Dutchess County Climate Smart Communities Task Force (CSCTF)
Monday, April 27, 2026 - 5:30pm – 6:30pm

MEETING NOTES

Task Force Members Present:
Allan Page (Member)
Dani White (Attendee)
Devin Rigolino (Chair & CSC Coordinator)
Eleanor Peck (Member)
Emily Inoue (Attendee, on behalf of Lisa Kaul)
Kiara Carman (Attendee, SHV)
Melissa Everett (Member)
Nancy Severns (Member)
Sandi Stratton-Gonzalez (Member)

Not Present:
Brian Scoralick (Member)
Gary Bassett (Member)
Europa McGovern (Member)
Evelina Knodel (Member)
Lisa Kaul (Member)
Mary Ann Cunningham (Member)
Michael Lauchaire (Member)

Administrative Updates

- Sept. 15 meeting notes: no edits were requested so those will be finalized and posted
- No major public correspondence was received over the winter
- Membership Updates:
    - Michael Lauchaire has notified Devin that he intends to step down from the Task Force at the end of June.
    - Sandi Stratton-Gonzalez has joined the Task Force as a new member.
    - Evelina Knodel has moved out of the County and therefore is no longer able to serve on the Task Force.
    - Three vacancies remain – 2 belonging to the County Executive and 1 to the Chair of the Leg.
    - Most appointments are set to expire at the end of June, so members were asked to email Devin if they wanted to be renewed.

Task Force Mission Discussion

- A conversation took place pertaining to the desire for the group to move beyond "point-chasing" and focus on "moving the needle" on decarbonization and resilience.
- There was agreement among the group that the Task Force should be promoting both internal County projects as well as initiatives that serve to support municipal efforts.
- The County has limited regulatory authority over private sector climate action but could serve a role in educating. Municipalities have more tools at their disposal.

New Initiatives

- An idea was discussed to reconvene the Dutchess CAPI cohort to check-in with those municipalities to see where they are in implementing their GOCAPs and what barriers they might be facing.
- An idea was discussed to host a CSC roundtable event that focuses on volunteer recruitment and peer learning.
    - Both gatherings could be helpful in identifying County-supported funding or technical assistance that could be provided to the municipalities. The County could even possibly form a new CAP cohort through HVRC.

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Steering Committee

- At the last meeting, the Task Force agreed to reorganize its committees into one consolidated Steering Committee that would meet more frequently in between full Task Force meetings.
    - The proposal was approved and the initial members will include Dani, Devin, Eleanor, Melissa, and Sandi.

Certification Status Update

- The County scored 335 points for Silver during the last application. Only 300 points are needed to maintain silver status.
- For the 2029 recertification:
    - If nothing new is done, 159 points will remain valid.
    - With basic re-documentation, we should have approximately 250 points.
    - This leaves a ~50-point gap to close, which should be manageable.
    - Future certification in 2034 will be much harder due to expiring actions.

Next Steps

- Devin will convene the Steering Committee.
- Devin will begin planning a CSC convening for the municipalities.
- All members will e-mail Devin their interest in renewing their membership by the end of June.

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