

Conservation, Energy, & Environment Committee (CEEC) Report
Public Health, Safety & Environment Subcommittee, February 6, 2024
Submitted by Paula Jones, Chair, CEEC

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).

Last month the committee had a special planning meeting to collect input from community stakeholders on what the Committee's priorities should be for the next one to two years.

Participants included representatives from DPW, Building and Land Use; the Bloomfield Beatification Committee; Trees for Bloomfield; The Connecticut League of Conservation Voters; Farmington River Watershed Association; Seabury; Windsor Conservation Commission; Windsor Climate Action; Bloomfield residents.

Selected Input Collected:

- The Building and Land Use Department has been working to regain Sustainable CT certification. Their time is limited so they would welcome CEEC help. Bloomfield received Sustainable CT certification in 2019, but it lapsed in 2022. The Environmental Planner was responsible for working on certification, but that position has been cut for the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget. (The Environmental Planner position was created as a part-time position in order to work on initiatives such as Complete Streets and Sustainable CT as well as to serve as CEEC's staff liaison.)
- A recommended first step from the Energy Plan (completed in December 2022) was for the Town Manager to appoint an Energy taskforce. This hasn't occurred. It was noted that we need to align Bloomfield's Energy Plan timeline with the state's Energy goals. We also need to inventory projects completed or in progress since December 2022 (e.g. RFPs for solar arrays on municipal buildings).
- Both the Climate Emergency Resolution (passed by the Council in May 2021) and Energy Plan include recommended actions and participation by the Board of Education. Plans and initiatives need to include all Town operations, including the schools.
- Bloomfield has an opportunity to participate in a regional CRCOG Climate Action Plan that could provide some EPA funding for projects (e.g. electrifying municipal fleets). CEEC will be supporting this through the public comment channel (open until February 23).
- A question was raised about whether neighboring towns might share staff positions. For example, could Bloomfield and Windsor share one full-time Environmental Planner?
- Other concerns and issues raised included invasive plants, value of having a dedicated grant writer, updating zoning ordinances, the importance of public engagement in development of the POCD.

At its February 8th meeting the Committee will review this input and develop a list of immediate follow-up steps in order to develop our list of priorities.