

Erie County Community Climate Change Task Force

July 8, 2020 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Via www.WebEx.com

Meeting number (access code): 968 668 738

Meeting password: C3TFEMC

Agenda

1. Welcome – Anne Bergantz, Task Force Chair (5 minutes)
 - a. Roll call: Anne Bergantz, Lynda Schneekloth, Jon Nickerson, Lisa Kenney, Kevin Mendel, Darren Kempner, Brenda Young, Josh Wilson, Jason Kulaszewski, Bonnie Lawrence, Derek Smith, Clarke Gocker, Kelley Mosher-St. John, Gabby Prince (new member from Youth Climate Council)
 - b. Approve agenda – (approve amended – added #2 below) Motion – Linda S. 2nd - Jason K.
 - c. Approve previous meeting minutes: Motion – Brenda Y. 2nd – Jon N.
2. Presentation: Committee members are asked to review the following presentation hosted by the Youth Climate Council prior to next meeting:
 - a. *Note The Facebook Live link to the “Rising Up for Climate, Jobs and Justice” presentation at 5:30 PM by Emily Dyett and Geovaira Hernandez can be found at <http://www.wnyclimateaction.org>.
3. Other Updates (15 minutes total)
 - a. Climate Vulnerability Assessment – ~~Susan Clark~~ (Josh):
 - i. Threat assessment report was provided to Erie County & they are planning an interdepartmental meeting to review/discuss.
 - ii. Plan to be completed by early 2021
 - b. ECLIPSE / Greenlink mapping – Josh Wilson
 - i. Draft Mapping to be delivered by consultant August 3, 2020
 - ii. Coordinator, Jane Cameron, starting Monday (7/13/2020)
 - c. Community Climate Action Plan - Bonnie Lawrence
 - i. No report back about grant
 - ii. Tracy Skalski has outline for potential fall program, but is dependent on grant availability.
 - d. Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act – PUSH Buffalo
 - i. NY Renews hosting Town Hall 7/17 with NYS Assembly Leader Crystal Peoples Stokes, Senator Tim Kennedy, Dennis Elsenbeck to discuss intersectionality between Climate Justice/COVID-19/BLM Movement
 - e. Transportation Climate Initiative – Lisa Kenney
 - i. No Update
 - f. Climate Smart Community Update
 - i. Erie County – ~~Tracy Skalski~~ (Josh)
 1. County working on Complete Streets policy
 2. Next round of funding is focused on community climate action planning
 - ii. City of Buffalo - Kelley St. John
 1. City CCTF sub-committee initial meetings coming up this month
 2. Looking to fall for hopeful community engagement: social media, website, and possibly use of public parks for social distanced public meetings.

3. Social Justice/Environmental Justice Training for Task Force

- g. Sustainability and Greenhouse Gas Reporting – Josh Wilson
 - i. No Update (slow due to COVID19)
- h. Youth Climate Council – ~~Emily Dyett~~ Gabby Prince (New Youth Member)
 - i. Resubmitted request to Buffalo Common Council regarding passage of a climate emergency resolution (heard back from two)
 - ii. Re-organizing as Executive Director, Ilyas Kahn, moved to Pittsburgh
 - iii. Focus on addressing intersectionality of racial/social/environmental justice issues & BLM movement
 - iv. Upcoming Youth Climate Summit moving online all summer. Every Wednesday this summer at 5:30 to address a number of issues regarding vegan cooking, Genetically Modified foods (GMOs), Social Justice, and others. **(links noted in chat below)**
- i. Natural Climate Solutions – Lynda Schneekloth
 - i. Garden Walk & Open Gardens event moving online this year including a “Native Plants Trail” supported by Western New York Environmental Alliance
 - ii. Series of talks regarding nature based climate solutions to encourage more nature based solutions and use of native plants (see <https://www.gardensbuffaloniagara.com/>).
 - iii. Park access is an important part of COVID19 physical distancing, and wearing masks is an important public safety issue that many are not observing (how do we enforce)?
 - iv. NYS Restore Mother Nature Bond act (\$33 Billion) for environmental remediation. This will be on the ballot in November. Opportunity for advocating for this.
 - v. Article regarding intersectionality of Racial/Social/Environmental justice.
 - 1. Hop Hopkins, "Racism is Killing the Planet" posted by Sierra Club - <https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/racism-killing-planet>

4. Working groups (15 min)

- a. Nominations
 - i. Request has been put out via e-mail. “Are we including the right groups/stakeholders?” Please review spreadsheet sent by Bonnie to see if there are any gaps regarding participation.
 - ii. Committee will be drafting letter to invite new members to participate.
- b. Public meetings/outreach – No Update
- c. Climate Vulnerability Assessment
 - i. Subcommittee met this week to review progress

Note for next agenda: SUGGESTING CONSOLIDATING THIS AND ECLIPSE INTO THE EARLIER CHECK IN.

- d. ECLIPSE – No Update beyond what was noted above

5. Planning August Meeting (5 minutes)

- a. **Dedicate August to Working Groups, and have the full group meeting on September 9th.**
- b. Volunteers for committees are welcome to contact Anne, Bonnie or Josh.

6. Announcements from Group (5 minutes)

- a. Great meeting with NFTA regarding new fare system (smart card fare system) rollout in early 2021.
 - i. Allows employers to provide transportation related tax credit (makes it easier for them to process)

Q. How are public transportation numbers/attitudes as a result of COVID19?

A. Numbers are down, routes pulled/rerouted. Hoping those numbers change when large employers open up. TBD regarding attitudes, but NYC seeing more bus ridership over the train due to “fresh air” ease of access (on/off). Bike Traffic is up where it can be counted.
- NFTA began collecting fares again (stopped in early COVID)

7. Next meeting – **September 9, 2020, 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM** via WebEx

****Note The Facebook Live link to the “Rising Up for Climate, Jobs and Justice” presentation at 5:30 PM by Emily Dyett and Geovaira Hernandez can be found at <http://www.wnyclimateaction.org>.***

Motion to Adjourn – Derek S.

Notes from the Chat:

From Gabby Prince to everyone:

The YCC's panel on race climate and Covid 19 in Buffalo:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ms9fbTuMF8&feature=youtu.be>

Youth Climate Action Summit's Facebook Page - find previously recorded workshops here:

<https://www.facebook.com/wnyouthclimateaction/live/>

from Lynda S. to everyone:

Hop Hopkins, "Racism is Killing the Planet" posted by Sierra Club

<https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/racism-killing-planet>