Dutchess County Climate Smart Communities Task Force (CSCTF)
Monday, September 15, 2025 - 5:30pm – 6:30pm

MEETING NOTES

Task Force Members Present:
Allan Page (Member)
Brian Scoralick (Member)
Devin Rigolino (Chair & CSC Coordinator)
Eleanor Peck (Member)
Kiara Carman (Attendee)
Lisa Kaul (Member)
Melissa Everett (Member)
Nancy Severns (Member)

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

Administrative Updates

- June 2 meeting notes: no edits were requested so those will be finalized and posted
- No major public correspondence was received over the summer
- 3 task force positions remain open (various appointment authorities)

Task Force Mission Discussion

- The Task Force was originally formed to achieve:
  - Bronze: achieved in 2019
  - Silver: achieved in 2024
- Now the County is in an implementation phase (not chasing points)
- Silver recertification is required in 2029
- NYS program may evolve (new actions, potential "Gold" level could be added)

Key Question: What should the Task Force focus on during this interim period?

Organizational Structure Discussion

- A current issue is that multiple subcommittees exist but are largely inactive
- Two potential new models were discussed:
  Option 1: Remain solely an advisory body with no direct implementation (committees eliminated)
  - Provide feedback on:
    - County projects
    - Climate Action Plan
    - Emerging opportunities
    - Bring local insights/issues to County

  Option 2: Develop a hybrid model (advisory + direct implementation)
  - Main Task Force convenes for updates while a core group ("steering committee") serves a more "hands-on" role and more actively works to progress specific projects and targeted initiatives.

- A robust discussion took place centered around the topics of:
  - Ensuring affordability is built into identified actions and messaging

- Prioritizing high-impact, practical actions
- Staying tailored to Dutchess County needs

Next Steps

The future mission will likely include:

- Supporting municipalities
- Maintaining advisory role
- Centering affordability in decision-making and messaging
- Devin to follow-up with a draft revised mission + structure proposal