

Environmental Initiative June 2012 meeting notes

Attendees: Robin Gerber, Bree Prentice, Felipe, Suzanne, Michele Zychowski, Mike

We will have rotating Co-Chairs

We're working to create a Mission Statement

Possible goals:

- Improve public transportation/school buses
- Create a community garden
- Create a town wide compost
- Use vacant buildings for cultural events and "helping stations" (FEMA)

How can we make this work in an innovative and smart way?

Established organizations that may be interested in collaborating with us: Naugatuck Land Trust, Gunntown, river cleanup, union city revitalization , garden club, senior center

Melissa_leonard@cable.comcast.com - Melissa Leonard-runs public access tv (works for Comcast Cable) and a participant with Gunntown from beginning, part of land trust at one point (Mike will contact)

Transition Towns=reduce energy use and empower girl community

How prepared is Naugatuck for climate change?/Resilience of town?/How do we use alternative energy?

- What types of fuels are used to power your business?
- How much diversity is there in town?
- Are we prepared for environmental contingencies in town? (ie: storm events, extreme heat, etc.)

How do we pay for change?

- Grant writing
- Fundraising
Organic potlucks with guest speakers, raffles, (introduces agenda to folks).
- Change status quo in how we do things because we can't afford to continue to do things the same way.
- Prepare highschool students for green professions therefore creating jobs.
- Work with NVCC.
- Create a project that is highly visible.

Vision Timeline: Where do we want to be in 3 months, 5 months, 1 year, etc. and how will we get there?

Research how others have accomplished similar goals-New Haven and Flanders has community gardens

At Town of Burgess meetings:Be sure to have people committed to the importance of our ideas attend-they will be our biggest advocate.

Monthly music event on Naugatuck Green- Set up table with mission statement, vision, contact list of people to sign up expressing interest