



CITY OF BUFFALO
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

BYRON W. BROWN
MAYOR

To: Members of the City of Buffalo Climate Smart Community Task Force
From: Mayor Byron W. Brown *BWB*
Date: June 13, 2019

Purpose of the Climate Smart Community Task Force

The impacts of global climate change are becoming more evident every day and its effect on our communities have become more pronounced. The increasing regularity of extreme weather events, instances of failing infrastructure and higher rates of respiratory illnesses are only a few of the consequences the nation – and the world-- are presently facing as a result of the global community's delayed response to the first signs of human produced Green House Gasses' (GHG) negative impacts. While some regions, like Buffalo's, may be spared the worst consequences of global climate change, we will still be profoundly impacted. Therefore, we have an obligation to take the necessary steps that will mitigate the worst effects of climate change while also planning how to maintain vibrant neighborhoods, thriving business districts, accessible housing, and a robust infrastructure when Buffalo is confronted with those effects.

The City's Climate Smart City Task Force has been convened to help guide the City in its implementation of the ten elements of the Climate Smart Pledge. Reducing the amount of human produced GHG is a multi-faceted effort that will require the cooperation of local government, residents, the faith-based community, business leaders, labor leaders, institutes of higher-education, non-profits and philanthropic organizations. Task force membership also represents the diverse groups whose livelihoods and communities may face drastic changes as a result of Climate Change in the very near future. Their input will be critical to crafting a response to these challenges in a manner that is both inclusive and environmentally sound.

Membership of Climate Smart Community Task Force

Members will be comprised of local government policy makers, community residents, policy area experts from local institutes of higher education, business community representation, a youth representative, and other advocates. Members were invited to participate and commit to meeting six times a year.

Tasks of the Climate Smart Community Task Force

The Task Force will be charged with guiding the City's implementation of the Climate Smart Communities Pledge. Specifically, the Task Force will:

- Review future implementation plans the City develops to reduce GHG production;
- Foster relationships between the academic, business and advocacy communities that will ensure more coordinated action to reduce GHG production;
- Recommend funding opportunities the City may wish to pursue in order to implement Climate Smart Community goals;
- Assist in the implementation of a community outreach effort that will educate and engage residents to become more involved creating a healthier environment; and
- Broaden the number of participating organizations that will work with the City to combat global climate change.

Implementation Timeline and Evaluation

Following the organizational meetings in May and June, where members will review the materials to be submitted to New York State for Buffalo's Climate Smart Community certification, the Task Force will reconvene every other month. Task Force members will evaluate the progress the City is making in its progression of fulfilling the pledge.

Task Force Coordination

Kelley M. St. John, Resiliency Grants Manager for the City of Buffalo, was appointed by the Mayor's Office as the City of Buffalo's CSC Coordinator. The Resiliency Grants Manager is responsible for coordinating across City departments to advance the City's Sustainability and Resiliency Strategy and identify resources to execute it, specifically with the goal of enhancing the City's ability to respond to, mitigate against, and better prepare for extreme weather events as a result of global climate change. The CSC Coordinator role involves facilitating meetings of the Task Force, directing communications, preparing materials for certification, and tracking progress against Climate Smart Pledge goals.