



**Town of Poughkeepsie
Climate Smart Communities Task Force**

March 4, 2021 at 7:00 pm

Meeting occurred on Zoom at the following link:

<https://zoom.us/j/95890712230?pwd=aDRFTGt3N0hjUno4SnIYbDIncINTdz09>

Task Force members present: Susan Karnes Hecht, Chair
Ann Shershin
Thomas Lynch
Kristen Taylor
Joan Freeman
Richard Levine
Katherine Espinosa
Stanley Merritt
Beverly Santero

Guest: Jason Zimble, NYSERDA Project Manager Transportation Group

- Welcome to our new Task Force member, Thomas Lynch
- Guest speaker: Jason Zimble, on the topic of planning for EV infrastructure

Questions were gathered in advance by Joan and Richard. Minutes reflect notes taken by Susan and Joan.

We discussed the best approach (what comes first - vehicles or chargers?), NYS goals and standards. Lack of charging stations will inhibit reaching state climate goals; building stations will facilitate adoption.

What resources and/or incentives are available to the Town or private businesses to help with planning and to offset costs of EV infrastructure? Are there limits? Charge Ready NY (max 20 charging ports per site, 10 or more reviewed by NYSERDA, approximate incentive \$4000 per port, max 50 ports in a calendar year, annual monetary limit), Fast Charge Incentive, future DEC programs for municipalities, Make Ready program, tax credits, information resources. Are the incentives stable? NYSERDA is trying to fine tune and use funds effectively. but yes for the short term.

How do we approach and prioritize businesses? What type of businesses would most benefit from investment in EV infrastructure? Strategies differ between communities - e.g., develop EV council or EV advocates group, draft entrepreneurs and owners, small group to drive community effort, consider Chamber of Commerce, a community group on the ground will know best about how to get information to the right places. NYSERDA

plans to launch a program where they will provide funds to help local groups to get this done.

Likely locations: workplace, retail, hotel, commercial, transit parking, hospital, school, college, library, municipal sites, fleet stations, maintenance facilities, rail trail, walkway, medical, theater, restaurant.

Map the traffic corridors to find overlap with above amenities.

Amenity provided by owner or employer.

Public streets to encourage ride sharing.

Multi-unit dwellings need a lot of help and there are incentives.

Depending on setting, owner could make a profit.

What steps should the Town Government take to further the development of EV infrastructure? Invest in infrastructure for Town fleets or for public usage.

How do we drive the purchase of EV's by residents to match the infrastructure we want? Predictions indicate significant increase in EV's over the next 10 years, promoted by State goals.

Does NYSEDA have any seminars, webinars, or events scheduled which we might advertise to our community? Possibly the upcoming Climate Action Council public meetings – see links.

Jason provided the following informative links:

Charging station programs

<https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/ChargeNY/Charge-Electric/Charging-Station-Programs>

Best practices for installation

<https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/ChargeNY/Charge-Electric/Best-Practices>

Tool to estimate charging needed in particular region to meet state goals, they will be updating this assessment

<https://afdc.energy.gov/evi-pro-lite>

CLCPA, NYS Climate Action Council, transportation advisory panel has public meetings

<https://climate.ny.gov/Climate-Action-Council/Meetings-and-Materials>

Municipal grants

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/109181.html#:~:text=Plug%2Din%20hybrid%20electric%2C%20all,receive%20rebates%20for%20multiple%20vehicles.>

- Update on initial certification application

Shortly before tonight's meeting, Kristen received a notice regarding some other towns that were certified. Upon logging into the CSC portal, we learned that we are not yet certified but are approved for 108 of the required 120 points. There are 25+ comments on which will assist us in moving forward on other actions as well as "cleanup" on some. We understand that some planned actions (especially NRI and CAPI) have been delayed. The feedback will be very valuable as we move forward in terms of how we document actions.

- Discussion of plan for Clean Energy Communities presentation to Committee of the Whole at 3/10/21 Town Board meeting
- Final logo selection

The committee reviewed the final entries and made a unanimous selection; Susan will contact the student and professor and request a few small final tweaks.

- Website update

The Town is making great progress with its new site, and Susan saw a preview at the recent CAC meeting. When the transition is complete, ideally committee chairs will have direct access to make page updates, upload minutes, etc. There will also be a social media policy and, hopefully, a Town-based system of social media sites so that different individuals can manage them over time while keeping ownership with the Town.

- Pollinator Pathway

The official launch of the town pathway will occur with the 3/23 CAC workshop at 7 pm on Zoom. The project continues to evolve and grow across the county.

Minutes recorded by Susan Karnes Hecht