

**CITY OF NORWALK
AD HOC SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 12, 2025
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

ATTENDANCE: Johan Lopez, Chair; Josh Goldstein; Lisa Shanahan; Barbara Smyth;
Nora Niedzielski-Eichner; Heather Dunn (6:01)

STAFF: Katie O’Leary, Jodi Trendler, Tom Livingston

OTHER: Nick McCreary; Keramida,

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

The roll was called as reflected above.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. Approval of minutes of January 8, 2025 meeting

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation on the Climate View platform given by Keramida Inc.

Mr. McCreary gave his presentation on the Climate View Tool. He discussed what he felt were the two main benefits of the tool. First is the presentation ability of the tool which is

better suited to the data than programs like Excel and Microsoft Suite. He then stated the most powerful aspect is how it works on the back end. The tool allows you to develop and constantly update a climate action plan. He explained this would help them stay on top of meeting the goals they set.

Mr. McCreary then presented a series of slides to demonstrate. They are as follows:

- Climate View organizes around transition elements included in the platform. He described what the transition elements were and how they could be used.
- A description of what every transition element represents: a Lever, a Change of Practice, or an Activity Shift. He gave an example of how it can be used to calculate the number of people shifting from internal combustion engines to public transportation. He stated that the platform has almost all the transition elements that are theoretically possible, but includes the ability to create custom elements if necessary.
- The various in-depth features that come with the platform can be used when setting goals. The features include: forecasting, backcasting, and target balancing.

Mr. McCreary presented a slide that showed what the platform dashboard looks like. He explained what the public would see when accessing and viewing the data.

Mr. Lopez asked whether the platform could easily integrate with the city's existing systems. Mr. McCreary explained it depends on what data you are trying to upload. He said the data they should input is the Greenhouse Gas Inventory. He signed into the platform to provide an example of the necessary data points to input. He underscored the point that the platform doesn't collect data. In response to Mr. Lopez, Mr. McCreary confirmed the platform uses statistical modeling. He also indicated that all the preset variables used to make calculations can be edited and modified manually.

Mr. Goldstein had a two-part question. The first was, are other cities using the program and has it been successful. The second was, what are the distinguishing features of Climate View and will it help achieve goals above what is already being done? Mr. McCreary noted the tool wasn't able to draw a comparison because there isn't another tool specifically for community climate action planning. He stated that, unlike other programs, all of the data is pre-built into the program and is talking to each other. Ms. Trendler pointed out that Climate View is a modeling tool. She provided an example using the Tree Management Plan and how planting trees will affect emissions over time. Mr. McCreary added it would not just have an isolated view of what the reduction measure of a single effort would do. He indicated it also shows how that measure connects to everything else that is being done.

Ms. Smyth wanted to know how the program could help with the human element they

don't have control over. Ms. Trendler referred to the program as a visual marketing/communications tool that allows people to grasp what we are talking about and hopefully get on board. She stated to encourage the public, they could develop community education campaigns around the information. Mr. McCreary pointed out the program is clean and user-friendly and can show how actions impact the overall environment.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner asked if the program is interactive and can the public use it to see what its impact would be. Mr. McCreary indicated the program can be used in this manner. He noted in their work they use it when working with the experts hired to work on a project but generally, they don't include the wider public. He said it would help the decision-makers understand what their targets need to be because they are all connected. He pointed out that the dashboard feature provides an interactive presentation that can be used instead of a slide deck.

Ms. Trendler talked about the mayor's plan to make Norwalk the greenest city and what that means. She feels the tool is a way to communicate that to the entire city. She stated the tool would show and prove the progress associated with their efforts.

Mr. McCreary stated he was not trying to sell a service. He pointed out the tool makes their jobs easier and lowers costs for their clients. He made the point that this tool would make Ms. Trendler more effective in her job.

Ms. Trendler asked Mr. McCreary how this program compared to Clear Path. Mr. McCreary noted that Clear Path lacks modeling capabilities. He also pointed out that Climate View is replacing Clear Path. At Mr. Lopez's request, Mr. McCreary gave a brief description of Clear Path. Ms. Trendler asked if Climate View could link directly to CDP and other agencies for reporting. Mr. McCreary stated not as yet however, it is their ambition.

Mr. Lopez formally introduced the new Director of Sustainability and Resilience, Jodi Trendler. He stated the Committee would enjoy working with her. Ms. Trendler describes much of what her new position will entail. She stated she was excited to be involved with the Greenest City project.

Mr. Livingston expressed excitement at having Ms. Trendler on their staff. He noted that Climate View would be a great tool for Jodi in her specialty of education and communication with the public. Mr. Livingston said he feels Ms. Trendler will be a real asset to the city.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

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**** MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
China Mayhew
Telesco Secretarial Services