



Regular Meeting of the Energy Commission
June 12, 2025- 7:00 PM
Meeting Room #111

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Public Participation
3. Discussion regarding updates to the DPW Tree Policy.
4. Eversource NRES Energy Auction Discussion.
5. Approval of Minutes
 - April 17, 2025 Regular Meeting
6. Updates by Dave Oakes - Public Facilities & Energy Manager.
7. Energy Plan Edits
8. Old Business
9. New Business
10. Adjournment

Per Order of the Chairperson

Sean Dunn

Sean Dunn

INFORMATION TO JOIN MEETING

<https://bristolct-gov.zoom.us/j/82312972855?pwd=ZGJBSTg5S1YxaGxhVkV6MFV1MnZJdz09>

Meeting ID: 823 1297 2855

Passcode: 12345



Department of Public Works | 860.584.6125

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 5, 2025

TO: Mayor Jeffrey Caggiano
Board of Public Works
Energy Commission

FROM: Raymond A. Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works

RE: **DPW TREE POLICY – POTENTIAL POLICY REVISION –
REMOVAL OF TREES TO INSTALL SOLAR**

The City of Bristol Department of Public Works is responsible to maintain trees located within the City's street right of way, City properties maintained by the Department of Public Works, and trees under the authority of the Director of Public Works or Tree Warden in accordance with the City Charter and CT State Statute Sec 23-59. In accordance with DPW policy and CT State Statute Sec 23-59, it is the City's objective to maintain and protect healthy trees for the benefit of City residents, and to mitigate the risk trees pose to property and persons.

As indicated above, the current policy does not allow the removal of healthy trees, however, the Department has received a number of requests to remove trees for the purpose of installing solar arrays on private homes. The Department recognizes that the use of green energy is beneficial to the environment and solar reduces property owner electrical cost.

The purpose of this memorandum is to request input from both the Board of Public Works and Energy Commission to determine if the Department should allow for the removal of trees to install solar. Consideration factors include the condition of the tree, solar array energy production, and potential savings to the property owner. For the purpose of a potential revision to the current tree policy, it should be assumed that the tree is healthy. If the tree was not healthy and posed a risk, the Department would allow the removal of the tree, irrespective of the potential benefit to the installation of solar panels. With respect to estimated solar energy and cost savings, based on a recent request, approximately 10,000 kWh/year would be produced from a house having a footprint of 1,200 square feet. The estimated savings would be \$1,200/year (10,000 kWh x \$0.12/kWh).

Therefore, the policy question is whether or not **a healthy tree should be allowed to be removed to produce 10,000 kWh/year, and save the property owner \$1,200/yr.** If the Department's policy is revised to remove healthy trees to install solar, the following provisions shall be included in the revised policy:

1. Documentation from a licensed solar installer indicating solar production, energy savings, and the need to remove the tree.
2. No tree shall be removed until solar is installed.
3. Trees subject to this request shall be limited to trees along the property of the owner who is installing solar. Property owners cannot request a removal of a City tree located along the frontage of an adjacent lot.
4. If a contractor is required to remove a City tree, all costs shall be incurred by the property owner requesting the removal of the tree. If the tree can be removed by DPW staff, work will be scheduled to minimize impact to DPW operations.
5. All healthy City trees scheduled for removal shall be posted, and may be subject to a tree hearing in accordance with State Statute 23-59.
6. In accordance with State Statute 23-59, the City Tree Warden shall have sole authority with respect to the removal of trees within the City.

Please feel free to contact me at 860-584-6113 with any comments or questions.

Energy Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting, Meeting Room #111 City Hall
April 17, 2025 Meeting

PRESENT: Chairman Sean Dunn (Zoom), Commissioners Thomas Hick, Greg Klimek, and Thomas Ragaini.

ABSENT: Commissioners Jason DeConti, and Sheldon Scott. Board of Education Liaison Eric Carlson, Council Member Mark Dickau, and Facilities Manager David Oakes.

ALSO PRESENT: None.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Dunn called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

2. Public Participation

None.

3. Approval of the Minutes.

- March 13, 2025 Special Meeting
- March 20, 2025 Regular Meeting

Motion made by Commissioner Ragaini and seconded by Commissioner Klimek and it was unanimously voted to approve the March 13, 2025 minutes as written.

Motion passed.

Motion made by Commissioner Klimek and seconded by Commissioner Ragaini and it was unanimously voted to approve the March 20, 2025 minutes as written.

Motion passed.

4. Updates by Dave Oakes – Public Facilities & Energy Manager.

Chairman Dunn provided several updates on Dave's behalf. SustainableCT wants to come to Bristol to put together a seminar on CPACE. Their goal is to help promote the value of the CPACE Program and increase the number of applications.

5. Energy Plan Edits

The Commission reviewed the website edits that have been completed so far and reviewed/made comments on the updates that were made since the last workshop. Chairman Dunn is working on a template for the EEF applications so ECD can post it on their All Heart website.

Chairman Dunn will also touch base with Dave Oakes to gather the last ten years of data from portfolio manager.

6. Old Business

Chairman Dunn provided the Commission with an update on the LED Lighting Project at BOE. Roger Rousseau and Peter Fusco are comfortable with moving forward. The Commission discussed the projected energy savings and operational costs of various BOE buildings.

The Commission discussed the logos that were sent out by Dawn Nielsen and Commissioner Scott. Chairman Dunn will coordinate with Dawn and Roger to see if they can order several samples of the business cards so the Commission can review the options before placing a large order.

7. New Business

None.

8. Adjournment

Motion: Commissioner Klimek seconded by Commissioner Ragaini "To adjourn". Motion approved.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

*Lindsey Schaffrick
Recording Secretary*