

Conservation, Energy, & Environment Committee (CEEC) Report
Public Health, Safety & Environment Subcommittee, March 5, 2024
Submitted by Paula Jones, Chair, CEEC

Recap from February 6th report: CEEC collected input in January from community stakeholders regarding what the Committee's priorities should be for the next one to two years. The February report for this Subcommittee listed some of the input collected, including:

- The need to inventory current town projects that are referenced in the Town's (December 2022) Energy Plan;
- The need to create a "Climate Task Force" (as recommended in the Energy Plan) to guide implementation of the Plan;
- The necessity of including the schools and Board of Education representation in these initiatives;
- The value a designated grant writer would bring to the Town.

February Activity:

1. CEEC met twice to review the input collected from stakeholders in January. We obtained some additional information from Town Directors and from the Board of Education about recent initiatives, and constructed a "potential priorities" list. Members stressed the importance of balancing "macro/big picture" activities and "micro/everyday" things people can do (e.g. reducing plastics, managing food waste, planting native plants.) We'll use that list to set priorities at our March 14 meeting.
2. Bloomfield participated in a regional CRCOG Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) that could eventually provide some EPA funding for town projects. Public comments were due by February 23. CEEC worked with the Building and Land Use and Public Works Departments to compile and submit comments on behalf of the Town.
3. Six TREES FOR BLOOMFIELD representatives (including two CEEC members) attended the Connecticut Urban Forest Council Conference on February 29th. TFB was recognized several times for its projects in Bloomfield, and for its willingness to share ideas and materials with other towns.

Upcoming activities:

- CEEC presentation to the Board of Education on March 12th.
- Trees for Bloomfield, Trees for Suffield and Trees for Windsor Locks are meeting on March 19 to share ideas and plans. (Organized by Sharon Mann, TFB Co-Chair and BBC Chair)
- Shred and Small Electronics Recycling Day on May 4th (9 to noon)

The CEEC meets the second Thursday of each month from 4:30 – 6 PM via a hybrid meeting format (in person at Town Hall, Conference Room 5).

Next meeting - March 14th