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Climate Smart Community - Update from 10/21/19 Task Force meeting

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Thu, Oct 24, 2019 at 2:16 PM

Hi there,
An update about the Climate Smart Community project!

Headline: The more we've dug into this program, the more we see how incredible it is. It is basically providing us with a **complete roadmap to transforming our village in the era of climate change**. The roadmap is organized into "pledge elements" AKA PEs. To view a list of all these on the Climate Smart website go [here](#). I'm also creating a handy-dandy [spreadsheet](#).

Phase 1: Get set up

Matt called us together to form a Task Force, and I've stepped up to be the Coordinator. With a little digging, I found that Rhinebeck Village had already passed the Climate Smart Communities Resolution in 2010 and registered for this program in 2010. My to-do is to meet with former coordinator, get login info, glean any learnings. I'm also trying to determine if the Village has already registered for the Climate Registry (it's a required step to be a member of a national or regional climate group).

To-Do for YOU on the Task Force:

- RSVP to the upcoming meeting Weds, Nov 14 5-7pm at Village Hall (Matt sent out an invite)
- Jennifer - your to-do is to draft a quick update about what we're up to to the folks who showed interest at the Expo. We can start an email list

Phase 2: Inventory what we've already done

We need to understand what the village has already done in the past 10 years. We can get points for these things! At our meeting on Monday, we made great headway going through the list of "pledge elements" (PEs) laid out in the program. I continued that effort with Gary today via a phone meeting. I'm taking PEs from the website and putting them into a [spreadsheet](#). "In progress" = PEs the Village has already done or are just that—in progress.

Phase 3: Tackle Priority for Bronze items

You'll see these important PEs highlighted bronze color. We need 3 out of the 12 to get to Bronze by Jan 10.

1. We have already done one: Alternative-fuel Infrastructure (we have an EV charging station!)
2. We plan to do Government Operations GHG Inventory and/or Government Building Energy Audits
3. Climate Change Education & Engagement - With the Rhinebeck Clean Energy Expo and Matt's Food Waste Talks, we've already made some progress here.

To-do for YOU:

- Could someone on the Task Force dig into what the difference is between these two: the Energy Audits PE and GHG Inventory PE? What sequence should they be in?
- Could someone on the Task Force dig into the Education and Engagement PE? Anyone want to quickly put together a talk or event for the holidays...Brainstorming here, having a clean green holiday season?

Phase 4: Select which items we will focus on

Moving forward quickly, now. To get to our goal of a Jan 10 filing for Bronze, we'd need 120 points. I've added PEs, scoring and notes to this [spreadsheet](#) and noted "we could explore" for ones Gary is open to.

To-do for YOU: Explore the spreadsheet and suggest a PE you'd like to tackle. Email me by Friday Nov 1.

- Scout will be meeting with the High School Environmental Club. Ideally, the students would find an item on the list they're passionate about and could lead on. Perhaps Natural Resources Inventory (priority for bronze 8-10 points)? Or Conservation of Natural Habitats?

- Food waste collection was another topic of interest?
- Recycling program for public event. Brainstorming here, could we work with Sinterklaas to pilot a program this Dec?
- Matt to look into financing fund for the village
- Anyone into social media/communications? We should lay out a plan for spreading the word about what we're doing (Gary says we work with their IT contractor to have a page on the official Village website, post to the Rhinebeck Village Facebook page and be included in the Constant Contact newsletter)

By our next meeting, I'd like to have a solid plan for which PEs we're working on.