

Town of Hurley

Climate Smart Task Force

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date: February 15, 2023

Present via Zoom: Task Force Members – Lynne Bailey, Peter McKnight, Erin Nylen, Kristen Schara (Coordinator)

Agenda

Continuing Business

- CSC Certification Update
- PE 2 – Government Operations Climate Action Plan (GOCAP)
- PE 9 - Climate Change Education and Engagement
- PE 5 - Composting
- CEC - Clean Heating and Cooling Demo
- PE 3/CEC - Benchmarking - Municipal Buildings

New Business

TBD

Minutes

Continuing Business

- CSC Certification Update
 - We've submitted 19 actions and 18 actions have been commented on (community greenhouse gas inventory hasn't been commented on)
 - There are multiple reviewers for each action, so we're not sure where we stand quite yet even though the reviews have said approved so far.

- We have to wait for the official email from the DEC and for timing to announce with other towns that applied
- PE 2 – Government Operations Climate Action Plan (GOCAP)
 - First meeting is tomorrow - Kristen will have more of an idea about her role after that meeting
 - Looked at Climate Action Plans from Gardiner and Saugerties
 - Talked to the board about the GOCAP yesterday, lots of synergy between GOCAP and the Comprehensive Plan (which is about to have its first draft)
 - Kristen will go through Comprehensive Plan with an eye towards climate and how it can inform GOCAP
- PE 9 - Climate Change Education and Engagement
 - Kristen and Lynne reviewed the template we were given and we can definitely use pieces of the template and it's a good place to start - it's a plan to do engagement, not the actual engagement implementation
 - Opportunities for working with other organizations on engagement plans with youth
 - Erin will review template and work with Lynne on this effort
- PE 5 - Composting
 - Greenway Environmental Services put together a bid for the town
 - 60 dollars a ton for food waste
 - They would collect at the transfer station
 - Developing a backyard composting workshop program
 - Erin will stay informed/coordinate if necessary with the final consultants so we can make sure folks are informed and that we're documenting what we need to document for CSC
- CEC - Clean Heating and Cooling Demo
 - An action we could get points for
 - We would need to demonstrate through our usage that we saved money and operated more efficiently by comparing 2019 to 2022 electric and fuel bills for the town hall.
- PE 3/CEC - Benchmarking - Municipal Buildings
 - Energy Navigator - provided by EPA
 - Whenever get a new bill from Central Hudson we would track that data

- Data on our government buildings like staff, area etc.
- We could set this up and then the bookkeeper at the Town Hall should keep tracking
- There are NYSERDA trainings on how to use this tool
- Need to write and pass a resolution that we will use this tool to track
 - Must include when we'll start tracking officially and when we will report every year
- Would need to figure out if each dept would need to track its own bills in Energy Navigator, or if the bookkeeper could track everything.
- Peter and Lynne will take a lead on this project after meeting with Kristen.

New Business

- We discussed what would trigger the CAC to need to be consulted on Town Board issues related to open space, wetlands, etc. and whether changing the CAC to a Climate Advisory Board would encourage more input and synergy between Town Board and our committees.
- Jeremy will be working with the Cornell Cooperative Extension to continue our emergency preparedness plan.
- Erin will likely blog about solar/green home experience at some point in the spring.