

## 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

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