

Dutchess County Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Task Force

Thursday, January 27, 2022 - 5:30-6:30 pm

Virtual Zoom Meeting

MINUTES

Task Force Meeting Attendees:

Brad Barclay (DC Dept. of Planning & Development)
Mary Ann Cunningham (Vassar College)
Melissa Everett (Sustainable Hudson Valley)
Shelby Frangk (DC Dept. of Planning & Development)
Audrey Friedrichsen (Scenic Hudson)
Michelle Gluck (Cornell Cooperative Extension)

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

Not Present:

Gary Bassett (Village of Rhinebeck)
Joseph Cavaccini (Dutchess County Legislature)
James Frederickson (DC Environmental Management Council)

Carolyn Klocker (Cornell Cooperative Extension)
Michael Lauchaire (Central Hudson Gas & Electric)

Presenters:

Carla Castillo (Hudson Valley Regional Council) and Kale Roberts (International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives)

Welcome and Self-Introductions

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

Introduction to Dutchess CAPI project by Carla Castillo (HVRC) and Kale Roberts (ICLEI)

Carla Castillo (HVRC) and Kale Roberts (ICLEI) provided an overview of CAPI and how it will assist the Dutchess County Climate Smart Communities Task Force. As background, they explained that the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) was recently adopted and will require all municipalities in NYS to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions over time. CAPI is a collaborative group working model with guidance provided by ICLEI and HVRC, and support from CCE Dutchess to help guide government-operations greenhouse gas emissions inventories and create climate action plans for the ten participating municipalities. Kale and Carla also discussed the steps to be taken over the next year and what can be expected, as well as the various agencies' and communities' roles in CAPI Dutchess. Estimated average time commitments and a brief month-by-month overview were also shared with the task force. One of the next steps is the submission of all the municipal MOUs to the County. After the contract is fully executed, the kick-off meeting will be held.

Brad explained that the work with CAPI is key to the County achieving silver certification as a Climate Smart Community. Partnering with HVRC and ICLEI will bring more expertise to this process, which will help the county as well as the other nine municipalities that are involved. In addition, Brad stated that he doesn't expect task force members to be able to commit to the number of hours suggested in the presentation, but he wanted them to be aware of it.

Discussion of Status of CSC Actions and Potential Actions to be taken to reach Silver Certification

Michelle shared an actions list for the task force. Brad described which actions are needed to achieve silver certification and which committee might best be able to handle the task. All the other elements of the CSC program were listed, some of which have been updated recently. Many of the bronze-level elements were things the County has already been doing that just needed to be documented. The County is also participating in other activities which will help achieve silver-level status. However, in some cases, there is no formal policy in place for those activities so they will need to be written and in place in order to get credit from the CSC program. Brad will share this action list with the task force after this meeting.

He also encouraged members to think about which committees they would like to join and let him know via email. Melissa's group, Sustainable Hudson Valley, has created a regional action plan. Brad would like to create a new task force committee to look at and give feedback on the regional plan and the new draft DEC scoping document for the CLCPA; reviewing these documents will further inform the task force on climate-smart actions and items that can be pursued in the future.

Next Steps

Brad announced that he is planning to retire mid-April and Shelby will take over work on the CSTF. He expressed his confidence in Shelby's abilities and experience to handle the tasks. Since communication has been challenging using SharePoint, we're going to keep exploring options to find a better platform, which CAPI can also use. Brad reminded members to think about which committees they feel they would be best suited for. Since many actions will be undertaken in the near future, Brad also encouraged members to bring any issues to the task force so they can get the support they need.

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, April 21st at 5:30 pm.**

Respectfully submitted:

Charonique Roberts

Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development