

WEBVTT

1 00:00:01.110 --> 00:00:04.740 <v Male Speaker>Thanks for coming to today's seminar.</v>  
2 00:00:04.740 --> 00:00:06.240 Today I'm very, very excited  
3 00:00:06.240 --> 00:00:10.200 to have Dr. Rebecca French come here.  
4 00:00:10.200 --> 00:00:12.712 Dr. French is the director of  
5 00:00:12.712 --> 00:00:13.773 the Office of Climate Planning.  
6 00:00:13.773 --> 00:00:18.773 This is new office from the Commissioner.  
7 00:00:19.236 --> 00:00:22.237 She also was the commissioner of the  
8 00:00:22.237 --> 00:00:23.070 Management  
9 00:00:23.070 --> 00:00:25.800 Department for Energy and Demand production,  
10 00:00:25.800 --> 00:00:26.730 for short, DEP.  
11 00:00:28.170 --> 00:00:33.170 and her first charge is to administer the "Gov-  
ernor's  
12 00:00:33.489 --> 00:00:36.314 Council on Climate Change"  
13 00:00:36.314 --> 00:00:37.988 and crucially Dr. French has served as  
14 00:00:37.988 --> 00:00:42.321 as the Director of Resilience for the CT De-  
partment  
15 00:00:42.321 --> 00:00:46.084 of Housing and the the Director of Community  
Engagement  
16 00:00:46.084 --> 00:00:46.917 for the  
17 00:00:48.138 --> 00:00:49.138 Institute of  
18 00:00:50.995 --> 00:00:54.149 Resilience and Climate Adaptation  
19 00:00:54.149 --> 00:00:57.655 (audio cuts in and out) 2018  
20 00:00:57.655 --> 00:01:00.750 and Dr. French to also spends a year in in  
Congress as a  
21 00:01:00.750 --> 00:01:02.640 Congressional Science Fellow  
22 00:01:02.640 --> 00:01:05.220 in the office of U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders.  
23 00:01:05.220 --> 00:01:08.418 Then, starting out as Policy Advisor to the  
Senator  
24 00:01:08.418 --> 00:01:13.259 in the areas of energy, environment and agri-  
cultural.  
25 00:01:13.259 --> 00:01:15.683 (audio cuts in and out)

26 00:01:15.683 --> 00:01:18.641 Here today to talk about climate policy

27 00:01:18.641 --> 00:01:21.849 especially for climate change mitigation policy.

28 00:01:21.849 --> 00:01:24.599 (audio cuts out)

29 00:01:27.068 --> 00:01:28.680 <v ->[Dr. Rebecca French] Hi everybody.</v>

30 00:01:28.680 --> 00:01:31.432 The mask on. Can everyone hear me?

31 00:01:31.432 --> 00:01:32.396 Good.

32 00:01:32.396 --> 00:01:33.824 What other Letting.

33 00:01:33.824 --> 00:01:35.408 <v ->Yeah, the.</v>

34 00:01:35.408 --> 00:01:36.435 <v ->Hold's.</v>

35 00:01:36.435 --> 00:01:39.174 <v ->Yeahs aligned to have. Oh, okay.</v>

36 00:01:39.174 --> 00:01:40.007 <v ->Great.</v>

37 00:01:40.007 --> 00:01:44.359 (beeping from notification sound)

38 00:01:44.359 --> 00:01:45.276 Oh that So,

39 00:01:50.430 --> 00:01:52.200 So good afternoon.

40 00:01:52.200 --> 00:01:53.583 Very happy to be here.

41 00:01:55.200 --> 00:01:57.190 I'll be talking about

42 00:01:59.220 --> 00:02:04.220 policy that have been adopted basically going out of

43 00:02:05.850 --> 00:02:07.500 the Governor's Council on Climate Change.

44 00:02:07.500 --> 00:02:10.770 I'm gonna talk a little bit about what that council is.

45 00:02:10.770 --> 00:02:12.365 I'm definitely gonna talk about mitigation.

46 00:02:12.365 --> 00:02:13.560 I'm also gonna talk a little bit about

47 00:02:13.560 --> 00:02:14.913 adaptation and resilience.

48 00:02:15.750 --> 00:02:20.340 Counsel covers both areas and then the brief presentation

49 00:02:20.340 --> 00:02:23.700 I'm also then happy to answer questions about this or about

50 00:02:23.700 --> 00:02:27.990 really anything to my background or curiosity you have

51 00:02:27.990 --> 00:02:28.990 about anything else.

52 00:02:31.740 --> 00:02:32.580 All right.

53 00:02:32.580 --> 00:02:33.413 There we go.

54 00:02:34.826 --> 00:02:36.390 Okay.

55 00:02:36.390 --> 00:02:39.420 So the Governor's Council on Climate Change is created

56 00:02:39.420 --> 00:02:42.070 through executive order

57 00:02:43.080 --> 00:02:44.880 from Governor Lamont.

58 00:02:44.880 --> 00:02:48.660 There was a Governor's Council On Climate Change under the

59 00:02:48.660 --> 00:02:52.380 previous governor, but it focused only on mitigation.

60 00:02:52.380 --> 00:02:55.080 Governor Lamont expanded it for the first time to include

61 00:02:55.080 --> 00:02:58.650 both carbon emissions reduction or patient and adaptation

62 00:02:58.650 --> 00:02:59.760 resilience.

63 00:02:59.760 --> 00:03:02.100 The left is Governor Ned Lamont.

64 00:03:02.100 --> 00:03:04.800 The right is Commissioner Katie Ducks, she is my boss,

65 00:03:05.762 --> 00:03:08.162 The head of Department of Energy and Protection.

66 00:03:10.740 --> 00:03:11.573 So again,

67 00:03:11.573 --> 00:03:15.540 had two objectives for this council from the governor.

68 00:03:15.540 --> 00:03:17.700 Monitor report and the state's implementation

69 00:03:17.700 --> 00:03:18.780 of greenhouse gas

70 00:03:18.780 --> 00:03:20.220 emissions reduction strategies.

71 00:03:20.220 --> 00:03:21.720 We've been working on that in Connecticut

72 00:03:21.720 --> 00:03:24.480 for quite a while and we

73 00:03:24.480 --> 00:03:26.760 haven't done as much on implementation and adaptation

74 00:03:26.760 --> 00:03:27.900 strategies.

75 00:03:27.900 --> 00:03:30.780 So we're developing a new plan in that area and assessing

76 00:03:30.780 --> 00:03:32.820 and preparing for the impacts of climate change.

77 00:03:32.820 --> 00:03:34.680 And I come more from the resilience space.

78 00:03:34.680 --> 00:03:36.570 So when someone says mitigation to me, someone is like,

79 00:03:36.570 --> 00:03:38.250 are you talking about hazard mitigation?

80 00:03:38.250 --> 00:03:39.947 Which is resilience?

81 00:03:39.947 --> 00:03:42.420 Or are you talking about mitigation meaning reducing public

82 00:03:42.420 --> 00:03:43.470 emissions. So,

83 00:03:43.470 --> 00:03:46.350 saying mitigation today, reducing emissions,

84 00:03:46.350 --> 00:03:49.083 stabilizing levels of heat, track house gases.

85 00:03:54.630 --> 00:03:59.630 This is the quick snapshot slide of the Governor's Council

86 00:03:59.760 --> 00:04:04.290 on Climate change process where buzzy was very much involved

87 00:04:04.290 --> 00:04:06.960 in this as a member of the Public Health and Safety working

88 00:04:06.960 --> 00:04:07.950 group,

89 00:04:07.950 --> 00:04:11.730 which was one of seven working groups that did the lion's

90 00:04:11.730 --> 00:04:13.710 share of the work of the Governor's Council.

91 00:04:13.710 --> 00:04:16.170 There are 23 appointed members.

92 00:04:16.170 --> 00:04:19.140 So it's are appointed either because they are commissioners,

93 00:04:19.140 --> 00:04:20.250 so the head of their agencies.

94 00:04:20.250 --> 00:04:24.090 So there's 10 different agencies serving on the Governor's

95 00:04:24.090 --> 00:04:25.080 Council.

96 00:04:25.080 --> 00:04:30.080 The other half of the council is organization,

97 00:04:30.720 --> 00:04:34.473 non-governmental organizations, industry representatives,

98 00:04:35.640 --> 00:04:38.220 a municipality and a council of government,

99 00:04:38.220 --> 00:04:41.250 which is Connecticut's equivalent kind of, of county

100 00:04:41.250 --> 00:04:42.083 government.

101 00:04:42.083 --> 00:04:44.580 We don't have county government technically we have regional

102 00:04:44.580 --> 00:04:49.170 planning bodies called councils of governments and,

103 00:04:49.170 --> 00:04:50.310 but again,

104 00:04:50.310 --> 00:04:52.710 the working groups are really where we develop policy

105 00:04:52.710 --> 00:04:54.000 concepts.

106 00:04:54.000 --> 00:04:56.160 Met, learned about all these different topic areas of

107 00:04:56.160 --> 00:04:59.460 mitigation, working natural land science, technology equity,

108 00:04:59.460 --> 00:05:01.770 environmental justice infrastructure and land use,

109 00:05:01.770 --> 00:05:04.140 public health and safety and financing options for

110 00:05:04.140 --> 00:05:04.973 adaptation.

111 00:05:06.420 --> 00:05:10.830 Together, those working groups had about 231 people.

112 00:05:10.830 --> 00:05:14.430 They represented over a hundred organizations and they held

113 00:05:14.430 --> 00:05:16.083 186 meetings,

114 00:05:17.820 --> 00:05:19.503 which is a little much,

115 00:05:19.503 --> 00:05:20.336 (Dr. French laughing)

116 00:05:20.336 --> 00:05:22.860 but this is in 2020.

117 00:05:22.860 --> 00:05:26.520 So they had just started meeting before the governor

118 00:05:26.520 --> 00:05:30.960 declared the stay at home emergency public health emergency.

119 00:05:30.960 --> 00:05:33.810 That sent everybody home from state government and we went

120 00:05:33.810 --> 00:05:35.910 entirely online.

121 00:05:35.910 --> 00:05:38.370 And so I think that was kind of one of the interesting

122 00:05:38.370 --> 00:05:40.320 outgrowths of doing work in the pandemic.

123 00:05:40.320 --> 00:05:44.180 A lot of other people's jobs had kind of paused and

124 00:05:44.180 --> 00:05:46.200 we actually had a lot of participation

125 00:05:46.200 --> 00:05:48.120 in these zoom meetings

126 00:05:48.120 --> 00:05:51.480 from folks who were just working from home or not working at

127 00:05:51.480 --> 00:05:53.043 all, not able to work at all.

128 00:05:57.210 --> 00:06:01.810 The result of that huge effort was this

129 00:06:03.810 --> 00:06:06.930 HH working group produced an individual report with

130 00:06:06.930 --> 00:06:11.370 recommendations overview, of sort of issues but also a list

131 00:06:11.370 --> 00:06:14.250 of recommendations for policies.

132 00:06:14.250 --> 00:06:17.100 And those policies were submitted to 22 members of the

133 00:06:17.100 --> 00:06:18.150 council and together

134 00:06:18.150 --> 00:06:21.210 they made up this report with 61 actions,

135 00:06:21.210 --> 00:06:22.590 each of which have multiple cards,

136 00:06:22.590 --> 00:06:25.143 So it's really more about 200 recommendations.

137 00:06:26.280 --> 00:06:28.620 And we put this out in January, 2021,

138 00:06:28.620 --> 00:06:32.850 presented to the governor and it's up to him to take action

139 00:06:32.850 --> 00:06:36.213 on, wanted to implement those recommendation.

140 00:06:38.370 --> 00:06:42.000 And so I'm gonna talk about what happened as a result of

141 00:06:42.000 --> 00:06:43.830 those recommendations and things that were very closely

142 00:06:43.830 --> 00:06:44.663 related.

143 00:06:46.680 --> 00:06:48.060 Skipping around a little bit out of order,

144 00:06:48.060 --> 00:06:49.740 I'm gonna talk about legislative passage,  
145 00:06:49.740 --> 00:06:52.300 but I'm gonna start kind at the end of 2021  
146 00:06:53.310 --> 00:06:57.603 Governor decided to sign executive order 21-3.  
147 00:06:58.590 --> 00:07:02.430 These are 23 actions to implement  
148 00:07:02.430 --> 00:07:04.380 about 30 plus  
149 00:07:04.380 --> 00:07:05.213 actions  
150 00:07:05.213 --> 00:07:08.248 recommended by the Governor's Council on  
Climate Change.  
151 00:07:08.248 --> 00:07:11.640 They used the equity lens that we incorporated  
into all  
152 00:07:11.640 --> 00:07:14.010 recommendations were meant to be viewed  
through an equity  
153 00:07:14.010 --> 00:07:15.420 lens.  
154 00:07:15.420 --> 00:07:16.740 And we had training on equity,  
155 00:07:16.740 --> 00:07:20.730 environmental justice to help all the working  
groups make  
156 00:07:20.730 --> 00:07:23.100 sure that was a key part of anything that they  
did or at  
157 00:07:23.100 --> 00:07:27.609 least evaluate that issue and how a policy  
might impact it.  
158 00:07:27.609 --> 00:07:29.640 It was informed by the best available climate  
science.  
159 00:07:29.640 --> 00:07:32.970 The report includes a summary of sort of key  
climate  
160 00:07:32.970 --> 00:07:33.803 impacts  
161 00:07:33.803 --> 00:07:37.770 Connecticut expects to phase between now  
and 2050 and it  
162 00:07:37.770 --> 00:07:39.030 took a whole new government approach.  
163 00:07:39.030 --> 00:07:42.000 So often in Connecticut people think the DEP  
does  
164 00:07:42.000 --> 00:07:44.430 everything. Climate not so.  
165 00:07:44.430 --> 00:07:45.960 We do a lot, we do a lot.  
166 00:07:45.960 --> 00:07:48.777 We're the energy and environmental. We're  
in the few,

167 00:07:48.777 --> 00:07:49.610 not the only,  
168 00:07:49.610 --> 00:07:53.340 maybe one of the few states that combines  
their energy and  
169 00:07:53.340 --> 00:07:56.880 environmental agencies into one single agency.  
170 00:07:56.880 --> 00:08:01.530 And the main reason we did that in 2011 was  
to was because  
171 00:08:01.530 --> 00:08:04.023 of climate, cause climate branch, both areas.  
172 00:08:05.580 --> 00:08:06.413 But  
173 00:08:06.413 --> 00:08:07.246 like I said,  
174 00:08:07.246 --> 00:08:09.180 there's like 10 agencies involved in Governor's  
Council on  
175 00:08:09.180 --> 00:08:12.450 Climate Change. Assurance, Emergency Man-  
agement,  
176 00:08:12.450 --> 00:08:15.573 Department of Public Health, Department of  
Transportation,  
177 00:08:16.410 --> 00:08:17.813 not gonna name anymore but you have lots  
of,  
178 00:08:17.813 --> 00:08:19.680 lots of agencies in there.  
179 00:08:19.680 --> 00:08:22.380 Each of them had a recommendation that  
related to what they  
180 00:08:22.380 --> 00:08:23.213 do.  
181 00:08:26.250 --> 00:08:29.850 So here's some examples from transportation  
from this  
182 00:08:29.850 --> 00:08:34.560 executive order 21-3 we get called for a  
statewide battery  
183 00:08:34.560 --> 00:08:38.444 electric bus fleet by 2035.  
184 00:08:38.444 --> 00:08:42.960 Basically immediately directing DOT to cease  
purchasing  
185 00:08:42.960 --> 00:08:44.760 anymore diesel buses,  
186 00:08:44.760 --> 00:08:48.120 which is what a lot of our buses were on today.  
187 00:08:48.120 --> 00:08:50.610 So we're stopping that right now.  
188 00:08:50.610 --> 00:08:53.020 And then the fleet will transition over the  
next  
189 00:08:54.660 --> 00:08:55.740 12 years

190 00:08:55.740 --> 00:08:56.940 to

191 00:08:56.940 --> 00:08:58.413 entirely electric.

192 00:09:00.630 --> 00:09:04.807 And also looking at our vehicle miles, travel vehicle miles,

193 00:09:04.807 --> 00:09:09.480 travel reduction target and setting one.

194 00:09:09.480 --> 00:09:13.816 So this little graph over here is showing transportation is

195 00:09:13.816 --> 00:09:17.070 our largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in

196 00:09:17.070 --> 00:09:17.903 Connecticut.

197 00:09:18.780 --> 00:09:19.613 There consequently,

198 00:09:19.613 --> 00:09:22.833 it's also a major source of public health hazards.

199 00:09:23.880 --> 00:09:25.950 The city, city of Hartford,

200 00:09:25.950 --> 00:09:26.937 I just drove down from

201 00:09:26.937 --> 00:09:29.237 has the highest asthma capitals in the country

202 00:09:30.300 --> 00:09:32.370 and they're on major transportation corridors.

203 00:09:32.370 --> 00:09:35.880 What's in the intersection of haven? Anyone in 95,

204 00:09:35.880 --> 00:09:38.610 everyone's driving gas fired gas power vehicle,

205 00:09:38.610 --> 00:09:41.400 and releasing a lot of particulate matter.

206 00:09:41.400 --> 00:09:44.460 Knox ozone, not to mention carbon dioxide.

207 00:09:44.460 --> 00:09:47.880 So anyways, I know you know all that,

208 00:09:47.880 --> 00:09:49.410 but this is what's interesting.

209 00:09:49.410 --> 00:09:52.800 Even as transportation has become more fuel efficient,

210 00:09:52.800 --> 00:09:55.110 you'd expect emissions to go down.

211 00:09:55.110 --> 00:09:56.490 What's also been happening however,

212 00:09:56.490 --> 00:10:00.240 is that our vehicle miles travel is going up that has offset

213 00:10:00.240 --> 00:10:03.930 and even exceeded the efficiency gains that we've made and

214 00:10:03.930 --> 00:10:08.280 our cars being able to drive longer on less fuel.

215 00:10:08.280 --> 00:10:12.660 So basically, unless you go a hundred percent electric,

216 00:10:12.660 --> 00:10:13.493 in which case your vehicle

217 00:10:13.493 --> 00:10:14.910 miles traveled doesn't matter,

218 00:10:16.320 --> 00:10:17.550 guess for other reasons they matter,

219 00:10:17.550 --> 00:10:19.230 but in terms of congestion,

220 00:10:19.230 --> 00:10:20.700 but they won't matter in terms of emissions.

221 00:10:20.700 --> 00:10:23.130 so while you're still driving gas,

222 00:10:23.130 --> 00:10:24.450 you need to reduce those vehicle miles

223 00:10:24.450 --> 00:10:26.600 traveled to keep offsetting your efficiency

224 00:10:27.690 --> 00:10:29.913 of having better transportations.

225 00:10:30.930 --> 00:10:33.390 We did see a drop of the pandemic in these numbers,

226 00:10:33.390 --> 00:10:36.300 but it's actually come back and then some.

227 00:10:36.300 --> 00:10:37.590 So.

228 00:10:37.590 --> 00:10:38.610 You think maybe with more

229 00:10:38.610 --> 00:10:40.200 people working from home.

230 00:10:40.200 --> 00:10:41.033 It doesn't really happened.

231 00:10:41.033 --> 00:10:44.250 Some of habits changed, but we have actually not seen a

232 00:10:44.250 --> 00:10:46.250 major reduction in vehicle mile travels.

233 00:10:47.580 --> 00:10:49.680 Still wrapping my head around that.

234 00:10:49.680 --> 00:10:51.540 But that, that's what the data says.

235 00:10:51.540 --> 00:10:53.820 Don't know exactly the why.

236 00:10:53.820 --> 00:10:55.070 That's how that's worked.

237 00:10:57.120 --> 00:10:58.350 This is then some snippets.

238 00:10:58.350 --> 00:11:00.810 This is another one from Department of Administrative

239 00:11:00.810 --> 00:11:01.860 Services.

240 00:11:01.860 --> 00:11:03.450 So our Department of Administrative and Services

241 00:11:03.450 --> 00:11:04.283 in Connecticut,

242 00:11:04.283 --> 00:11:06.930 is the one who leases all of our state buildings,  
243 00:11:06.930 --> 00:11:10.390 they do our state vehicles that I just drove  
down in.  
244 00:11:10.390 --> 00:11:11.223 (clears throat)  
245 00:11:11.223 --> 00:11:14.646 So they really control all the governments  
most,  
246 00:11:14.646 --> 00:11:19.560 most of the governments emissions and the  
decisions that  
247 00:11:19.560 --> 00:11:22.770 they make for purchasing and construction,  
248 00:11:22.770 --> 00:11:23.853 they do all of that.  
249 00:11:25.950 --> 00:11:30.950 So we are looking at how we can adopt in our  
state or state  
250 00:11:31.200 --> 00:11:32.520 buildings,  
251 00:11:32.520 --> 00:11:35.856 a retrofit plan, for existing fossil fueled emit-  
ting  
252 00:11:35.856 --> 00:11:37.006 heating/cooling systems  
253 00:11:37.950 --> 00:11:40.834 to be able to transition them to systems with-  
out  
254 00:11:40.834 --> 00:11:42.180 emitting  
255 00:11:42.180 --> 00:11:43.383 carbon emitting fuels.  
256 00:11:44.340 --> 00:11:47.760 And then we're also going to look at all new  
construction  
257 00:11:47.760 --> 00:11:52.560 and major renovations targeting fiscal year  
2024 and  
258 00:11:52.560 --> 00:11:54.210 after this is a major,  
259 00:11:54.210 --> 00:11:55.800 major shift,  
260 00:11:55.800 --> 00:11:58.260 in state buildings  
261 00:11:58.260 --> 00:11:59.190 and how we do those.  
262 00:11:59.190 --> 00:12:02.010 The retrofit is gonna be quite challenging.  
263 00:12:02.010 --> 00:12:02.843 I think that's why we,  
264 00:12:02.843 --> 00:12:06.840 we had this down to develop a plan because  
it's such a  
265 00:12:06.840 --> 00:12:09.060 monumental task that DS is like,

266 00:12:09.060 --> 00:12:10.890 I can't really tell you what kind of a policy we should

267 00:12:10.890 --> 00:12:12.180 develop onto that because we haven't

268 00:12:12.180 --> 00:12:15.090 really looked at this very closely.

269 00:12:15.090 --> 00:12:18.810 So they're in the planning stage and that plan should yield

270 00:12:18.810 --> 00:12:20.970 a, this is what we can actually do,

271 00:12:20.970 --> 00:12:23.910 these are targets that we can actually set for transitioning

272 00:12:23.910 --> 00:12:25.593 our existing building stock,

273 00:12:27.791 --> 00:12:30.243 to be operating without carbon emitting fumes.

274 00:12:31.290 --> 00:12:35.730 New construction should be a little easier to do than

275 00:12:35.730 --> 00:12:36.563 retrofit.

276 00:12:39.630 --> 00:12:41.880 So again, you know, our buildings are not, you know,

277 00:12:41.880 --> 00:12:44.430 this is how much of a dent is going to make in overall

278 00:12:44.430 --> 00:12:46.380 greenhouse gas initiative in the state.

279 00:12:47.520 --> 00:12:50.527 But probably somebody else knows the answer to that from the

280 00:12:50.527 --> 00:12:52.320 "GreenerGov" project,

281 00:12:52.320 --> 00:12:54.330 But the main thing is it's leading by example.

282 00:12:54.330 --> 00:12:57.180 So the state is a big purchaser who spent a lot of money

283 00:12:57.180 --> 00:13:00.540 because we can move the needle, we can advance technologies,

284 00:13:00.540 --> 00:13:03.540 can bring down prices for other people by our purchasing

285 00:13:03.540 --> 00:13:06.150 power. That's what lead by example can do.

286 00:13:06.150 --> 00:13:08.220 The federal government is doing similar things like this

287 00:13:08.220 --> 00:13:10.173 similar to my administration.

288 00:13:13.410 --> 00:13:16.680 So another thing we did was establish the first Connecticut

289 00:13:16.680 --> 00:13:20.197 Equity and Environmental Justice Advisory Council,

290 00:13:20.197 --> 00:13:22.950 "CEEJAC", we love acronyms.

291 00:13:22.950 --> 00:13:25.679 This is to advise the commissioner of DEP.

292 00:13:25.679 --> 00:13:29.760 They have started meeting and they're again just looking at

293 00:13:29.760 --> 00:13:34.760 issues within DEP but this was related to some legislation

294 00:13:35.760 --> 00:13:36.593 that didn't pass

295 00:13:36.593 --> 00:13:41.593 but there was a recommendations that call for a greater role

296 00:13:42.180 --> 00:13:46.260 for a more formalized role for equity environmental justice

297 00:13:46.260 --> 00:13:48.360 work within our agency,

298 00:13:48.360 --> 00:13:50.370 which Commissioner Dykes has really been a champion of since

299 00:13:50.370 --> 00:13:53.040 she became the commissioner.

300 00:13:53.040 --> 00:13:54.270 And looking at this more closely.

301 00:13:54.270 --> 00:13:58.059 So you can find more information about who is serving on

302 00:13:58.059 --> 00:14:02.670 the "CEEJAC" and all their meetings are open to the public.

303 00:14:02.670 --> 00:14:04.710 So if anybody's interested in attending a meeting and

304 00:14:04.710 --> 00:14:07.233 listening in, we're always welcome to do that.

305 00:14:11.807 --> 00:14:13.140 Okay.

306 00:14:13.140 --> 00:14:16.530 The executive order also called for,

307 00:14:16.530 --> 00:14:18.930 well this is in statute we have to do a comprehensive energy

308 00:14:18.930 --> 00:14:20.100 strategy.

309 00:14:20.100 --> 00:14:23.010 But it said that the comprehensive energy strategy should

310 00:14:23.010 --> 00:14:25.420 address these issues, identify strategy,

311 00:14:25.420 --> 00:14:28.320 drive more affordable heating and cooling for Connecticut,

312 00:14:28.320 --> 00:14:31.740 reduce greenhouse gas emissions from buildings and improve

313 00:14:31.740 --> 00:14:33.600 the resilience of the state's energy sector to

314 00:14:33.600 --> 00:14:34.920 extreme weather events.

315 00:14:34.920 --> 00:14:38.190 Fuel commodity price spikes and other disruptions.

316 00:14:38.190 --> 00:14:40.890 Remember we wrote this in December 20,

317 00:14:40.890 --> 00:14:44.070 December, 2021 before the Ukraine War,

318 00:14:44.070 --> 00:14:45.410 it's before everything going on with that.

319 00:14:45.410 --> 00:14:47.610 so this last part's becoming more important.

320 00:14:49.380 --> 00:14:51.900 But affordable heating and cooling is a big issue that's

321 00:14:51.900 --> 00:14:56.130 also being impacted by global events and,

322 00:14:56.130 --> 00:14:59.460 and also just overall grid resilience, so,

323 00:14:59.460 --> 00:15:02.940 This is a very high level strategy report being led by a

324 00:15:02.940 --> 00:15:05.010 new policy advisor, Becca Trieck,

325 00:15:05.010 --> 00:15:07.020 who joined us few months ago.

326 00:15:07.020 --> 00:15:08.590 This is ongoing right now.

327 00:15:08.590 --> 00:15:12.330 We had two technical sessions last week, I'll actually

328 00:15:12.330 --> 00:15:14.610 show those technical sessions.

329 00:15:14.610 --> 00:15:15.443 So they're,

330 00:15:15.443 --> 00:15:18.360 they're doing these sessions really to educate largely in

331 00:15:18.360 --> 00:15:21.750 part DEP staff, but the general public as well.

332 00:15:21.750 --> 00:15:22.775 Though these are very,

333 00:15:22.775 --> 00:15:26.120 very technical sessions with like experts for Department

334 00:15:26.120 --> 00:15:28.470 of Energy, industry experts,

335 00:15:28.470 --> 00:15:31.410 academic experts, talking about all these different areas in

336 00:15:31.410 --> 00:15:32.243 a very,  
337 00:15:33.150 --> 00:15:33.983 technical way.  
338 00:15:35.670 --> 00:15:38.940 But it's also going to lead into broader sort  
of policy,  
339 00:15:38.940 --> 00:15:41.292 concept development and listening sessions.  
340 00:15:41.292 --> 00:15:44.261 Sort of the impacts of energy issues.  
341 00:15:44.261 --> 00:15:45.480 But we're,  
342 00:15:45.480 --> 00:15:47.610 we're looking very much at de-carbonization  
343 00:15:47.610 --> 00:15:50.190 spending a lot of time on heat pumps,  
344 00:15:50.190 --> 00:15:54.810 thermal, meaning heating and cooling, de-  
carbonization,  
345 00:15:54.810 --> 00:15:56.790 electric demand response,  
346 00:15:56.790 --> 00:15:59.460 alternative fuels, natural gas planning policies,  
347 00:15:59.460 --> 00:16:04.170 which is a big deal and carbon pricing and  
low carbon  
348 00:16:04.170 --> 00:16:07.710 incentives. So it's a very tall order,  
349 00:16:07.710 --> 00:16:11.490 broad high level report but this should yield  
quite a  
350 00:16:11.490 --> 00:16:14.823 few new recommendations.  
351 00:16:17.040 --> 00:16:18.573 Onto some,  
352 00:16:19.560 --> 00:16:23.130 this is another action from the executive order  
that we've  
353 00:16:23.130 --> 00:16:24.540 implemented. This is more adaptation,  
354 00:16:24.540 --> 00:16:26.340 resilience side of things.  
355 00:16:26.340 --> 00:16:29.730 My office is actually taking the lead on this  
personally.  
356 00:16:29.730 --> 00:16:32.760 This is the creation of a DEP Climate Re-  
silience Fund,  
357 00:16:32.760 --> 00:16:37.380 which is basically we have with the,  
358 00:16:37.380 --> 00:16:38.460 especially with the passage,  
359 00:16:38.460 --> 00:16:40.590 although we were going to do this before the,  
360 00:16:40.590 --> 00:16:42.510 that bill passed in Congress.

361 00:16:42.510 --> 00:16:45.870 Now it's especially important that the bipartisan

362 00:16:45.870 --> 00:16:47.950 infrastructure law that was passed last

363 00:16:50.055 --> 00:16:50.888 spring,

364 00:16:50.888 --> 00:16:51.721 spring?

365 00:16:51.721 --> 00:16:52.554 it's getting mixed up because

366 00:16:52.554 --> 00:16:53.940 the Inflation Reduction Act also passed,

367 00:16:53.940 --> 00:16:55.567 so, getting confused last year

368 00:16:55.567 --> 00:17:00.270 and that had actually a huge amount of funding for

369 00:17:00.270 --> 00:17:02.430 resilience in that infrastructure law.

370 00:17:02.430 --> 00:17:06.000 Very strong bipartisan support for resilience actually

371 00:17:06.000 --> 00:17:09.720 because storms do not discriminate at all on where they hit.

372 00:17:09.720 --> 00:17:12.270 And there's broad agreement that who wanna address that

373 00:17:12.270 --> 00:17:14.700 issue even if they do not believe that it's caused by

374 00:17:14.700 --> 00:17:17.514 climate change or it's by climate change.

375 00:17:17.514 --> 00:17:18.750 So in Connecticut,

376 00:17:18.750 --> 00:17:20.670 again we're seeing the very broad based support for

377 00:17:20.670 --> 00:17:25.670 resilience funding and this is going to help municipalities,

378 00:17:26.190 --> 00:17:29.820 community organizations do,

379 00:17:29.820 --> 00:17:33.810 do planning and also project development to make sure that

380 00:17:33.810 --> 00:17:37.860 we can actually help get more of that federal funding into

381 00:17:37.860 --> 00:17:39.633 Connecticut to do more projects.

382 00:17:40.890 --> 00:17:43.380 Things like some of the images you see here,

383 00:17:43.380 --> 00:17:47.520 this is Meridan Connecticut. It's called the Meridan Green.

384 00:17:47.520 --> 00:17:51.063 It's actually rail station over here.

385 00:17:52.050 --> 00:17:54.900 This area used to be an old mall and flooded all the time

386 00:17:54.900 --> 00:17:56.430 because the river broke,

387 00:17:56.430 --> 00:18:01.430 you see here, it was buried underground in a cement box,

388 00:18:01.620 --> 00:18:03.660 and every time there was a heavy rainstorm

389 00:18:03.660 --> 00:18:04.770 that box would back

390 00:18:04.770 --> 00:18:07.290 up and the flooding would back up cause there wasn't enough

391 00:18:07.290 --> 00:18:11.100 space for the river to do what rivers need to do,

392 00:18:11.100 --> 00:18:11.940 which is actually flood.

393 00:18:11.940 --> 00:18:13.020 They're supposed to go over their banks,

394 00:18:13.020 --> 00:18:15.120 they have flood planes, have anywhere to go

395 00:18:15.120 --> 00:18:18.212 so it would back up the sewer system comes all kinds of back

396 00:18:18.212 --> 00:18:22.050 up into the mall it's a brownfield site, anyways,

397 00:18:22.050 --> 00:18:23.070 had all kinds of problems.

398 00:18:23.070 --> 00:18:26.970 So they took the river out of the cement box,

399 00:18:26.970 --> 00:18:29.070 made it a park, gave it a space to flood,

400 00:18:29.070 --> 00:18:32.943 So this is park that floods and when there's a storm.

401 00:18:34.350 --> 00:18:37.950 But by doing that it changed the flood plain and allowed for

402 00:18:37.950 --> 00:18:41.760 additional economic development and redeveloping area that

403 00:18:41.760 --> 00:18:43.860 would've been flooding but now does not flood anymore as a

404 00:18:43.860 --> 00:18:46.260 result of creation of this park.

405 00:18:46.260 --> 00:18:49.950 And here's another solution just called the living

406 00:18:49.950 --> 00:18:50.790 shoreline,

407 00:18:50.790 --> 00:18:54.990 It's about basically using natural systems or hint at

408 00:18:54.990 --> 00:18:55.863 natural systems.

409 00:18:56.820 --> 00:18:59.850 There's some rocks breaking up wave energy that can reduce

410 00:18:59.850 --> 00:19:04.293 over open and which is exacerbated by sea level rise.

411 00:19:06.000 --> 00:19:07.800 And here's just some examples of problems.

412 00:19:07.800 --> 00:19:09.870 These are houses that were damaged at Sandy that are right

413 00:19:09.870 --> 00:19:13.890 along the shoreline and hear the very typical situation in

414 00:19:13.890 --> 00:19:14.733 Connecticut.

415 00:19:16.050 --> 00:19:18.810 Underpasses under our rail line.

416 00:19:18.810 --> 00:19:21.600 They inherently go lower so you can get the clearance.

417 00:19:21.600 --> 00:19:22.860 It's the first place that floods, this

418 00:19:22.860 --> 00:19:25.350 can actually cut off entire neighborhoods from evacuation

419 00:19:25.350 --> 00:19:26.394 routes.

420 00:19:26.394 --> 00:19:27.280 Very, very common

421 00:19:28.980 --> 00:19:29.970 to the point where they actually,

422 00:19:29.970 --> 00:19:33.000 like there's places in Branford that flood,

423 00:19:33.000 --> 00:19:35.160 like people time their commutes by it because they know they

424 00:19:35.160 --> 00:19:37.460 can't get under the bridge and stuff that day.

425 00:19:38.550 --> 00:19:39.700 That's happening today.

426 00:19:41.970 --> 00:19:46.170 Hey, we're also working to develop an environmental justice

427 00:19:46.170 --> 00:19:47.043 mapping tool.

428 00:19:47.880 --> 00:19:49.793 It's very exciting project we have,

429 00:19:49.793 --> 00:19:52.320 we have a definition of environmental justice communities in

430 00:19:52.320 --> 00:19:53.153 Connecticut,

431 00:19:53.153 --> 00:19:55.320 which again is actually really unique to Connecticut.

432 00:19:55.320 --> 00:19:58.230 Most states do not have any statutory definitions of what is

433 00:19:58.230 --> 00:20:00.450 an environmental justice community.

434 00:20:00.450 --> 00:20:02.910 It's making it very difficult for them to like figure out

435 00:20:02.910 --> 00:20:06.750 who to prioritize and why that kind of debate within their

436 00:20:06.750 --> 00:20:08.160 legislatures.

437 00:20:08.160 --> 00:20:12.750 But our definition is largely about economics.

438 00:20:12.750 --> 00:20:15.570 And so we wanted to have a more comprehensive approach to

439 00:20:15.570 --> 00:20:17.970 this. This was a recommendation of the Equity Environmental

440 00:20:17.970 --> 00:20:22.590 Justice Working Group and consequently led by former Yale

441 00:20:22.590 --> 00:20:23.920 Professor Marianne Engleman Oto,

442 00:20:23.920 --> 00:20:24.967 who's now the head of the new

443 00:20:24.967 --> 00:20:26.700 Office of Environmental Justice at

444 00:20:26.700 --> 00:20:27.630 EPA.

445 00:20:27.630 --> 00:20:30.060 Did not realize how big a deal she was until she was working

446 00:20:30.060 --> 00:20:31.290 with us.

447 00:20:31.290 --> 00:20:32.910 So it's been really exciting to be like, wow,

448 00:20:32.910 --> 00:20:34.950 our "Equity Environmental Justice Recommendations" were

449 00:20:34.950 --> 00:20:36.443 written by the new head of the EPA

450 00:20:36.443 --> 00:20:38.370 Office of Environmental Justice!

451 00:20:38.370 --> 00:20:39.210 That's really great.

452 00:20:39.210 --> 00:20:42.360 Feel really confident that we're doing some good stuff here.

453 00:20:42.360 --> 00:20:46.440 So this environmental justice mapping tool will incorporate

454 00:20:46.440 --> 00:20:49.440 health data. We'll come up with an environmental burden.

455 00:20:49.440 --> 00:20:51.960 A lot more factors

456 00:20:51.960 --> 00:20:54.990 that in addition to incomes,

457 00:20:54.990 --> 00:20:59.100 which could influence a community's vulnerability to things

458 00:20:59.100 --> 00:21:02.193 like climate change. But to any, any issues.

459 00:21:05.115 --> 00:21:05.948 (clears throat)

460 00:21:05.948 --> 00:21:07.920 This is another closer to home program for you.

461 00:21:07.920 --> 00:21:10.680 The Urban Forestry Climate Equity Grant program.

462 00:21:10.680 --> 00:21:12.960 These are pictures from the Urban Resources Initiative in

463 00:21:12.960 --> 00:21:14.220 New Haven.

464 00:21:14.220 --> 00:21:16.900 The Tree Planting Initiative, which is I think in

465 00:21:18.180 --> 00:21:21.269 partnership with Yale School of Forestry. Excuse me,

466 00:21:21.269 --> 00:21:22.105 it's not called the Yale School of Forestry.

467 00:21:22.105 --> 00:21:22.938 Yale School of the Environment

468 00:21:22.938 --> 00:21:24.743 formerly the Yale School of Forestry,

469 00:21:26.310 --> 00:21:27.870 And

470 00:21:27.870 --> 00:21:28.703 we have,

471 00:21:28.703 --> 00:21:32.650 we launched a pilot program that I hope will continue very

472 00:21:33.630 --> 00:21:34.463 confident

473 00:21:34.463 --> 00:21:38.910 it will continue, to fund water tree planting and capacity

474 00:21:38.910 --> 00:21:40.420 building activities around

475 00:21:41.940 --> 00:21:42.773 the health

476 00:21:42.773 --> 00:21:43.606 and

477 00:21:44.550 --> 00:21:45.420 use of trees,

478 00:21:45.420 --> 00:21:48.090 which is really a growing solution for some of the impacts

479 00:21:48.090 --> 00:21:50.640 of climate change has had, particularly related to heat,

480 00:21:50.640 --> 00:21:52.386 but trees do all kinds of good things.

481 00:21:52.386 --> 00:21:54.090 They increase property values,

482 00:21:54.090 --> 00:21:57.210 they mitigate storm water flooding,

483 00:21:57.210 --> 00:21:58.710 So

484 00:21:58.710 --> 00:22:00.000 we're really

485 00:22:00.000 --> 00:22:02.160 pushing into this a lot more deeply

486 00:22:02.160 --> 00:22:03.570 as DEP.

487 00:22:03.570 --> 00:22:05.220 We just have one urban forester,

488 00:22:05.220 --> 00:22:06.930 but she's doing a lot of great work.

489 00:22:06.930 --> 00:22:08.673 She's a Yale grad.

490 00:22:11.970 --> 00:22:13.220 I didn't go to Yale, but,

491 00:22:14.100 --> 00:22:15.570 the equity,

492 00:22:15.570 --> 00:22:18.630 we're also looking at equitable energy efficiency.

493 00:22:18.630 --> 00:22:21.570 So we do a lot of work in energy efficiency at DEP.

494 00:22:21.570 --> 00:22:24.150 The best way to reduce emissions is to not use energy

495 00:22:24.150 --> 00:22:24.983 at all.

496 00:22:24.983 --> 00:22:29.070 So we have had energy efficiency funds.

497 00:22:29.070 --> 00:22:30.840 You pay utility bill in Connecticut,

498 00:22:30.840 --> 00:22:33.690 you are paying in towards the energy efficiency fund for

499 00:22:33.690 --> 00:22:34.980 Connecticut.

500 00:22:34.980 --> 00:22:39.120 Those resources are used to subsidize,

501 00:22:39.120 --> 00:22:43.590 subsidize technologies, subsidize home equity audits,

502 00:22:43.590 --> 00:22:45.090 home energy, excuse me,

503 00:22:45.090 --> 00:22:49.350 home energy audits that go into people's homes and rental

504 00:22:49.350 --> 00:22:53.700 spaces and look at how they can reduce their energy use.

505 00:22:53.700 --> 00:22:58.700 But oftentimes those home energy audits can't result in

506 00:22:59.340 --> 00:23:03.960 actual putting in more energy efficient actions.

507 00:23:03.960 --> 00:23:07.800 Because if there is any issue related to,

508 00:23:07.800 --> 00:23:12.030 say there's asbestos in the home or there's mold or there's

509 00:23:12.030 --> 00:23:12.863 lead,

510 00:23:13.980 --> 00:23:16.227 any of those issues make the,

511 00:23:16.227 --> 00:23:21.180 the utilities will not do anything to that home to install

512 00:23:21.180 --> 00:23:23.280 energy efficiency improvements.

513 00:23:23.280 --> 00:23:27.120 So we launched a program using our our some of our recovery

514 00:23:27.120 --> 00:23:31.920 dollars, the Weatherization Barrier Remediation Program,

515 00:23:31.920 --> 00:23:35.220 and that's trying to address some of those issues which are

516 00:23:35.220 --> 00:23:38.550 public health issues in themselves for air quality,

517 00:23:38.550 --> 00:23:42.300 but they also mean that you can't work on energy efficiency

518 00:23:42.300 --> 00:23:43.600 until those are addressed.

519 00:23:48.450 --> 00:23:49.283 Okay.

520 00:23:50.400 --> 00:23:51.233 Put this one out here,

521 00:23:51.233 --> 00:23:53.970 because we're also very happy that the Connecticut

522 00:23:53.970 --> 00:23:56.160 Department of Health received the first,

523 00:23:56.160 --> 00:24:00.630 its first CDC BRACE Grant, building resilience against

524 00:24:00.630 --> 00:24:01.683 climate effects.

525 00:24:03.060 --> 00:24:07.590 This is a small program that CDC runs,

526 00:24:07.590 --> 00:24:10.020 but it's the only one focused exclusively on public health.

527 00:24:10.020 --> 00:24:12.240 I hope that the federal government continues to invest in

528 00:24:12.240 --> 00:24:14.503 this area. I think it's important.

529 00:24:14.503 --> 00:24:15.660 I think public health,

530 00:24:15.660 --> 00:24:17.490 the intersection of climate is a really cutting edge area.

531 00:24:17.490 --> 00:24:19.590 So I really applaud all of you for being part of this

532 00:24:19.590 --> 00:24:20.423 program.

533 00:24:21.660 --> 00:24:22.620 And particularly in Connecticut.

534 00:24:22.620 --> 00:24:26.130 I think we've took used public health as a major lens

535 00:24:26.130 --> 00:24:27.980 through which we see all of our work,

536 00:24:29.730 --> 00:24:32.080 which is unique as I've talked to other states.

537 00:24:32.940 --> 00:24:36.540 But this is basically a planning,

538 00:24:36.540 --> 00:24:39.330 a planning process of how you might look at public health

539 00:24:39.330 --> 00:24:41.790 issues of the intersection of climate.

540 00:24:41.790 --> 00:24:44.610 And it's gonna provide some funding for director of this

541 00:24:44.610 --> 00:24:47.130 office to part researchers. Again, Dr.

542 00:24:47.130 --> 00:24:49.230 Bos, one of the partners on this.

543 00:24:49.230 --> 00:24:51.240 So is the Connecticut Institute Resilience and Climate

544 00:24:51.240 --> 00:24:52.083 Adaptation.

545 00:24:52.920 --> 00:24:54.900 And so where to come on this,

546 00:24:58.230 --> 00:24:59.130 ore on mitigation.

547 00:24:59.130 --> 00:25:01.833 Okay, so switching back to more on mitigation stuff,

548 00:25:03.090 --> 00:25:03.930 we're also looking,

549 00:25:03.930 --> 00:25:06.660 we're also investing a lot energy storage.

550 00:25:06.660 --> 00:25:07.493 So we're,

551 00:25:07.493 --> 00:25:09.150 we've covered a lot of different kinds of ways  
you can lower

552 00:25:09.150 --> 00:25:12.960 emissions, building retrofits, de-carbonization.

553 00:25:12.960 --> 00:25:15.360 Doing battery storage is actually also really  
important to

554 00:25:15.360 --> 00:25:18.390 our overall grid resilience and being able to  
balance this

555 00:25:18.390 --> 00:25:21.030 as we transition to more and more renewables,

556 00:25:21.030 --> 00:25:22.770 especially

557 00:25:22.770 --> 00:25:24.540 rooftop solar.

558 00:25:24.540 --> 00:25:27.090 We're trying to get people who have that to  
also put in

559 00:25:27.090 --> 00:25:31.980 battery storage so that we have a place for  
energy to go

560 00:25:31.980 --> 00:25:35.490 when it's not by them or a way for the grid  
to,

561 00:25:35.490 --> 00:25:39.360 to store energy in a distributed way so that  
it can then be

562 00:25:39.360 --> 00:25:41.640 used to replace, for example,

563 00:25:41.640 --> 00:25:44.100 we have peaker plants in Connecticut.

564 00:25:44.100 --> 00:25:46.260 These peaker plants are, when we have really  
high demands,

565 00:25:46.260 --> 00:25:48.630 really cold day, it's really hot day,

566 00:25:48.630 --> 00:25:50.760 really high demand for energy.

567 00:25:50.760 --> 00:25:53.580 That's when we actually turn on our dirtiest  
fuel sources,

568 00:25:53.580 --> 00:25:55.020 unfortunately.

569 00:25:55.020 --> 00:25:57.975 These tend to be diesel burning gas plants

570 00:25:57.975 --> 00:26:00.173 I think one of them is located in New Haven.

571 00:26:01.410 --> 00:26:03.720 So we wanna get away from using those peaker  
plants as much

572 00:26:03.720 --> 00:26:06.180 as possible. Those are very expensive.

573 00:26:06.180 --> 00:26:10.080 So if we can do more and more energy storage  
that will help

574 00:26:10.080 --> 00:26:12.600 reduce the need for those peaker plants because it'll allow

575 00:26:12.600 --> 00:26:14.940 us to just manage that grid energy,

576 00:26:14.940 --> 00:26:16.140 put it in a place where we want it,

577 00:26:16.140 --> 00:26:19.020 and then just release it when we need it on those peak,

578 00:26:19.020 --> 00:26:20.430 peak storage days.

579 00:26:20.430 --> 00:26:22.920 And it can also be a resilience strategy because these

580 00:26:22.920 --> 00:26:26.370 battery storage, if you're homeowner or rental,

581 00:26:26.370 --> 00:26:30.000 it can be a backup power source for you building for at

582 00:26:30.000 --> 00:26:31.320 least a

583 00:26:31.320 --> 00:26:33.120 short amount of time.

584 00:26:33.120 --> 00:26:34.270 Shorter amount of time.

585 00:26:36.330 --> 00:26:38.520 So this is like the incentive program that's ongoing.

586 00:26:38.520 --> 00:26:39.450 I think this has been very popular.

587 00:26:39.450 --> 00:26:42.270 I actually think it might be sold out at this point.

588 00:26:42.270 --> 00:26:46.410 So giving residential customers a 200 per kilowatt hour

589 00:26:46.410 --> 00:26:50.823 premium maximum project incentive is \$7,500. Very generous.

590 00:26:52.470 --> 00:26:55.530 We'll do the same for commercial industrial partners who are

591 00:26:55.530 --> 00:26:59.463 doing this, who have performance incentive payments.

592 00:27:00.360 --> 00:27:03.030 Again contributing that grid during critical periods.

593 00:27:03.030 --> 00:27:04.770 So we're trying to incentivize people to help us and be

594 00:27:04.770 --> 00:27:09.770 partners with us on building more resilient grid and,

595 00:27:09.889 --> 00:27:11.477 and we're gonna have,

596 00:27:11.477 --> 00:27:13.740 and we have additional incentives in for low-income

597 00:27:13.740 --> 00:27:14.573 customers.

598 00:27:14.573 --> 00:27:17.700 So that's that equity lens built to our programs, of not

599 00:27:17.700 --> 00:27:20.620 having this just be the same across the more progressive

600 00:27:21.810 --> 00:27:22.643 programs.

601 00:27:26.874 --> 00:27:28.080 So this is a really long list. We did a lot.

602 00:27:28.080 --> 00:27:30.807 So the presentation is like, we did this, and we did this,

603 00:27:30.807 --> 00:27:32.140 and we did this.

604 00:27:33.240 --> 00:27:34.800 This climate change adaptation,

605 00:27:34.800 --> 00:27:37.620 this was a one of the recommendations.

606 00:27:37.620 --> 00:27:39.540 So now we're going to legislative wins.

607 00:27:39.540 --> 00:27:40.454 This passed

608 00:27:40.454 --> 00:27:41.520 in the

609 00:27:41.520 --> 00:27:42.480 2021

610 00:27:42.480 --> 00:27:43.440 year.

611 00:27:43.440 --> 00:27:46.380 This was the only major climate legislation that passed in

612 00:27:46.380 --> 00:27:47.343 2021.

613 00:27:48.510 --> 00:27:50.010 So like I said,

614 00:27:50.010 --> 00:27:52.740 adaptation and resilience tends to be a little easier to

615 00:27:52.740 --> 00:27:53.573 pass.

616 00:27:55.050 --> 00:27:58.620 And this one allowed all municipalities in Connecticut to

617 00:27:58.620 --> 00:28:01.320 set up something called the "Storm Water Authority",

618 00:28:01.320 --> 00:28:05.343 which basically allows them to set up a fee structure for,

619 00:28:07.110 --> 00:28:09.840 for dealing with the pollution and flooding related to storm

620 00:28:09.840 --> 00:28:10.673 limit.

621 00:28:12.555 --> 00:28:15.255 And examples of things you can do is put in bio swells

622 00:28:17.220 --> 00:28:20.310 and municipalities are exploring this. We're seeing, we saw,

623 00:28:20.310 --> 00:28:22.920 we've seen another one pass. We have one in New London,

624 00:28:22.920 --> 00:28:25.283 we passed another one in New Britain, Connecticut.

625 00:28:26.179 --> 00:28:27.540 And in this DEP Climate Resilience Fund I'm working on,

626 00:28:27.540 --> 00:28:29.430 we see many municipalities tell us if they're interested

627 00:28:29.430 --> 00:28:30.930 in that, so we expect to fund some more

628 00:28:30.930 --> 00:28:32.670 planning projects around

629 00:28:32.670 --> 00:28:34.563 starting up storm water authorities.

630 00:28:35.580 --> 00:28:37.710 It also expanded the Connecticut Green Bank,

631 00:28:37.710 --> 00:28:41.880 which is very famous for leveraging private dollars with a

632 00:28:41.880 --> 00:28:46.880 small amount of public dollars to get investment into the

633 00:28:47.190 --> 00:28:50.760 clean energy space. There now can establish an environmental

634 00:28:50.760 --> 00:28:53.100 infrastructure fund and work in the environmental space.

635 00:28:53.100 --> 00:28:55.227 I'm most interested in their work in adaptation science and

636 00:28:55.227 --> 00:28:56.793 I'm working with them on that.

637 00:28:58.290 --> 00:29:01.860 And this also does something much more esoteric than several

638 00:29:01.860 --> 00:29:02.693 municipalities,

639 00:29:02.693 --> 00:29:04.740 but only if you're really in the weeds it gives you

640 00:29:04.740 --> 00:29:06.580 additional authority to do

641 00:29:08.190 --> 00:29:10.849 all municipalities had this thing called

642 00:29:10.849 --> 00:29:12.360 (forgets word) oh words,  
643 00:29:12.360 --> 00:29:14.160 they now can have prevention,  
644 00:29:14.160 --> 00:29:16.410 climate resilience and erosion control courts.  
645 00:29:16.410 --> 00:29:19.980 And it basically gives them kinda authority  
they need to  
646 00:29:19.980 --> 00:29:21.330 build,  
647 00:29:21.330 --> 00:29:22.163 fund,  
648 00:29:22.163 --> 00:29:23.310 finance,  
649 00:29:23.310 --> 00:29:24.143 maintain,  
650 00:29:24.143 --> 00:29:28.143 operate, any kind of climate resilience project.  
651 00:29:29.130 --> 00:29:30.990 Which I'm not gonna go into why that's im-  
portant,  
652 00:29:30.990 --> 00:29:34.470 but it's important to have those authorities.  
653 00:29:34.470 --> 00:29:35.820 It's kinda like all the getting  
654 00:29:35.820 --> 00:29:39.249 all the ducks in a row for this kind of stuff  
does get into  
655 00:29:39.249 --> 00:29:40.980 like what can a municipality do? What can a  
state do?  
656 00:29:40.980 --> 00:29:42.957 What can a COG do? How do we figure out  
who can do what,  
657 00:29:42.957 --> 00:29:44.307 and how they work together?  
658 00:29:45.990 --> 00:29:50.073 This is some additional outreach work that  
was done by,  
659 00:29:50.970 --> 00:29:53.430 it's been done by partner organizations to try  
to get more  
660 00:29:53.430 --> 00:29:55.740 interested authorities it does appear to be  
working,  
661 00:29:55.740 --> 00:29:56.573 which is great.  
662 00:29:59.040 --> 00:30:01.440 Okay, now into the year 2022.  
663 00:30:01.440 --> 00:30:02.273 So like I said,  
664 00:30:02.273 --> 00:30:05.563 we basically just had a climate adaptation  
win in 2021 but  
665 00:30:08.730 --> 00:30:12.360 going into 2022, one of the reasons the Gov-  
ernor

666 00:30:12.360 --> 00:30:13.193 went through

667 00:30:13.193 --> 00:30:14.880 executive word 21-3 was he was trying to set  
a

668 00:30:14.880 --> 00:30:18.240 standard for the legislature, which was like,  
look,

669 00:30:18.240 --> 00:30:20.190 this is everything I can do as a Governor.

670 00:30:20.190 --> 00:30:21.390 This is like maxes out

671 00:30:21.390 --> 00:30:24.870 my executive authority on pretty much every-  
thing related to

672 00:30:24.870 --> 00:30:25.703 climate.

673 00:30:26.910 --> 00:30:30.270 I can't do more than this without you telling  
me that I can

674 00:30:30.270 --> 00:30:33.540 do more than this to my agencies that I oversee  
can

675 00:30:33.540 --> 00:30:35.040 do more than this.

676 00:30:35.040 --> 00:30:39.959 So you have to put some things in the statute  
so you're able

677 00:30:39.959 --> 00:30:43.410 to pass what was has been an executive order  
was in the

678 00:30:43.410 --> 00:30:45.240 executive with created the Governor's Council  
On Climate

679 00:30:45.240 --> 00:30:46.500 Change, it's now a statute,

680 00:30:46.500 --> 00:30:49.080 so whoever's the next Governor of Connecti-  
cut,

681 00:30:49.080 --> 00:30:54.080 which be decided tomorrow will still be subject  
to this,

682 00:30:54.120 --> 00:30:59.120 that we have to have all of our electricity  
supplied to our

683 00:30:59.250 --> 00:31:03.840 electric customers in Connecticut has to be  
from zero

684 00:31:03.840 --> 00:31:07.020 carbon emissions. That has to be done by the  
year 2040.

685 00:31:07.020 --> 00:31:10.290 We are already 65%

686 00:31:10.290 --> 00:31:11.730 of the way there

687 00:31:11.730 --> 00:31:13.350 with a mix of nuclear

688 00:31:13.350 --> 00:31:15.090 and renewable

689 00:31:15.090 --> 00:31:15.923 solar.

690 00:31:15.923 --> 00:31:17.880 By the time we bring on some major wind procurement,

691 00:31:17.880 --> 00:31:22.880 we've already done a state would be 91% carbon free in

692 00:31:23.580 --> 00:31:24.960 Connecticut, which is just amazing.

693 00:31:24.960 --> 00:31:27.753 So this 2040 goal, it's very much reachable.

694 00:31:31.553 --> 00:31:32.820 So, this is very doable.

695 00:31:32.820 --> 00:31:33.867 People say like you can't do this. It's really,

696 00:31:33.867 --> 00:31:36.240 I mean we're really very close to getting

697 00:31:36.240 --> 00:31:38.610 there already within a few years.

698 00:31:38.610 --> 00:31:39.443 So,

699 00:31:40.350 --> 00:31:44.640 this is really excellent news and was very pleased to see

700 00:31:44.640 --> 00:31:48.360 and very huge bipartisan support for this,

701 00:31:48.360 --> 00:31:49.193 personal suspicion,

702 00:31:49.193 --> 00:31:53.010 is because does include nuclear and a very powerful member

703 00:31:53.010 --> 00:31:56.100 of the state legislature lives in Waterford,

704 00:31:56.100 --> 00:31:58.620 Connecticut where the nuclear power station is located.

705 00:31:58.620 --> 00:31:59.670 I used to live there.

706 00:32:03.630 --> 00:32:08.400 So, public, we also passed Public Act 22-14

707 00:32:08.400 --> 00:32:10.920 that concerning clean energy tariff program.

708 00:32:10.920 --> 00:32:12.750 One of the things this did is it,

709 00:32:12.750 --> 00:32:17.370 it supported distributed energy generation that allows

710 00:32:17.370 --> 00:32:20.310 people who can't put solar on the roofs to buy into a

711 00:32:20.310 --> 00:32:22.530 centralized solar array like this one in Bloomfield,

712 00:32:22.530 --> 00:32:23.363 Connecticut.

713 00:32:24.960 --> 00:32:29.960 And this one is 1.62 megawatts a solar panel and it provides

714 00:32:30.720 --> 00:32:33.300 energy savings to 50 customers who have bought into this.

715 00:32:33.300 --> 00:32:35.940 So particularly people can't put on their house,

716 00:32:35.940 --> 00:32:38.730 have too much shade, she's not compatible.

717 00:32:38.730 --> 00:32:42.180 Whatever reason they can buy into a,

718 00:32:42.180 --> 00:32:45.300 an offsite solar installation and get the same benefits as

719 00:32:45.300 --> 00:32:47.200 someone who mounted on their own roof.

720 00:32:50.880 --> 00:32:53.283 This was the big one. Okay, so there's,

721 00:32:54.750 --> 00:32:56.670 I'm not gonna go into it too much, a long story,

722 00:32:56.670 --> 00:32:58.530 but we tried to pass it 2021

723 00:32:58.530 --> 00:33:01.590 something called the "Transportation And Climate Initiative"

724 00:33:01.590 --> 00:33:04.923 which was supported by Governor Lamont.

725 00:33:05.820 --> 00:33:09.330 So it was about basically trying to do what we do.

726 00:33:09.330 --> 00:33:11.820 We're part of something called the "Regional Greenhouse Gas

727 00:33:11.820 --> 00:33:13.020 Initiative",

728 00:33:13.020 --> 00:33:16.530 that trades carbon credits from our power sector.

729 00:33:16.530 --> 00:33:18.420 Trying to do something very similar to that in the

730 00:33:18.420 --> 00:33:19.833 transportation sector.

731 00:33:21.150 --> 00:33:24.690 Did not pass, was a quite a well organized opposition to it,

732 00:33:24.690 --> 00:33:29.283 particularly from fossil fuel industry.

733 00:33:31.470 --> 00:33:34.950 So there was a lot of conservation about that,

734 00:33:34.950 --> 00:33:37.890 not passing both for the executive branch and from

735 00:33:37.890 --> 00:33:40.320 legislative champions of it.

736 00:33:40.320 --> 00:33:44.280 And so this act kind of grew out of that.

737 00:33:44.280 --> 00:33:46.140 The Transportation And Climate Initiative would've provided

738 00:33:46.140 --> 00:33:49.800 a sustainable source of funding to do a lot of good things

739 00:33:49.800 --> 00:33:52.920 like have electric school buses,

740 00:33:52.920 --> 00:33:55.860 electric public transportation, more charging for electric

741 00:33:55.860 --> 00:33:56.703 vehicles.

742 00:33:58.410 --> 00:34:01.137 And so we decided to push that as much or they,

743 00:34:01.137 --> 00:34:03.600 the legislative champion decided to push that as much as

744 00:34:03.600 --> 00:34:04.740 possible.

745 00:34:04.740 --> 00:34:07.680 And they did actually also look at Executive Order 21-3

746 00:34:07.680 --> 00:34:09.300 for ideas from this.

747 00:34:09.300 --> 00:34:11.490 So some things I'm gonna tell you we're in Executive Order

748 00:34:11.490 --> 00:34:15.690 21-3 and now they're in law as a result of this passing.

749 00:34:15.690 --> 00:34:17.970 That's some ways that executive orders and legislative

750 00:34:17.970 --> 00:34:18.870 things can work together.

751 00:34:18.870 --> 00:34:21.270 Sometimes the executive branch can use an executive order

752 00:34:21.270 --> 00:34:23.220 tee up policies

753 00:34:23.220 --> 00:34:24.800 and the legislature will actually look at those.

754 00:34:24.800 --> 00:34:26.880 Oh I like that too. Putting you in law now,

755 00:34:26.880 --> 00:34:29.393 so everybody has to do it no matter who the governor is.

756 00:34:31.290 --> 00:34:33.360 This is a very short summary of everything this bill does.

757 00:34:33.360 --> 00:34:35.100 I think it was on your assigned read list so you can look

758 00:34:35.100 --> 00:34:37.560 more into everything this bill does.

759 00:34:37.560 --> 00:34:38.393 But

760 00:34:39.240 --> 00:34:40.073 a bill

761 00:34:41.160 --> 00:34:44.040 that was a bill introduced by the Governor

762 00:34:44.040 --> 00:34:45.990 was incorporated into this

763 00:34:45.990 --> 00:34:49.410 bill that was championed by the chairs of the Environment

764 00:34:49.410 --> 00:34:52.470 Committee and the Transportation Committee that Connecticut

765 00:34:52.470 --> 00:34:53.340 can adopt

766 00:34:53.340 --> 00:34:55.860 California's emission standards for medium and heavy duty

767 00:34:55.860 --> 00:34:58.200 vehicles. This is an efficiency standard.

768 00:34:58.200 --> 00:35:01.097 It's not zero carbon but it's an efficiency standard that

769 00:35:01.097 --> 00:35:04.050 will really move the needle on some our most heavily

770 00:35:04.050 --> 00:35:09.033 emitting journey vehicles that being trucks, buses,

771 00:35:10.530 --> 00:35:13.410 it establishes grant programs for sigma modernization,

772 00:35:13.410 --> 00:35:15.270 zero emission school buses, zero emission,

773 00:35:15.270 --> 00:35:17.220 medium heavy duty trucks.

774 00:35:17.220 --> 00:35:21.633 So basically we're doing subsidies using state dollars,

775 00:35:23.940 --> 00:35:27.660 giving some property tax exemptions for zero emission buses

776 00:35:27.660 --> 00:35:29.310 and EV charging.

777 00:35:29.310 --> 00:35:32.620 We have an existing program for the acronym is CHEAPR

778 00:35:33.720 --> 00:35:34.710 it's a rebate program.

779 00:35:34.710 --> 00:35:38.610 It's like on the hood rebates for electric vehicles or low

780 00:35:38.610 --> 00:35:40.410 emission vehicles.

781 00:35:40.410 --> 00:35:43.110 And so now it's gonna incorporate incentives for people with

782 00:35:43.110 --> 00:35:44.790 low incomes, our justice residents.

783 00:35:44.790 --> 00:35:48.330 It's also going to include micro mobility like electric

784 00:35:48.330 --> 00:35:52.770 bicycles for people who want to use those.

785 00:35:52.770 --> 00:35:56.460 It may not carve out a high percentage of residences

786 00:35:56.460 --> 00:35:59.220 leasing hardware to not own a car,

787 00:35:59.220 --> 00:36:02.280 and so realizing our program really wasn't serving them,

788 00:36:02.280 --> 00:36:03.113 at all

789 00:36:03.113 --> 00:36:06.000 so, this is one of the ways we're helping it serve

790 00:36:06.000 --> 00:36:06.833 those communities as well.

791 00:36:06.833 --> 00:36:08.193 If you're not using cars.

792 00:36:09.330 --> 00:36:10.860 Establishes right to charge for

793 00:36:10.860 --> 00:36:12.660 renters and unit owners and condominiums,

794 00:36:12.660 --> 00:36:14.130 common interest communities.

795 00:36:14.130 --> 00:36:16.800 I have people on my team who live

796 00:36:16.800 --> 00:36:19.410 in a condo with, they're like, I'd really like to buy an EV.

797 00:36:19.410 --> 00:36:21.060 There's no place for me to charge it cause I don't have a

798 00:36:21.060 --> 00:36:22.290 garage that I can plug it right in.

799 00:36:22.290 --> 00:36:25.710 I'm a single family homeowner. I can use my own garage.

800 00:36:25.710 --> 00:36:29.010 It's very easy for me to get an EV and have a way to charge

801 00:36:29.010 --> 00:36:29.910 it.

802 00:36:29.910 --> 00:36:32.190 And I, yeah,

803 00:36:32.190 --> 00:36:34.980 my research analyst can't do that right now.

804 00:36:34.980 --> 00:36:38.010 There's no, there's no EV charging in her building.

805 00:36:38.010 --> 00:36:42.540 So it's trying to fix that and and also just prohibiting

806 00:36:42.540 --> 00:36:45.140 like you can't say no we'll never allow EV chargers.

807 00:36:48.330 --> 00:36:50.700 So this is lot and and there's even like things in here that

808 00:36:50.700 --> 00:36:52.742 are not in here the, I didn't even do this,

809 00:36:52.742 --> 00:36:55.470 but like we have to convert all of our,

810 00:36:55.470 --> 00:36:58.233 our state fleet all to electric.

811 00:36:59.100 --> 00:37:01.290 That was codified into this law as well.

812 00:37:01.290 --> 00:37:03.050 So there's a few more things that we have that I didn't have

813 00:37:03.050 --> 00:37:04.620 on this list

814 00:37:04.620 --> 00:37:05.820 and that was one of the,

815 00:37:06.939 --> 00:37:08.839 the Executive Order that was codified.

816 00:37:10.740 --> 00:37:12.187 It also expanded our

817 00:37:12.187 --> 00:37:13.763 "Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Program"

818 00:37:13.763 --> 00:37:17.260 This is a little bit on the adaptation side but also EVs

819 00:37:18.150 --> 00:37:21.360 this program which has been incredibly powerful in

820 00:37:21.360 --> 00:37:26.190 Connecticut that allows commercial businesses to have a way

821 00:37:26.190 --> 00:37:28.770 to pay back investments they might make in putting

822 00:37:28.770 --> 00:37:29.970 renewables.

823 00:37:29.970 --> 00:37:32.220 So the raise for example on their businesses,

824 00:37:34.020 --> 00:37:37.410 they now can use some of that payback money that results

825 00:37:37.410 --> 00:37:40.650 from bill savings from the energy side to also pay for

826 00:37:40.650 --> 00:37:42.150 resilience improvements.

827 00:37:42.150 --> 00:37:44.333 They can also use it to pay for EV charging.

828 00:37:48.270 --> 00:37:52.770 We got a bunch of state bond money and general foreign money

829 00:37:52.770 --> 00:37:54.600 to support climate smart agriculture.

830 00:37:54.600 --> 00:37:56.620 It's a brand new grant program that'll be rolling out in

831 00:37:56.620 --> 00:37:57.753 about a week.

832 00:37:58.680 --> 00:38:01.110 On this that's going to help our states'

833 00:38:01.110 --> 00:38:05.190 farmers adopt climate smart practices that improve soil

834 00:38:05.190 --> 00:38:06.870 health to water retention.

835 00:38:06.870 --> 00:38:09.330 So it's really important in Connecticut, we,

836 00:38:09.330 --> 00:38:11.730 it's a smaller agricultural industry but we've been very

837 00:38:11.730 --> 00:38:15.480 heavily impacted by the climate impacts in Connecticut.

838 00:38:15.480 --> 00:38:18.060 Last summer they were all flooded because we had all those

839 00:38:18.060 --> 00:38:19.860 big storms this summer,

840 00:38:19.860 --> 00:38:22.620 their crop's stale because they were, had drought.

841 00:38:22.620 --> 00:38:23.453 So they've had,

842 00:38:23.453 --> 00:38:25.650 we've had disaster declarations last summer and this summer

843 00:38:25.650 --> 00:38:27.300 for our crops.

844 00:38:27.300 --> 00:38:29.460 Flooding and then drought. So it's really,

845 00:38:29.460 --> 00:38:32.610 really been heavily impacted no matter what the weather is.

846 00:38:32.610 --> 00:38:34.440 Definitely becoming a problem in a state that

847 00:38:34.440 --> 00:38:37.770 wasn't really for being that much of a heavy swing in issues

848 00:38:37.770 --> 00:38:39.390 related to agriculture.

849 00:38:39.390 --> 00:38:40.410 And we're also,

850 00:38:40.410 --> 00:38:42.960 this is maybe going to scratch the beginning of the surface,

851 00:38:42.960 --> 00:38:46.230 it's a little more focused on the resilience side of things,

852 00:38:46.230 --> 00:38:50.700 but looking at the potential for agriculture and forestry

853 00:38:50.700 --> 00:38:51.533 to,

854 00:38:54.119 --> 00:38:57.660 to do carbon sequestration and storage and how that might

855 00:38:57.660 --> 00:39:01.173 play into our greenhouse gas inventory overall.

856 00:39:03.180 --> 00:39:07.110 And finally highlighting that Connecticut has received a lot

857 00:39:07.110 --> 00:39:09.840 of attention from federal government.

858 00:39:09.840 --> 00:39:11.850 One way I know this is because we've been getting visits

859 00:39:11.850 --> 00:39:14.460 from a few agency heads.

860 00:39:14.460 --> 00:39:17.550 This is the head of the Department of Energy visiting a

861 00:39:17.550 --> 00:39:20.550 Yukon campus talking about clean energy.

862 00:39:20.550 --> 00:39:24.960 This is the head of the Department of the Interior with

863 00:39:24.960 --> 00:39:27.420 Commissioner Dykes and Governor Lamont

864 00:39:27.420 --> 00:39:28.253 touring

865 00:39:29.190 --> 00:39:30.510 of our reserves

866 00:39:30.510 --> 00:39:33.090 along our coast that are owned by the Department of the

867 00:39:33.090 --> 00:39:34.350 Interior.

868 00:39:34.350 --> 00:39:37.620 And this is the head of the National Oceanic And Atmospheres

869 00:39:37.620 --> 00:39:42.240 Administration coming down to visit us and talk about,

870 00:39:42.240 --> 00:39:47.190 we just established a research reserve that is focused on

871 00:39:47.190 --> 00:39:51.166 climate resilience at the, (audio cut out)

872 00:39:51.166 --> 00:39:53.850 I think that is the end of my presentation,

873 00:39:53.850 --> 00:39:57.930 but there's a lot more that I didn't cover that that's been

874 00:39:57.930 --> 00:40:02.490 done. Basically just some massive, massive effort.

875 00:40:02.490 --> 00:40:04.470 Really inclusive,

876 00:40:04.470 --> 00:40:08.850 all aspects of things we do in climate in Connecticut is

877 00:40:08.850 --> 00:40:12.540 very interesting to listen to all the stakeholders and try

878 00:40:12.540 --> 00:40:16.837 to balance a lot of different needs both for and against

879 00:40:16.837 --> 00:40:18.120 climate issues.

880 00:40:18.120 --> 00:40:22.250 And so I really encourage you to get involved in that.

881 00:40:22.250 --> 00:40:27.060 We have had students serve all those working groups or just

882 00:40:27.060 --> 00:40:29.640 even listen in it's great learning opportunity.

883 00:40:29.640 --> 00:40:32.640 It's really an excellent example of say this is part of your

884 00:40:32.640 --> 00:40:35.380 government made this process very open

885 00:40:37.290 --> 00:40:39.120 and particularly under Commissioner Dykes,

886 00:40:39.120 --> 00:40:41.160 so I think to kind of changed from

887 00:40:41.160 --> 00:40:42.360 it was a little more tight

888 00:40:42.360 --> 00:40:47.130 and small under Malloy and Commissioner Dykes

889 00:40:47.130 --> 00:40:48.120 has viewed it more

890 00:40:48.120 --> 00:40:53.120 as a much broader stakeholder engagement effort

891 00:40:53.430 --> 00:40:54.263 and getting

892 00:40:54.263 --> 00:40:57.660 more voices to the table on concept development.

893 00:40:57.660 --> 00:41:01.233 And I think that has also resulted in this really progress

894 00:41:01.233 --> 00:41:04.200 that you see there because not all these bills were things

895 00:41:04.200 --> 00:41:08.130 that the Governor put forward or state agencies who also do

896 00:41:08.130 --> 00:41:09.600 legislative proposals.

897 00:41:09.600 --> 00:41:11.400 Many of these things like the "Climate Smart Agriculture"

898 00:41:11.400 --> 00:41:13.110 that was picked up by someone who was part

899 00:41:13.110 --> 00:41:14.520 of the working group.

900 00:41:14.520 --> 00:41:16.740 They brought it to a legislator and said,

901 00:41:16.740 --> 00:41:18.600 Hey the Governor's Council on Climate Change report

902 00:41:18.600 --> 00:41:20.100 recommended this.

903 00:41:20.100 --> 00:41:22.380 I think you should back it if we came out of the stakeholder

904 00:41:22.380 --> 00:41:24.930 process, I can point to all these people who support it.

905 00:41:24.930 --> 00:41:26.520 Governor supports it,

906 00:41:26.520 --> 00:41:28.320 all these agencies said they support it.

907 00:41:28.320 --> 00:41:30.300 And that made it really easy for the legislator,

908 00:41:30.300 --> 00:41:33.360 easier for the legislator to say this is something that I

909 00:41:33.360 --> 00:41:34.860 should do more too.

910 00:41:34.860 --> 00:41:36.990 When you have these kinds of reports and this kind of open

911 00:41:36.990 --> 00:41:37.823 process,

912 00:41:37.823 --> 00:41:40.680 it lowers the barrier for a legislator to know if this is

913 00:41:40.680 --> 00:41:43.200 something that they're going to get support for if they,

914 00:41:43.200 --> 00:41:44.460 you know, take the political risk

915 00:41:44.460 --> 00:41:47.123 of bringing it to the floor and introducing it as policy.

916 00:41:48.450 --> 00:41:51.629 This is also I think something that I didn't appreciate in

917 00:41:51.629 --> 00:41:52.890 (audio cut out) federal government

918 00:41:54.390 --> 00:41:57.540 at the state level government in terms of passing laws,

919 00:41:57.540 --> 00:42:00.360 There's a lot more access and involvement and there's a very

920 00:42:00.360 --> 00:42:04.203 close relationship between agencies and the committees.

921 00:42:05.250 --> 00:42:07.890 It's really different than when I worked in Congress.

922 00:42:07.890 --> 00:42:12.240 So it, it represents an opportunity to get much more closely

923 00:42:12.240 --> 00:42:14.790 involved then you might initially

924 00:42:14.790 --> 00:42:16.790 think if you're working the state level.

925 00:42:20.670 --> 00:42:23.040 So that's it. I'm happy to take any questions.

926 00:42:23.040 --> 00:42:26.103 I think we have the room like for another 15? 15 minutes?

927 00:42:26.103 --> 00:42:27.531 <v Male Speaker>Yeah, 15.</v>

928 00:42:27.531 --> 00:42:32.531 <v Dr. French>Yeah.</v>

929 00:42:32.714 --> 00:42:33.605 (muffled noise)

930 00:42:33.605 --> 00:42:36.301 <v Male Speaker>The students had summand their questions.</v>

931 00:42:36.301 --> 00:42:37.830 <v Dr. French>It's the commission.</v>

932 00:42:37.830 --> 00:42:39.970 (Dr. French laughs)

933 00:42:39.970 --> 00:42:42.018 <v Male Speaker>Yeah.</v> <v Dr. French>Yeah.</v>

934 00:42:42.018 --> 00:42:43.707 <v Male Speaker>So all the students are already</v>

935 00:42:43.707 --> 00:42:45.307 some of their questions and I

936 00:42:45.307 --> 00:42:47.596 think you can ask for your selves. Right?

937 00:42:47.596 --> 00:42:50.115 Okay.

938 00:42:50.115 --> 00:42:52.801 <v Female>Yeah. Thanks for coming us and speak with us,</v>

939 00:42:52.801 --> 00:42:54.400 I'm (unclear name)

940 00:42:54.400 --> 00:42:57.390 I'm a student at Yale School For The Environment,

941 00:42:57.390 --> 00:43:00.312 I did the planting trees thing with you guys.

942 00:43:00.312 --> 00:43:01.339 <v Dr. French>Oh, great, great!</v>

943 00:43:01.339 --> 00:43:04.440 <v Female>Yeah. So, I see the mention about the</v>

944 00:43:04.440 --> 00:43:06.750 waste management aspect,

945 00:43:06.750 --> 00:43:11.460 So I know there is like huge waste prices in Connecticut,

946 00:43:11.460 --> 00:43:15.390 especially like the waste to energy plan. They're closing,

947 00:43:15.390 --> 00:43:16.473 they're very old.

948 00:43:17.610 --> 00:43:21.210 So especially the Harvard one has just closed like two

949 00:43:21.210 --> 00:43:22.410 months ago behind Mirror

950 00:43:23.430 --> 00:43:24.805 So

951 00:43:24.805 --> 00:43:25.888 I wonder and,

952 00:43:26.730 --> 00:43:28.356 just for,

953 00:43:28.356 --> 00:43:29.189 for you know,

954 00:43:29.189 --> 00:43:31.080 for information, the ways are now,

955 00:43:31.080 --> 00:43:34.230 instead of burning them and turning into energy,

956 00:43:34.230 --> 00:43:38.970 they're now sent to out state landfills in Ohio.

957 00:43:38.970 --> 00:43:43.710 So that costs a lot of taxpayer money but also cause a lot

958 00:43:43.710 --> 00:43:47.130 of like huge environmental impacts.

959 00:43:47.130 --> 00:43:51.570 And then also the "NIMBAY" thing, like not in my backyard,

960 00:43:51.570 --> 00:43:54.951 they're sending all the ways to out of state,

961 00:43:54.951 --> 00:43:57.210 which is huge burdens to other state.

962 00:43:57.210 --> 00:44:01.350 So I feel like why does a rich state like Connecticut

963 00:44:01.350 --> 00:44:02.183 have the

964 00:44:02.183 --> 00:44:07.183 right to throw trash to states that are less affluent and is

965 00:44:07.230 --> 00:44:10.590 Connecticut planning to do anything about this?

966 00:44:10.590 --> 00:44:13.110 And I actually worked on turning

967 00:44:13.110 --> 00:44:16.350 municipal solid waste to sustainable

968 00:44:16.350 --> 00:44:19.290 aviation fuel in the past year.

969 00:44:19.290 --> 00:44:23.130 So to SEF, also talked a little bit about SEF,

970 00:44:23.130 --> 00:44:25.920 So have you thought about this option?

971 00:44:25.920 --> 00:44:29.720 Cause this could be potentially the solution to both

972 00:44:29.720 --> 00:44:33.300 problems, they way we get SEF problems,

973 00:44:33.300 --> 00:44:38.220 and just curious if you know, Connecticut is doing

974 00:44:38.220 --> 00:44:40.533 anything on waste part?

975 00:44:41.820 --> 00:44:42.930 <v Dr. French>Yes.</v>

976 00:44:42.930 --> 00:44:43.763 So

977 00:44:44.730 --> 00:44:47.160 the Office of Climate Planning definitely we had a lot of

978 00:44:47.160 --> 00:44:50.010 recommendations about waste and then mirror conversation

979 00:44:50.010 --> 00:44:51.240 definitely came up in the

980 00:44:51.240 --> 00:44:52.890 2020 Governor's Council On Climate Change

981 00:44:52.890 --> 00:44:53.723 process.

982 00:44:54.870 --> 00:44:59.440 Another process that grew that kind of started in late 2020

983 00:45:00.540 --> 00:45:03.930 was called the "Sustainable Materials Management Council."

984 00:45:03.930 --> 00:45:06.000 And that brought together municipalities to talk about just

985 00:45:06.000 --> 00:45:06.840 these issues because the

986 00:45:06.840 --> 00:45:09.390 municipalities were gonna be impacted by the

987 00:45:09.390 --> 00:45:12.480 closing of the mirror plant. Which meant that they all,

988 00:45:12.480 --> 00:45:14.800 all these municipalities had to find a plan where they were

989 00:45:14.800 --> 00:45:17.770 gonna send their, their waste.

990 00:45:17.770 --> 00:45:19.920 It's not only an environmental issue,

991 00:45:19.920 --> 00:45:23.283 it's also a huge expense issue for municipalities.

992 00:45:24.210 --> 00:45:25.043 So

993 00:45:26.010 --> 00:45:30.060 one of the things that we have done and there we do have

994 00:45:30.060 --> 00:45:32.340 a director who's looking at these policy issues and manages

995 00:45:32.340 --> 00:45:34.140 this, his name is James Albis,

996 00:45:34.140 --> 00:45:36.930 he's excellent, he's also a former legislator.

997 00:45:36.930 --> 00:45:39.060 So I'm speaking to things that James has talked about and

998 00:45:39.060 --> 00:45:44.059 I'm to refer to James, question James as well, but

999 00:45:44.059 --> 00:45:44.892 you know,

1000 00:45:44.892 --> 00:45:48.423 one thing I do know that we just announced Awardees for our,

1001 00:45:50.370 --> 00:45:54.480 our pilot program to try to get more of our organic waste

1002 00:45:54.480 --> 00:45:56.253 diverted out of,

1003 00:45:57.210 --> 00:46:00.780 out of the garbage pail and into

1004 00:46:00.780 --> 00:46:01.750 digestion

1005 00:46:02.670 --> 00:46:03.503 facilities,

1006 00:46:03.503 --> 00:46:08.050 composting because organic waste food scraps

1007 00:46:09.150 --> 00:46:09.983 is the

1008 00:46:09.983 --> 00:46:12.510 heaviest and it's of course very wet.

1009 00:46:12.510 --> 00:46:13.343 So,

1010 00:46:14.806 --> 00:46:15.660 our cost to municipalities

1011 00:46:15.660 --> 00:46:19.500 is based on the weight of whatever they

1012 00:46:19.500 --> 00:46:21.480 throw. So if you get your organics out of there,

1013 00:46:21.480 --> 00:46:24.180 you can make a huge impact on the overall weight of what

1014 00:46:24.180 --> 00:46:27.660 you're throwing out. Of course regular recycling.

1015 00:46:27.660 --> 00:46:31.950 So one of the approaches that we're taking is to try to

1016 00:46:31.950 --> 00:46:36.950 divert as much out of that waste stream that goes,

1017 00:46:37.404 --> 00:46:38.760 that unfortunately you,

1018 00:46:38.760 --> 00:46:41.340 you are correct that these are going to landfills outside of

1019 00:46:41.340 --> 00:46:43.293 the states, we don't have landfills.

1020 00:46:44.160 --> 00:46:46.020 The states, (audio cut out)

1021 00:46:46.020 --> 00:46:48.180 although I'm speaking a little bit outside of my area here.

1022 00:46:48.180 --> 00:46:49.510 So that's what I'm referring to James to talk more

1023 00:46:49.510 --> 00:46:50.730 about that.

1024 00:46:50.730 --> 00:46:51.563 Correct?

1025 00:46:52.710 --> 00:46:54.385 But that's my understanding.

1026 00:46:54.385 --> 00:46:57.270 We don't have a landfill in Connecticut to send it to.

1027 00:46:57.270 --> 00:46:59.790 So that's why it would be shipped outta state.

1028 00:46:59.790 --> 00:47:01.860 But the responsibility we're trying to take is get as much

1029 00:47:01.860 --> 00:47:04.743 out of that's being shipped as possible,

1030 00:47:06.810 --> 00:47:07.770 does not look like,

1031 00:47:07.770 --> 00:47:10.740 you know, we'll be doing more for waste of energy.

1032 00:47:10.740 --> 00:47:12.960 That doesn't seem very popular.

1033 00:47:12.960 --> 00:47:17.960 Obviously the Mirror plant is closed and that was a,

1034 00:47:18.193 --> 00:47:21.090 a huge environmental justice issue that was highlighted by

1035 00:47:21.090 --> 00:47:24.060 the communities there. I'm very happy to see it closed.

1036 00:47:24.060 --> 00:47:28.290 They felt like it's quite evidence to show this,  
 1037 00:47:28.290 --> 00:47:31.020 that Hartford been overburdened by,  
 1038 00:47:31.020 --> 00:47:32.020 by multiple  
 1039 00:47:33.240 --> 00:47:34.270 plants and sources  
 1040 00:47:35.940 --> 00:47:37.710 of pollution. So that why,  
 1041 00:47:37.710 --> 00:47:40.380 why are they gonna continue to be a host  
 community?  
 1042 00:47:40.380 --> 00:47:41.910 That's not going in that direction.  
 1043 00:47:41.910 --> 00:47:43.470 So  
 1044 00:47:43.470 --> 00:47:44.970 that's one of the things that we're doing right  
 now  
 1045 00:47:44.970 --> 00:47:45.930 getting some pilot scale, a  
 1046 00:47:45.930 --> 00:47:48.960 lot more needs to be done to really take this  
 on.  
 1047 00:47:48.960 --> 00:47:51.360 But there's a lot of interested parties. Cause  
 like I said,  
 1048 00:47:51.360 --> 00:47:52.193 it's environmental issue  
 1049 00:47:52.193 --> 00:47:55.860 and it's a huge bottom line issue for towns  
 1050 00:47:55.860 --> 00:48:00.540 that are always very concerned about raising  
 costs on their,  
 1051 00:48:00.540 --> 00:48:01.373 residences.  
 1052 00:48:02.310 --> 00:48:04.864 With property taxes and state tax.  
 1053 00:48:04.864 --> 00:48:07.665 Speaking from personal experience (Dr.  
 French whispers)  
 1054 00:48:07.665 --> 00:48:08.940 (Dr. French laughs)  
 1055 00:48:08.940 --> 00:48:10.950 So, um. Yeah.  
 1056 00:48:10.950 --> 00:48:12.000 <v Male Speaker>Next question.</v>  
 1057 00:48:12.000 --> 00:48:13.083 Any other questions?  
 1058 00:48:14.880 --> 00:48:16.890 So yeah, Carol.  
 1059 00:48:16.890 --> 00:48:18.540 <v Carol>I was wondering if you could speak  
 a</v>  
 1060 00:48:18.540 --> 00:48:20.040 little bit about the

1061 00:48:20.040 --> 00:48:24.750 Clean Air Act and the right to charge portion of that act

1062 00:48:24.750 --> 00:48:29.130 and if there's any thoughts about revisions to it to make it

1063 00:48:29.130 --> 00:48:30.753 more accessible for renters.

1064 00:48:31.620 --> 00:48:33.297 Cause right now there's a lot of burden cost

1065 00:48:33.297 --> 00:48:35.040 put on renters to go

1066 00:48:35.040 --> 00:48:36.570 through that process.

1067 00:48:36.570 --> 00:48:37.403 It's.

1068 00:48:37.403 --> 00:48:38.550 <v Dr. French>Sorry, say the last part.</v>

1069 00:48:38.550 --> 00:48:39.383 <v Carol>It seemed like there's a</v>

1070 00:48:39.383 --> 00:48:41.400 lot of burden on renters to fund

1071 00:48:41.400 --> 00:48:42.630 that whole <v Dr. French>Yeah.</v>

1072 00:48:42.630 --> 00:48:43.780 <v Carol>Aspect of it.</v>

1073 00:48:45.570 --> 00:48:48.840 <v Dr. French>I don't know right now of any</v>

1074 00:48:48.840 --> 00:48:50.493 efforts to sort of open back up

1075 00:48:50.493 --> 00:48:51.753 the law.

1076 00:48:54.480 --> 00:48:55.440 I think there were,

1077 00:48:55.440 --> 00:48:58.680 there were definitely concerns raised during the debate on

1078 00:48:58.680 --> 00:49:03.487 the bill about how this could impact affordability for,

1079 00:49:04.800 --> 00:49:09.333 for affordable housing, you know, with that drive up cost.

1080 00:49:10.440 --> 00:49:11.583 So I think there's,

1081 00:49:13.380 --> 00:49:15.330 probably more on the programmatic side of the

1082 00:49:15.330 --> 00:49:19.563 rollout is where we'll fix, fix a lot of those issues.

1083 00:49:22.170 --> 00:49:23.610 Sorry, I can't speak more to that,

1084 00:49:23.610 --> 00:49:24.443 again, there's,

1085 00:49:24.443 --> 00:49:26.940 folks who I can refer who are working on sort of the

1086 00:49:26.940 --> 00:49:28.710 rollout of that program and how it might actually

1087 00:49:28.710 --> 00:49:30.090 play out in

1088 00:49:30.090 --> 00:49:31.170 in real time.

1089 00:49:31.170 --> 00:49:34.380 But a lot of times when these bills get passed and then it

1090 00:49:34.380 --> 00:49:36.990 goes to the executive branch to implement them,

1091 00:49:36.990 --> 00:49:39.630 there's a lot that we can do once we get down to the program

1092 00:49:39.630 --> 00:49:40.463 side.

1093 00:49:40.463 --> 00:49:42.240 Cause usually the language and the legislation is fairly

1094 00:49:42.240 --> 00:49:43.110 broad.

1095 00:49:43.110 --> 00:49:48.110 It gives the executive agency latitude to design the program

1096 00:49:49.350 --> 00:49:53.820 where it's needed and address, and we have stakeholder,

1097 00:49:53.820 --> 00:49:54.653 you know,

1098 00:49:54.653 --> 00:49:57.240 we have stakeholder public comment processes to try to get,

1099 00:49:57.240 --> 00:50:01.320 get at what is not working and what is working and where do

1100 00:50:01.320 --> 00:50:04.950 we need to just tweak, tweak things here and there.

1101 00:50:04.950 --> 00:50:07.380 Very rarely does the legislature tell us very specifically,

1102 00:50:07.380 --> 00:50:10.110 how do you do how to do something.

1103 00:50:10.110 --> 00:50:11.547 Usually they give broad guidelines and then you,

1104 00:50:11.547 --> 00:50:13.170 you figure it out

1105 00:50:13.170 --> 00:50:14.033 to some level.

1106 00:50:16.830 --> 00:50:19.944 I think I saw your hand first, and yours second.

1107 00:50:19.944 --> 00:50:21.237 I'm trying to get to as many as I can.

1108 00:50:21.237 --> 00:50:22.830 <v Female 2>I'm really inspired by the work</v>

1109 00:50:22.830 --> 00:50:24.090 that you're doing.

1110 00:50:24.090 --> 00:50:26.490 So thank you and thank you for being here.

1111 00:50:26.490 --> 00:50:28.410 I was wondering you could tell us a bit more about

1112 00:50:28.410 --> 00:50:30.090 your career path?

1113 00:50:30.090 --> 00:50:31.200 <v Dr. French>Sure.</v>

1114 00:50:31.200 --> 00:50:33.843 My bio talked about where I went.

1115 00:50:35.370 --> 00:50:40.110 I decided for my education that I wanted to,

1116 00:50:40.110 --> 00:50:42.363 I wanted to do hard core science.

1117 00:50:43.470 --> 00:50:44.761 I was asked this the other day, like what,

1118 00:50:44.761 --> 00:50:48.000 what did you study? Was it related to climate change?

1119 00:50:48.000 --> 00:50:48.833 Not really.

1120 00:50:49.890 --> 00:50:53.470 I was chemist and very still love chemistry

1121 00:50:54.510 --> 00:50:55.620 and I wanted to

1122 00:50:55.620 --> 00:50:56.520 do bench top chemistry.

1123 00:50:56.520 --> 00:51:00.720 So I have PhD in environmental chemistry and I study crystal

1124 00:51:00.720 --> 00:51:05.720 growth and how contaminants move around systems and,

1125 00:51:05.880 --> 00:51:07.140 but I still use some of that.

1126 00:51:07.140 --> 00:51:09.120 It's actually very useful for carbon storage and

1127 00:51:09.120 --> 00:51:09.953 sequestration,

1128 00:51:09.953 --> 00:51:12.587 which is about how carbon moves around the soils.

1129 00:51:12.587 --> 00:51:14.370 So as we dig into that question, I'm like, ah, haha,

1130 00:51:14.370 --> 00:51:17.763 I can finally use my chemistry degree.

1131 00:51:18.729 --> 00:51:21.930 But I, I knew I also wanted to go into policy.

1132 00:51:21.930 --> 00:51:22.763 So that's there.

1133 00:51:22.763 --> 00:51:25.230 The fellowships called the AAA Science Technology Policy

1134 00:51:25.230 --> 00:51:28.260 Fellowships. That's how I worked in Congress.

1135 00:51:28.260 --> 00:51:31.350 I also worked for EPA for two years and that helps

1136 00:51:31.350 --> 00:51:36.350 transition me from very academic training to understanding

1137 00:51:37.530 --> 00:51:41.310 how policy works, understanding the science intersection.

1138 00:51:41.310 --> 00:51:43.620 A big part of my work, we're science agency now,

1139 00:51:43.620 --> 00:51:46.650 I always worked where science is important in all that we do

1140 00:51:46.650 --> 00:51:49.830 and we have to bring science to bare on all decisions every

1141 00:51:49.830 --> 00:51:50.663 day at DEP.

1142 00:51:53.267 --> 00:51:54.210 So, that's kind of where it was

1143 00:51:54.210 --> 00:51:55.043 and I,

1144 00:51:55.043 --> 00:51:58.110 I was more drawn to climate adaptation than the energy side

1145 00:51:58.110 --> 00:52:02.550 in terms of my specialty in climate because that was

1146 00:52:02.550 --> 00:52:07.319 really out of being a kind earth scientist that basically,

1147 00:52:07.319 --> 00:52:11.760 like we've known for a long time that greenhouse gases warm

1148 00:52:11.760 --> 00:52:13.110 up the planet.

1149 00:52:13.110 --> 00:52:15.393 So that question's been answered for a while.

1150 00:52:16.530 --> 00:52:17.550 The, it's,

1151 00:52:17.550 --> 00:52:21.480 it's been in the policy realm for decades and we just build

1152 00:52:21.480 --> 00:52:23.850 more and more evidence. Yes, this happens, yes,

1153 00:52:23.850 --> 00:52:25.740 this happens, this happens.

1154 00:52:25.740 --> 00:52:27.390 But on climate adaptation and resilience,

1155 00:52:27.390 --> 00:52:29.340 it's a much more downscale issue.

1156 00:52:29.340 --> 00:52:33.030 And so I got very interested in like what kinds of data do

1157 00:52:33.030 --> 00:52:36.030 we need from climate science perspective to build things

1158 00:52:36.030 --> 00:52:37.230 more, to be more resilient.

1159 00:52:37.230 --> 00:52:40.320 And that gets into things like how much rain are we going to

1160 00:52:40.320 --> 00:52:41.153 get?

1161 00:52:41.153 --> 00:52:44.520 So how big should we build this covert or this drain or this

1162 00:52:44.520 --> 00:52:45.840 bio swale?

1163 00:52:45.840 --> 00:52:46.673 It's a,

1164 00:52:46.673 --> 00:52:48.900 that question from a science perspective has not been well

1165 00:52:48.900 --> 00:52:50.400 answered.

1166 00:52:50.400 --> 00:52:53.100 We're still on the cutting edge of the as production climate

1167 00:52:53.100 --> 00:52:53.933 work.

1168 00:52:55.890 --> 00:52:56.723 All right, question? <v Female 3>Yeah.</v>

1169 00:52:56.723 --> 00:52:57.750 <v Dr. French>I'm trying to get everybody.</v>

1170 00:52:57.750 --> 00:53:01.110 So 1, 2, 3. I'll try to get, I'll try to get everybody's.

1171 00:53:01.110 --> 00:53:02.010 <v Female 3>So I know that there's</v>

1172 00:53:02.010 --> 00:53:04.590 been a lot of information presented here.

1173 00:53:04.590 --> 00:53:07.860 I'm curious how this is being translated to like citizens

1174 00:53:07.860 --> 00:53:10.770 within Connecticut so that they're aware of these

1175 00:53:10.770 --> 00:53:15.210 initiatives and is it primarily through like advertising or

1176 00:53:15.210 --> 00:53:18.760 are there more like community level engagement or

1177 00:53:20.310 --> 00:53:23.430 like outside of the working groups and like participation in

1178 00:53:23.430 --> 00:53:24.263 those?

1179 00:53:24.263 --> 00:53:25.096 <v Dr. French>Yeah, I mean</v>

1180 00:53:25.096 --> 00:53:27.390 the process that I've been most involved in is the working

1181 00:53:27.390 --> 00:53:28.223 groups.

1182 00:53:28.223 --> 00:53:31.470 The good thing is that many of those working group members

1183 00:53:31.470 --> 00:53:34.702 are part of larger organizations that have members and they

1184 00:53:34.702 --> 00:53:37.410 are talking about it with their members,

1185 00:53:37.410 --> 00:53:39.750 which I find very helpful because I feel like a lot of times

1186 00:53:39.750 --> 00:53:42.090 people turn to me and say, Can you tell everybody?

1187 00:53:42.090 --> 00:53:43.140 They're like, do you want me to,

1188 00:53:43.140 --> 00:53:45.330 to tell everybody or should I do something?

1189 00:53:45.330 --> 00:53:47.880 So I'm constantly like in that push and pull

1190 00:53:47.880 --> 00:53:50.313 of like working and also telling.

1191 00:53:51.360 --> 00:53:53.370 So it's really helpful to have other organizations say,

1192 00:53:53.370 --> 00:53:54.900 you know what? We'll do some of the telling for you.

1193 00:53:54.900 --> 00:53:56.730 We'll also communicate that to people,

1194 00:53:56.730 --> 00:53:59.190 to people that we have plugged to us.

1195 00:53:59.190 --> 00:54:01.590 Sometimes it's their followers on social media,

1196 00:54:01.590 --> 00:54:03.290 sometimes it's their mailing list.

1197 00:54:04.140 --> 00:54:06.000 And so that is one of the ways that we get things out.

1198 00:54:06.000 --> 00:54:07.080 But we do,  
1199 00:54:07.080 --> 00:54:10.290 we rely a lot on stakeholder groups and  
informing them and  
1200 00:54:10.290 --> 00:54:13.020 having those people inform others.  
1201 00:54:13.020 --> 00:54:16.650 And we also do some local engagement. Like  
for instance,  
1202 00:54:16.650 --> 00:54:20.910 last summer my office partnered with some  
local community  
1203 00:54:20.910 --> 00:54:22.380 organizations in New London and Garton  
1204 00:54:22.380 --> 00:54:24.030 held a workshop and we were  
1205 00:54:24.030 --> 00:54:26.640 directly there doing the communicating  
about things that  
1206 00:54:26.640 --> 00:54:28.650 were going on around climate change.  
1207 00:54:28.650 --> 00:54:30.450 It was excellent and the best part about it is  
1208 00:54:30.450 --> 00:54:32.400 we made some really long term relationships  
with the  
1209 00:54:32.400 --> 00:54:34.530 people that were our planning committee,  
1210 00:54:34.530 --> 00:54:36.060 but you know, about 30 people showed up.  
1211 00:54:36.060 --> 00:54:37.350 So its,  
1212 00:54:37.350 --> 00:54:39.630 it was a lot of effort workshop for a very  
small number of  
1213 00:54:39.630 --> 00:54:40.620 people.  
1214 00:54:40.620 --> 00:54:45.000 But the planning process led to a lot of trust  
built between  
1215 00:54:45.000 --> 00:54:47.730 myself and my team and some local leaders  
in both those  
1216 00:54:47.730 --> 00:54:48.780 communities.  
1217 00:54:48.780 --> 00:54:50.640 And now they're serving on our council on  
"Equity and  
1218 00:54:50.640 --> 00:54:51.810 Environmental Justice."  
1219 00:54:51.810 --> 00:54:54.120 So they wouldn't have been serving in there  
if I hadn't got  
1220 00:54:54.120 --> 00:54:56.220 know them through that workshop. So it's,

1221 00:54:56.220 --> 00:54:58.320 this is an interesting balance and something I wrestle with

1222 00:54:58.320 --> 00:55:02.130 every day in terms of what I should be spending my time on

1223 00:55:02.130 --> 00:55:03.813 and allocating my resource.

1224 00:55:06.307 --> 00:55:07.650 <v Male>Hi.</v>

1225 00:55:07.650 --> 00:55:12.030 I'm wondering how you or how Connecticut settled on a

1226 00:55:12.030 --> 00:55:15.840 definition for environmental justice community and if it's

1227 00:55:15.840 --> 00:55:18.499 applicable to other states or if it's very

1228 00:55:18.499 --> 00:55:19.620 Connecticut in it's style.

1229 00:55:19.620 --> 00:55:21.480 <v Dr. French>Yeah, my understanding from this history,</v>

1230 00:55:21.480 --> 00:55:25.860 it goes way back to the nineties when the EPA under the

1231 00:55:25.860 --> 00:55:27.130 Clinton administration

1232 00:55:28.860 --> 00:55:31.620 President Bill Clinton passed an executive order that was

1233 00:55:31.620 --> 00:55:35.010 about environmental justice and public participation.

1234 00:55:35.010 --> 00:55:38.310 And Connecticut was like one of the first states to be a

1235 00:55:38.310 --> 00:55:42.990 part of that and passed in statute our definition of

1236 00:55:42.990 --> 00:55:47.790 environmental justice and what constituted a public

1237 00:55:47.790 --> 00:55:51.120 participation process for those environmental justice

1238 00:55:51.120 --> 00:55:52.020 communities.

1239 00:55:52.020 --> 00:55:55.320 Connecticut was a really early adopter, Edith Bastata

1240 00:55:55.320 --> 00:55:59.370 who still works for DEP is our office of environmental

1241 00:55:59.370 --> 00:56:01.440 justice coordinator, we have an environmental justice.

1242 00:56:01.440 --> 00:56:04.240 We've had it since that rule passed in the nineties and,

1243 00:56:07.080 --> 00:56:09.240 and she still works there and, and we know we're,

1244 00:56:09.240 --> 00:56:11.970 it's kind of had a renewed focus and we're growing that.

1245 00:56:11.970 --> 00:56:13.800 You can even expect to see sort of more on that

1246 00:56:13.800 --> 00:56:17.160 since legislation introduced year did pass,

1247 00:56:17.160 --> 00:56:19.890 but I would not be surprised to see that sort of come back

1248 00:56:19.890 --> 00:56:23.100 again on how we might define that and understanding

1249 00:56:23.100 --> 00:56:25.860 environmental justice and equity issues are having a moment

1250 00:56:25.860 --> 00:56:28.173 nationally to say the least.

1251 00:56:29.100 --> 00:56:30.570 So

1252 00:56:30.570 --> 00:56:31.403 yeah, so that's,

1253 00:56:31.403 --> 00:56:34.440 it really did grow out of the big sort of introduction of

1254 00:56:34.440 --> 00:56:36.753 that effort nationally back then.

1255 00:56:38.130 --> 00:56:41.280 And, and it was just decided by the legislature how to,

1256 00:56:41.280 --> 00:56:43.650 how to do that. And it was,

1257 00:56:43.650 --> 00:56:46.740 there was a lot of uniting I think at that time it's been

1258 00:56:46.740 --> 00:56:47.573 told,

1259 00:56:47.573 --> 00:56:49.110 which is great to have folks who've been working at EPA

1260 00:56:49.110 --> 00:56:51.210 since they've been working at DEP since the nineties to

1261 00:56:51.210 --> 00:56:52.043 pass this knowledge onto me.

1262 00:56:52.043 --> 00:56:53.830 I've been working there since 2020

1263 00:56:56.130 --> 00:56:56.963 on, you know,

1264 00:56:56.963 --> 00:56:58.860 this history in the state.

1265 00:56:58.860 --> 00:57:01.440 But one of the reasons that it looked at income is a major

1266 00:57:01.440 --> 00:57:04.353 factor is that that actually allowed us to,

1267 00:57:05.220 --> 00:57:10.220 to look not just at sort of an overall distressed factor,

1268 00:57:10.230 --> 00:57:14.090 but look at pockets of concentrated poverty in communities

1269 00:57:14.090 --> 00:57:16.110 in Connecticut you wouldn't normally expect that.

1270 00:57:16.110 --> 00:57:17.310 Like there actually,

1271 00:57:17.310 --> 00:57:21.960 are pockets of concentrated poverty in Stanford, Greenwich,

1272 00:57:21.960 --> 00:57:24.750 which is famously wealthy, right?

1273 00:57:24.750 --> 00:57:25.583 So,

1274 00:57:25.583 --> 00:57:28.130 but we actually do have some communities that just in that,

1275 00:57:28.130 --> 00:57:31.863 in that little area are disproportionately impacted.

1276 00:57:33.372 --> 00:57:35.172 <v ->Well we gotta get out of the room.</v>

1277 00:57:36.762 --> 00:57:37.920 (muffled talking)

1278 00:57:37.920 --> 00:57:39.623 <v Male Speaker>Thanks, for coming.</v>