

Resolution Establishing a Green Ribbon Commission to Develop a Comprehensive, Coordinated Climate Action Plan for the Town of West Hartford

1 **WHEREAS**, the Town of West Hartford promotes conservation and the use of renewable energy sources
2 and is committed to the health of its citizens and to the health and sustainability of its physical
3 environment and natural resources;¹

4 **WHEREAS**, local government action is critical to addressing America’s climate change challenge.
5 Localities have the ability to foster major reductions in greenhouse gas emissions through green
6 buildings, clean transportation, renewable energy, and sustainable community development. Cities and
7 counties are also the first responders to the impacts of climate change, dealing with drought, water
8 shortages, wildfires, flooding, rising sea levels, infrastructure disruption, and other potential effects; ²

9 **WHEREAS**, the Town of West Hartford has committed to the 20% by 2010 campaign such that by the
10 year 2010, the town’s municipal facilities will purchase 20% of energy needs from clean energy sources;³

11 **WHEREAS**, the Town of West Hartford is a Clean Energy Community, as designated by the Connecticut
12 Clean Energy Fund, to promote the use of clean and renewable energy;⁴

13 **WHEREAS**, the Town of West Hartford and has received a \$5000 Clean Energy Community Innovations
14 Grant and has established a Clean Energy Task Force to provide microgrants to organizations and
15 citizens that are motivated to start up local projects that support clean energy awareness and education
16 within their communities;

17 **WHEREAS**, Mayor Slifka is a Signatory to US Mayor’s US climate Change Agreement⁵ which commits
18 West Hartford to 1) meeting or beating Kyoto Protocol targets in our community; 2) urge state and
19 federal government to enact policies and programs to meet or beat the greenhouse gas emission
20 reduction target suggested for the United States in the Kyoto Protocol; and 3) urge Congress to pass the
21 bipartisan greenhouse gas reduction legislation, which would establish a national emission trading
22 system;

23 **WHEREAS**, science teachers from West Hartford are participating in a pilot program to test a Solar
24 Education Unit to use data monitoring software linked to solar panels on school and other buildings
25 located within "Connecticut Clean Energy Communities" investigating solar energy resources in
26 Connecticut, and addressing as well as methods of addressing environmental, conservation, economic
27 and technological issues at the local level;⁶

28 **WHEREAS**, Wolcott Elementary School is embarking on a plan to go "off the grid" by 2013;⁷

29 **WHEREAS**, The Institute for Sustainable Energy has been working with the EPA ENERGY STAR Portfolio
30 Manager benchmarking tool to help West Hartford schools measure their energy performance;⁸ and

31 **WHEREAS**, the Town has engaged vendors to conduct energy audits and provide a comprehensive
32 energy management information system of costs and consumption;

33 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Council establishes a Green Ribbon Task Force
34 comprised of the West Hartford Clean Energy Task Force, Sustainable West Hartford, and such members
35 of the town staff, town council, school board, administrators and staff, and other residents and
36 businesses, as may be appropriate and interested, to prepare a well-researched, innovative, ambitious,
37 comprehensive and coordinated Climate Action Plan for the Town of West Hartford.

38 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Ribbon Task Force shall submit a proposed Climate Action
39 Plan for adoption by the Town Council no later than November 1, 2008. The Climate Action Plan shall be
40 succinct, written in plain language, and easily accessible to residents.

41 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Climate Action Plan shall address:

1. Goals, measurable objectives, action steps and timelines;
2. Municipal government, residential and business sectors of the community;
3. At a minimum, such topics as building energy use and efficiency, transportation, electricity, water, waste and recycling, pesticide and fertilizer use, and environmentally preferable purchasing;
4. A timeframe for establishing baselines of the town's energy use, water use, solid waste and recycling volumes, and greenhouse gas emissions;
5. An inventory of climate action steps the town has taken so far;
6. A review of best practices nationally and internationally;
7. Cost-benefit analyses;
8. Best opportunities for savings and revenue for the Town;
9. Related economic development opportunities;
10. Reporting schedules;
11. Incentives, rewards and recognition systems; and
12. Measures for publicizing the plan and implementation progress to the community.

42 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Ribbon Commission shall:

1. Hold regularly scheduled meetings, on at least a monthly basis;
2. Operate by simple majority rule;
3. Designate two Co-Chairs to schedule meetings, plan and publish agendas, and ensure that the Green Ribbon Commission satisfy its charge in a timely manner;
4. Designate a secretary for each meeting to take and publish minutes;
5. Form such subcommittees or workgroups as it deems appropriate;

6. Not be limited in the number of its members, so long as each member is prepared to be a working member of the commission;
7. Issue brief monthly status reports to the Town Council;
8. Arrange for its membership list, meeting schedule, agendas, minutes and status reports to be available online.

43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that by April 30, 2008, the Town of West Hartford shall become a full
44 member of ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability so that the Town and the Green Ribbon
45 Commission may avail itself of ICLEI's resources, programs, technical assistance services and software
46 tools.

47

48

DRAFT

49 Note: **Letter from Sustainable Stamford, Stephen Grasso, Chairman**⁹: Mr. Stein explained that the
50 Mayor’s Task Force, Sustainable Stamford, is requesting that the Planning Board create a new
51 *Sustainable Chapter within the Master Plan* and is asking the Board to authorize Staff to research and
52 draft such a chapter. Mr. Hill stated that it was the consensus of the Board that it is appropriate for Staff
53 to move forward with the research and development of a Sustainable Chapter to the Master Plan.

54 Idea: convene a meeting of CT towns that have or are developing climate action plans? Check Institute
55 for Sustainable Energy; CCM; DEP; COGs

56 Idea: include “watershed” to the water section of the plan; add “indoor environmental quality” to list of
57 plan topics

58 Idea: use phrase “green procurement” or “EPP?”

59 See new EPA grant for healthy communities. West Hartford a target investment area. Only for 35 K max
60 though. [Link](#). Due date for (one page?) app is May 12.

¹ RESOLUTION PROPOSING CLEAN ENERGY COMMITMENT, January 25, 2005, at
<http://www.ctinnovations.com/communities/files/WestHartford-Resolution.pdf>

² <http://www.climatecommunities.us/index.html>

³ RESOLUTION PROPOSING CLEAN ENERGY COMMITMENT, January 25, 2005, at
<http://www.ctinnovations.com/communities/files/WestHartford-Resolution.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.ctinnovations.com/communities/WestHartford.php>

⁵ <http://www.usmayors.org/climateprotection/agreement.htm>

⁶ http://www.ctcleanenergy.com/educational/lcei_index.php

⁷ <http://www.courant.com/news/local/hc-greenschools0324.artmar24,0,5743294.story>

⁸ http://www.easternct.edu/depts/sustainenergy/energy_solutions/es_portfolio_manager_benchmarking.html

⁹ <http://www.cityofstamford.org/filestorage/25/52/138/164/202/1549/PBMin021908.pdf> . See also
http://www.thestamfordtimes.com/stamford_templates/stamford_story/312172513952937.php