

Hampton Green Energy Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 10, 2025
7 PM
Zoom

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05. Present were Chair Kate Donnelly, Maryellen Donnelly, Jon Matcheson, and Sharon Wakely.

2. Audience for Citizens

None

3. Approval of Minutes 6/11/25

Motion: Jon moved to approve the June 11, 2025 minutes of the Green Energy Committee. Sharon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. How was your summer?

5. New Business

- a. Energy News- Brookfield Compressor Station, Plainfield Incinerator, Sun Day, ERA, etc
See attachments, pages 2-8 of these minutes.

Consider contacting officials about the Plainfield incinerator and the Brookfield compressor.

- b. Brainstorm Plans for the Future

Movie Night, energy related lessons at Hampton Elementary if after school programs are held, mentor a Capstone Project, be knowledgeable about process to receive funds to improve energy use and air exchange in schools, engage in events or projects with other towns

- c. Harvest Festival

Consider if there is information to be shared such as the Environmental Rights Amendment

6. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 7:24.

Solar production data is not available. The website used for remote monitoring was taken offline by the third party website operator. Previous login does not currently work on an advertised newer website.

Respectfully submitted,
Maryellen Donnelly

The Issue

We, the local residents, are deeply distressed by the proposed construction and operation of the Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) management, recycling and power generation complex near Norwich Rd (RT-12) & Black Hill Rd (RT-14) in Plainfield. This matter is of personal concern because it significantly threatens our environment, health, and overall prosperity of our town.

Cadie Vernon
83 Glebas Rd
Plainfield, CT 06374
(860) 207-0563
24 April 2025

William Tong
Attorney General

Dear Mr. Tong,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing on behalf of many concerned citizens of Plainfield, Connecticut, to express our strong opposition to the proposed project for the construction, installation, enlargement, and establishment of a facility designed to recycle municipal solid waste (MSW) into refuse-derived fuel (RDF), which will also produce electricity and recycled commodities. This facility is slated to handle approximately 1,800 tons per day of MSW and generate around 45 megawatts of electric power. While we understand the need for innovative solutions to waste management and renewable energy production, we firmly believe that this project will have severe negative consequences for our community and the broader region.

Plainfield is a town that has long prided itself on its rural charm and quiet, peaceful environment. We have long been known as the "Quiet Corner" of Connecticut, a nickname that reflects our commitment to preserving the tranquil, residential, and agricultural nature of our area. However, the proposed facility represents a significant shift in the character of our community, transforming it into an industrial hub that we did not sign up for. Plainfield is already experiencing a dramatic increase in industrialization with the construction of the ULINE and Amazon warehouses, as well Plainfield Renewable Energy (PRE) – a facility that repurposes wood to energy with a staged gasification system. The addition of another large-scale industrial facility, especially one that processes waste materials on such a massive scale, would be an undue burden on our town.

There are several key concerns that we, as residents, believe should be taken into account when considering this project:

- 1. Environmental and Health Risks:** The construction and operation of this facility will bring with it a variety of environmental and health risks. The gasification system, anaerobic digester, and other components of the plant could produce air, water, and soil pollution. In addition, the emissions from burning refuse-derived fuel (RDF) could potentially release harmful pollutants into the air, which would significantly affect the quality of life for Plainfield's residents and the wetlands of our local area. We are also deeply concerned about the potential for increased traffic and truck emissions, which will further degrade the air quality and contribute to congestion. Equally troubling is the threat to the bald eagle population that calls this area home.

These majestic birds, symbols of our national heritage, rely on clean waterways and abundant fish populations—resources that are directly jeopardized by industrial pollutants.

- **Plainfield Aquifer** - “The regulations restrict development of new land use activities that use, store, handle or dispose of hazardous materials and require existing uses of this type to register with either the DEEP or the local Aquifer Protection Agency.” (DEEP) The proposed site is just a stone throw away from the Plainfield aquifer which would drastically affect the health of the 15,000+ community.
- **Quinebaug Fish Hatchery** - Within a couple miles radius is responsible for the majority of the state's trout. This facility located on nearly 2,000 acres has 14 wells producing 5,000 gal of water per minute necessary for fish production could be detrimental for the stringent quality checks on these fish. The potential threats include; water contamination via airborne pollution, thermal pollution, ecological imbalance, reputation and regulatory risk.

2. **Negative Impact on Property Values:** The introduction of this industrial facility would likely result in a decrease in property values for local homeowners. Plainfield is a community that has, until now, maintained its appeal due to its rural character. This project threatens to undermine that and make the area less desirable for potential buyers, thereby reducing the overall quality of life for the people who have chosen to live here.

3. **Increased Industrialization of the Town:** As previously mentioned, Plainfield is already experiencing a heavy increase in industrial development. Between the Amazon and ULINE warehouses, PRE, and the potential RDF facility, our town is quickly transforming from a rural community into a heavily industrialized area. The infrastructure of Plainfield was not designed to accommodate such a rapid shift in the type of development, and many residents fear that we will no longer be able to enjoy the quiet, suburban lifestyle that has attracted us to Plainfield in the first place.

4. **Lack of Community Support:** The overwhelming majority of residents in Plainfield do not support the construction of this RDF facility. We believe that the voices of the people who live here must be heard, and that the concerns of our community should take precedence over industrial interests. We are not opposed to progress or innovation, but we do not believe that this facility is in alignment with the values and needs of our community.

For all these reasons, we respectfully request that you reconsider the approval of this project and take into account the negative consequences it will have on the residents of Plainfield, the environment, and the future character of our town. We are proud to be part of a community that has always been known for its natural beauty and peaceful atmosphere, and we do not want to see that threatened by the rapid industrialization of our area.

We trust that you will consider our concerns carefully and take the necessary steps to preserve the integrity of Plainfield for future generations.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. We look forward to your response and are hopeful that you will take the necessary steps to ensure that the voices of the people of Plainfield are heard.

Sincerely,
Cadie Vernon

Now is the time to send your comments to DEEP opposing the expansion of the Brookfield Compressor Station. Comments are due by September 16. More information below.

DEEP's Public Comment Period

- The "Iroquois" Gas Transmission System company has applied for permits to install two new "natural" gas turbines at its compressor station in Brookfield, Connecticut. It will also be modifying 2 existing turbines at the Brookfield facility.

- CT DEEP has tentatively approved these permits. [See here.](#)

- DEEP is accepting written comments about the permit until 5pm on September 16th. Email your comments to james.grillo@ct.gov. Put "Comments on the Brookfield Compressor Station Permit" the the subject line. Include your full name and address in the email.

Background

- Compressor stations are highly toxic facilities that burn gas in order to create pressure along interstate pipeline systems.

- The proposed expansion at the Brookfield Compressor station is part of a "Expansion by Compression" proposal that will impact 2 compressor stations in NY and 2 in Connecticut. If the Brookfield Compressor Station expansion is approved, the entire project will move forward and increase the amount of gas transported through Connecticut to New York City by 125 million cubic feet per day.

- The gas pipeline runs through Connecticut and across the Long Island Sound, sending gas to New York. Six Connecticut municipalities lie in its path: New Milford, Brookfield, Newtown, Monroe, Shelton, and Milford.

- The people of New York have not asked for this expansion for which there is no demonstrated need beyond National Grid and Con Ed's desire to sell more methane.

Key Points for Comments

Feel free to use any of the talking points below in your comments, you are also encouraged to add other demands and arguments!

Additional greenhouse gas emissions from the facility will impede DEEP's mandate to achieve the state's climate law requiring emission reductions

- Connecticut's Global Warming Solutions Act, first passed in 2008 and strengthened by the legislature in 2025, mandates the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in Connecticut by 45% below 2001 level by 2030, 65% below 2001 levels by 2040, and that, by 2050, the state be at an economy-wide net-zero level, if direct and indirect GHG emissions are at least 80% below the 2001 level.

- The expansion of the Brookfield compressor station is not compatible with this law. The compressor station will produce more greenhouse gas emissions from combustion and will leak more methane due to the greater gas volume and from blowdowns.

Brookfield (and all of Fairfield County) is in a severe ozone nonattainment zone; DEEP must not

add more pollution●

Fairfield County, including Brookfield, has the worst Ozone pollution in all of New England, and the worst air quality east of Chicago. Adding more pollution here, especially with low or zero-local emissions alternatives available, makes no sense.

●
EPA has found CT DEEPs plans for attaining air quality to national standards inadequate, with this permit being an example of the state's disregard for its legal obligation of pursuing attainment.

Providing for a healthy environment is part of DEEP's mission. This permit exposes vulnerable populations to health harming pollution

●
Ground-level ozone, also known as smog, causes chronic respiratory illnesses resulting in asthma attacks, bronchitis, and premature death.

●
The Brookfield compressor expansion emits hazardous pollutants, including Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) such as benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene, formaldehyde, nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and particulate matter (PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀)

●
Children, seniors, pregnant women, and people with pre-existing conditions are all at higher health risk from exposure to dangerous emissions.

●
Whisconier Middle School enrolls 790 fifth through eighth grade students less than 1,900 feet from the facility.

●
Of the 2,000 residents who live in the 800 neighboring residences within a mile of the facility, 674 are children under 18 and 293 are over 65.

1

DEEP is failing to follow best available technology requirement to achieve lower emissions, and must improve monitoring and enforcement

●
Federal and state law require that the best available technology be used to control emissions.

●
Technologies that could be used include Electric Motor Drive (EMD) and Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR). DEEP decided against them based on cost instead of deciding in favor of lower emissions.

●
The draft permit relies on Iroquois self-reporting their own emissions data. But how much can we trust the fossil fuel corporations that are wrecking our climate and poisoning our communities? DEEP must more thoroughly monitor and enforce emission limits on this and all other facilities.

This project will put added pressure on an aging pipeline that was built in blatant disregard for public safety

●
In the 1990s, Iroquois pled guilty to felonies for violating environmental and safety standards in the construction of the pipeline and was ordered to pay \$22 million in criminal and civil fines.

●
While it was ordered to report and correct instances of instability along the pipeline, such disregard of public safety is still cause for concern. Due to the age of the pipeline and the way it was built, it could be susceptible to leaks and ruptures.

●

The strain put on this pipeline from the ExC Project could make it more vulnerable to these accidents.

Additional information

1<https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/default/files/2024-08/Brookfield%20Compressor%20Final%20Report%2007.24.24%20.pdf>●

Your email can be as simple as “I oppose the proposal to expand the Brookfield Compressor Station. By issuing these permits, DEEP will increase climate-harming greenhouse gas emissions and health-harming toxic pollution in a severe ozone nonattainment zone. I urge you to reject the permits to expand the Brookfield Compressor Station.

”

●

You can use any (or all) of the talking points above.

●

You can add your own talking points.

Thank you for taking action and speaking up to protect our air and our climate from this harmful proposal!



"Sun-Day"



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH

Maria Sangiolo

(singer/songwriter)

FREE!

**10AM
'TIL 2PM**

Kala Farnham

(Connecticut State Troubadour)

Patty Tuite, Bruce John, & Jason Altieri (PB&J)

Bev York as Rachel Carson

Sun Folk Tales with Aya

Jarmony

musicians | artists | solar vendors | craft vendors
puppeteers | children's "sun zone" | solar exhibits
discussions on going **GREEN!**

TH!RD ACT
Connecticut

Betsy Paterson Square
2 Dog Lane, Storrs, CT 06268

MANSFIELD
CONNECTICUT
Sustainability Committee

Connecticut SUN DAY Festival



Come together with communities from across Connecticut as we celebrate the unstoppable rise of clean, renewable energy.

Speakers • Music • Art • Activities for All Ages • Exhibitors • Solar Info

Sunday, September 21, 2025: 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Central CT State University • 1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT 06050

Why Sun Day?

September 21st marks a global day of action to uplift the power of the sun and wind energy sources that can power our world without pollution.

THIRD ACT



SIERRA CLUB
CONNECTICUT



CT COALITION FOR
CLIMATE ACTION



DEPARTMENT OF
GEOGRAPHY,
ANTHROPOLOGY
& TOURISM



CONNECTICUT LEAGUE OF
CONSERVATION VOTERS



NORTH
HARTFORD
PARTNERSHIP



BACHELOR OF ARTS
CLIMATE
CHANGE STUDIES



Save the Sound
Action for our region's environment.



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