



**Climate Smart  
Communities**  
Certified Bronze



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

**November 2, 2023 at 7 pm**

The meeting occurred on Zoom at the following link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85977576726>

Task Force members present:

Susan Karnes Hecht, Chair  
Feza Oktay  
Joan Freeman  
Thomas Lynch

Guests:

Elizabeth (Liz) Sun, HV Regional Council liaison  
Faith Laudano, Mid-Hudson Regional Clean Energy Hub Advisor for Dutchess County

Discussion of CEC action opportunities and status of approved/planned CSC actions

Liz shared her spreadsheet template for planning towards Silver, much of this is the same information that is on our ongoing file but formatted a bit differently. We reviewed actions that will expire, what can be renewed, the “lookback” period on some of these, etc. Given a number of assumptions regarding actions that we can do, we are in very good shape towards the required points if we bring those all to fruition.

It would be very beneficial for certification, environmentally, and for significant amounts of grant funding that is available through CEC, to do additional Community Campaigns. (Reminder that we received a \$15K grant for completing our Solar for All campaign.) The program has been revised with much larger grants and various tiers.

1. Community Solar (new sign ups, no longer Solar for All or limited by income) - this would be an extension for us and would not require a new scoping document. We could count all new signups, for all vendors, since the new program was implemented. Liz noted that it is now much easier to obtain the needed information to submit.
2. Electric Vehicle and Clean Heating/Cooling Campaigns - these would be new for us and would require scoping documents, after approval we could start to count any purchases/installations in the town. We discussed a variety of ideas such as involving auto

dealerships or local HVAC contractors, creative public events. Susan is concerned about avoiding any conflict of interest in terms of the town not wanting to promote private businesses. Other towns have done this and Liz can provide a list, we can reach out to committees there to see how they managed these concerns. Locally, Beacon and Rhinebeck have done some of these campaigns and we are already connected with those reps. Liz will also forward the scoping document, we have the one we did for Solar as a model, and they are not terribly complicated. Once we have all of these materials we will strategize.

### Updated Hub format and support for the CSTF

Faith explained that the “Hubs” are organizations through NYSERDA to help CSTFs, individuals, and communities progress. In Dutchess it is branded as Mid-Hudson Energy Choices (same as CCEDC energy advisors that we’ve worked with in the past). Faith shared information about programs and federal/state incentives and is available to us for public programs, etc. If we elect to do one or more of the campaigns she can assist. Her slides will be provided and shared in the CSTF files.

### Updates:

- CAPI cohort: Currently doing emissions forecasting, planning stakeholder meetings (town staff), and working on prioritizing actions.
- Community cohort: Two meetings have occurred. Data has been provided for each town’s review.
- Food waste recycling pilot (CAC): Susan reports that an appropriate grant application is in process.
- Municipal infrastructure installations: Supervisor Baisley reported to Susan that the chargers are in process, and that SunCommon is currently designing the solar array layout for the Water Dept. buildings.
- CCA: Joule representative, Peggy Kurtz, reports no date set for the Board yet

Minutes recorded by Susan Karnes Hecht