

## Dutchess County Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Task Force

Wednesday, September 14, 2022 - 5:30-6:30pm

### MEETING SUMMARY

#### **Task Force Meeting Attendees:**

Brad Barclay (DC Dept. of Planning & Development)  
Gary Bassett (Village of Rhinebeck)  
Sean Carroll Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Dutchess County  
Melissa Everett (Sustainable Hudson Valley)  
Audrey Friedrichsen (Scenic Hudson)

Christopher Kroner (MASS Design Group // Hudson  
Valley Design Lab)  
Allan Page (A. Page & Associates, LLC)  
Natalie Quinn (City of Poughkeepsie)  
Brian Scoralick (DC Soil and Water Conservation  
District)

#### **Not Present:**

Joseph Cavaccini (Dutchess County Legislature)  
Mary Ann Cunningham (Vassar College)  
Shelby Frangk (DC Dept. of Planning &  
Development)  
James Frederickson (DC Environmental  
Management Council)

Michelle Gluck (Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Dutchess County)  
Carolyn Klocker (Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Dutchess County)  
Michael Lauchaire (Central Hudson Gas & Electric)  
Europa McGovern (City of Poughkeepsie resident)

#### **Welcome and Self-Introductions**

Brad Barclay (DC Dept. of Planning & Development) welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting. Members of the Task Force introduced themselves.

#### **Review and Adoption of Draft Minutes from May 5, 2022**

A motion was made to approve the minutes without changes from the May 5, 2022 Task Force meeting by Allan Page and seconded by Gary Bassett. The motion passed and the minutes were adopted.

#### **Update on Dutchess County's County-Hosted Trainings & C-OPEN PACE Financing for CEC credit and potential funding**

All four of the County-hosted trainings have been held. Brad emphasized the importance of the Battery Energy Storage training for first responders since solar battery storage emergencies can have cascading reactions. For hosting the trainings, the County earned 2,400 Clean Energy points. When 3,000 points are earned, the County is eligible to receive a \$30k grant (or a \$40k grant for 4,000 points) to use towards renewable energy or energy efficiency projects.

#### **Update on Dutchess CAPI (Climate Action Planning Institute)**

The work with nine of our Dutchess County municipalities to work on greenhouse gas inventories and climate action plans is ongoing. HVRC has hired a new staff person, Mary Lambert, who has been contacting the municipalities. Since the contracts have been delayed, Mary is making sure that the municipalities have enough staff to continue their efforts. HVRC may also be able to get an intern from Bard College to help in the future. Hopefully, the contract will be finalized very soon.

#### **Update on Dutchess County Natural Resource Inventory (NRI)**

Sean Carroll gave a brief update on the work that he and Devin Rigolino (Senior GIS Project Coordinator, Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development) have done on the NRI. So far, they have started reviewing the content of the 2010 NRI since they will use it as the outline for the update. They've also started drafting some of the new content that will be added. Sean noted that the climate chapter will likely need the

most work because there is more data available since the last NRI was completed. He asked for the Task Force's help in creating an outline for the new climate chapter. Brad added that it would be helpful if members thought about climate-related trends that have significant impacts on Dutchess County specifically, such as more frequent intense thunderstorms which cause floods and damage infrastructure. Another trend to consider is the increase in the number of days with sustained high temperatures and accompanying air quality warnings due to dangerous ozone levels. Sean shared a link to the [Climate Mapping for Resilience and Adaptation tool](#). It lists climate issues that the nation and the County are facing, including drought, which directly affects drinking water and crop yields. Gary Bassett suggested that the recent wildfires in the area might also be of interest. Brad asked the Task Force to review the chapter and think about what may be missing. He also asked the Task Force to think about how the new data could be explained in a way that will engage Dutchess County residents. Sean asked the Task Force to share any new sources of data/information that they may be aware of.

### **Update on DCCSCTF Committees**

Audrey shared that the Renewables and Energy Efficiency Committee met and created a plan for their work. One of their tasks is to review already completed action items which have earned points, as well as identify which tasks did not receive full points and try to get the points that were missed. They will also look at which tasks haven't been completed to secure more points. A two-part idea they had is to put together a Greenway Guide or a County policy which could be adopted to help communities decide where and how to plan and site renewable energy facilities. They will create a proposal to present to the task force and ask for feedback. She also added that since there is information about wind and cloud cover in the climate chapter of the NRI, this discussion could be expanded upon to include the resources that are available in Dutchess County for renewable energy. The other idea is a public education campaign about the availability of community solar to residents. They will investigate how Columbia and Ulster counties are doing so and may model the campaign for Dutchess County after them.

Melissa Everett and Chris Kroner met as the Education and Outreach Committee and shared their two-fold idea with the Task Force. The first part is to help inform local and County officials about climate change and what the CSCTF does via a workshop or other type of training. Rockland County's Economic Development Department is hosting a similar event which might provide a model for Dutchess County. Chris Kroner suggested reaching out to school board associations in order to reach schools and youth. BOCES Center for Sustainability and Climate Education is sending a resource packet about climate issues to schools; the committee might be able to follow that, but more in depth. A Youth Speakers Bureau made up of high school and college students can help and work on their public speaking skills at the same time. They also suggested advertising on county buses and doing a mass mail or email about climate smart topics. Additionally, ThinkDIFFERENTLY might be supplemented with climate smart tips or statistics. Supplementary resources and assistance from other agencies might be needed in order to accomplish those goals.

Brad praised the committees and thanked them for their work.

- Communication Tool – Microsoft Teams: Brad asked the members how they liked using Microsoft Teams. Several members responded that it has been going very well.

### **Next Meeting**

Brad encouraged committees to meet again before the next CSCTF meeting, which will likely take place in late November or early December.

Respectfully submitted:

Charonique Roberts

Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development