E. Future Sustainability Planning Matrix Discussion

VI. ADJOURNMENT

**CITY OF NORWALK
AD HOC SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - MAY 13, 2026
VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING**

ATTENDANCE: Johan Lopez, Chair; Brian Bailey; Jesse Buccolo; Richard Dellinger, Vice Chair; Jan Degenshein; Anne Wennerstrand

STAFF: Jodi Trendler

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

ROLL CALL

Those present were noted as above.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No public comments were received.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting: April 8, 2026

****MS. WENNERSTRAND MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED.
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Community Sustainability and Resilience Task Force and SRP Update Update provided by Jodi Trendler on final subcommittee reports, integration of materials, ClearPath modeling, upcoming community workshops, and next steps. Discussion held.

B. Ad Hoc Sustainability and Resilience Committee Structure Review Discussion held regarding a governance options matrix prepared for potential long-term sustainability structures, including transition from ad hoc status to a standing committee or department, collective impact models, and related challenges and benefits.

C. “Skip the Stuff” Ordinance Discussion Discussion held regarding a proposal to reduce single-use plastics and related items, including alignment with existing city ordinances, enforcement and implementation considerations, education and voluntary compliance options, and potential next steps.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:58 p.m.
Respectfully Submitted,

Sustainability Governance Options

(working document)

Prepared for discussion regarding the potential for the establishment of a permanent municipal sustainability function and the transition of the Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee into a standing Council committee.

Table 1. Options

Option	Pros	Cons / Risks	Mitigation	Comments/Ideas								
				Rich	Brian	Anne	Jesse	Jan	Broderick	Josh	Jodi	
1) Keep current ad hoc committee only	Low cost; flexible; can study issues quickly.	Lacks formal legislative authority, permanent jurisdiction, dedicated staffing, and implementation capacity; temporary structure may limit continuity, accountability, interdepartmental coordination, and measurable long-term outcomes; risks being perceived as primarily symbolic without institutional authority or operational support.	Establishing a permanent Sustainability Office and standing Council committee would institutionalize sustainability planning, oversight, accountability, and implementation capacity across administrations while creating long-term continuity and clearer governance structures.									
2) Create a Sustainability Office / Department	Centralized accountability led by professional staff with expertise across sustainability-related areas; fills knowledge and coordination gaps across departments; strengthens interdepartmental planning; improves data collection and reporting; enhances competitiveness for state and federal funding; supports long-term capital planning, flood resilience, public health, energy efficiency, and operational cost reduction.	Adds staffing and budget pressure; potential overlap with existing departmental responsibilities if roles are not clearly defined.	Start with a lean Office of Sustainability & Resilience led by a director-level position; establish clearly defined responsibilities focused on coordination, grants, implementation support, and long-term planning; scale staffing over time based on demonstrated outcomes and external funding opportunities.									
3) Convert ad hoc committee into a standing Council committee	Allows future Councils to review initiatives, development proposals, infrastructure projects, and contracts with substantial environmental or resilience implications above established fiscal or operational thresholds.	May create additional administrative review requirements or project delays if thresholds, jurisdiction, and review procedures are not clearly defined.	Adopt a clear committee charge and annual reporting structure. Establish clearly defined fiscal and environmental thresholds, standardized review criteria, and coordinated timelines to minimize duplication and delays									
4) Create both a Sustainability Office and standing Council committee	Establishes a comprehensive best-practice governance model combining professional implementation capacity with formal legislative oversight; improves accountability, transparency, continuity, and long-term strategic planning; strengthens coordination across departments and public agencies; enhances grant competitiveness and data reporting; creates a structured framework for reviewing sustainability impacts associated with major initiatives, infrastructure investments, and contracts above established thresholds.	Requires disciplined coordination between administrative and legislative functions; potential for duplication or unclear responsibilities if governance roles are not clearly defined.	Establish clearly defined roles separating administrative implementation from legislative oversight; require quarterly reporting, annual performance metrics, interdepartmental coordination procedures, and defined review thresholds to ensure efficiency and accountability.									
5) Create a unified Sustainability & Resilience Dept serving the City, School District, and the Redevelopment Agency, and School District	Creates a coordinated citywide sustainability and resilience strategy across major public institutions; improves long-term planning, operational efficiency, energy management, infrastructure coordination, and grant competitiveness; centralizes technical expertise and data collection; aligns capital planning, facilities management, transportation, land use, public health, and climate resilience initiatives; reduces duplication of effort and encourages consistent sustainability standards across agencies.	More complex governance structure requiring interagency coordination, shared funding responsibilities, and clearly defined authority among participating entities; potential administrative complexity during implementation.	Establish a shared-services or intergovernmental partnership model with clearly defined responsibilities, governance procedures, cost-sharing mechanisms, performance metrics, and joint reporting requirements; implement phased integration to allow coordination systems and operational roles to develop over time.									

Comparable Cities and Towns

The municipalities listed below (table 2) demonstrate that formal sustainability and resilience governance structures are becoming increasingly common among Connecticut and regional peer communities facing similar coastal, infrastructure, environmental, and economic challenges. Although each municipality has adopted a governance model tailored to its size, operational needs, and governmental structure, all have established some form of dedicated sustainability leadership, committee structure, or administrative function to coordinate long-term planning, resilience initiatives, grant management, energy efficiency, infrastructure planning, and environmental policy implementation. Collectively, these examples illustrate that sustainability governance is increasingly being treated not as a temporary or purely advisory function, but as an integrated component of modern municipal operations and long-term strategic planning. The approaches adopted by these municipalities may provide useful reference points for Norwalk as it evaluates potential frameworks to institutionalize sustainability planning, strengthen interdepartmental coordination, improve accountability, and enhance competitiveness for state and federal funding opportunities.

Table 2.

Municipality	Similarity / Relevance	Sustainability Structure
Stamford, CT	Fairfield County peer with similar coastal	Facilities & Sustainability Division with dedicated
Greenwich, CT	Coastal Fairfield County community.	Sustainability Committee connected to municipal
New Haven, CT	Connecticut coastal city addressing resilience and	Office of Climate and Sustainability coordinating
Middletown, CT	Mid-sized Connecticut municipality.	Sustainability Commission supported by

New Rochelle, NY	Comparable metro coastal city.	Director of Planning and Sustainability and
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National & International Best Practices

The cities identified below (table 3) represent widely recognized examples of municipalities that have institutionalized sustainability and resilience within core government operations and long-term planning frameworks. Through dedicated sustainability offices, integrated planning departments, climate leadership positions, and coordinated policy structures, these municipalities have incorporated sustainability considerations into infrastructure investment, transportation systems, housing policy, environmental management, public health, and economic development strategies. Although differing in scale and governance structure, these examples demonstrate how cities across the United States and internationally are increasingly treating sustainability and resilience as permanent operational and strategic responsibilities rather than temporary or advisory initiatives.

Table 3.

City	Why It Matters
Boston, MA	Cabinet-level climate and sustainability leadership
New York City, NY	Office of Climate & Environmental Justice
Copenhagen, Denmark	Global model for municipal climate planning and
Vancouver, Canada	Sustainability integrated into transportation,
Portland, OR	Longstanding Bureau of Planning and
Curitiba, Brazil	International model for sustainable urban planning
Medellín, Colombia	Recognized for resilience planning and urban
Bogotá, Colombia	Global example of sustainable transportation and

Alignment with Global Institutional Findings Supporting Municipal Sustainability Governance

The following institutional findings (table 4) reflect a broad consensus among leading international organizations, municipal networks, and planning institutions that formal sustainability and resilience governance structures are increasingly essential components of effective local government administration. Research and policy guidance from organizations such as the United Nations, World Bank, OECD, ICLEI, C40 Cities, and the American Planning Association consistently emphasize the importance of integrated planning, cross-departmental coordination, long-term infrastructure strategy, and dedicated implementation capacity in addressing environmental, economic, public health, and resilience-related challenges. Collectively, these findings support the view that municipalities with established sustainability governance structures are often better positioned to improve operational coordination, strengthen long-term planning, pursue external funding opportunities, and respond to evolving infrastructure and resilience needs.

Table 4.

Organization	Key Finding / Relevance
United Nations	Local governments play a critical role in resilience
World Bank	Integrated sustainability planning improves
OECD	Cross-departmental governance improves
ICLEI	Dedicated sustainability structures improve
C40 Cities	Formal sustainability governance helps coordinate
American Planning Association	Long-term sustainability planning supports

Footnotes and Sources

1. United Nations. Sustainable Cities and Communities. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/cities/>
2. World Bank. Cities Key to Solving Climate Crisis. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2023/05/18/cities-key-to-solving-climate-crisis>
3. OECD. Urban Development and Cities. <https://www.oecd.org/en/topics/urban-development.html>
4. ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability. <https://iclei.org>
5. C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group. <https://www.c40.org>
6. American Planning Association Sustainability Resources. <https://www.planning.org/sustainability/>
7. City of Stamford Facilities & Sustainability Division. <https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/operations/facilities-sustainability>
8. Town of Greenwich Sustainability Committee. <https://www.greenwichct.gov/1775/Greenwich-Sustainability-Committee>
9. City of New Haven Office of Climate and Sustainability. <https://www.newhavenct.gov/government/departments-divisions/office-of-climate-and-sustainability>
10. Middletown Sustainability Commission. <https://www.middletownct.gov/554/Middletown-Sustainability-Commission>
11. New Rochelle GreeNR Sustainability Plan. <https://www.newrochelleny.gov/349/GreeNR-Sustainability-Plan>