



Ulster County 2021 Climate Smart Communities Recertification Documentation

PE1 Action: CSC Task Force

Background & Documentation:

- Ulster County CSC webpage: <https://ulstercountyny.gov/environment/climate-smart>
- Climate Smart Committee:
 - [Resolution No. 185, August 16, 2011](#): Dissolving The Global Warming Committee And Creating A Climate Smart Committee
 - The Climate Smart Committee promotes and supports climate action, mitigation, and adaptation in the community. The Committee is designed to act as an advisory board or steering committee that advises and collaborates with the local government to accomplish plans, programs, and activities that are part of the Climate Smart Communities certification program. The Committee consists of community members and municipal representatives, and public meetings are held on fourth Mondays monthly at 7:00 PM.
 - **Climate Smart Committee resolution, list of members, and November 2020 through January 2021 Climate Smart Committee meeting agendas and minutes enclosed*
- Climate Smart Municipal Task Force:
 - The Municipal Task Force was created as an ad hoc subcommittee by the Climate Smart Committee on November 23, 2020 via Motion No. 2, to be "chaired by the Coordinator of the Department of Environment or designee for the purpose of discussion and implementation of the Climate Smart Communities program within Ulster County". The Task Force will focus on supporting both the County and local municipalities in completing CSC Program actions specifically, and in accessing available resources through facilitated trainings; presentations; and other local and regional collaborations. The Task Force [Facebook page\(link is external\)](#) posts information on relevant local municipal events and funding opportunities.
 - **Climate Smart Municipal Task Force description enclosed*

Dissolving The Global Warming Committee And Creating A Climate Smart Committee

Legislator Laura Petit and Co-Sponsors: The Governmental Services and Administration Committee (Chairman Roberts and Legislators Belfiglio, Fabiano, Ronk, Robert Parete, Madsen and Rodriguez) offer the following:

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Ulster County Charter Section C11(k) and the Administrative Code: "Section A2-5 (11) Powers and duties of the Legislature. Among such powers and duties, but not by way of limitation, it shall have the power: *to conduct studies and investigations in furtherance of its legislative functions, and in connection therewith, to obtain and employ professional and technical advice, appoint citizens' committees, commissions and boards, subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, and require the production of books, papers and other evidence deemed necessary or material to such studies or investigations,*" and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 139 dated April 11, 2007, the Ulster County Legislature created a Global Warming Advisory Committee which made recommendations and an annual report that was incorporated into the County Energy Efficiency policy and Ulster Tomorrow as an initial step forward to address Global Warming, and

WHEREAS, the Committee consisted of eight members, who were appointed by the Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature and consisted of : (1) one representative from an environmental organization; (2) one Legislator from the Public Works Committee; (3) one representative from the Ulster County Area Transit; (4) upon, its establishment, one representative from the County department responsible for environmental affairs; (5) one Legislator from the Ulster County Environmental Committee; (6) one representative from the business community; (7) one representative from town or village government; (8) and one member of the Ulster County Environmental Management Council, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 184 dated August 16, 2011, the County will continue to strive to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Ulster County is committed to taking the lead in addressing climate change, energy reduction and sustainability, and be it further

Resolution No. 185 August 16, 2011

Dissolving The Global Warming Committee And Creating A Climate Smart Committee

RESOLVED, that the original Global Warming committee shall be dissolved and re-established as the Climate Smart Committee for the purpose of taking a comprehensive approach to implement future policies and programs at the County government level to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase energy efficiencies, promote local job growth, increase economic activity and resiliency, improve quality of life, and promote social justice, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the membership of the Climate Smart Committee shall be comprised of five members, who shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Legislature (1) one representative from an environmental organization; (2) one Legislator from the Governmental Operations and Environmental Services; (3) one Legislator from the Public Works and Capital Projects; (4) one representative from the business community; and (5) one representative from town or village government, and be it further

RESOLVED, after consultation with and approval of the County Executive, the Climate Smart Committee will seek input from the Department of the Environment, the Department of Public Transportation (UCAT) and the Environmental Management Council, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive may appoint staff from the Executive branch of government to assist the Climate Smart Committee in its work,

and move its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 30 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislators Felicello, Frey and Richard Parete)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE

Resolution No. 185 August 16, 2011

**Dissolving The Global Warming Committee And Creating A
Climate Smart Committee**

STATE OF NEW YORK

ss:

COUNTY OF ULSTER

This is to certify that I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Ulster have compared the foregoing resolution with the original resolution now on file in the office of said clerk, and which was adopted by said Legislature on the 16th day of August, 2011, and that the same is a true and correct transcript of said resolution and of the whole thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the County of Ulster this 19th Day of August in the year Two Thousand and Eleven.

/s/ Karen L. Binder
Karen L. Binder, Clerk
Ulster County Legislature

Submitted to the County Executive this

19th Day of August, 2011.

/s/ Karen L. Binder
Karen L. Binder, Clerk
Ulster County Legislature

Approved by the County Executive this

25th Day of August, 2011.

/s/ Michael P. Hein
Michael P. Hein, County Executive

2021 Ulster County Climate Smart Committee members

- Legislator Manna Jo Greene, Chair and Public Works & Capital Projects representative
- Kim Mayer, environmental organization representative
- Cal Trumann, business community representative
- Betta Broad, local government representative

Ulster County Climate Smart Committee

Agenda

Monday, November 23, 2020

7:00 p.m.

Powered by Zoom meetings, Public Access Dial In: +1 646-558-8656 Meeting ID: 928 5447 3640

Members:

Manna Jo Greene, Chairwoman
Peter Criswell
Kim Mayer

Elizabeth Broad
Cal Trumann

- ❖ Welcome/Introductions
- ❖ Pledge of Allegiance
- ❖ Presentations
 - Climate Smart Communities Certification and Climate Action Planning -- Amanda LaValle and Europa McGovern.
 - Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) -- Brief update: Susan Gillespie, Citizens for Local Power (CLP), Simon Strauss and Joel Herm
 - Transportation and Climate Initiatives (TCI) -- Betta Broad
- ❖ Ulster County and Local Climate Smart Communities Brief Updates, including:
 - 2020 CSC Goals: Progress increasing Climate Smart Community towns
 - Solar Energy, including Community Solar projects
 - Beneficial Electrification: EV Charging Stations and Heat Pumps
 - Reforming the Energy Vision (REV), Clean Energy Standard, Climate Leadership and Community Protection (CLCPA) and other proceedings
 - Ulster County Buildings and Sustainability checklist
 - Energy Improvement Corporation
 - Clean Energy Communities Update
 - Ulster County Climate Action Plan
 - Regional Renewable Energy Implementation Plan (RREIP)
- ❖ Update on CSC Programs and Initiatives
 - Ulster County Green Business Program - Update
 - Refrigerant Management - update
 - Regenerative Agriculture
- ❖ Local and Regional issues
 - UCRRA Local Solid Waste Management Plan and proposed Zero Waste Plan
 - Danskammer Update
- ❖ New Business:
- ❖ Old Business

Next Steps/Action Items Adjourn

Ulster County Climate Smart Committee

Meeting Minutes & Transcript

DATE & TIME: November 23, 2020; 7:00 pm
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meetings: Meeting ID: 928 5447 3640
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Fawn Tantillo, Laurie Lichtenstein
PRESENT: Elizabeth Broad, Kim Mayer, Cal Truman
ABSENT: Legislator Peter Criswell
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes
OTHER ATTENDEES: Amanda LaValle and Europa McGovern, UC Dept of the Environment; Susan Gillespie; Joel Herm, Hydro developer; Vernon Benjamin and Kevin Freeman, Saugerties; Matt Kovner and Simon Straus, Olive; Andy Domenech, Shawangunk; Russ Gilmore, Deputy Supervisor Town of Lloyd; David Edinger, Olive; Meitrea Motel, Climate Reality Project; Kristen Schara, Hurley; Erin Moran, Woodstock

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene called the November 23, 2020 Climate Smart Committee meeting to order at approximately 7:05 pm and asked those on the zoom meeting to introduce themselves before leading them in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion No. 1: To Approve the minutes of October 26, 2020

Motion Made By: Ms. Broad

Motion Seconded By: Ms. Mayer

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislator Greene, Ms. Broad, Ms. Mayer and Mx. Truman

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 4

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Minutes Approved

Chairwoman Greene invited Coordinator Amanda LaValle and Deputy Coordinator Europa McGovern to make a presentation on the creation of a Climate Smart Municipal Task Force.

Motion No. 2 A Motion to create an ad hoc subcommittee, the Climate Smart Municipal Task Force, as a working group under the Climate Smart Committee. The task force will be Chaired by the Coordinator of the Department of Environment or designee for the purpose of discussion and implementation of the Climate Smart Communities program within Ulster County

Motion Made By: Ms. Broad

Motion Seconded By: Ms. Mayer

Discussion: See Transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislator Greene, Ms. Broad, Ms. Mayer and Mx. Truman

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 4

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Approved**

Chairwoman Greene introduced Susan Gillespie, Simon Strauss and Joel Herm representing Citizens for Local Power (CLP) for an update on Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) efforts.

Chairwoman Greene asked for individuals to report on current CSC projects and issues in their community. (See the attached transcript for meeting details)

Mr. Benjamin reported for Saugerties

Ms. Mayer reported for Gardiner.

Ms. Broad reported for the City of Kingston and Transportation and Climate Initiatives (TCI)

Ms. Schara reported for Hurley.

Deputy Supervisor Gilmore reported for Town of Lloyd

Mr. Domenech reported for Shawangunk.

Mr. Edinger and Mr. Kovner reported for Olive.

Chairwoman Greene asked if there was any other business, hearing none;

Motion to Adjourn

Motion Made By: Ms. Broad

Motion Seconded By: Mx. Truman

Discussion: None

Votes in Favor: Legislators Greene Ms. Broad, Ms. Mayer and Mx. Truman

Votes Against: None

Time: 8:48 pm

Respectfully submitted by: Fawn Tantillo and Laurie Lichtenstein

Minutes Approved: December 28, 2020

Ulster County Climate Smart Committee

Agenda

Monday, December 28, 2020

7:00 p.m.

Powered by Zoom meetings, Public Access Dial In: +1 646-558-8656 Meeting ID: 975 4366 8137

Members:

Manna Jo Greene, Chairwoman
Peter Criswell
Kim Mayer

Elizabeth Broad
Cal Trumann

❖ Welcome/Introductions

❖ Pledge of Allegiance

❖ Presentations

Climate Smart Communities Update:

- Climate Smart Task Force update
- Website: <https://www.facebook.com/UCDeptEnvironment/>
- Lifeboats grant for advancing Climate Smart Certification
- Clean Energy Communities: Anilla Cherian, new CEC Coordinator from the Hudson Valley Regional Council
- Vassar Students GHG inventories
- LED lighting inventories and Central Hudson oversight.

❖ Greener Concrete Forum: UC CSC to sponsor, if body agrees. Tentatively scheduled for for mid to late January (Chris Neidl). Possibly week of Jan. 18. Will show Part 1 and Part 2 from video and new, updated Part 3 live with panel to follow.

❖ Regenerative Agriculture Forum, UC CSC to sponsor, if body agrees. Last week in January

❖ Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI) update: Betta Broad

❖ Climate and Community Investment Act: <https://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?term=2019&bn=S03616>

❖ Ulster County and Local Climate Smart Communities Brief Updates, including:

- 2020 CSC Goals: Progress increasing Climate Smart Community towns
- Solar Energy, including Community Solar projects
- Beneficial Electrification: EV Charging Stations and Heat Pumps
- Reforming the Energy Vision (REV), Clean Energy Standard, Climate Leadership and Community Protection (CLCPA) and other proceedings
- Ulster County Buildings and Sustainability checklist
- Energy Improvement Corporation
- Clean Energy Communities Update
- Ulster County Climate Action Plan
- Regional Renewable Energy Implementation Plan (RREIP)

❖ Update on CSC Programs and Initiatives

- Ulster County Green Business Program - Update
- Refrigerant Management - update
- Regenerative Agriculture (see above)

❖ Local and Regional issues

- Central Hudson Rate Case
- UCRRA Local Solid Waste Management Plan
- Proposed Zero Waste Implementation Plan (ZWIP) Update:
 - also Marbletown Lion's Club Plastics Collection: Local Lions Club is collecting 'clean pliable plastic' for a project called BAGS TO BENCHES. This program will turn 500 lbs of plastic into a park bench, for the town.
https://www.facebook.com/groups/380262499080121/permalink/1099614113811619/?comment_id=1100148433758187
- Danskammer Update

❖ New Business:

❖ Old Business:

❖ Next Steps/Action Items

❖ Adjourn

Ulster County Climate Smart Committee

Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME: December 28, 2020; 7:00 pm
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meetings: Meeting ID: 975 4366
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Fawn Tantillo, Laurie Lichtenstein
PRESENT: Legislator Peter Criswell, Elizabeth Broad, Kim Mayer and Cal Trumann
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes
OTHER ATTENDEES: Europa McGovern, Ulster County Department of Environment; Ken Panza, Woodstock; Joanna Warren, Shawangunk; Simon Straus, Matt Kovner, Olive, Alex Bolotow; Erin Moran, Rochester; Tom Konrad, Marbletown; Maitreya Motel, Climate Reality Project; Russ Gill, Lloyd; Anilla Cherian, Hudson Valley Regional Council, Jamie Deppen, Wawarsing; Susan Gillespie, Rosendale; Janelle Peotter, New Paltz; Adriana Magana

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 pm, lead the Pledge of Allegiance. and asked those logged into the meeting to introduce themselves.

Motion No. 1: Motion to Approve the Minutes of November 23, 2020

Motion Made By: Legislator Criswell
Motion Seconded By: Ms. Broad

Discussion: See Transcript

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene and Criswell, Ms. Broad. Ms. Mayer and Mx. Truman
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Minutes Approved

Ms. LaValle and Ms. McGovern discussed the Ulster County Climate Smart Communities Task Force. They have been “brainstorming” with stakeholders for project ideas. The county website and the groups Facebook page are doing well.

The Town of Olive is working with Catskill Mountain Keeper on a Life Boat Grant. Woodstock is not eligible because they have already achieved Bronze status. Town of Rochester has made application.

Anilla Cheriana, Clean Energy Communities (CEC) Coordinator for Hudson Valley Regional Council made a presentation on CEC Climate Smart Communities grant opportunities.

The committee discussed Vassar students Green House Gas inventories and how these might benefit CSC Municipalities.

Chairwoman Greene announced a Greener Concrete Fourm scheduled for January 18

Ms. Mayer reported that Gardiner is making progress on their energy audit and is looking at LED Street lights.

The committee discussed co-sponsoring a forum on Regenerative Agriculture this spring.

Ms. Broad reported on the Transportation and Climate Institute. She was disappointed New York State did not join the Regional Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI) at this time but indicated support and may join in the future.

Mr. Panza reported for the Town of Woodstock.

The committee discussed the capacity of the electric feeder lines beyond Woodstock.

Ms. Gillespie working with Citizens for Local Power on the Central Hudson rate case testimony. She discussed concerns that utilities are empowered to shut power off for non-payment when customers are 5% in arrears.

Mr. Konrad reported for the Town of Marbletown shared a links in the chat regarding LED Streetlight inventories.

Ms. Peotter reported the Town of New Paltz has a Climate Smart Book Club that meets monthly on the 3rd Tuesday and all are welcome. They are currently reading “Kiss the Ground” which was made into a Netflix movie. The Town is continuing work on a Natural Resources Inventory.

City of Kingston is planning to discuss the Climate Action Plan on January 14.

Chairwoman Greene reported progress on the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency 10-year Local Solid Waste Plan.

Chairwoman Greene reported that the group working on the Zero Waste Implementation Plan is developing real measurable goals. He praised a Marbletown Project “Bags to Benches” that is collecting plastic bags to make into a park bench.

Ms. Warren reported that the Town of Shawangunk is working on a local recycling law.

Chairwoman Greene asked if there was any other business, hearing none;

Motion to Adjourn

Motion Made By:

Legislator Criswell

Ulster County Climate Smart Committee

Agenda

Monday, January 25, 2020

7:00 p.m.

Powered by Zoom meetings, Public Access Dial In: +1 646-558-8656 Meeting ID: 941 7494 7702
This meeting is held in honor of John Wackmam of Repair Café, who passed away on [Jan. 8, 2021](#)

Members:

Manna Jo Greene, Chairwoman
Peter Criswell
Kim Mayer

Elizabeth Broad
Cal Trumann

❖ Welcome/Introductions

❖ Pledge of Allegiance

❖ Climate Smart Communities Update:

- Climate Smart Task Force: Website: <https://ulstercountyny.gov/environment/climate-smart>
<https://www.facebook.com/UCDeptEnvironment/>
- Clean Energy Communities Update
- Ulster County Climate Action Plan

❖ 2021 Goals: Encourage every town to become a Climate Smart Community. Review other goals

❖ Ulster County and Local Climate Smart Communities Brief Updates (include in go-around:

- Solar Energy, including Community Solar projects
[How To Solar Now: Using Scenic Hudson's Solar Mapping Tool in Your Community](#)
Scenic Hudson's Solar Mapping Tool: How it can be put to use in your community
- Beneficial Electrification: EV Charging Stations and Heat Pumps
- Clean Energy Standard, Climate Leadership and Community Protection (CLCPA) and other proceedings
- Ulster County Buildings and Sustainability checklist -- update
- Energy Improvement Corporation
- Regional Renewable Energy Implementation Plan (RREIP)
- Vassar Students GHG inventories
- LED lighting inventories and Central Hudson oversight.

❖ Update on CSC Programs and Initiatives

- Ulster County Green Business Program – Update
- Regenerative Agriculture forum – Update
- Climate Justice Equity Principles for the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI) update, Beta
- Climate and Community Investment Act:
<https://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?term=2019&bn=S03616>

- Greener Concrete Forum: UC CSC to sponsor. Chris Neidl). Will show Part 1 and Part 2 from video and new, updated Part 3 live with panel to follow.
- Refrigerant Management

❖ Local and Regional issues

- UCRRA Local Solid Waste Management Plan
- Proposed Zero Waste Implementation Plan (ZWIP) Update:
 - John Wackman's vision for a Resource Recovery Park or Reuse Innovation Center
 - Marbletown Lion's Club Plastics Collection: Local Lions Club 'clean pliable plastic' collection [BAGS TO BENCHES](#). This program will turn 500 lbs of plastic into a park bench, for the town.
https://www.facebook.com/groups/380262499080121/permalink/1099614113811619/?comment_id=1100148433758187
- Green Jobs Coalition and Academy
- Danskammer Update
- Information on "Green" Hydrogen and Low Impact Hydroelectric is attached FYI; watch also for "Renewable Natural Gas"
- [Hudson Valley Environmental Justice Coalition](#)

❖ New Business:

❖ Old Business:

❖ Next Steps/Action Items Adjourn Next UC CSC Meeting: Fourth Monday, Feb. 22, 2021

SAVE THE DATE:

- ❖ Fri., Jan. 29 at 4 p.m. Chronogram Conversation with John Borchert of Central Hudson and others. (www.upstatehouse.com related to SHV's Clean Power Guide). Register here: www.eventbrite.com/e/disrupt-an-inside-look-at-the-renewables-revolution-tickets-131935896819
- ❖ Thurs., Feb. 18 at 5:30 pm [Hudson Valley EJ Coalition event with Sachem Hawkstorm](#).
- ❖ Fri., Feb. 19, 12 noon: SHV Climate Conversation: Jessica Price on TNC's [LI Solar Roadmap](#)

Ulster County Climate Smart Committee

Meeting Minutes & Transcript

DATE & TIME: January 25, 2021; 7:00 pm
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meetings: Meeting ID: 941 7494 7702
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Fawn Tantillo, Laurie Lichtenstein
PRESENT: Elizabeth Broad, Kim Mayer, Cal Truman
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes
OTHER ATTENDEES: Europa McGovern, Ulster County Department of Environment; Jim O'Connell, Cornell Cooperative Extension; Misha Fredericks, Gardiner; Maitreya Motel, Climate Reality Project; Jim Hoover, Stone Ridge; Rachel Busher, Plattekill; Kristen Shara, Hurley; Matt Kovner, Olive; Alex Bolotow, Woodstock; David Edinger, Olive Town Board; Erin Enouen, Rochester; Ken Panza, Woodstock

Chairwoman Greene opened the meeting at 7:08 with the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for a moment of silence to remember John Wackman who passed away on December 1st.

Europa McGovern reported on Bard College Environmental Management Program; Community Scale Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions inventory gathering 2018 baseline data and the potential to assist local communities doing GHG inventories.

Kim Mayer discussed a presence at the Ulster County Fair after the pandemic. The committee discussed working with Cornell Cooperative Extension on this.

The committee discussed a Solar Mapping tool that could help communities determine the best locations for large scale solar installations.

Matt Kovner discussed issues with siting solar west of Woodstock.

Betta Broad reported on Kingston's Climate Actin plan and a new pizza box sticker program that identifies what parts of the pizza box are recyclable.

Ken Panza detailed the analysis of the 20202 utilities for the Town of Woodstock.

James O'Connell discussed the Estuary Program and Master Gardiners program. In March/April they will have presentations on Carbon Sequestration.

Ms. Broad talked about the Climate And Community Investment Act. New York State did not sign on.

Chairwoman Greene said the New York State Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) would need local community involvement to achieve the 2030 goals. She also discussed the importance of refrigerant management as people switch to heat/cooling pumps. She briefly

reported on the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency 10 -year Local Solid Waste Management Plan and progress toward a Zero Waste Implementation Plan. She praised Marbletown's Bags to Benches efforts.

See transcript for detailed discussion

Chairwoman Greene asked if there was any other business, hearing none;

Motion to Adjourn

Motion Made By: Ms. Broad

Motion Seconded By: Mx. Truman

Discussion: None

Votes in Favor: Legislators Greene Ms. Broad, Ms. Mayer and Mx. Truman

Votes Against: None

Time: 8:42 pm

Respectfully submitted by: Fawn Tantillo and Laurie Lichtenstein

Minutes Approved: February 22, 2021

COUNTY OF ULSTER

P.O. BOX 1800
KINGSTON, NEW YORK 12402

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

17 Pearl Street, Kingston NY

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PATRICK K. RYAN
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

AMANDA L. LAVALLE
COORDINATOR

NICHOLAS HVOZDA
DEPUTY COORDINATOR

Ulster County Climate Smart Municipal Task Force

Dept of Environment (DoEnv) serves a unique role as the CSC coordinator for government operations. In addition, the DoEnv has staffing and expertise to support municipalities in their pursuit of climate adaptation and mitigation actions, and in participation in the state-wide CSC Program.

The Task Force will be chaired by the Coordinator of the UC Dept of Environment or Designee, will meet regularly and independently of the main committee, and will report to the main committee on a monthly basis. In addition to DoEnv staff, the committee will consist of individuals, municipal officials, or other stakeholders involved or interested in climate protection at the local level.

The Task Force will engage with municipalities to advance climate adaptation and mitigation actions related to the CSC Program. Activities could include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Completing actions under the CSC program (both the County and local municipalities);
- Working toward CSC certification/recertification (both the County and local municipalities);
- Actively seeking support for local municipalities through other partnerships, such as with academic institutions or the Boatbuilders, among others;
- Leading a "Climate Action Collaborative": This collaborative model will provide a platform for group learning related to climate action planning and the CSC Program. Working sessions could support local municipalities in development of strategies for local GHG emissions reduction targets, identifying actions to achieve them through development of Climate Action Plans, and working towards Climate Smart Communities certification, among others;
- Accessing utility sponsored programs;
- Learning about and implementing NYSEERDA programs and initiatives including the Clean Energy Communities Program



Climate Smart Communities

PE1 Action: CSC Task Force

20 Points



BRONZE MANDATORY



SILVER MANDATORY

A. Why is this action important?

Success at the local level relies on a team of local officials, professionals, and stakeholders that are knowledgeable about the local decision-making process, and can promote and support the plans, policies, and programs that are part of the Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Certification program.

B. How to implement this action

The CSC task force serves as a central body of leadership that promotes and supports climate mitigation and adaption in the community. The CSC task force often acts as an advisory board or steering committee that advises and collaborates with the local government to accomplish plans, programs, and activities that are part of the CSC Certification program. The task force should consist of, at minimum, community members and municipal representatives (staff and/or elected officials). Some communities may want to invite representatives from relevant local boards, organizations, and businesses to join the task force. In addition to the overarching community task force, local governments can consider forming subcommittees to focus on specific plans or programs.

Questions regarding requirements under the Open Meetings Law may be referred to the New York State [Department of State Committee on Open Government](#).

C. Time frame, project costs, and resources needs

Establishing a task force should take no more than a couple of months. Any project costs are related to staff time. The task force could be a newly formed group of relevant stakeholders, or it could be an existing group, such as a conservation advisory council, that has climate mitigation and adaptation as part of its mission. The local CSC coordinator (as per the "CSC Coordinator" action under PE1) is typically responsible for convening and managing the task force. The individual coordinating the task force should have a good understanding of stakeholder groups in the community, and who from those stakeholder groups will be best suited to provide the technical expertise to help develop and implement climate action strategies; e.g., a small business owner that sits on the task force can engage other small businesses in energy reduction measures.

D. Which local governments implement this action? Which departments within the local government are most likely to have responsibility for this?

This action is applicable to all types of local governments. The chief elected official or legislative body can appoint key individuals from the local government to serve on the task force, as well as any other individuals or representatives from local organizations that are well suited to provide the technical expertise to help promote, develop, and implement CSC actions.

E. How to obtain points for this action

To receive points for this action, local governments must demonstrate that the task force includes representatives from the local government (staff and/or elected officials) and community members, and that it has met at least twice during the year prior to the certification application date.

F. What to submit

Local governments should submit the following: 1) A copy of the resolution, executive memorandum, or executive order establishing the CSC task force, 2) A list of the task force members and the organizations they represent, and 3) Meeting minutes, including sign-in sheets or other records of attendance, from two task force meetings held within the past year. If another local committee, e.g., an energy task force or conservation advisory council, is to serve as the CSC task force, the local government should submit a copy of the resolution, executive memorandum, or executive order indicating this responsibility.

All action documentation is available for public viewing after an action is approved. Action submittals should not include any information or documents that are not intended to be viewed by the public.

G. Links to additional resources or best practices

- [Sustainable Maryland, Growing Your Green Team Guidebook](#): This in-depth guide is from Sustainable Maryland, a certification program for municipalities in the state of Maryland. It provides guidance on both forming a local team and making it more effective over time. While there are some differences in municipal structures between Maryland and New York, and between the two programs, much of this handbook's content is relevant for CSC task forces.

H. Recertification requirements

The recertification requirements are the same as the initial certification requirements, with the exception that applicants are not required to issue a new resolution, executive memorandum, or executive order, or amend the existing directive.