



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

**May 7, 2020 at 7:00 PM
Meeting occurred on Zoom online platform**

Members present:

Susan Karnes Hecht, Chair
Kristen Taylor
Richard Levine
Ann Shershin
Michelle Gluck
Joan Freeman
Katherine Espinosa
Stanley Merritt
Beverly Santero

Solarize campaign:

We were approached by Cornell Cooperative Extension/Dutchess County to host a pilot SOLAR FOR ALL (S4A) campaign. Susan, Michelle, and Kristen met with Danielle Salisbury, Resource Educator at CCE, on 4/13.

This falls into PE8: Support a Green Innovation Economy - Solar for All Campaign, 5 points. S4A is also a high-impact action on the Clean Energy Communities program - the town is not currently enrolled in this but is doing some of the relevant actions regardless - we might want to revisit in the future.

See Climate Smart Communities:

https://climatesmart.ny.gov/actions-certification/actions/?type=1336777436&tx_sjcert_action%5BactionObject%5D=152&tx_sjcert_action%5Baction%5D=getPDF&tx_sjcert_action%5Bcontroller%5D=Action&cHash=05477c79bacbecaeb69f93a9c74f5a41

See NYSERDA:

<https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/Clean-Energy-Communities/Clean-Energy-Communities-Program-High-Impact-Action-Toolkits/Solarize>

Several documents provided by Danielle were uploaded to the Google Drive (main folder > task force materials > solar for all info)

S4A is a free subscription to community solar, to existing arrays - the company is required to set aside a portion of the array in exchange for being assisted by NYSERDA. Goes through NYSERDA grant - funding source is the SBC charge on the Central Hudson bill.

3 requirements:

- live in NYS
- pay own utility bill
- meet income requirement - focus is on low-moderate income population, many get utility bill assistance - available to same people that already qualified for other programs such as HEAP, EMPOWER, SNAP

Program life is currently 2018-2028. Individual does not need to re-enroll annually unless they move, or cancel. Need a minimum of 10 participants within specified time period of campaign

Town participation:

- Potentially need a board resolution - Danielle available to make presentation
- Fill out a simple scoping document
- Publicity
- NYSERDA has a model, enrollment could possibly be done online (is internet access a concern for low income group?)
- There is potential for collaboration with other munis - but it would also be a great opportunity for the town to show leadership

The group responded favorably but has some additional questions for Danielle:

- What is actual income level?
- What are our town demographics i.e. what proportion falls into that level? (Kristen may have access to some of this information)
- Need to clarify what “free subscription” means - those who attended the meeting came away with different understanding of this. Will individuals still receive a bill from the community solar provider (reflecting the discount) just as households do that do not participate in S4A?

Susan will invite Danielle to address the group next month if possible.

Task Force brochure:

Thanks and kudos to Bev for her wonderful work on this project! We agreed that photos would be a great addition and identified a few format edits. Susan will make sure that the updates are sent to Bev.

EV infrastructure:

Richard has continued to participate in webinars and there is a focus on ChargePoint which already has quite a few local charging stations.

Joan learned that Central Hudson has a great deal of information on their site. They have been holding an annual “summit” and it seems that there is much in common with the “fair” approach that we had discussed. She will reach out for more information and to find out if we would be able to collaborate in some way to bring this information to town businesses and residents.

LED documentation:

Ann has tallied the documents and will share them with the group. Richard asked if we will meet the requirements for this PE.

Related, Richard wants to create a template for the fleet inventory that will be needed for CAPI. Michelle can assist him with this preparation.

Green Business Challenge:

Susan shared anecdotal information from the New Paltz Green Business Challenge. A quick online search showed that this is a widespread program, and she suggested that it might hold promise for us as a vehicle through which to integrate our efforts with town businesses (e.g. SUPP, EV, waste reduction, innovation campaigns could all be ways to participate). She will contact the New Paltz CSC chair to learn how they did this and do additional research.

Other business:

Michelle noted that we are likely to receive full points for the Climate Resiliency Building Workshop/vulnerability assessment, based on points awarded to other communities that participated.

Minutes recorded by Susan Karnes Hecht

Next meeting: June 4, 2020

We will continue to plan month by month in response to restrictions during the health crisis.