

Westchester County Climate Crisis Task Force Meeting 02/25/2021 Minutes

Member Name	Status
Ashley Welde	Present
Leo Wiegman	Present
Andrew Ratzkin	Present
Gwen Jones	Present
Ellen Weininger	Present
Suzie Ross	Present
Jason Baker	Present
Lisa Copeland	Absent
Peter McCartt	Present
Janet Harchham	Present

With a quorum present, Peter McCartt called the meeting of the Westchester County Climate Crisis Task Force to order at 8:04 PM.

Peter introduced Harry Brussel, a new employee with the Office of Energy Conservation and Sustainability.

Peter discussed the new fleet management committee which will review new vehicles acquired by the County government and work on fleet rightsizing. He also briefed the task force on the newly hired deputy commissioners at the Department of Public Works and the new advanced vehicles purchased by the County.

Peter touched upon developments regarding Westchester's solar program, explaining that the County was in the process of finalizing stage one contracts.

Peter finished the update portion of the meeting by speaking briefly regarding progress on the climate action plan. 8 municipalities have signed memoranda of understanding as of the present.

Peter then gave the floor to Harry Brussel who gave an update on progress towards the County's Climate Smart Communities certification. Harry explained that the County was very

close to qualifying for Bronze certification and would formally apply in the first week of April, hearing back from the state in mid-May.

Andrew Ratzkin and Gwen Jones committed to working together to organize the agenda for the task force's next meeting in mid-March.

Peter then discussed attendance for the next meeting and suggested inviting stakeholders outside of the core task force. Janet Harckham suggested that Anjali Sauthof should be invited to the meeting to provide her perspective working on climate justice.

Gwen Jones asked how Carla Castillo's previous work on the Climate Action Plan was going to be used for future progress on the initiative.

Janet suggested that we finish benchmarking first, then complete a full GHG inventory, and finish the Climate Action Plan.

Andrew asked that he and Gwen be given a few days to discuss the agenda for the next meeting in March.

Janet suggested we share a month by month work plan with the committee at the March meeting.

Gwen asked for clarification on what initiatives the CCTF was currently being tasked with completing.

Peter clarified that this is the official Climate Smart Communities committee but also will be the working group for the Climate Action Plan.

Gwen asked to clarify what the priorities for the committee are while we're waiting for the CAPI plan to be completed.

The discussion then turned to the Clean Energy Committees program. Peter and Janet, explained the point based structure of the program.

Suzie Ross asked what initiatives qualify for high point values and asked for a summary of CEC criteria at the next meeting.

Ellen Weininger asked about the County's community outreach efforts and if there are related policy initiatives that Westchester could do to also qualify for CEC.

Suzie raised that the County has initiatives through nonprofit organizations such as FCIC and Sustainable Westchester that should qualify for CEC points.

Janet raised the issue of the intensity of criteria to qualify for CEC points and the potential issue of CEC not allowing actions to be used that occurred over a year before application.

Jason Baker said that through his experience with Yonkers, actions that are submitted retroactively can still qualify for points.

Peter wrapped up by saying that he, Gwen, and Andy would be putting together materials for the next meeting, clarifying the path forward on CEC and CAP and setting up the next meeting.

Peter adjourned the meeting at 8:36 PM.