

Conservation, Energy, & Environment Committee (CEEC) Report
Public Health, Safety & Environment Subcommittee, May 7, 2024
Submitted by Paula Jones, Chair, CEEC

March, April, early May Activity:

1. CEEC created its “final” list of priorities, organized into three categories: (1) Nature-based solutions for Environmental Health; (2) Electric Generation, Renewable Energy, and Efficiency & Affordability; (3) Climate Change Resiliency & Hazard Mitigation. Please see the one-page attachment for details. This list will be used to guide CEEC’s efforts over the next one to two years.
2. CEEC made a presentation to the Bloomfield Board on Education on March 12th. Topics discussed included Bloomfield’s Climate Emergency Energy Plan, “cleaner” transportation, education and curriculum opportunities, with climate change and environmental programming as CEEC’s niche.
3. Trees for Bloomfield Activities:
 - Trees for Bloomfield, Trees for Suffield, Trees for Windsor Locks, and Trees for Goshen met on March 19 to share ideas and plans.
 - Arbor Day Celebration observed on April 27 with great participation by the Town Council.
 - Paula Jones made a presentation to Hartford’s Tree Advisory Council (TAC) on May 1. The TAC was very complimentary of all of TFB’s programs (especially the Trees for Free project), and encouraged Bloomfield to be certified as a Tree City USA Community.
4. CEEC members toured All American Waste’s state-of-the-art recycling center in Berlin on April 24. CEEC will use information and learning from the tour in community outreach efforts to improve Bloomfield’s waste management practices.
5. Shred and E-recycling Day (May 4) – The event started at 8:45 am (cars started lining up at 8:15 am). Having the event semi-annually with two Shred trucks appears to have met the need of residents with backlogs of material. The two vendors (File Shred and Take2) will provide data on material processed so that CEEC can compare with metrics for past events.

Upcoming activities:

CEEC is partnering with Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services and Bloomfield Public Library to provide a Mosquito Mitigation educational program (“Buckets of Doom”) in June and July. The “Bucket of Doom” is a low-cost, environmentally-friendly alternative to spraying for mosquito management.

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 – June 13

Categories for CEEC Priorities – 2024
Final including revisions from 4/11/2024 CEEC meeting

CEEC should monitor relevant bills at the state level. This should be a theme across all three categories, so that working groups encourage advocacy on key legislation supporting town goals.

1. Nature-based Solutions for Environmental Health

CEEC should support community awareness and involvement in existing initiatives; we should lead or launch new programs only where gaps are identified. (This would include working with the schools.)

Nature-based solutions include more micro and project-based areas such as:

- Safe ways to school; Bike-friendly Town; East Coast Greenway (Supporting role)
- Trees for Bloomfield & Tree City USA (Leading role to get Tree City designation)
- Waste Management Programs (Composting, Recycling, Anti-litter campaign)
- Bird-safe Measures (Educational programming, dark skies project)
- Pollinator Pathways
- PFAS Ordinance
- Mosquito management

2. Electric Generation, Renewable Energy, Efficiency & Affordability.

Areas suggested to be included in this category include:

- Electric vehicles (including school buses) and charging infrastructure
- Solar on municipal buildings, schools, and private developments
- Municipal electricity usage update

3. Climate Change Resiliency & Hazard Mitigation.

These include more institutional areas such as:

- The Climate Task Force
- Support for an Environmental Planner
- Contents of the town's updated POCD
- Goals under SustainableCT

4. Communication

CEEC should develop a communication plan with the objective to extend the impact of education & outreach initiatives across the community. Elements of the plan can include “Green News” articles in the Bloomfield Messenger, updated CEEC town webpage content, and “This Week in Bloomfield” weekly e-newsletter.