

Hydrogen Task Force: Hydrogen Funding Working Group Charter

Co-Chairs

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Objective

The objective of the Funding Working Group is to review existing hydrogen funding mechanisms and incentives, such as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), and determine how Connecticut can be best positioned to participate in these programs and potentially develop new opportunities. The Funding Working Group will also recommend additional funding sources for developing a hydrogen ecosystem with particular focus on the Targeted Brownfield Development Loan program.

Statutory Responsibilities

“An examination of how to position the state to take advantage of competitive incentives and programs created by the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act;

Recommendations for funding and tax preferences for building hydrogen-fueled energy facilities at brownfield sites through the Targeted Brownfield Development Loan program;

Recommendations regarding funding sources for developing hydrogen-fueled energy programs and infrastructure.”

Guiding Research Questions

- What existing funding opportunities are most relevant for Connecticut? How can Connecticut position itself competitively for these opportunities?
- What are the required components for a competitive hydrogen-related IJJA application? Specifically, what can Connecticut do to position itself to meet the equity and environmental justice elements of the IJJA application process?
- What programs have other states developed to incentivize programs and investments in clean hydrogen infrastructure and deployment? What can be learned from these programs and applied in Connecticut?
- What end uses require incentives to make clean hydrogen cost competitive?
- How and in what regions can the Targeted Brownfield Development Loan program be utilized to support clean hydrogen development? What are the financial benefits?
- How can funds be deployed to improve the safe production, transport, storage, and utilization of hydrogen?
- How can funding be deployed to help to advance or align with national research, development, and deployment (RD&D) activities?
- How can funding be deployed to bolster the hydrogen supply chain?

Proposed Deliverables

- Recommended actions for the state to position itself competitively for funding opportunities
- Provide an assessment of regions and resources that can utilize the funding available through the Target Brownfield Development Loan Program and make recommendations for tax advantaged opportunities
- Outline a potential toolkit of incentives or other compensation mechanisms to advance the development of hydrogen infrastructure and use in Connecticut

Timeline

- September: Present on funding opportunities in the IJJA
- October: Present preliminary findings to the Task Force and provide a status update
- November: Present draft final findings and recommendations to the Task Force for feedback
- December: Present final findings and recommendations to the Task Force
- January: Submit report to the legislature

Logistics

- The Straten team will handle meeting logistics including scheduling and recording meeting minutes.

- The Strategen team will coordinate with Working Group Co-Chairs to develop meeting agendas which will be provided to participants a week before Working Group meetings.
- The Strategen team will provide technical assistance (including research), where appropriate, for the Working Group.
- It is expected that this working group will meet on a monthly cadence. Meeting recordings and meeting minutes will be publicly available.