



**Climate Smart  
Communities**  
Certified Bronze



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

**October 5, 2023 at 7 pm**

**The meeting took place on Zoom at the following link:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85918232519?pwd=QkFoN0EwbXJzVnZLTIUzNGxHYIN0Zz09>

The meeting was subjected to an episode of offensive “Zoom bombing”; therefore, the Chair has requested that the Town delete the recording from the site. We will provide new links for upcoming meetings and eliminate the previous recurring link.

Task Force members present:

Susan Karnes Hecht, Chair  
Thomas Lynch  
Feza Oktay  
Joan Freeman  
Ann Shershin  
Stan Merritt

Planned guest, Elizabeth Sun, HVRC liason, postponed to November meeting

Updates:

- CAPI
  - Government Operations GHG Inventory presented to Committee of the Whole at Town Board meeting 9/13, announced/posted on Town site and CSTF page, social media. Public feedback sought. Any emails received are being saved to the following file:  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/11S38GvrA3LLJtoMIYG\\_GgQVxB2uRfTkXo4TqZp4IIGM/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/11S38GvrA3LLJtoMIYG_GgQVxB2uRfTkXo4TqZp4IIGM/edit?usp=sharing)
  - Now working on emissions forecasting - “business as usual” forecast was shared at the meeting, it shows predicted emissions by 2030 without any additional actions, and the small reductions are the result of expected changes in the NYS energy supply. Our predicted emissions at 2030 and 2050 remain well above the CLCPA targets with BAU. Next, the cohort will use a variety of tools to assess the impact of selected actions, and prioritize them, in preparation for the Climate Action Plan. We now have smaller working groups for this segment of CAPI, we are with City of Poughkeepsie and Dutchess County (the 3 largest municipalities).

- Community GHG Inventory
  - First cohort meeting took place 9/28, Susan/Joan. This was introductory, we were shown the spreadsheet detailing GHG emissions across the region, and how to find the Town's portion. Similar to CAPI process,, there will be a template provided for the Report, forecasts and CAP (CAP will be a separate cohort early 2024)
- Food Scrap Recycling Pilot (CAC)
  - Presented to Board 9/13 at Committee of the Whole
  - Now seeking public interest in pilot participation and grant funding - shortly there will be a link for interested residents to sign up.
- GBB
  - GBB didn't really provide the robust data that we requested/desired to help identify likely businesses to target. This initiative seems to be inactive unless and until we can obtain more municipal support.
- Solar panel installation at Water Dept.
  - Ann reported that they asked for more building construction data before proceeding. Information about project status has not been shared with CSTF unless requested by Susan.
- EV charger installation at Town Hall
  - Susan learned from Supervisor Baisley (following the meeting) that permits have been issues, installation is expected to begin within the next week approximately.
- CCA
  - Ongoing dialog between Peggy Kurtz at Joule and Supervisor Baisley. Now awaiting date for this to come back to the Board. There are so many important reasons to consider CCA including: the obvious environmental benefits; household savings; both CSC and CEC points/grants; potential impact on emission reduction for our CAP; etc.

New business:

- Partners for Climate Action (PCA) has a new Building Decarbonization Grant Program. Susan attended the launch webinar and shared the information with Mike Welti, who was unsure of the fit for the Town (due to the very short time frame) but passed the information on to Supervisor Baisley. Ann will also follow up. The CSTF consensus is that this is a great opportunity, and that we might do well to apply for the funding for an energy study of a selected Town facility to help us plan actions. (Town Hall? Highway?) Ann will also reach out to Mike Simon, Highway Supt., who is very interested in making the Highway facility more sustainable. See <https://www.climateactionhv.org/decarb-grant>

Next meeting: Thursday, November 2, 2023 at 7 pm on Zoom