

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

Thursday, May 5, 2022 - 5:30-6:30pm

Virtual Zoom Meeting

### MINUTES

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

Brad Barclay (DC Dept. of Planning & Development)

Gary Bassett (Village of Rhinebeck)

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 Dutchess County)

Carolyn Klocker (Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County)

Europa McGovern (City of Poughkeepsie resident)

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)

James Frederickson (DC Environmental Management Council)

Christopher Kroner (MASS Design Group // Hudson Valley Design Lab)

Michael Lauchaire (Central Hudson Gas & Electric)

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

Shelby Frangk (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 November 16, 2020 and January 27, 2022 Task Force meetings**

A motion was made to approve the minutes without changes from the November 16, 2020 and January 27, 2022 Task Force meetings by Brad Barclay and seconded by Natalie Quinn. The motion passed and the minutes from both meetings were adopted.

#### **Update on Dutchess County's County-Hosted Trainings (for CEC credit and potential funding)**

So far, two out of four County-hosted trainings, which are part of the Clean Energy Communities (CEC) program, have been held. Up to 1,200 points in high-impact actions may be earned after all four trainings are complete. Once 3,000 points is reached, Dutchess County is also be eligible to receive \$30k in funding from the CEC program. We currently have 900 points from four high-impact actions, which include the purchase of electric vehicles and charging stations; three Solarize campaigns; Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing; and Climate Smart Communities (CSC) certification. After the remaining two trainings are completed, we will have earned a total of 2,100 points. Brad Barclay asked members of the Task Force to help in getting the word out about the final two trainings. Natalie Quinn offered to help Shelby contact City of Poughkeepsie Police and Fire Chiefs regarding the trainings that are specific to first responders.

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

Brad announced that nine municipalities (Amenia, Beacon, Pleasant Valley, City and Town of Poughkeepsie, Town and Village of Rhinebeck, Union Vale, and Wappingers Falls) have signed on with the County to participate in the CAPI program. All participants are developing their own government-operations greenhouse gas inventories and climate action plans through workshops led by the Hudson Valley regional Council (HVRC) and ICLEI. Dutchess County Planning is completing work on the local MOUs and ensuring all required insurance

documentation has been received for each municipality. The contract should be finalized within a month, with the goal of beginning CAPI in mid-June.

### **Update on DCCSCTF Committees**

Committee work will restart while CAPI is progressing. Each committee is asked to consider what CSC actions they might be able to contribute towards the goal of Silver certification. Members of the public who would like to join a committee are encouraged to do so. Shelby has contacted 6 former volunteers from the public to ask if they are interested in continuing their volunteer service, but has not yet received responses.

- a. Membership: Shelby announced the names of the committees, including the members of each committee and their respective committee chairs. Committees will meet between quarterly Task Force meetings and will discuss what actions they can take to meet CSC goals. Also, if members would like to reassign themselves to different committees, they may do so.
  - a. Specifically for the Greenhouse Gas Inventories and Climate Action Plans Committee, Brad added that the intent of this committee's work is to assist with the general CAPI process, but hopefully committee members will also be able to assist municipalities with the process if there is a need.
- b. Communication Tool – Microsoft Teams: After some research and discussion, Shelby found that Microsoft Teams is a good tool for the Task Force's needs for communication, file sharing, scheduling meetings, and holding virtual/hybrid meetings. Shelby gave a brief tour of Teams online and facilitated a discussion about accessing Teams for those members who don't have Microsoft Office accounts. She also offered to do Teams tutorials at future committee meetings.
- c. Committee Priorities for 2022: Shelby shared a list of completed and planned CSC actions that the County and Task Force can pursue in order to achieve Silver certification and suggested that committees discuss the list when they meet.

### **Update on Review of Climate Act Scoping Plan**

Brad expressed that he is currently preparing comments on the CLCPA ("Climate Act") and will circulate these comments to the Task Force when complete. Brad is interested in seeing comments from other groups as well. Allan Page noted that the County has already begun preparing comments and suggested that Brad coordinate with Deputy County Executive Bill O'Neil regarding them. Melissa Everett expressed that collectively speaking in support of the Climate Act at the Hudson Valley public comment session might help with some of the pushback against the Act, since some of the pushback may be due to misunderstandings or misinformation surrounding the Climate Act.

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

Carolyn Klocker, Michelle Gluck, and Brad Barclay discussed the Dutchess County NRI. In summer 2021, the County applied for and was awarded a Hudson River Estuary Program Stewardship Grant to work with CCEDC to update the NRI and work began in the winter. The goal of the project is to update the content of the existing NRI, add new content, and present it in a digital format. A climate change and resiliency chapter will be included. The digital format will include a mapping application/GIS portal. Currently, the team is working on forming an advisory committee and creating a survey that will go out to communities to learn more about potential NRI content or features within a mapping application that could be useful. The Task Force may be asked to review draft chapters of the NRI. The County can receive up to eight (8) CSC certification points for updating the NRI and an additional two (2) points if it is adopted by the DC Legislature. Brad asked anyone who has a source or a suggestion for additional data related to the climate chapter and/or climate impacts in our area to please share them.

### **Discuss Green Job Training Programs and Ulster County Green Business Challenge**

Europa McGovern shared that Ulster County Executive, Pat Ryan, announced a soft launch of the Green Business Champions program on Earth Day this year. Currently, it is available for businesses to register. Last year, an Environmental Outreach Manager position was created to design and implement the Green Business Champions program in Ulster. It will be modeled after the CSC program and NYSERDA. More information will be shared online in the future, but anyone who would like clarification or more information on the program or new position can reach out to the Ulster County Environment Team via email.

Melissa added that NYSERDA created a Clean Energy Technology Training Consortium in the past. Brad noted that one challenge related to green jobs training is that solar installers prefer to train their own staff because they tend to have their own methods/processes in place when getting these systems online, and that what needs to be addressed is energy efficiency in some of our older buildings. Since HVAC businesses will have to train technicians on the use of electric systems in the future, this may be a good topic for a future training session. Shelby added that action items for silver certification include green jobs trainings and a green vendor fair. She also noted that John Lyons, a previous Task Force member, has worked extensively on a Dutchess County green jobs training and initiative. Shelby will share the documents he created with the Task Force.

### **Next Steps**

Shelby will send a Doodle poll for the next Task Force meeting, which will take place in early September.

Shelby and Carolyn will also reach out to Committee Chairs about scheduling upcoming committee meetings during the summer before the next Task Force meeting in September.

Respectfully submitted:

Charonique Roberts

Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development