



REGULAR MEETING – AD HOC SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE COMMITTEE AGENDA

**OCTOBER 8, 2025, 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: August 13, 2025**
- V. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Gold Certification from Sustainable CT**
 - B. **Solarize Norwalk Presentation**
 - C. **Sustainability and Resilience Office Updates**

1. **HeatSmart Norwalk: Upcoming Home Energy Efficiency/Heat Pump Program**
2. ClimateView
3. Community Sustainability Task Force Kick-off 10/27/2025

VI. ADJOURNMENT

**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

Press Release

<https://sustainablect.org/about/press-releases>

Requests for press assistance should be directed to the Sustainable CT communications manager, Jim Hunt, via [email](#) or by calling 860-259-4732.



For Immediate Release

Contact:

Jim Hunt, Communications Director

[Sustainable CT](#)

860-259-4732

jamesh@sustainablect.org

Sustainable CT Honors 30 Municipalities Across Connecticut in 2025

Record-breaking fall certification cycle highlights local leadership in sustainability



City of Bridgeport, a first-time Silver certified municipality

BOZRAH, CT, October 2, 2025 – [Sustainable CT](#), a statewide, voluntary certification program that supports sustainability best practices in Connecticut municipalities, announced a new record for municipal certifications and Climate Leader designations in a single certification cycle.

30 towns and cities are earning a total of 36 awards in 2025 – 28 municipal certifications and eight Climate Leader designations. And the number of awards achieved this fall represents a new record for a single certification cycle.

Gold Certified Municipalities:

- East Haddam
- Hamden
- Manchester
- Mansfield
- Norwalk
- Vernon

These six communities achieved the program’s highest honor, demonstrating exceptional leadership and innovation. Their comprehensive sustainability strategies serve as models for other towns and cities across the state.

Silver Certified Municipalities:

- Bridgeport
- Coventry
- Darien
- Haddam
- Madison
- Marlborough
- Ridgefield
- Rocky Hill
- Southbury
- Stamford

- Windham

Silver Certification reflects advanced initiatives in sustainable practices and community engagement. This achievement highlights a proactive approach to sustainability and an extraordinary commitment to equity.

Bronze Certified Municipalities:

- Andover
- Beacon Falls
- Cheshire
- Essex
- Guilford
- Roxbury
- Torrington
- Waterford
- West Haven
- Windsor
- Woodbridge

Bronze certification celebrates significant achievements across a range of sustainability actions, including environmental stewardship, public health, and social equity. Their Bronze certification is a testament to their dedication and collaborative efforts towards creating vibrant and sustainable communities.

This year also welcomed three first-time certified communities: Andover and Beacon Falls, earning Bronze; and Bridgeport earning Silver certification.

“We’ve worked hard on initiatives to preserve our tree canopy, in energy conservation and efficiency, climate mitigation and resiliency,” said Chadwick Schroeder, Sustainability Manager for the City of Bridgeport. “It means a lot to have our efforts recognized by Sustainable CT and share in the celebration of our peers. It’s great incentive to help us move forward to achieve even more.”

Climate Leader Designees:

- East Haddam

- Hamden
- Manchester
- Mansfield
- Middletown
- Norwalk
- Pomfret
- Vernon

The Climate Leader designation is reserved for municipalities making notable progress in cutting greenhouse gas emissions and strengthening climate resilience. These eight municipalities have set the bar for climate action in Connecticut.

“We’ve had a remarkable fall,” said Jessica LeClair, executive director of Sustainable CT. “This cycle resulted in a record number of awards, underscoring the creativity and dedication of our communities. We’re especially proud that some of Connecticut’s smallest and largest communities earned certification. The leadership demonstrated by our awardees ensures that Connecticut will continue to grow as a healthier, more resilient, and more vibrant place to live, work, and visit.”

Sustainable CT certifications are awarded based on municipalities completing a broad range of sustainability measures—covering everything from inclusive community engagement and local economic development to arts, culture, and environmental health. To achieve certification, municipalities must show measurable progress in 12 impact areas. The Climate Leader designation recognizes towns that commit to ongoing greenhouse gas reductions and climate adaptation efforts.

Certifications are valid for three years, during which municipalities can continue to expand their initiatives. Sustainable CT provides a detailed framework and support for municipalities striving to enhance their sustainability and community well-being.

All certified communities will be celebrated at [Sustainable CT’s 2025 Awards Celebration](#) on October 28 at the Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam.

For more information about Sustainable CT and the certification process, please visit sustainablect.org.

Sustainable CT has strong multi-year support from the [Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation](#), [Hampshire Foundation](#), [Common Sense Fund](#), [Connecticut Green Bank](#) and [the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut](#).

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About Sustainable CT

[Sustainable CT](#) is a free, voluntary certification program that supports and recognizes thriving and resilient Connecticut municipalities. A independently funded, grassroots, municipal effort, the program provides a comprehensive menu of sustainability best practices, technical assistance, and [funding](#) to implement them, and recognition of town accomplishments through certification. Sustainable CT is designed to support all Connecticut municipalities, regardless of size, geography, or resources, and empowers municipalities to create high collective impact for current and future residents.