

**Conservation, Energy, & Environment Committee (CEEC) Report
Public Health, Safety & Environment Subcommittee, September 3, 2024
Submitted by Paula Jones, Chair, CEEC**

July & August Activity:

- “Town of Bloomfield Interim Policy Statement Regarding the Siting of Utility Scale Renewable Energy Facilities (04/12/2021): The Committee unanimously agreed at its June meeting that the policy wording should be reviewed since it’s been three years since adoption. CEEC provided suggested revisions in July to the Building and Land Use Department. The Town Attorney reviewed and approved the suggested changes with a few edits.
- The CEEC partnered with Bloomfield Public Library and West Hartford/Bloomfield Health District on July 11th, and with Bloomfield’s Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services Department (during summer camp) on July 12th to talk about mosquito “Buckets of Doom.” Both programs were well-received. See attached “Green News” article on page 2.
- The Department of Building and Land Use gave the CEEC an opportunity to review the CRCOG HMCAP (Hazard Mitigation Climate Adaptation Plan). The Committee provided the Department a letter recommending that the Town Council formally adopt the HMCAP. The letter is attached on page 3.
- Two Sustainable CT Fellows (Interns) provided a “potential points” sheet for Bloomfield Sustainable CT re-certification in 2025. This points tracker gives the Town a starting point for evaluating Bloomfield strengths as well as gaps (actions needed) should the Town decide to get re-certified.

Upcoming Events:

October 23, 6:30 pm: CEEC is partnering with the Bloomfield Public Library and the Rich Earth Institute to present the virtual program “Peecycling for Climate Resilient Sanitation and Sustainable Agriculture.” The program is posted on the Town Event Calendar (<https://bloomfieldct.gov/Calendar.aspx?EID=1777>) as well as on Bloomfield Public Library’s event calendar. The program will be advertised on Bloomfield’s eNewsletter starting in mid-September.

November 2: Fall Shred and Small Electronics Recycling Day (9 to noon, likely location Town Hall)

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 scheduled meeting – September 12

GREEN NEWS

'BUCKETS OF DOOM' COME TO SUMMER CAMP



By Paula Jones

Chair, Bloomfield Conservation Energy & Environment Committee
On July 11th the Conservation Energy & Environment Committee (CEEC) partnered with Bloomfield's Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services Department in a summer camp program making mosquito "Buckets of Doom." The bucket of doom is a low-cost, environmentally friendly, mosquito management system that any person can make.

The main supplies needed to construct one are a 5-gallon bucket, some straw or grass clippings, water, and mosquito dunks (available at local hardware stores and garden centers). It's also a good idea to put a piece of chicken wire or similar screening over the top of the bucket (to prevent small animals from falling in) or to place a

sturdy stick in the bucket (to allow anything that falls in to climb out).

After campers decorated their buckets, CEEC members Nancy Bowden and Jessica White talked to them about the life cycle of mosquitoes. Campers learned to identify each phase in the life cycle: adult females lay eggs on standing water; eggs hatch into larva; larva develop into pupae; pupae develop into adult mosquitoes; and then the cycle starts again. "Buckets of Doom" work by interrupting this life cycle, killing mosquitoes in the larval stage so they don't repeat the cycle.

The campers' artful buckets have been placed around the 330 Park Avenue campus so that they can monitor the buckets and see how well they're working - hopefully keeping the mosquito population down.



Photos: (left) Nancy Bowden shows campers live mosquito larva. Oooh.... (right) A camper poses with her artistically-decorated bucket. Photos by Paula Jones.

Look for them the next time you're there.

The previous day the CEEC partnered with the Bloomfield Public Library (BPL) and the West Hartford/Bloomfield Health District to present the program "Protecting Yourself from Summer Bugs." This webinar covered mosquitoes, ticks, and yellow jackets. For details on these bugs you can watch the BPL program at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m9x1q2DaQIU>. To learn how to make your own bucket of doom for your yard or event, watch the mosquito segment starting at about the five minute mark.

July 25, 2024

Jonathan Colman & Lynda Laureano
Town of Bloomfield
Department of Building and Land Use
800 Bloomfield Avenue
Bloomfield, CT 06002

Dear Mr. Colman & Ms. Laureano,

I am writing to express the Conservation, Energy & Environment Committee's (CEEC's) support for formal adoption of "CRCOG HMCAP (Hazard Mitigation Climate Adaptation Plan) Update" by the Bloomfield Town Council.

In recent years CEEC has raised concerns about the increased incidence of extreme heat and the need to specifically address climate adaptation planning and hazard mitigation strategies for extreme heat. Consequently, the Committee was pleased to learn that the hazards included in this planning process in 2023-24 included all those profiled and analyzed five years earlier, *with the addition of extreme heat*.

Additionally, in reviewing "Table 4-3: Status of Previous Mitigation Strategies and Actions, Bloomfield" in the Bloomfield Municipal Annex portion of the report, CEEC noted Action items (Numbers 13 and 19 on page 8) pertaining to trees that are consistent with (1) the planting of 236 trees as part of the Trees for Bloomfield Initiative, and (2) the Town Council's commitment to obtaining Tree City USA certification, which the town is now in the process of doing.

The Committee also notes that, in addition to the DEEP, the Farmington River Watershed Association, the Park River Watershed Association, and the Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Committee are other local town resources for suggestions on how to address woody debris in streams. These organizations may be able to provide guidance and educational materials about how best to balance clearing debris to allow for adequate stream flows while also leaving some debris material to provide better habitat for aquatic wildlife.

In summary, we appreciate the opportunity to review the plan update, and we express our support for the Town Council's formal adoption.

Sincerely,

Paula Jones
Chair, Town of Bloomfield Conservation, Energy & Environment Committee