



## Climate Smart Task Force Meeting Summary

October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### Attendees:

Task Force Members – Matthew Smith, Lisa Adamson, Dan Barusch, Chris Belden, John Bowe, Kathy Bozony, Jeff Flagg, Scott Royael

Other Attendees – Ethan Gaddy, Don Lehman, Diane Collins

- The meeting kicked off at 9 a.m. and the group did introductions of who they were and the group they represent.
- Matthew Smith shared a presentation about the history of the Warren County Climate Smart Task Force with a timeline of events, some Comprehensive Plan survey results, and some possible goals moving forward. This presentation is available on the Warren County Planning and Development website under the Climate Smart Task Force tab.
- The group discussed adaptation vs mitigation and the benefits of both approaches. The County and the Task Force need to establish goals and define progress.
- Matthew Smith discussed where the County is with the Climate Smart Communities Program, and working towards Bronze recertification. The County is currently Bronze certified, but that runs out in September 2025. We are on track to be recertified. Matthew will send out list of actions that need to be revised or are expired. The original certification is available on the Climate Smart Communities
- The group talked about public engagement and ensuring that the public has a place to ask questions, give input, and be included in the work being done. Possibly a web page with a place for public input, community forum, and then dedicated time to discuss public concerns at each meeting. Engaging young people will be a key piece of this to gather ideas and sentiment of what is important to the next generation.

- The group discussed the 2019 Pledge and determine whether the pledge should be updated.
- General consensus that the most effective approach to tackling projects will be through partnerships, municipal activist groups, educational institutions, grants, or other means. County in a unique position to be a centralized place for communities and organizations to voice their concerns and ideas. Email list of municipalities and local organizations, communication pathways being established will be important to the success of organized action.
- The group brought up committee participation and if this group could report to the Real Property and Environmental Concerns committee. A possible option to have a means of bringing grant opportunities and resolutions forward and having regular communication and information with the committee.

### Next Steps

- Determine the role and the immediate goals of the task force, draw on Warren County 2040 goals and ensure alignment. Bronze recertification is the first goal. What next?
- Look at the 2019 Pledge and discuss how it reflects the task force's goals.
- Outline the best practices for getting public participation and awareness about efforts related to addressing climate change, and determine what our plan will look like and be carried out. Explore opportunities to include youth participants through various ways. Make sure the website is informative and includes documents from meetings.
- Partnership list should be compiled to understand the municipalities and organizations working within Warren County so there can be coordinated and organized action and effort as well as shared expertise. Overall network of organizations addressing impacts of climate change being established.
- Bronze recertification efforts are underway, and we are able to submit to recertify. A list of expired and must revise items will be sent out to the group.



This meeting is scheduled for October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 9 a.m. at the Warren County Municipal Complex, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Human Resources Building.

## Agenda

1. Introductions
2. 2024 Activities
  - Officially reappointed task force
  - Alignment between Warren County 2040 and CSC program
  - “Climate Economic Resiliency”
  - Recognize the good work going on already
  - Improve communication with the public
3. Bronze Recertification
  - Number one priority, runs out in September 2025, need application in by May to give review time
  - Silver certification a real possibility
4. Establish best meeting time and day for the core task force moving forward
5. Open Discussion
6. Schedule next meeting

# A Brief History of the Warren County Climate Smart Task Force

A background to guide our future

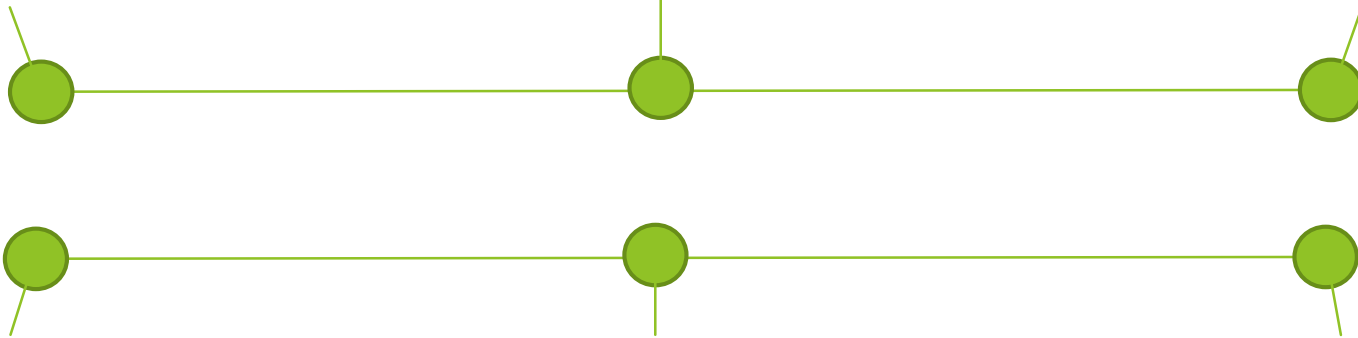


# Non-exhaustive Timeline

**2019** - Formation of the task force, adoption of the Climate Smart Pledge, first meeting, EV Infrastructure, grant application for certification actions

**2020** - Second meeting, grant application for certification actions unsuccessful, 4 elements and climate vision, move to bronze certification

**2021** - OMP completed, Electric Fleet conversion, level 2 energy audit,



**2022** - Hazard Mitigation Plan, NYS Climate Action Council Draft Scoping, WC 2040 Comp Plan begins

**2023** - GGFT-CDTA merger, EV Fleet Transition

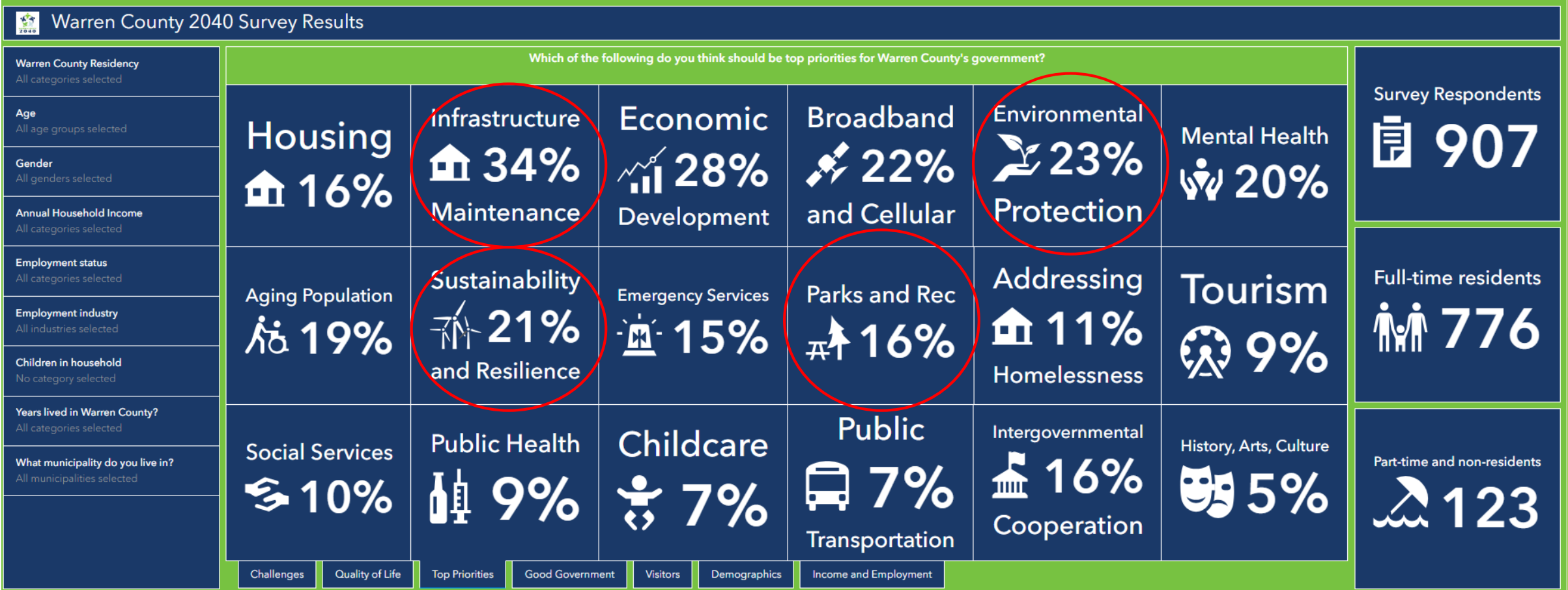
**2024** - Prepare for Bronze re-certification, striving towards Silver, continue efforts



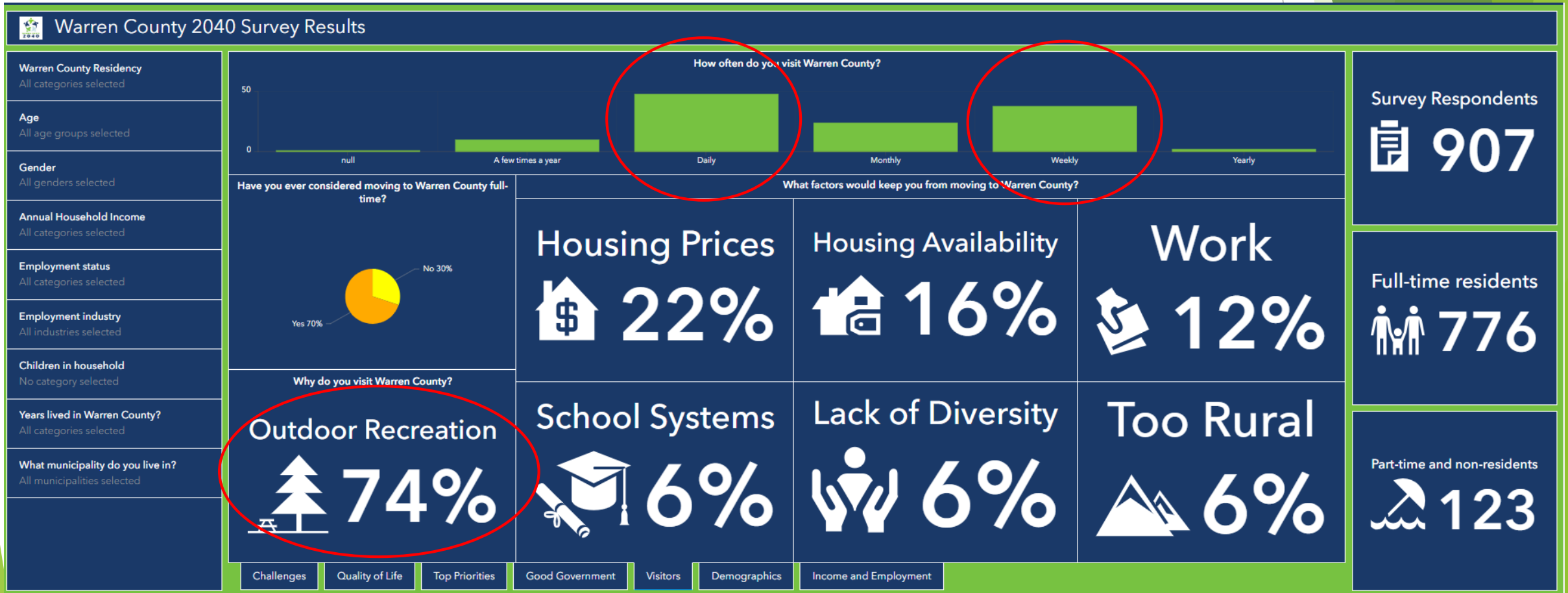
# Warren County 2040



# Warren County 2040



# Warren County 2040





# Warren County 2040

- ▶ **Goal 5: Maintain and enhance environmental quality**
- ▶ Objective 1: Adapt to the impacts of climate change
- ▶ Objective 2: Collaborate with local and regional environmental agencies to strengthen efforts
- ▶ Priority Action 8: “Measure GHG emissions, set goals, and measure progress towards those reduction goals.”
- ▶ Priority Action 9: Launch the County composting pilot project

# Our First Task - Recertification

- ▶ Warren County became a Bronze certified Climate Smart community in 2020
- ▶ This certification runs out in September of 2025
- ▶ We need to have a Bronze recertification application ready by May of 2025 to allow time for review
- ▶ Our original Bronze certification application
- ▶ Actions that are good for resubmission and actions needing additional documents for recertification
- ▶ CSC Checklist

# Moving forward

The suggested next steps based on last meeting notes:

- ▶ Determine the role of this task force and review the 2019 Pledge and update. Determine meeting schedule that works best for us, we will meet quarterly, zoom? in person? Day of the week and time that works best?
- ▶ We are the core task force, but anyone is welcome to join the meetings
- ▶ Continue our support for ongoing efforts.
- ▶ Determine a public outreach plan to inform the public about meetings, actions, progress.

● 7. Enhance community resilience to climate change. ^

**PE7 Action: Riparian Buffers**

5 Points

EXPIRED



• THIS ACTION HAS VARIABLE POINTS: 2, 4, 6 • LAST UPDATED 08/31/23 • EXPIRED ON 08/31/23

● 8. Support a green innovation economy. ^

● 9. Inform and inspire the public. ^

**PE9 Action: Climate-related Public Events**

3 Points

EXPIRED



• LAST UPDATED 08/31/20 • EXPIRED ON 08/31/20

**PE9 Action: Local Climate Action Website**

3 Points

MUST REVISE



• LAST UPDATED 05/18/20

**PE9 Action: Social Media**

3 Points

EXPIRED



• LAST UPDATED 08/31/21 • EXPIRED ON 08/31/21

● 10. Engage in an evolving process of climate action. ^

**PE10 Action: Annual Progress Report**

4 Points

MUST REVISE



• LAST UPDATED 05/18/20