

Town of Hurley

Climate Smart Task Force

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date: January 31, 2023

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

Agenda

Continuing Business

- CSC Certification Update
- Ulster County CSC Initiatives for 2023
- PE 5 - Recycling in Govt. Buildings (Finish)
- PE 9 - Climate Change Education and Engagement
- PE 3/CEC - Benchmarking - Municipal Buildings
- Revisions to PE 3 - Green Building Standard for Govt. Buildings and Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy
- Other

New Business

- Migrating to Town of Hurley Climate Smart Google Account
- Other

Minutes

Continuing Business

- CSC Certification Update
 - Slowly being reviewed and so far 6 actions have been approved
- Ulster County CSC Initiatives for 2023 include
 - Supporting environmental clubs at schools (Roundout/Kingston etc.)
 - Reducing refrigerants and greenhouse gasses being released into the environment
 - Create a centralized hub for all of the opportunities created through the IRA and the state that is separate from contractors and vendors
 - John Wackman Reuse Innovation Center - Sustainable HV is having a feedback event on Feb 7 to find out what the community wants to see in this center
 - In Addition, the following local initiatives were discussed:

- Kingston received a grant to reduce GHG emissions from refrigerants (this is the #1 action on the “Drawdown” list)
 - CCA consortium - group buying program for energy (POK, Beacon, New Paltz - Town and Village, Gardiner, Rhinebeck, Marbletown, Red Hook, Clinton, Philipstown, Cold Spring, Nelsonville, and Saugerties - Town and Village) - doesn't happen at the county level because it has to be at the town level. Would be a very heavy lift for the town board of Hurley to join the consortium at this time.
 - Simon Strauss contacting Farm Hub about doing an agro solar project with them
- Ulster County Executive, Jen Metzger, released a 13 point plan to align Ulster County with the NYS CLCPA scoping plan
 - diverting 100 percent of the county's organic waste from landfills by 2030; prioritizing renewable energy siting on brownfields; installing chargers at county buildings to support an all-electric county fleet; expanding public transit routes and service; and creating outreach plans to help residents and small businesses slash energy costs and improve efficiency, with a focus on lower-income communities and communities of color.
 - This could help us to plot out our own Climate Action Plan
- PE 5 - Recycling in Govt. Buildings (Finish)
 - Have to set things up with the town park and the highway dept
 - Need to create a spreadsheet listing the number of trash and recycling bins provided in each of the two categories to demonstrate an approximate match between the two types of bins (will finish later this year)
- PE 9 - Climate Change Education and Engagement
 - Samara and Kristen met with CCE folks where they are putting together information for emergencies
 - We've been given a template for an education and engagement plan that we could modify – and we'd get more climate smart points for this when we recertify or if we go for Silver certification
 - Lynne will look at this template in Google Drive and work on adapting a public education and engagement plan.
- PE 3/CEC - Benchmarking - Municipal Buildings

- Research past yearly usage numbers (electric/fuel etc.) there's an energy navigator tool that you can use to track over time
- Town needs to pass a resolution that we will start tracking this with the tool
- Climate Smart Task Force will set up the tracking and show a town clerk how to do it
- Climate Smart Task Force can produce a report every year if we start tracking
- Revisions to PE 3 - Green Building Standard for Govt. Buildings and Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy
 - Might need revisions but not sure if they will be flagged in our submission
- Other
 - Greenway Environmental Services gave the Town of Hurley a proposal to help us take care of compost
 - We can keep our eyes open for grant opportunities in this and other areas that fit our climate action plans
 - 600 acres of land for sale in the Bluestone Forest
 - We have no forest preservation laws or tree protection laws on the books yet
 - Will discuss with conservation committee
 - Lynne talked to NYSDEC about the Twin Lakes property. Wildlife department is aware that they illegally removed about 6.5 acres of trees.
 - Owner is negotiating, might still need a take permit
 - Wastewater system permit still outstanding

New Business

- Migrating to Town of Hurley Climate Smart Google Account
 - Migrate finished documents from our folder to the Town's official Google account drive
 - Looking for some cloud space in the google drive of climatesmart@townofhurley.org in order to share items to our Climate Smart website without posting them to the town website or storing on our Wix website - Lynne going to talk to Civic+
- Other
 - Priorities for 2023
 - Working on a Climate Change Education and Engagement Plan (PE9)

- Supporting and documenting composting actions by the town government for Climate Smart Community certification (PE5)
 - Set up benchmarking for energy usage for municipal buildings
 - Energy code training for building code staff (or proof that the training that happened last year if it applies)
 - Finalize recycling policy
 - Making sure that the Comprehensive Plan contains sustainability elements
 - Starting our climate action plan
- Solar Mapping Report Highlights
 - Opportunities:
 - 4 rooftops that are large enough (½ acre or more)
 - Mined lands at 300 Van Dale Road
 - Parking lots
 - Rail Trail along 209
 - Town Park
 - Pastures
 - Land under high tension wires
 - Reservoirs (e.g., Cohoes, NY will be first reservoir to try floating solar panels)
 - More expensive to put on water but you don't need to worry about topography or forest
 - Keeps algae from growing and slows evaporation
 - Potentially work with the Zoning Task Force and comprehensive plan task force to revisit unnecessary barriers to solar power at the town level (our code is more restrictive) while ensuring protection of core areas, floodways, sensitive areas etc.
 - Peter will ask Annie and Andy if they want to add anything to this report and then come to the next CAC meeting to present it/finalize it.
 - We will publish it and share it when final

Next month's meeting will be on February 15, 2023.