

**AD HOC SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 13, 2025
ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING**

ATTENDANCE: Johan Lopez (Chair), Lisa Shanahan, Nora Niedzielski-Eichner, Josh Goldstein (6:20 pm)

STAFF: Jodi Trendler

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Lopez officially called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Mr. Lopez conducted the roll call as reflected above.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no one present who wished to address the Committee.

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting: July 9, 2025

****MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED.
THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Updates: Support for LEEF Reinstatement, ICLEI Membership

Mr. Lopez invited Ms. Trendler to provide updates on the request to reinstate the Lawn Equipment Exchange Fund (LEEF) program. Ms. Trendler reported that the Ridgefield Environmental Commission had reached out to multiple municipalities in Fairfield County, requesting their support on a letter to Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) Executive Director Joe DeLong.

The request was that CCM engage with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and relevant state legislators to reinstate a LEEF program last implemented in 2010, which at that time was funded at \$550,000.

The original program enabled municipalities to replace high-polluting, low-efficiency lawn equipment with improved models. The current proposal seeks to require replacement with electric equipment and is limited to municipal and school district use.

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Ms. Trendler confirmed that Mayor Rilling agreed to sign the letter of support, joining other municipalities such as Greenwich, Stamford, Ridgefield, and Wilton. The City's letter has been submitted and will be combined with others in support of the measure.

Ms. Shanahan expressed that she was very pleased to see Norwalk taking part in this regional collaboration.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner agreed, highlighting the value of working with neighboring communities and of CCM's engagement, noting it aligned with other collaborative efforts under consideration.

Ms. Trendler also provided an update on the City's new membership in ICLEI, obtained through the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency at an annual cost of \$2,200. She explained that membership gives Norwalk access to the ClimateView software for centralized greenhouse gas emissions tracking and modeling, which will allow for a public dashboard and greater municipal transparency on sustainability progress.

She noted that ICLEI membership also provides access to training cohorts, educational resources, promotional opportunities for projects, and opens potential funding opportunities. She said that she and a colleague would be joining a sustainability communications cohort with representatives from numerous communities, including Bridgeport.

Mr. Lopez expressed support, stating that the cost was minimal given the benefits, particularly the opportunity for global collaboration and recognition.

Mr. Goldstein joined the meeting at 6:20 pm.

B. Review: Mayor's Proclamation to Establish Norwalk Sustainability Task Force

Ms. Trendler reported that the Mayor had signed a proclamation establishing the Norwalk Sustainability Task Force, expressing enthusiasm for its mission and prompt initiation.

She clarified that the task force is a mayoral advisory entity under the Mayor's authority, and therefore no vote is needed from the committee.

Mr. Lopez reiterated that the task force's purpose is to unite residents, local organizations, experts, and city leadership to advance climate sustainability and resilience. Committee members expressed appreciation for the initiative.

C. Global Covenant of Mayors Commitment

Ms. Trendler outlined the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy Commitment, explaining that it aligns with Norwalk's ICLEI membership. By signing the Covenant, Norwalk would commit to setting measurable emissions reduction targets, tracking and reporting progress, and sharing results publicly. She emphasized that the Covenant is focused on transparency, collaboration, and mutual learning, with more than 14,000 participating cities worldwide. Ms.

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Trendler confirmed there is no financial or legal obligation tied to signing; actions taken are entirely at the City's discretion.

**** MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO RECOMMEND THAT THE COMMON COUNCIL APPROVE NORWALK'S SIGNING OF THE GLOBAL COVENANT OF MAYORS FOR CLIMATE AND ENERGY COMMITMENT.**

****MR. GOLDSTEIN SECONDED THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VI. ADJOURNMENT

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

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Courtney Baldwin