

# DIVERSE NEW COMMITTEE TO ADDRESS FUTURE OF COAL PLANT SITE IN BRIDGEPORT

Bridgeport residents and diverse stakeholders to help plan for Bridgeport's Future

Thursday, February 5, 2015

**Contact:**

Onte Johnson, [onte.johnson@sierraclub.org](mailto:onte.johnson@sierraclub.org), (347)525-6489

Claire Miller, [claire@toxicsaction.org](mailto:claire@toxicsaction.org), 781-775-1429

**Bridgeport, CT** – Wednesday, a diverse set of stakeholders kicked off of a community planning process to set a path forward for the region once the Bridgeport coal-fired power plant is retired. The group, called Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), was established by a City Council resolution in late 2014. The City Council charged the Committee with securing funding and hiring experts to study possible futures for the site, as well as ensuring the community has a voice in the future of the harbor front property.

Bridgeport is home to the last remaining coal plant in CT, and one of the last three in New England not currently slated for retirement. Carbon and other dangerous forms of emissions from coal-fired plants result in life-threatening air pollution — such as the smog that can trigger asthma attacks.

“The Healthy CT Alliance is concerned about the health risks the coal plant poses, and is equally committed to replacing lost revenue and jobs when the plant retires,” **said Onté Johnson, a Bridgeport resident and organizer with the Sierra Club.** “This is Bridgeport’s chance to step up and become a leader in clean energy. This is our moment to plan for a healthier, coal-free future for our community and to make sure that every voice is included in that conversation.”

The City Council resolution to establish the CAC was organized and supported by the Healthy Connecticut Alliance (HCA), which includes Toxics Action Center, CT Coalition for Environmental Justice (CCEJ), CT Fund for the Environment, 350 CT, Conservation Law Foundation, and the Sierra Club. The resolution also called for the coal plant operators to phase out coal burning altogether at Bridgeport harbor Station.

**Claire Miller, Organizer with Toxics Action Center said,** “Clean air doesn’t come out of a smokestack. Tonight’s meeting of the Citizen Advisory Committee is a huge step to plan ahead for the

inevitable closure of the coal plant for timely revitalization. We support the city's efforts for a greener Bridgeport.”

The Healthy Connecticut Alliance is a diverse coalition whose mission is to promote the responsible retirement and redevelopment of the Bridgeport coal plant, assure the cleanup of the site, assure a just transition for workers, and attract healthy, good jobs to the community. HCA is comprised of concerned citizens from Bridgeport, supported by local, state and national organizations.

###