

Dutchess County Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Task Force

January 29, 2020 - 5:30-7:00pm

Dutchess County Stabilization Center, 85 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 107, Poughkeepsie NY 12601

DRAFT MINUTES

Task Force Members Present: Brad Barclay (DC Dept. of Planning & Development) (Co-coordinator), Steve MacAvery (Dutchess County Environmental Management Council) (Co-coordinator), Gary Bassett (Village of Rhinebeck), Audrey Friedrichsen (Scenic Hudson), Melissa Everett (Sustainable Hudson Valley), Mark Figliozzi (Town of Pleasant Valley), Carolyn Klocker (Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County), Christopher Kroner (MASS Design Group // Hudson Valley Design Lab), Michael Lauchaire (Central Hudson Gas & Electric), Europa McGovern (Hudson Valley Regional Council), and Allan Page (A. Page & Associates, LLC), and Alan Surman (Dutchess County Legislature).

Other Members Not Present: Bridgette Anderson (Dutchess Community College), Jeff Irish (Sun Common), Vicky Kelly (Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies), Jacob Lawrence (Arlington High School), and Brian Scoralick (DC Soil and Water Conservation District).

Welcome and Self-Introductions

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

Review and Adoption of Draft Minutes from the June 24, 2019 Task Force Meeting

The June 24, 2019 meeting minutes were reviewed and accepted by the committee.

Brad encouraged the public to review the [Climate Smart Communities webpage](#) on the Dutchess County Government website for meeting minutes, future meeting dates, and other information related to the Task Force.

Moving Forward – Turning our Focus to Silver-Level Certification

Brad announced that as of September 2019, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) has awarded Dutchess County Bronze-level certification in the New York State-Certified Climate Smart Community program. Brad thanked the Task Force for their hard work, and noted that through their diligence, the County received its certification in just ten months, completing the mandatory actions and documenting enough priority actions to earn 122 points in the program's rating system. He noted that achieving Bronze-level certification was the original intent of the Task Force, but upon review of items left to be completed within the Climate Smart Communities program, he believes that there are enough potential points for the County to achieve Silver-level Certification (which requires an additional 180 points). For anyone whose schedules/commitments may have changed and would like to come off the Task Force, Brad requested that they send him a letter stating that.

Based on the Bronze-level certification achievement, Brad proposed the following changes to the structure of the Task Force committees:

- **Greenhouse Gas Inventories & Climate Action Plans Committee:** Proposed to change this committee to a community working group of the Climate Action Planning Institute (CAPI).
- **Transportation Efficiencies Committee:** Proposed to keep this committee and have them continue their work.

- **Renewables and Energy Efficiency Committee:** Proposed to keep this committee and have them continue their work, but focus on renewable energy (as the energy efficiency aspect will be captured under CAPI).
- **Outreach and Education Committee:** Proposed to keep this committee and have them continue their work.
- **Governmental Plans Committee:** Proposed to disband this committee since the bulk of its work has already been submitted as part of the Bronze-level certification.

Briefing on the Climate Action Planning Institute (CAPI) Dutchess project

Europa explained that at the June Task Force meeting, the Task Force decided to submit a consolidated funding application (CFA) for a collaborative effort for up to nine (9) Dutchess County communities and the County, which, if granted, would provide funding to develop a government operations GHG emissions inventory and a draft climate action plan. The CFA grant was awarded to the County by the NYSDEC Climate Smart Communities program and Europa proceeded to explain the [upcoming CAPI process](#):

- The 16-month long program will be led by Dutchess County, but will be facilitated by Hudson Valley Regional Council and ICLEI. ICLEI, a global network of local governments focused on sustainability, will provide the tools and software for the development of the GHG emissions inventory/climate action plan for all the communities.
- The participating communities are the cities of Beacon and Poughkeepsie; towns of Amenia, Pleasant Valley, Poughkeepsie, Rhinebeck, and Union Vale; and villages of Rhinebeck and Wappingers Falls. These communities did not have to provide a local match for participating in CAPI; instead, they contribute staff/volunteer time to the process.
- In March 2020, a webinar for all participating communities will take place to review the scope and timeline of the project, plan for government energy data collection, and establish the participants' local teams.
- In May 2020, the kickoff of the monthly working group meetings will commence; members will pursue completion of a government-operations GHG emissions inventory and climate action plan. The other participating local governments will engage in these processes for their own communities as part of separate, local working groups.
- The CSCTF will also be utilizing the 16-month CAPI timeline to prepare/submit items to achieve Silver-level certification.
- This process will empower the participating local governments to develop goals and strategies to reduce emissions, enhance adaptation and resiliency strategies, and combat climate change.

Preliminary Discussion of a proposal for developing a multi-county approach to a Green Job Training Program

John Lyons explained the proposed [Dutchess County Green Jobs Talent Development Plan](#), which was developed in collaboration with the Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board. Highlights from this discussion included:

- A green job training program is one of the action items included in the CSC program. A program like this could facilitate energy- and cost-savings for local communities, as well as regional economic development.
- The plan notes "A shift to a greener economy requires a shift in the information and skills taught in schools that prepare students for their future jobs" – and so this is where a green jobs training programs comes into play.
- John added that workforces are staffed, economies are strengthened, and colleges/trade schools are enrolled in on a regional scale, underscoring the importance of crossing borders to identify

opportunities to collaborate with neighboring counties and to understand current regional job shortages.

- John suggested that this initiative be housed with the Outreach and Education Committee to enhance the public engagement piece of the initiative. Melissa Everett added that pursuing a program of this nature is complex and requires strategic planning, and so spending time researching the initiative (either before or as part of the committee) would be valuable.
- The group agreed that this is a great step in the larger process of trying to make the County “green.”

Public Comment

The public offered comments throughout the entire Task Force meeting; no comments were received in this formalized part of the meeting.

Next Steps

Brad reiterated that the upcoming CAPI participant webinar will take place in March and committee heads will be reaching out to their respective groups to schedule future committee meetings. The next Task Force meeting will likely take place in late April.

Respectfully submitted:

Shelby Frangk, Planner
Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development