

**Fairfield County Roundtable Gathering
St. Paul's Episcopal Church – Fairfield
April 13, 2016**

Breakout Group Notes

What are some key elements that Fairfield County communities would like to see in a new climate change action plan? How can climate protection strengthen local communities and create new jobs? (Identify 3 or 4 priorities)

Transportation

- Comprehensive approach to transforming how people get around in communities designed around transit-oriented development: massive increase in bicycling, walking, public transit ridership, etc.
- Mixture of strategies (electric vehicles, mass transit, etc.) to accommodate everyone
- “Hearts and Minds” public education campaign to create/foster the transformation

Electricity Generation

- Long-term consistency of funding for efficiency and renewables programs
- Aggressive expansion of shared/community solar and other renewables
- Capping the fixed charge on customers' electric bills
- Grid modernization, including smart metering, net metering, etc.
- Update the business model for utilities to incentivize the rapid expansion of renewables.

Buildings

- Improve building codes to require incorporation of energy consumption / efficiency studies and minimum efficiency standards and material (e.g., LEEDS rating) for all new construction and renovations where the renovation modifies the building footprint, interior or exterior structural design, or a structure's energy usage profile (e.g., HVAC changes, electrical structure infrastructure, etc.), especially for all public facilities
- Implement streamlined permitting for any construction plans that a) meet or exceed energy efficiency targets for new construction, or b) include improvements in energy consumption for renovation projects (especially for all public facilities); impose monetary penalties for any projects failing to meet the approved energy efficiency goals described in the planning documents
- Improved access to the tools available to make more informed / educated decisions
- Zoning changes that foster more eco-friendly landuse patterns
- Widespread adoption of smart controls for heating and cooling