



City of Middletown
CLEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE
MEETING OF JANUARY 20, 2026, 5:30 PM
ROOM 208 MUNICIPAL BUILDING & WEBEX

Members Present: John Giuliano (on Webex), Emily Gorlewski, Vincent Loffredo, Andrew Plotkin (on Webex), Krishna Winston, John Hogan (on Webex)

Members Absent: Jonathan Pulino, Ray Lumpkin, Catherine Young

Staff: Lisa Liesener

Also Present: Scott ?, Kristen Colombo

N.B. after the meeting, J. Giuliano wrote to L. Liesener to report that at a certain point he had been unable to unmute the phone on which he had been participating in the meeting. Below are two addenda that he asked to have included in the minutes. He also reported that he had been appointed to the Public Works Infrastructure Committee.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by E. Gorlewski at 5:31 PM. It was established that a quorum was present.

II. Acceptance of Minutes

The minutes of the December 16, 2025 meeting were accepted as submitted.

III. Public Comment

None.

IV. Vote on 2026 Meeting Schedule

V. Loffredo moved that the Task Force continue to meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 5:30 PM. K Winston seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

V. Old Business

A. 911 and Macdonough Building Committees

J. Giuliano reported that the 911 Building Committee would be meeting later in the week, and no meeting on the Macdonough project had taken place recently. Patrick McKenna had been sworn in as a member of the Macdonough Building Committee.

B. Update on the Fuel Cell at the High School

K. Winston reported that she had spoken with Chris Puorro, the purchasing agent for the Board of Education, to check on the status of the fuel cell. He had affirmed that the fuel cell was in good repair and working properly, but there was concern about the contract with Constellation Energy, which apparently committed the BoE to purchasing more electricity than was actually needed. He had suggested that K. Winston get in touch with Michael Harris, the BoE's energy

consultant, for more information on the contract. V. Loffredo had been in touch with C. Puorro about the same matter.

C. EV Chargers in the Melilli and Marino Lots

L. Liesener reported that the chargers had been installed in the Melilli Lot and would be operational by the end of January. It had been decided to match the rate to Wesleyan's Level-2 chargers. The chargers in the Marino Lot had yet to be installed. The work on them would be done by City employees.

D. Beman Middle School Solar Canopy

A. Plotkin reported that he had still not been able to schedule a meeting with Marco Gaylord. L. Liesener suggested asking the Mayor to intercede.

E. HeatSmart Campaign

K. Colombo shared her screen to illustrate the steps she was taking to move the campaign along. Using social media—Facebook and Instagram—to disseminate information about the HeatSmart services for rental properties was getting a better response than sending notices with the sanitation bills, and would be increased. The roundtable for landlords was scheduled for 6:00–8:00 PM as a drop-in at the Community Health Center on February 19. Registration would take place on the Jonah Center's Web site. Consultants from CMC and Eversource would be available to provide technical details. K. Winston cited a conversation with the owner of several rental properties of her acquaintance who had been interested in the energy audits but had been informed that she had a small amount of asbestos in one of her houses. K. Colombo assured her that the CMC representative would have information on a state program that already had, or would soon have, funding for lead and asbestos abatement. K. Colombo remarked that if ten landlords attended, she would consider the event a success. The presence of CETF and Common Council members would be welcome. While the program outreach emphasized Census Tracts 5411, 5416, and 5417— low-income/Environmental Justice parts of town— energy audits were available to all Middletown residents. She was hoping to be in touch with Wesleyan about its rental properties eligible for the audits.

Addendum from J. Giuliano: "...this fund was created to potentially offset the cost of vermiculite removal, which is a common source of asbestos-containing insulation.

Home- Zonolite Attic Insulation Trust <https://share.google/vcbMBVuLjwiVF3VKO>."

F. Updating the City Energy Plan

L. Liesener suggested creating a working group to take on the project, possibly with representation from the Sustainability Commission. K. Winston described the ad-hoc process undertaken by Anna Salo-Markowski, Erin Dopfel, and her in the early 2020s. Possible members of the working group might be J. Kleindienst, A. Plotkin, J. Hogan, M. Harris, K. Winston, and T. Swarr. K. Colombo suggested seeking technical assistance from PACE.

VI. New Business

A. Energy Savings Performance Contracting

K. Winston reported on the recent Sustainable CT Coffee Hour that had focused on this topic. She stressed that the featured contractors, Energia, had been selected by the CT Conference of Municipalities as its preferred vendor. She promised to send the Task Force members the link to the recording of the session, along with the link to previous Coffee Hour recordings, also available on Sustainable CT's YouTube channel.

Addendum from J. Giuliano: “. . . with regard to Krishna's discussion on the CCM meeting and Energia, I believe we used similar funding/financing for energy conservation/efficiency improvements for Police Headquarters and the Rec Center. Rohan Manning and/or Captain John Lozefski can give more info on the Police Headquarters. Mayor Nocera is familiar with the Rec Center.”

B. RiverCOG Study of a Regional Waste Authority

K. Winston noted that she was organizing a gathering at which the RiverCOG planners could meet with knowledgeable Middletown residents to discuss the advantages of and obstacles to regional cooperation on waste management. She would invite the Task Force members to attend the event.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, V. Loffredo moved to adjourn, seconded by K. Winston. The meeting was adjourned at 6:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted:



Krishna Winston
Secretary pro tem

Addendum: After the meeting, J. Giuliano wrote to the Secretary:
Not sure if it was clear, but this fund was created to potentially offset the cost of vermiculite removal, which is a common source of asbestos containing insulation.

Home- Zonolite Attic Insulation Trust <https://share.google/vcbMBVuLjwiVF3VKO>

Also, with regard to Krishna's discussion on the CCM meeting and Energia, I believe we used similar funding/financing for energy conservation/efficiency improvements for Police Headquarters and the Rec Center.

Rohan Manning and/or Captain John Lozefski can give more info on the Police Headquarters.

Mayor Nocera is familiar with the Rec Center.

Giuliano mentioned that he was also appointed to the Public Works Infrastructure Committee.