



This meeting is scheduled for February 26th at 9 a.m. at the Warren County Municipal Complex, 3rd Floor of the Human Resources Building. Same room as last time.

Agenda

1. Introductions & Happy New Year!
2. 2025 Activities
 - CSC Bronze recertification submitted, hear back in March
 - CSC composting pilot program MWRR education grant
 - CSTF visibility and partnerships List
 - GHG Inventories - want to break it out by town to provide municipal level data for other task forces
 - Climate Resiliency Action Plan
 - Others?
3. Composting pilot program grant awarded
4. Partnership list and public outreach
5. Climate listening session with Sunita Halasz from AWI
6. CDRPC Capital Regional Climate Action Plan
7. Open discussion
8. Next meeting date is April 30th, 2025

Climate Smart Task Force Meeting Summary

February 26th, 2025

Attendees:

Task Force Members – Matthew Smith, Lisa Adamson, Dan Barusch, Chris Belden, Jeff Flagg, Allison Gaddy, Jim Lieberum, Jack Mance, Scott Royael

Other attendees – Diane Collins, Josh Dranoff, Dan Durkee, Ethan Gaddy, Christopher Hoy, Don Lehman, Ann Marie Mason, Supervisor Nancy Turner

- The meeting began at 9 a.m. with introductions as we had some new people attending the meeting.
- Climate Smart Coordinator Matthew Smith gave an overview of the ongoing efforts including Bronze recertification for Climate Smart Communities, grant applications for composting and waste reduction education materials, visibility and public outreach as well as a partnership list to help support ongoing environmental efforts and organizations.
- There were discussions and updates about the current status of the composting facility grant contract and plan. Also, it was agreed upon by the group to have a shared document for the partnership list as well as just general information sharing.
- Matthew Smith read a letter submitted by an interested citizen volunteer Mr. Benjamin St. Andrews. He has experience in designing and implementing sustainability software solutions, optimizing emissions calculations and hopes to help contribute to the task force.
- The Capital District Regional Planning Commission(CDRPC) reached out to the task force to discuss their Capital Region Climate Action Plan, and a date it was decided that a Zoom meeting for Todd Fabozzi, Director of Sustainability, to present to the group will be set up for March 5th at 10 am.

- The Climate Smart Coordinator has provided a written update of the progress and current work of the Task Force to the Chair of the Environmental Concerns Committee Supervisor Nancy Turner and will report to the committee on a monthly basis moving forward.
- Matthew Smith mentioned that grant season is approaching and asked for people to begin thinking about possible projects for grant applications. This was the end of the Climate Smart Coordinator's updates to the group and then an open discussion began.
- The group discussed solar power in the region and the ongoing projects and opportunities such as capped landfills, vacant industrial sites such as brownfields, and unusable sites such as quarries, dams were also discussed for the purpose of hydro power. Dan Barusch mentioned that a student approached him at the Town and Village of Lake George and offered to do a feasibility study of solar sites and the Warren County municipal center was added into the list of sites the student would study.
- The new FEMA Flood Maps were briefly discussed and will be an important topic moving forward.
- Dan Durkee talked about the challenges faced by Public Health and concerns such as vector borne illness, new diseases, new invasive species that are carrying disease with an example being ticks, air quality concerns caused by seasonal forest fires, extreme heat, and the challenge of having the resources to properly address the impacts. There are opportunities to collaborate and the sharing of information will be important to properly addressing the impacts.
- Lisa Adamson mentioned having a Queensbury Environmental staff person to spread the word in Queensbury about the Climate Smart Task Force to facilitate more public awareness and participation. This was also suggested for the County to have someone that can be a dedicated Environmental staff person.
- Chris Belden talked about the Incineration Plant in Hudson Falls and the possibility of that failing, we discussed where solid waste would go in the event of this happening. Matthew Smith mentioned that part of the composting pilot is meant to reduce organic waste being sent there to lower the overall moisture content and temperature. Chris Belden also stated that we should be prepared to continue without grant funding.
- Jim Lieberum talked about the importance of municipalities being informed of ongoing efforts and how current and future efforts build off previous efforts.

- The meeting concluded around 10:15 a.m.

Next Steps

- Set up shared document to compile partnership list of environmentally minded organizations that may be interested in working with the task force and better understand ongoing local and regional climate efforts.
- Confirm meeting with CDRPC to hear them present about the Capital Region Climate Action Plan they have been drafting.
- Climate Smart Coordinator will give the Environmental Concerns Committee an update on the efforts of the Climate Smart Task Force
- Think about existing project ideas, listed in existing plans that could be viable grant application projects. Email suggestions to Climate Smart Coordinator Matthew Smith at smithmatthew@warrencountyny.gov.

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