

**AGENDA**  
**CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION**  
**MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2021, 7:00 PM**  
**Via Zoom**

(PER EXECUTIVE ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT)

*Public access made available through live streaming on YouTube at*

*[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4\\_xey3QjJmwe57R\\_6K94Dw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4_xey3QjJmwe57R_6K94Dw)*

*Public comments accepted at [Comments@cheshirect.org](mailto:Comments@cheshirect.org) and by voice mail message at 203 271-6638.*

*Video will be available on Channel 14 and on demand at [www.cheshirect.org](http://www.cheshirect.org) as soon as possible.*

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - A. November 30, 2020 – Regular Meeting
- V. COMMUNICATIONS
  - A. Ameresco Announces Completion of Energy Conservation Project in Partnership with the Mattabassett District
  - B. Historic Bristol farmland to see influx of solar panels
  - C. Correspondence from A. Fiona Pearson 1-6-21
- VI. OLD BUSINESS
  - A. Energy Efficiency Projects
    1. Bus Depot – blower door test
    2. MaClary Athletic Complex – status of LED lighting project; cost/benefit summary
    3. Updated HES program for residential buildings – articles in local media; end date
    4. I ♥ My Home – update
  - B. Benchmarking
    1. Energy Star Portfolio Manager – database input and maintenance
  - C. Publicity/Education/Outreach
    1. News articles and letters to the editor
  - D. Clean Energy
    1. Opportunities for additional solar car ports or PV arrays
  - E. PBC Projects
    1. Improvements to the existing locker rooms and the HVAC system at the Cheshire Police Station
  - F. Grants, Rebates, & Utility Programs
    1. Early involvement of Eversource in all town building projects
  - G. Energy Reliability Program
    1. Update on tree trimming
  - H. Coalition for Sustainable Cheshire
    1. Sustainable CT certification
    2. Feedback to coalition
- VII. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. 210119 EDZ Proposed Legislation: to establish Energy Development Zones with high levels of LMI households in municipalities, and preferentially directing EE and especially RTT replacements in retrofit projects
  - B. Conflict of Interest Disclosure
  - C. Election of Officers

## **IV. Approval of Minutes**

**Regular (Virtual) Meeting Minutes - November 30, 2021**

**CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 30, 2020 – VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Ogurick called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

**II. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

A quorum was determined to be present.

**Commission Members Present:** Richard Ogurick (Chairman), David Gavin, Walter Gayeski, George Romania, Chris Smith, Dan Knudsen  
**Staff Present:** Daniel Bombero

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

All present pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. October 26, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

Note the following corrections:

**A1.-Bus Depot Blower Door Test** – Clarify that yearly energy costs could be reduced by evaluating for potential leaks and implementing other facility upgrades, which have been detailed in previous meeting minutes.

**A1.-** Clarify that when the Commission discussed the Town LED upgrades; it was more specifically the interior and street-light upgrades.

**4.Updated HES program for residential buildings** – Change “Walter” to “Walter Gayeski” who reported about the enhanced audit program.

**B. 1 – Benchmarking** – Replace “Town data” with “oil and propane data.”

**E. PBC Projects** – In response to Mr. Smith’s inquiry about the referenda question that passed at the November election, Mr. Bombero responded that there had been a previous appropriation for the Locker Room Improvement project and that this would speak to the scope of the project.

**B.2-Eversource PV & TOD Issue-** Omit sentence.

**D. Clean Energy** – Replace “incentive programs” with “open programs”

**F. 1. Grants, Rebates & Utility Programs – add “Nothing new to report.”**

**MOTION** by Mr. Smith to approve the meeting minutes

**SECONDED** by Mr. Knudsen

**VOTE** The motion passed unanimously

**V. COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no new communications to report.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Energy Efficiency Projects**

**1. Bus Depot – Energy efficiency of new trailer and equipment blower door test**

Walter Gayeski reported that he communicated with Mr. Clavet via email regarding the blower door test on the DATCO trailer and Mr. Knudsen agreed to accompany Mr. Gayeski when he performs the test.

**2. MaClary Athletic Complex – LED lighting project**

Mr. Bombero reports that the materials are in and installation is expected within the coming weeks. The weather will be a factor. Mr. Ogurick discussed the cost benefit of the project which includes better lighting, less maintenance costs and increased luminary and asked if Mr. Bombero could provide the commission with lighting measurements and energy savings. Mr. Bombero agreed to obtain this information from the contractor.

**3. Updated HES program for residential buildings – press release**

Mr. Gayeski reported that he was unable to get in touch with the Cheshire Herald to publish the press release. Mr. Knudsen shared that the program may continue to be available to residents until the end of January. The program may continue to be extended due to a shortage of qualified contractors, which has resulted in a backup of the HES audits. Mr. Ogurick asked the group if they had any suggestions on how to get this resourceful information out to residents and a discussion ensued. Mr. Smith volunteered to get the press release to the Cheshire Herald and Mr. Romania agreed to set up a link and post the press release on the Facebook Forum.

4. **! ♥ My Home – no cost one-on-one coaching for home energy upgrades**

Mr. Knudsen shared that after the audit, the resident will be put in touch with a vendor who can perform the energy upgrades. He shared that this information would be beneficial to include in the press release. Mr. Smith questioned if the Energy Commission should promote a program that may not be able to perform the recommended energy upgrades in a timely manner. Mr. Ogurick and Mr. Smith agreed that the group should be thoughtful in how they present the program to the community. Mr. Ogurick shared that the overall benefits of the program are positive for homeowners.

B. **Benchmarking**

1. **Energy Star Portfolio Manager – database maintenance**

Mr. Romania has agreed to input the data into the program.

2. **Benchmarking Training Session – 11-19-2020**

Mr. Bombero will assist Mr. Romania in getting a recording of the second training session. Mr. Romania and Mr. Bombero will work together as needed to input the oil and propane data into the system. The group is awaiting a template from Professor Thompson from UCONN which will allow the group to make meaningful energy usage comparisons of similar buildings using specific metrics. Mr. Bombero agreed to follow up with Professor Thompson about the status of the template.

C. **Publicity/Education/Outreach**

1. **News articles and letters to the editor**

Mr. Ogurick made a reference to the Energy Task Force letter to Governor Ned Lamont which the Commission signed in support of forming stronger partnerships with state-level entities. Mr. Ogurick shared that the Energy Commission shares common goals of the Energy Task Force. Mr. Smith concurred that partnering with the Task Force was positive and that they could be a future resource for the Commission. Mr. Ogurick stated that saving energy for the Town is not political and expressed that he was appreciative of the support of the commission

members. Mr. Smith stated that the General Assembly meets in January to set their agenda for the year and that the Energy Commission should consider meeting prior to this if they have any items they would like added at the State level. Mr. Knudsen discussed the possibility of Community Choice Aggregation being added to the Town Council Legislative Agenda. Mr. Smith offered to discuss the specifics with Mr. Knudsen.

**D. Clean Energy**

**1. Opportunities for additional solar car ports or PV arrays**

Mr. Bombero will create a list of possible locations for additional solar carports or PV arrays for the group.

**E. PBC Projects**

**1. Improvements to the existing locker rooms and the HVAC system at the Cheshire Police Department**

Mr. Bombero reported that there were no new updates on the project which is still in the design phase. Mr. Bombero reported that there is additional funding for the project through the referenda item.

**F. Grants, Rebates & Utility Programs**

**1. Early Involvement of Eversource in all Town building project**

Mr. Knudsen inquired how early involvement of Eversource will be implemented with respect to the School Modernization project. Mr. Ogurick reports that the School Modernization Committee has not consulted with the Energy Commission and according to the Cheshire Herald, there are currently options being considered, but no clear plans at this time. Mr. Ogurick reported that indoor air quality should be addressed as it is a concern of teaching staff within the schools. Mr. Bombero reported that the Police Department design is in its infancy and the HVAC is not currently being discussed. When plans are available for review, they will be shared with the Commission. Mr. Ogurick clarified that the intention of the Commission is not to delay the projects but rather to be a technological resource for the Public Building Commission.

**G. Energy Reliability Program – Update on tree trimming**

Mr. Bombero reported that spot work is being done as needed.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Coalition for Sustainable Cheshire and Sustainable CT Certification**

Fiona Pearson, representative from the Coalition for Sustainable Cheshire, addressed the Commission. The goals and objectives of the Coalition for a Sustainable Cheshire are detailed on their webpage: <https://sustainablecheshire.wixsite.com/website> .

Ms. Pearson explained that the team was nominated by the Town Council and tasked with helping the Town achieve certification and be eligible to apply for matching grant funds. Several of the items required for achieving certification involve projects that the Energy Commission is doing or has already done such as benchmarking, community outreach, and managing green spaces. According to Ms. Pearson, the Town earns points toward the 2020 certification by completing action items that fall within nine (9) categories. For example, under action item #6 Efficient Physical Infrastructure and Operations, item 6.1 Benchmark and Track Energy Use is something that the Energy Commission is currently doing and this is worth five (5) points toward certification. The Town will need 200 cumulative points to obtain bronze certification or 400 points to obtain silver certification status. Once certification is obtained, the Town will be eligible for matching grants which will allow the Town to institute future sustainable projects and increase community outreach and involvement for Sustainable Cheshire and Sustainable CT. The members of the Energy Commission discussed the benefits of the certification. Members agreed that this program helps acknowledge what the Town and the Energy Commission are doing well in the area of sustainability and they unanimously agreed to look over the action items and collaborate with Fiona Pearson and her team in order to help the Town obtain the desired certification.

**B. Approval of 2021 Meeting Dates**

**MOTION** by Mr. Smith to approve the 2021 meeting dates.

**SECONDED** by Mr. Knudsen.

**VOTE** passed unanimously.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Ogurick announced that the next meeting will be held in January unless there are items to discuss. A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Gayeski and seconded by Mr. Romania. The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 PM.

**ATTEST**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Anne McBain", written over a horizontal line.

Anne McBain





**TO: Governor Ned Lamont  
DEEP Deputy Commissioner of Energy Vicki Hackett**

**FROM: The CT Energy Network\***

**CC: Marissa Gillett, Chairman, Public Utilities Regulatory Authority;  
Bryan Garcia, President and CEO, CT Green Bank;**

The second group of people who will receive this letter will include  
CT Energy Efficiency Board Members, c/o Linda King, Executive Secretary;  
CT Legislative Leadership  
CT Legislative Committees: Energy & Technology Committee co-chairs and Environment Committee co-chairs

**DATE: November XX, 2020**

We the CT Energy Network are a group of hundreds of local volunteer Energy Task Force<sup>1</sup> members who work on behalf of Connecticut's cities and towns for sustainable energy performance and the inherent benefits to public health and well-being. We are contacting you to share our perspective, to offer our Network as your resource to help advance energy efficiency and clean energy in Connecticut., and to request your support.

**Background:**

The Clean Energy Communities program was established years ago to incentivize cities and towns to implement energy efficiency, renewable energy and related educational initiatives. Each municipality that opted in signed a pledge to reduce municipal building energy consumption, and to procure an ever-increasing amount of clean energy as part of its energy supply. Local government officials were encouraged by Clean Water Action and other NGOs to create clean energy task forces that would advise community leaders and help implement various actions. Together, we have been a primary force in recruiting new volunteer members of those groups, and carrying the important work forward. Solar panel installations and Community Innovation Grants (facilitated by the CT Green Bank and that entity's predecessor) and subsequently, Bright Idea Grants were awarded to municipalities that achieved prescribed successes.

Unfortunately, after the legislature's 2017-18 diversion of ratepayers' energy efficiency funds, those incentives and much staffing support from the utility companies ended, which undermined our local efforts and contributed to a loss of active volunteers and community engagement.

**The Value of Our Network:**

Our energy task forces provide excellent grassroots outreach and community-based public awareness campaigns. Over the years, our volunteers have successfully promoted such important programs as:

- The CTCleanEnergyOptions program for CT residents and businesses which expanded the market for renewable power sources,
- The Home Energy Solutions® program,

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<sup>1</sup> In this document, the phrase "energy task forces" represents the various types of local volunteer groups that have been formed: energy and sustainability committees, task forces, green teams, 501(c)3s and officially appointed Commissions.

- Green speaker series programs at local libraries,
- Town SolarizeCT campaigns,
- EV promotional events and “zero waste” initiatives,
- Heat pump educational campaigns.

We have also sponsored and hosted forums and conferences on climate change, net zero energy schools, clean transportation (including electric school and public transit buses plus municipal fleets) and the environmentally responsible siting of renewables. We provide invaluable services to Connecticut citizens, municipalities and businesses. **We are the primary “on the ground” grassroots promoters, marketers, educators and implementers of these programs. We know our communities well, and are especially interested in connecting “hard-to-reach” residents and businesses with CT’s numerous energy conservation programs.**



Last year, for example, a diverse crowd of energy efficiency practitioners and advocates met in Hartford to discuss how best to connect with underserved households. Two dozen of our Network’s energy task forces were represented.

Many of our members also volunteer as Board members and thought leaders in an even wider network of like-minded NGOs. Looking ahead, we are eager to work at the local level to help shape state programs so that they better serve Connecticut’s communities. Some of our Network’s members are currently working on the PURA study of Community Choice Aggregation as a tool to enhance local participation in Connecticut’s journey to clean renewable energy, while others are working on community outreach campaigns designed to accelerate Heat Pump adoption.

We participate in many ways to help CT move quickly to a sustainable future — ways that some of you may not be aware of. Our terrific workforce of energy-literate volunteers helped develop and deploy the Sustainable CT program, and is now contributing greatly to the work being done for the Governor’s Council on Climate Change. Several of our member towns are now working with HES vendors and launching new Home Energy Challenges to promote the timely weatherization of homes. As such, we stand ready to help revive our economy post-pandemic. Therefore, we feel it is time to make it clear:

**Our Network of 60-plus energy task forces and commissions should be recognized at the state level as your essential partners in this work.**

*The CT Energy Network convened in February of 2020 to explore the logistics and economics of net zero energy schools.*



*Subsequent conferences have been virtual.*

**We are seeking support and recognition for our important work:**

We strongly believe that our Network, if given the chance, can be an even more effective agent of change. Our energy task forces are sustained by volunteer talent, with varying (and sometime disappointing) levels of support from our municipal governments. Today, during the pandemic it is more difficult to maintain adequate numbers of volunteers. In addition, we believe we should have a stronger voice among Connecticut's policy makers and agencies.

Here are some suggestions for actions that would help us serve more effectively:

- **Public recognition and support of the value of this Network of clean energy task forces. This could be in the form of a press release and an official letter from the Governor's office or DEEP to each municipality's chief elected official.**
  - Such notices would encourage town officials to engender closer ties with their energy advisory groups to help stay abreast of Connecticut's ever-changing energy policies and sustainability practices. *If a municipality does not already have a group like this, the formation of one should be recommended. Every town can benefit from such a group.*
- **We feel it is time to have CT Energy Network representation on the Energy Efficiency Board.<sup>2</sup> This person would be a member of an active local task force or commission.**

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<sup>2</sup> Such representation on the Energy Efficiency Board is permitted per Public Act No. 13-298, Sec. 16 (c) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall appoint and convene an Energy Conservation Management Board which shall include the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, or the commissioner's designee, the Consumer Counsel, or the Consumer Counsel's designee, the Attorney General, or the Attorney General's designee, and a representative of: (1) An environmental group knowledgeable in energy conservation program collaboratives; (2) the electric distribution companies in whose territories the activities take place for such programs; (3) a state-wide manufacturing association; (4) a chamber of commerce; (5) a state-wide business association; (6) a state-wide retail organization; (7) a state-wide farm association; (8) a municipal electric energy cooperative created pursuant to chapter 101a, *and* (9) residential customers. The board shall also include two representatives selected by the gas companies. The members of the board shall serve for a period of five years and may be reappointed. Representatives of gas companies, electric distribution companies and the municipal electric energy cooperative shall be nonvoting members of the board. The members of the board shall elect a chairperson from its voting members. If any vote of the board results in an equal division of its voting members, such vote shall fail.

- We also request that financial support akin to EnergizeCT's Bright Idea Grant program be re-established so that the costs of local mailings and printing (at least) can be supported. This program could fit within the marketing and/or educational budget of the EEB.

Thank you for considering our suggestions for closer partnerships and collaborations. We would like to have a small delegation of our member task forces meet soon with members of your staff to discuss our efforts and proposals. And we are open to ideas you may have that will strengthen our Network's effectiveness and help you achieve your goals.

Cordially,

(Following is the growing list of sign-ons from dedicated *volunteer* local energy / sustainability groups and individuals.)

Bernard Zahren, on behalf of the Avon Clean Energy Commission  
 Ashford Clean Energy Task Force  
 Bloomfield's Conservation, Energy & Environment Committee  
 Branford Clean Energy Ad Hoc Committee  
 Canton Energy Committee  
 Chester Clean Energy Task Force  
 CT Clean Water Action  
 Cornwall Conservation Commission/Cornwall Energy Task Force  
 Sustainable Fairfield Task Force  
 Paula Panzarella, founding member of Fight the Hike  
 Hamden Energy Use and Climate Change Commission  
 Hampton Green Energy Committee  
 Madison Energy & Efficiency Committee  
 Peter Millman, Member, Mansfield Sustainability Committee  
 Dmitri D'Allessandro, Middletown resident  
 The Jonah Center for Earth and Art in Middletown and Portland  
 Milford Energy Advisory Board  
 New Haven Climate Movement  
 New Haven Energy Task Force, with special support from member Henry Auer  
 Henry Lowendorf, Chair, Greater New Haven Peace Council  
 North Haven Clean Energy Task Force  
 Diane Keefe, Norwalk advocate  
 Diane Lauricella, Norwalk advocate dba Environmental Innovations; Sustainability Planner  
 Portland Clean Energy Task Force  
 Ridgefield Action Committee for the Environment  
 Ridgefield Energy Task Force  
 Kristen J. Quell-Garguilo, Ridgefield resident and Adjunct Professor, SUNY Westchester Cmty. College  
 Roberta Barbieri, Ridgefield Resident  
 Simsbury Clean Energy Task Force  
 Stafford Energy Advisory Committee  
 Environmental Committee, St. John's Episcopal Church, Vernon  
 Jeffrey A. Boulrice, Chairman, Vernon Energy Improvement District Board  
 Adelheid Koepfer, Sustainability Advocate, Wallingford  
 West Hartford Clean Energy Commission  
 Joel Gordes, Environmental & Energy Security Strategist, West Hartford  
 Sustainable Westport, with special support from members Pippa Bell-Ader, Sam Carpenter,  
 Dawn Henry & Tony McDowell

Wilton Go Green, Inc.  
Windham Energy Commission  
Windsor Climate Action Team

**\*Primary contacts for our Network:**

Andy Bauer, [andytbauer@gmail.com](mailto:andytbauer@gmail.com); Kate Donnelly, [kate@donnellycolt.com](mailto:kate@donnellycolt.com); Kenny Foscue, [kfosc@snet.net](mailto:kfosc@snet.net); Patrice Gillespie, [patricegillespie@mac.com](mailto:patricegillespie@mac.com); Anne Hulick, [ahulick@cleanwater.org](mailto:ahulick@cleanwater.org)

**Additional individuals and entities in favor of our Network forming stronger partnerships with state-level entities include...**

(Below are the names of supportive legislators, Mayors/First Selectmen, business leaders, clergy association members, etc. They include individuals who do receive financial compensation for their work that at least in part advances sustainability, and who are aligned with us volunteers.)

Bloomfield and Windsor State Representative Bobby Gibson  
Hamden Energy Efficiency Coordinator Kathleen Schomaker  
Michael Harris, Energy Consultant and Middletown Energy Coordinator  
Ridgefield First Selectman Rudy Marconi  
Mark Robbins, MHR Development in Norwalk  
Stamford State Representative David Michel

## **v. Communications**

**A. Ameresco Announces Completion of Energy Conservation Project in Partnership with the Mattabasset District**

**B. Historic Bristol farmland to see influx of solar panels**

**C. Correspondence from A. Fiona Pearson 1-6-21**

# Ameresco Announces Completion of Energy Conservation Project in Partnership with The Mattabassett District

*The Mattabassett District implemented plant-wide conservation measures to reduce energy consumption and generate more than \$1M in energy cost savings over the 12-year contract term*

December 09, 2020 04:05 PM Eastern Standard Time

FRAMINGHAM, Mass. & CROMWELL, Conn.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Ameresco, Inc., (NYSE: AMRC), a leading energy efficiency and renewable energy company, today announced the completion of a plant-wide energy efficiency project for The Mattabassett District in Cromwell, Connecticut. Under this energy services agreement (ESA), the project includes energy conservation measures across 9 buildings and operations, resulting in more than \$1M in energy cost savings over the 12-year contract term.

Ameresco announces completion of energy conservation project in partnership with the Mattabassett District.

[Tweet this](#)

Situated alongside the Connecticut River, the Mattabassett District provides wastewater treatment services for New Britain, Middletown, Berlin and Cromwell, processing between 12 and 21 million gallons (on average) every day, with a peak capacity of 110 million gallons per day. As the District's project partner, Ameresco has implemented and improved numerous energy conservation measures, including plant-wide integrated temperature controls, a modernized building lighting system, high efficiency HVAC units and low voltage transformer replacements. The project will guarantee an estimated 581,909 kWh in total energy savings.

"The Mattabassett District is one of the most efficient facilities in the state, often highlighted as a model for success for conservation planning within our region and beyond," said Art Simonian, Executive Director of the Mattabassett District. "Our partnership with Ameresco ensures that we're able to incorporate industry-leading technologies and improvements to continue to provide the highest level of results for our communities."

The Mattabassett District executed the Energy Services Agreement, valued at \$983,482 with Ameresco in June 2019. Detailed audit and collaborative project selection work followed Ameresco being awarded the project in June 2017 after responding to a Request for Qualifications for Energy Management Services in March 2017.

"We are proud to have partnered with the Mattabassett District to improve their energy efficiency infrastructure," said David Anderson, Executive Vice President and Director of

Ameresco. “The District has already been maintaining their operating cost levels among the lowest in the country for a wastewater treatment facility. Our collaboration will further reduce those costs and assist the District to further elevate the bar for excellence in impactful sustainable practices within the industry.”

Construction for the project at 245 Main Street was completed in November 2020.

To learn more about the energy efficiency solutions offered by Ameresco, visit [www.ameresco.com/energy-efficiency/](http://www.ameresco.com/energy-efficiency/).

### **About Ameresco, Inc.**

Founded in 2000, Ameresco, Inc. (NYSE:AMRC) is a leading independent provider of comprehensive services, energy efficiency, infrastructure upgrades, asset sustainability and renewable energy solutions for businesses and organizations throughout North America and Europe. Ameresco’s sustainability services include upgrades to a facility’s energy infrastructure and the development, construction and operation of renewable energy plants. Ameresco has successfully completed energy saving, environmentally responsible projects with Federal, state and local governments, healthcare and educational institutions, housing authorities, and commercial and industrial customers. With its corporate headquarters in Framingham, MA, Ameresco has more than 1,000 employees providing local expertise in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. For more information, visit [www.ameresco.com](http://www.ameresco.com).

### **About The Mattabassett District**

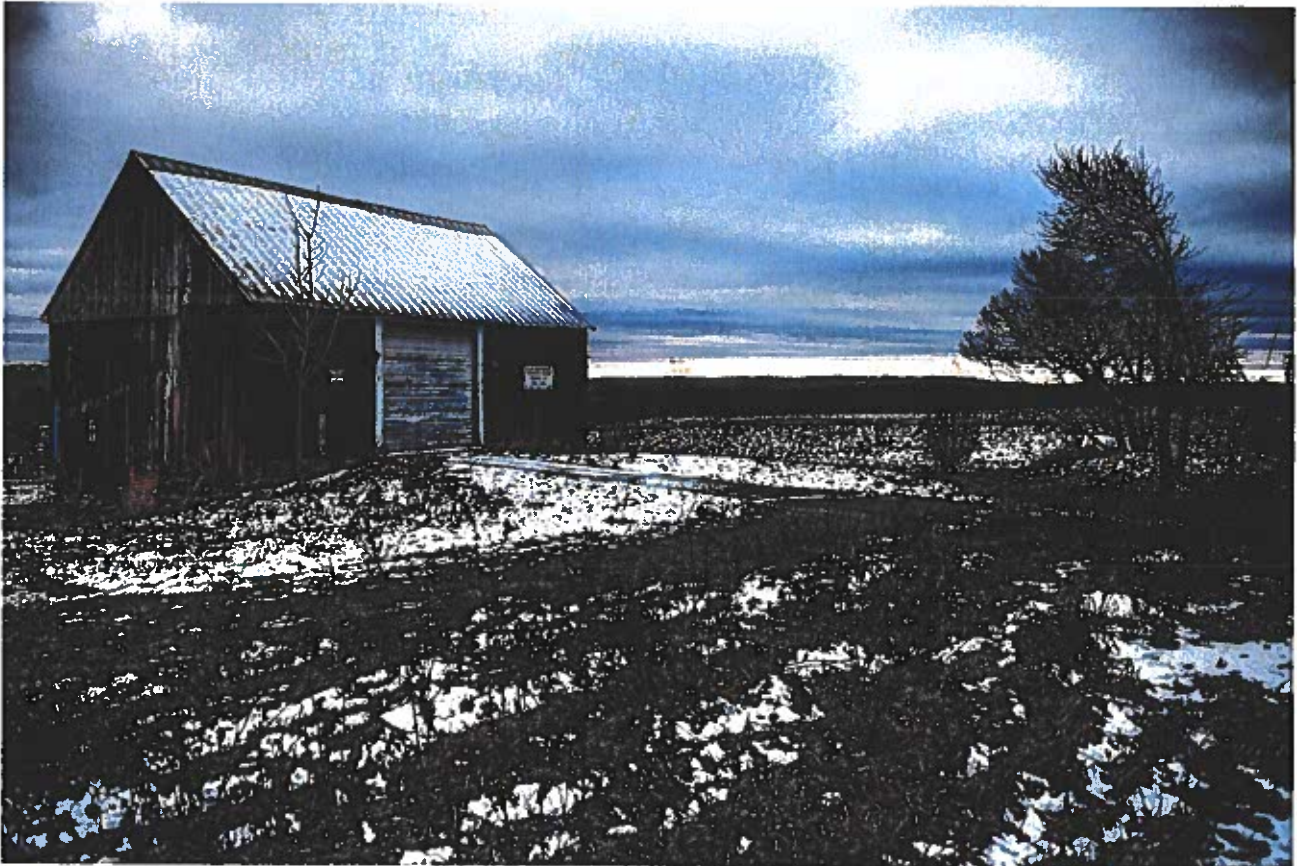
The Mattabassett District is a unique institution formed by the State Legislature in 1961 to provide wastewater treatment in a more efficient and cost effective manner to its four constituent communities, New Britain, Middletown, Berlin and Cromwell, than they could independently, as well as adjoining communities in its watershed. Currently this includes portions of Farmington, Newington, and Rocky Hill. For more information, visit [www.mattabassettdistrict.org](http://www.mattabassettdistrict.org).

*The announcement of completion of a customer’s project contract is not necessarily indicative of the timing or amount of revenue from such contract, of the company’s overall revenue for any particular period or of trends in the company’s overall total project backlog. This project was included in our previously reported contracted backlog as of September 30, 2020.*



# Historic Bristol farmland to see influx of solar panels

Plan could cover 60% of former Minor's Farm, power equivalent of 733 homes



Verogy, a Hartford-based solar contractor, plans to install solar panels above 16 acres at the former Minor's Farm in Bristol. Construction is slated to start in late winter or early spring. Mark Mirko hartford courant

[PREVIOUS IMAGE](#)

Image

[NEXT IMAGE](#)

## By Don Stacom Hartford Courant

Verogy, a Hartford-based solar contractor, has won state approval to install solar panels above 16 acres at the former Minor's Farm in Bristol.

The company recently won state Siting Council approval for the project, and city officials expect construction to start in late winter or early spring.

The plan is one of the latest conversions proposed across the state, with solar panel corporations looking to farmland — or former farmland — as attractive sites for solar panel arrays.

Preservationists warn that the state has lost thousands of acres of agricultural property to solar development in the last decade. But advocates for solar power point out that in many cases, there were no buyers to run a profitable farm on the property.

Verogy says a subsidiary, Bristol Solar One, will be able to generate enough energy from the solar panel array to power the equivalent of 733 homes.

Bristol has been working to preserve the 28-acre farm since the Minor family closed its farm store in 2018. The property had been a working farm for more than a century, but in recent years was largely idle.

No prospective buyers appeared with an interest in using the land for agriculture, so the city found some appeal in Verogy's plan. The company envisions a long-term solar project on 16 acres — about 60% of the property — that would leave the land essentially undeveloped.

When Verogy's 35-year lease ends, it plans to remove the panels — leaving the land again available for farming, open space or a different use other than condos, apartments or a subdivision.

Economic Development Director Justin Malley said Verogy staff worked extensively to notify nearby property owners, and said the city hasn't received complaints from neighbors.

Solar panels aren't subject to local tax, but the company has agreed to payments in lieu of taxes.

Potentially more significant for taxpayers is the possibility that some of the energy would be cred

ited to the power use at municipal buildings, he said. The solar power is substantially less expensive than electricity purchased off the power grid, so Bristol would end up saving money on its energy bill, Malley said.

The state is not currently authorizing such arrangements, but previously approved one for a separate Bristol project.

“Sunjet Solar is completing a large solar field at Robert's Orchard, as well as similar projects throughout Connecticut. This agreement will result in a very significant energy cost savings each year over the life of the 20-year

agreement with Sunjet Solar and Eversource,” Malley told the council in a memo. “Savings are anticipated to be up to \$250,000 per year.”

## McBain, Anne

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**From:** A. Fiona Pearson <f\_pearson@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 6, 2021 2:55 PM  
**To:** Richard Ogurick; danknudsenct@gmail.com; rclavet@cheshire.k12.ct.us; Christopher Smith; weg600@cox.net; ryano64@hotmail.com; Dskgavin@gmail.com; george.romania55@gmail.com  
**Cc:** Bombero, Daniel J.; McBain, Anne  
**Subject:** Energy Commission - Sustainable CT 2021 Updates  
**Attachments:** 2021 Action Overview Worksheet.xlsx

Dear Members of the Energy Commission,

I just wanted to thank you again for meeting with me last November, so I could share with you some of the work being pursued by the Cheshire Sustainability Team on behalf of Sustainable CT. As I mentioned during our meeting, Sustainable CT was planning to make some significant changes to their program in 2021, adding, revising, and reorganizing several action items and areas. All changes to the program can be reviewed by following this link:

<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Sustainable-CT--New-and-Improved-for-2021.html?soid=1101198859926&aid=HhIkXkXjU-Y>

I have also attached the revised Sustainable CT master list of action items as an excel spreadsheet.

The Sustainability Team, working with Assistant Town Manager Arnett Talbot, is hoping to complete its first phase of documenting action items by the April 6 deadline, so Cheshire can earn Bronze certification this spring. We will continue documenting action items throughout the remainder of the year and hope to attain Silver certification by either the summer 2021 or spring 2022 rounds.

Please let us know if there are any action items that you believe that your Commission could assist us in documenting by any of these deadlines. We very much appreciate your support and please feel free to reach out to us with any of your questions/concerns.

Best,

Fiona Pearson

Cheshire Sustainability Team - Sustainable CT

## **V. Old Business**

- A. Energy Efficiency Projects**
- B. Benchmarking**
- C. Publicity/Education/Outreach**
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- G. Energy Reliability Program**
- H. Coalition for Sustainable Cheshire**

## **V. New Business**

- A. 210119 EDZ Proposed Legislation**
- B. Conflict of Interest Disclosure**
- C. Election of Officers**

# CONFLICT OF INTEREST

## CHARTER

### 9-3. Conflicts Of Interest.

Any elected or appointed officer or any employee of the Town who has a conflict of interest, as set forth in Section 10-1, "Conflicts of interest and standards of conduct", of the Town's Code of Ordinances, as amended, shall, in addition to the requirements of Section 10-1, disclose that interest to the Council who shall record such disclosure upon the official record of their meetings. Violation by any such officer or employee of the provisions of this section shall be grounds for his removal. Violations of this Section with the knowledge, express or implied, of any person or corporation participating in such contract, transaction, or decision shall render the same voidable by the Council or by a court of competent jurisdiction.

## CODE OF ORDINANCES

### Sec. 10-1. Conflicts of interest and standards of conduct.

(a) *Declaration of policy.* The proper operation of the government of the Town of Cheshire requires that public officers and employees be independent, impartial and responsible to the people; that governmental decisions and policies be made in the proper channels of the government structure and free of coercive or other improper influence; that public office and employment not be used for personal gain; and that the public have confidence in the integrity of its government. The purposes of this section are to set forth standards of ethical conduct, to assist public officers and employees and persons dealing with them in acting in the performance of their duties, and to maintain and enhance a tradition of responsible and effective public service. In recognition of these goals, there is hereby established for the Town of Cheshire the following standards.

(b) *Definitions.* As used in this section, the following words or phrases, unless a different meaning is required by the context or is specifically prescribed, shall have the following meanings:

(1) *Financial interest* shall be defined as any ownership of stocks, notes, bonds, obligations or other pecuniary interest in or with any person, partnership, firm or corporation which is involved in any matter, contract, subcontract, service, transaction, administrative decision or controversy directly or indirectly with the Town of Cheshire and which is not in common with the other members of the agency and the citizens of the town. Financial interest shall include the financial interest of any person related to any officer or employee by blood or marriage in a degree closer than the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity (determined by the civil law method). A divorce or separation between spouses shall not be deemed to terminate any such relationship. In the case of members of the town council, financial interest shall also include any interest direct or indirect in any labor contract to which such council member may be a party or

in any appropriations to any town department or agency through which the council member may be employed.

(2) *Improper influence* shall be defined as: "coercion," as that term is defined in section 53a-192 of the Connecticut General Statutes; "bribery," as that term is defined in sections 53a-146 through 53a-147 of the Connecticut General Statutes; and as communications or attempts to communicate privately either in person or by an agent with any public officer or employee concerning the substantive details or wisdom of any proposed or pending application or appeal before that public officer or employee wherein a decision will be made approving or denying any permit, license, regulation, appeal or enforcement proceeding after a public hearing. Communications by the town attorney, special counsel, town engineer, town planner and other staff members or consultants hired to advise and assist public officers and employees in their duties as permitted by law shall not be considered an improper influence.

(3) *Personal interest* shall be defined as any interest which is incompatible with the proper discharge of one's official duties in the public interest or which would tend to impair one's independence of judgment or action in the performance of one's official duties. It is either an interest in the subject matter or a relationship with the parties before the public officer or employee which impairs or reasonably might impair the impartiality expected to characterize a public officer or employee. A personal interest can take the form of favoritism or hostility. It is a personal bias or prejudice which imperils or reasonably appears to imperil the open-mindedness and sense of fairness which a public officer is required to possess.

(4) *Public hearing* shall be defined as a hearing authorized or required to be held by law at which the applicants, parties or members of the public have due process rights. The term "public hearing" includes, but is not limited to, public hearings held by hearing officers and regulatory agencies of the town, but shall not include hearings held by the town council on ordinances, budgets or appropriations or other hearings held by other town agencies or public officers or employees held for informational purposes where no permit, license, regulation, order or appeal will be approved, denied, suspended, revoked or decided.

(5) *Agency* shall be defined as any multimember board, commission, authority, committee or agency of the Town of Cheshire.

(6) *Prima facie* shall be defined as a fact presumed to be true unless disproved by a preponderance of credible evidence to the contrary.

(7) *Public officer or employee* shall be defined as any person, officer or employee holding a position of election, appointment or employment in the service of the Town of Cheshire whether paid or unpaid, including members of any board, commission, authority, committee or agency of the town.

(c) *Conflicts prohibited.* No public officer or employee of the town shall:

(1) Have any financial interest or any personal interest, either directly or indirectly, in any matter involving a decision pending before him, or in any contract or purchase order for any supplies, materials, equipment or contractual services furnished to or used by the Town of Cheshire which contract or purchase order is to be recommended, made, granted or awarded by such public officer or employee or by an agency of which he is a member.

(2) Accept or receive, directly or indirectly, from any person, partnership, firm or corporation to which any decision, permit, license, contract or purchase order may be awarded by the town, by an agency or by a public officer or employee any money or anything of value whatsoever (by



rebate, gift or otherwise), or any promise, obligation or contract for future reward or compensation as consideration for awarding or influencing the award of such decision, permit, license or contract or purchase order.

(3) This section shall not prohibit the acceptance of reasonable and customary dinner favors in the course of town business by public officers or employees.

(4) A public officer or employee shall prima facie not be considered to have a prejudice or bias as to issues pending before him or his agency merely because of his personal expertise in any field of endeavor, and this shall be especially so where by virtue of the Cheshire Charter, a state statute or a Cheshire ordinance a special expertise or philosophy is desired or required as a qualification for appointment or election of a public officer or employee.

(d) *Improper influence prohibited.* No person, partnership, firm or corporation shall improperly influence or attempt to improperly influence either directly or indirectly any public officer or employee of the town.

(e) *Solicitation of private communications prohibited.* No public officer or employee shall encourage, make or accept any private communications concerning any matter where a decision is to be made after a public hearing. If a public officer or employee inadvertently receives such a communication, he shall make the contents of the communication a part of the record of the public hearing.

(f) *Procedure.* Whenever a financial interest or a personal interest, as defined in this section, exists, the person so interested shall, in addition to such other requirements of law;

(1) In the case of a member of any agency:

- a. Disclose such interest and enter such fact in the official records of such agency; and
- b. Abstain from participating publicly or ex parte in any hearing, discussions, debate or decisions of such agency or with members thereof of which he is a member regarding the matter in which such a conflict may exist;

(2) In the case of a single public officer or employee of the town:

- a. Disclose such interest to the town manager or the superintendent of schools, as the proper case may be, or, in the case of the town manager, to the chairman of the town council, or, in the case of the superintendent of schools, to the chairman of the board of education; and
- b. Abstain from participating in any relevant hearing, discussion, debate or decision on any matter to which he or she has control or decision-making power over as such public officer or employee.

(3) This section shall not be construed to preclude discussion of generic product type or technology, but does prohibit the participation in any hearings, discussions, debates or decisions of any agency, etc., by a public officer or employee concerning proprietary products and services with which a member has a financial interest.

(4) Whenever any agency member is requested by another member of that agency, or by a party to the matter pending before such agency or by a member of the public who may be aggrieved by the decision of such agency, to abstain from participating in any hearing, discussion, debate or vote on any matter which is pending before such agency for the reason that he has a conflict of interest, and if such agency member refuses to so abstain, the remaining unchallenged members shall consider any relevant evidence concerning such claimed conflict of interest, as defined by this section, and vote on such request for abstention as follows:

- a. Sustain the member's refusal to abstain and proceed with the meeting; or

b. Overrule the member's refusal to abstain and proceed with the meeting without the member's participation.

(5) Whenever any public officer or employee of the town reasonably determines that an attempt to improperly influence him has occurred, he shall report that fact to the agency of which he is a member, the town manager, superintendent of schools, town attorney, chairman of the town council, chairman of the board of education or the chief of police, or any combination of them, as may be appropriate under the circumstances. The town attorney shall be consulted on all reports and he shall notify the town council of his recommendations for further action.

(g) *Disclosure pursuant to section 9-3 of the Cheshire Charter.* Disclosure of financial interest required to be made pursuant to section 9-3 of the Cheshire Charter shall be updated annually to disclose the continued existence of the conflict, any changes to the degree and nature of the conflict, or the termination of the conflict and the reason for that termination.

(h) *Penalties.* A violation of any provision of this section may constitute a cause for removal from office and/or dismissal from employment by the town or such other disciplinary, civil, judicial or administrative action against the public officer or employee as the appointing authority and/or the town council may determine proper. Any person, partnership, firm or corporation who violates paragraph (d) of this section shall be fined one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each and every offense.

(i) *Voidable action.* Any contract or purchase order or decision made or adopted in violation of this section shall be voidable by action of the town council of the Town of Cheshire.

(j) *Other laws.* This section shall not be interpreted so as to be in conflict with, but rather in addition to, any other general or specific law relating to ethical conduct, interest or procedure by town officers and employees. Any personnel rules and regulations as adopted in accordance with section 8-2 of the Town Charter may be more restrictive but not less restrictive than the standards contained in this section.

(k) *Severability.* If any section, subsection, clause, provision or portion of this section shall be held to be invalid, ultra vires or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not affect or impair any other section, subsection, clause, provision or portion of this section.

(l) *Distribution of section.* The town manager shall cause a copy of this section to be distributed to every public officer and employee of the town within thirty (30) days after enactment. Each public officer and employee elected, appointed or engaged thereafter shall be furnished a copy before entering upon the duties of his office or employment.