



**CITY OF BUFFALO**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**



**BYRON W. BROWN**  
MAYOR

**ROB MAYER**  
DIRECTOR OF POLICY

**KELLEY M. ST. JOHN**  
RESILIENCY GRANTS MANAGER,  
CSC COORDINATOR

**City of Buffalo Climate Smart Communities Task Force**  
Thursday, May 30, 2019 4:30 – 6:00pm, 209 City Hall

Agenda

1. Welcome – Kelley St. John, CSC Coordinator & Rob Mayer, Director of Policy
  - a. Overview of meeting
2. Introductions
3. Overview of Climate Smart Communities program
  - a. Introduction to Climate Smart Communities
  - b. Role of community engagement in local climate action planning
  - c. Certification and program updates
4. Mission of CSC Task Force
5. Questions from Group
6. Next meeting: June 27, 4:30-6:00pm, City Hall



## City of Buffalo Climate Smart Communities Task Force

Thursday, May 30, 2019 4:30 – 6:00pm, 209 City Hall

### Logistical Information

#### Building & Security

- Enter City Hall from the front of the building at Niagara Square and proceed through security (Elmwood Ave, back entrance closes around 4:30pm)
- Room 209 is located around the corner from the Mayor's Office on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. You can take the stairs from the 1<sup>st</sup> floor, just beyond security to the left down the first hallway. Elevators are available in the center of the building, to the left of the information booth.

#### Transportation

- City Hall is accessible via:
  - o **Reddy Bike**, a hub is located in Niagara Square at Perkins Drive, with access to Niagara St, Delaware Ave, and Main St cycling infrastructure
  - o **Metro Rail**, about a 5min walk from the Lafayette Station
  - o **NFTA Bus**, City Hall stop services Lines #1, 2, 4, 5, 11, 19, 25, 60, 61, 64, 79, 101, 106, 204
- Parking is available within <10min walk of City Hall at:
  - o Turner Ramp, 1 Perkins Drive
  - o Fernbach Ramp, 123 Franklin St
  - o Augsperger Ramp, 362 Pearl St
  - o #012 City Hall Lot, 24 S Elmwood Ave
  - o Pay2Park Lot 25, 85 W Mohawk St



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Name	Affiliation	Sign
Kelley St. John	City of Buffalo	<i>Kelley St. John</i>
Rob Mayer	City of Buffalo	<i>Rob Mayer</i>
Oswaldo Mestre	City of Buffalo	<i>Oswaldo</i>
Justin Bailey	City of Buffalo	
Susan Attridge	City of Buffalo	<b>EXCUSED</b>
Brandy Merriweather	Buffalo Urban Development Corporation	<i>B. Merriweather</i>
OJ McFoy DBA Tracy King	Buffalo Sewer Authority	<i>OJ McFoy</i>
Jason Kulaszewski	UB Regional Institute	<i>J. Kulaszewski</i>
Nicholas Rajkovich	University at Buffalo	<i>Nicholas Rajkovich</i>
Darren Cotton	University District Community Development Association	<b>EXCUSED</b>
Kelly Asher	Buffalo-Erie County Food Policy Council	
Ilyas Khan	Youth Representative	<i>Ilyas Khan</i>



**Climate Smart Communities**



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**City of Buffalo Climate Smart Communities Task Force**

Thursday, June 27, 2019 4:30 – 6:00pm, 209 City Hall

Minutes

1. Welcome – Kelley St. John, CSC Coordinator
  - a. Introductions from members joining for the first time:
    - i. Susan Attridge, Director of Refuse and Recycling, City of Buffalo
    - ii. OJ McFoy, General Manager, Buffalo Sewer Authority
    - iii. Darren Cotton, Community Development & Planning, University District Community Development Association
    - iv. Kevin Meindl, Green Infrastructure Specialist, Buffalo Sewer Authority
  - b. Overview of meeting
    - i. Review application status, future activities and certification plans, organizational discussion
2. Mayor Brown's Executive Memorandum formalizing the Task Force [an electronic version shared with all Members]
  - a. The Mayor's memo certifies the convening and work of the Task Force with the charge of guiding implementation of the Climate Smart Community pledge through recommendation of responses that address the challenges posed by climate changes in the City of Buffalo.
  - b. Members are invited to participate and commit to meeting six times per year.
  - c. Names the City's resiliency grants manager, Kelley St. John as CSC Coordinator and outlines expectations of role.
  - d. The success of the Task Force is reliant upon our ability to connect people in the community with the efforts we are presenting, building connection between City Hall and the Community through our work.
3. Update on Climate Smart Communities application
  - a. Working toward bronze certification for **July 5, 2019** application deadline: internal deadline for documentation, July 1; internal completion deadline, July 3.

- b. Current program stats
  - i. Documentation is complete for approx. 170 points across 21 actions
  - ii. Pledge elements 9 and 10 are the only areas we do not have actions prepared to upload documentation for in this application cycle.
  - iii. Outstanding requirements - 13 actions remain for documentation upload; waiting for information from a handful of sources
- 4. Next steps – team has identified 10+ actions for certification in 2020; CFA opportunity; August meeting
  - a. Next set of actions for certification will be discussed at remaining 2018 meetings, along with if there are additional actions we would like to pursue to work toward silver designation
  - b. City is submitting a Climate Smart Community grant application for the CFA Round IX, due July 26, 2019 focused on a climate action plan for local government operations. The Task Force will be instrumental in that planning process.
    - i. This initiative will overlap with much of the ongoing and recently completed large planning initiatives of the City, including, but not limited to: Smart Cities; Buffalo Green Code; downtown development and TDM planning; etc.
  - c. Next meeting: August 2019 – request that each Task Force member come to next meeting with a community nominee for addition to the Task Force. Plan to add 2-4, total of ~15 members.
    - i. “Community” refers to the spheres of influence and space in which all of the current Task Force members work; taking a broad view to ensure our Task Force reflects the City it serves. Think outside the box!
- 5. Organizational Planning
  - a. Meeting schedule – next meeting will be in August, last two weeks of month (after anticipation notification date of August 16, 2019).
    - i. Kelley will send around a Doodle Poll to determine date
    - ii. Task Force will meet every other month thereafter (October, December)
  - b. Meeting locations – half of meetings to be held outside of City Hall; invited suggestions for locations, formats, opportunities to go “beyond the boardroom” and make meetings educational and interactive. Suggestions:
    - i. UB Hayes Hall + tour of Solar Decathlon house (GRoW Home)
    - ii. Northland Workforce Training Center + redevelopment zone
    - iii. Unity Island Wastewater treatment facility + Green infrastructure zones

iv. Presentation from UB researchers about GHG mitigation through waste

## 6. Discussion

- a. Consider the knowledge and outreach gaps we currently face in relation to climate change and the community, considering the work of the Task Force and the realms of service of the Members. How can we better communicate what is needed to be communicated?
  - i. Youth – the purpose of, and for city policies that relate to climate change
  - ii. Community-wide – translating the connections between climate changes, impacts, and daily life
- b. Discussion about presence of a lack of validation, a credibility gap and the necessity of building trust in the community around climate conversations; internal (community) and external (third party) validators that bring their own authenticity.
  - i. There are community organizations that exist that are “doing the work” to share messages, educate, and inspire.
  - ii. Public events in partnership with community organizations would be an opportunity to share information and show-up for the community; to connect with residents in their daily lives, purposefully and inclusively.
    1. WNY Environmental Alliance, Youth & Climate Justice Fellows
    2. Love Your Block program, mini-grants opportunity
  - iii. The Task Force can identify and uplift existing projects and programs in the City that support the CSC initiative through local examples; validation comes when those individuals that are consistently identified as community leaders begin integrating the work in casual conversation.
- c. The Task Force will support changes in policy that shift the narrative to focus on a climate resilience future; we can learn from previous communication and policy mistakes.
  - i. Between City Hall and the Community, the Task Force can act as an equalizer; it is part of our job.



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**City of Buffalo Climate Smart Communities Task Force**  
 Thursday, June 27, 2019 4:30 – 6:00pm, 209 City Hall

Name	Affiliation	Sign
Kelley St. John	City of Buffalo	<i>Kelley St. John</i>
Rob Mayer	City of Buffalo	<i>Rob Mayer</i>
Oswaldo Mestre	City of Buffalo	<del>EXCUSED.</del> <i>Oswaldo</i>
Justin Bailey	City of Buffalo	
Susan Attridge	City of Buffalo	<i>Susan Attridge</i>
Brandye Merriweather	Buffalo Urban Development Corporation	<i>Brandye Merriweather</i>
OJ McFoy	Buffalo Sewer Authority	<i>O. McFoy</i>
Jason Kulaszewski	UB Regional Institute	<i>J. Kulaszewski</i>
Nicholas Rajkovich	University at Buffalo	*joined remotely* <i>NR</i>
Darren Cotton	University District Community Development Association	<i>Darren Cotton</i>
Ilyas Khan	Youth Representative	<i>Ilyas Khan</i>
ZOE HAMSTEAD	UB	EXCUSED.
<i>KENTIA WALKER</i>	<i>BUFFALO SEWER</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>



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**City of Buffalo Climate Smart Communities Task Force**

Tuesday, August 20, 2019 4:30 – 6:00pm, Dean’s Conference Room, Hayes Hall, UB South

Agenda

1. Welcome – Kelley St. John, CSC Coordinator
  - a. Introductions
    - i. Nicholas Rajkovich; Darren Cotton; Ilyas Khan; Rob Mayer; Kelley St. John
  - b. Overview of meeting
2. Climate Smart Communities certification update
  - a. Metrics, as of Tuesday, 8/20: 150 points (of 231 requested); 23 actions (of 31); 7 elements (of 9); 3 priority actions (of 5). These metrics meet all the requirements for the City to earn **bronze certification**. DEC Office of Climate Change has not made official announcement to the City of Buffalo yet, but will do so by Monday, 8/26. The OCC is behind due to volume of applications – more in this round than ever before. DEC announcement will be shared with Task Force.
  - b. The points-awarded are slightly lower than we anticipated, largely due to ~3 high-value actions requiring revision; namely the GHG emissions inventories for local government operations and community-wide. Yet, this might change when we receive our notification on Monday, 8/26.
  - c. Rob inquired about Erie County’s certification application. Kelley shared that County colleagues have not yet informed us of their designation status, but as of 8/14 at Erie County’s Community Climate Change Task Force meeting the application was less than 10 points away from the bronze threshold. Rob suggested that in future endeavors, Kelley offer support to the County to help them achieve certification goals.
3. Next steps for certification / action
  - a. Kelley is reviewing actions identified as “need revision,” and outlining missing documentation/requirements for resubmitting in the next certification round.
    - i. The City’s grants management team will draft an action plan for next steps to guide CSC program implementation, reporting back to the CSC



Task Force for guidance and revision. Task Force engagement opportunities will be included in the strategy.

- b. The City is working toward NYSERDA Clean Energy Community designation, as well. Actions under Climate Smart Communities that correspond to NYSERDA's program are being review for submission requirements for the next round.
  - i. NYSERDA is evaluating the CEC program to re-deploy it in 2020 with a more specific focus on municipal leadership. The City is focused on completing actions required for designation prior to this time, so it may align upcoming projects with potential funding and recognition opportunities that might be part of the revised CEC program.
  - ii. Acknow
- c. Documentation gathering and updating work will occur over the next 4-6 months internally (City Hall) to address "need revision" actions and additional "in progress" actions not submitted in previous certification application.
  - i. Some of this work will include assessing GHG inventory methodologies and tracking GHG emissions through the City's contracted energy manager, Fluent Energy
  - ii. DEC has worked with UBRI to assess the Climate Smart Communities program and work on structural changes; we will likely see these in 2020 as "version 3" of the program is implemented. [The City's recent application was split between Version 2 and Version 3 requirements.]
- d. The City submitted a consolidated funding application (CFA) to NYS DEC for funding to perform CSC Certification actions; project will initiate City "Climate Resiliency Planning" efforts.
  - i. GHG emissions inventory updates, local government operations and community, were included as a component of the proposed project.
  - ii. The projected timeline for this project:
    1. Mid-December 2019, Grant award announcement
    2. January 2020, Execution process beings
    3. March 2020, NYS Master Contract for Grants
    4. Summer 2020, Project start
- e. Task Force engagement: thoughts for the future and input / discussion of ideas.
  - i. Acknowledgment that there have been obstacles in the community to NYSERDA-sponsored or -supported work due to allocations of the Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) from projects.
  - ii. Assess the influence of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act: what requirements of CLCPA mean for DEC and NYSERDA.

Kelley will monitor related press/announcements from agencies.

Potential opportunity for Mayor Brown, County Executive Poloncarz, and President Tripathi to submit coordinating comments.

4. Task force membership recommendations - looking to add 3-4 more individuals to the task force who represent the community of the City of Buffalo; remains a workable size group with enough participants to contribute to subcommittees. [Subcommittees TBD.]
  - a. An op-ed in the Buffalo News discussed the need for increased youth representation in local climate action and this was well-received by the Mayor's Office. Would like to give youth voices a place on the Task Force.
  - b. Luanna DeJesus, *Community Energy Advisor*, PUSH (Green) Buffalo – Buffalo Anti-Racism Coalition; intimate experience working with front line communities across the city to address energy and sustainability issues; will help bring perspective and community insight to the conversation that may not otherwise be represented at the table.
  - c. Laura Evans, *Community Energy Specialist*, PUSH Buffalo – local podcaster; environmental law background; strong policy and community knowledge.
  - d. Joe Kurtz, *Community Garden Coordinator*, Grassroots Gardens WHY – brings a food systems, community organizing background to the group; supports the vision of the Task Force finding the shared space to talk and demonstrate community issues that connect to climate change and taking action.
  - e. De'yrón Tabb, *External Resource V.I.S.T.A.*, Buffalo Employment & Training Center - a Master Electrician; unelected community leader in the Northland / Hamlin Park Community; brings enthusiasm and community respect to help make the Task force more representative of the City as a whole.
  - f. Others? Please send recommendations (Name, position / affiliation, contact information) **to Kelley by August 30, 2019.**
5. Discussion / Questions from group
  - a. Foundation representation on Task Force? Thought is that business community and foundation partners will more into the work of the Task Force around the same time, at a later date when Task Force has had time to work together and build relationships in the community (as discussed at previous meetings). The Task Force will speak to Foundation connections to gauge interest and assess benefits of participation.
  - b. Ilyas expressed concern regarding changes from original Climate and Communities Protection Act (CCPA) to Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) that was adopted. Specifically, an interest in local community to uphold original CCPA provision, marginalized and frontline communities supported in the legislation. The Youth are planning to present this. Rob suggested a position paper that highlights the differences between CCPA

and CLCPA, advocating in the space that represents the gap between the two pieces of legislation.

- c. **Next meeting: October 15, 2019** [Future scheduling: bi-monthly, third Tuesday]
  - i. Nick offered his access to WebEx services for our next meeting, should there be a need / collective interest in telecommuting.
- 6. Tour, GRoW Home – led by Nick Rajkovich



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**City of Buffalo Climate Smart Communities Task Force**

Tuesday, August 20, 2019 4:30 – 6:00pm, Hayes Hall, University at Buffalo South Campus

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Sign</b>
Susan Attridge	City of Buffalo	* excused *
Darren Cotton	University District Community Development Association	
Ilyas Khan	Youth Representative	
Jason Kulaszewski	UB Regional Institute	* EXCUSED *
Rob Mayer	City of Buffalo	
OJ McFoy	Buffalo Sewer Authority	
Brandye Merriweather	Buffalo Urban Development Corporation	* EXCUSED *
Oswaldo Mestre	City of Buffalo	* EXCUSED *
Nicholas Rajkovich	University at Buffalo	
Kelley St. John	City of Buffalo	



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**City of Buffalo Climate Smart Communities Task Force**  
Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at 4:30 – 6:00pm, 209 City Hall

Agenda

1. Welcome – Kelley St. John, CSC Coordinator
  - a. Introductions, new members & guests
    - i. Marie Pazych, Business BEactive – invited to assist with communications and marketing of CSC and Task Force efforts; Marie spearheaded the City's first Freelance Business Week in 2019.
    - ii. Katie O'Sullivan, Senior Transportation & Smart Mobility Specialist for Go Buffalo Niagara – invited to share with us about transportation in WNY and the connection between transportation and climate action.
  - b. Overview of meeting
2. Official announcement of bronze certification from DEC
  - a. The City of Buffalo bronze certification is effective until August 2024.
  - b. Certification contributes 6 points to our overall score on the CSC certification action grant application submitted by the City in July. The application also received 20/20 points available from the WNY Regional Economic Development Council. This is 26% of our total score. Award announcements are anticipated in December 2019.
3. 2019-20 action / certification strategy
  - a. The City is looking toward improving our certification over the next few years, aligning programmatic actions with local initiatives.
  - b. The remainder of 2019 we are focusing on Clean Energy Community actions – CEC is the energy-sector focused program of NYSERDA that is a compliment to CSC. This will contribute to a full scope picture of COB actions (taken & ongoing) and prepare us to undertake the planning initiatives of the grant application.
  - c. In 2020, we are looking toward public engagement and outreach as our focus, where the task force will begin to take on a larger role. More on this at our next meeting.

4. Presentation from Go Buffalo Niagara by Katie O’Sullivan (30 minutes)
  - a. Presentation is attached for your review
5. Presentation discussion & questions (20 minutes)
  - a. 58% of jobs in the region are not on transit lines.
  - b. We have no good method for assessing *combination travel*, as in counting those individuals that use more than one method for their “commute.” The American Community Survey is our best resource and only asks one question, mode of commute to work.
  - c. GoBN is working to expand the definition of “commute” to include all activities outside of the home: groceries, medical appointments, errands, etc.
  - d. Discussed implications of NYT analysis of GHG emissions from driving  
<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/10/10/climate/driving-emissions-map.html?action=click&module=Top%20Stories&pgtype=Homepage>
  - e. Funding through a CMAQ allocation will provide funds to expand Go Buffalo Niagara programs across the Region, potentially support capital projects in Buffalo’s central business district.
6. Task Force engagement opportunities brainstorming
  - a. Erie County is interested in doing a climate-focused equity training and has invited COB task force members to join if there is interest. No date has been determined yet, but would be in 2020.
  - b. Connect Buffalo to neighboring communities by being a leader in shifting culture toward climate action.
  - c. A Smart Cities analysis by COB could be an opportunity to look at parallels with technology for assessing climate impacts and initiatives, specifically with energy efficiency and potential for green infrastructure.
  - d. Seeking more youth representation! Potential for more robust outreach via events and educational efforts at schools? And via peer to peer communication.
7. Wrap-up
  - a. Announcements
  - b. Next meeting: December 17, 2019
  - c. Proposed 2020 meeting dates: February 18, April 21, June 16, August 18, October 20, December 15



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**City of Buffalo Climate Smart Communities Task Force**

Tuesday, December 17, 2019 4:30 – 5:30pm, 1038 City Hall, Buffalo Sewer Authority boardroom

Agenda

1. Welcome – Rob Mayer, Policy Director
  - a. Introductions, new members & guests
  - b. Overview of meeting
2. Presentation from Arcadis, *Green Infrastructure and City Resilience (20 minutes)*
  - a. Fernando Pasquel, Senior Vice President, National Director of Stormwater & Watershed Management
  - b. David Barnes, Principal Engineer, Buffalo office
  - c. See attached pdf for presentation
3. Presentation questions & discussion (*15 minutes*)
4. Update on 2019-2020 action strategy – Rob Mayer
  - a. PACE financing announcement  
<https://www.buffalorising.com/2019/11/new-pace-program-offers-affordable-financing-for-renewable-energy-and-energy-efficiency-projects/>
5. 2020 Planning
  - a. Meetings: February 18, April 21, June 16, August 18, October 20, December 15
  - b. We are going to test a new time for 2020 meetings: 3:30-5:00pm.



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**City of Buffalo Climate Smart Communities Task Force**

Tuesday, February 18, 3:30-5:00pm, City Hall room 502, Public Works Bid Room

Agenda

1. Welcome – Kelley St. John, CSC Coordinator
  - a. Introductions
  - b. Overview of meeting – objective: outline project plan and strategy for 2020; goal: identify subcommittees for each member to participate on.
2. 2020 Strategy and Project Planning
  - a. DEC Grant, \$80K – Resiliency planning to include 5 certification actions; ~\$11.74M award in CSC grants in 2019 round IX  
[https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/administration\\_pdf/19cscawards\(1\).pdf](https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/administration_pdf/19cscawards(1).pdf)
    - i. Gov't GHG Inventory; Fleet Inventory; Gov't CAP; Resiliency Plan Assessment; Vulnerability Assessment outline
  - b. Focus efforts of Task Force on Pledge Element #9: Inform and inspire the public.
    - i. Components of PE#9: Climate change edu/engagement; public events; local climate action website; social media; etc.
    - ii. [Climate Change Education & Engagement](#) certification action
      1. How can COB infuse climate education into existing efforts that include public engagement and have been awarded CSC points?
        - a. Potential to include in 34 & More educational materials
        - b. WGRZ climate change impact series, aired on 2/6 and 2/7:  
<https://www.wgrz.com/article/weather/forecast/climate/how-climate-change-could-impact-wny/71-77ca0dbf-f58d-41ec-81cb-36e62af03f3c>
      2. New opportunities for engagement?
        - a. Upcoming opportunity: WNYEA Annual Congress – June
        - b. Suggestion for event: PACE financing info session, for business and development communities



- i. Open C-PACE is a financing program for commercial properties that leverages the equity of a building to develop renewable energy projects, utilizing energy savings from the project to payback financing.
- ii. City of Buffalo passed PACE financing law in 2019.

### 3. Task Force Subcommittees

- a. Request for all Task Force members to participate on one (1) subcommittee to help drive the objective of the Task Force and Pledge Element #9.  
Subcommittees will meet at least five (5) times/year – in person or remotely – in the off months from TF meetings, and report to full group.
    - i. View subcommittees on page 3.
    - ii. If you were not in attendance at this meeting, please e-mail Kelley with your preferred subcommittee participation by COB 3/9/2020.
  - b. Public Engagement – headed by Marie Pazych – focus on coordinating initiatives that support PE9 focus of TF, work with Communications.
    - i. Related to 9B.5 – important to include translations for ESL and non-English speaking residents
    - ii. Experience from 34 & More: graphic representation goes far in translating messages; program has 5 languages and has worked with Journey’s End (for a fee) and International High School youth.
  - c. Membership / Outreach – focus on building community rapport and encouraging participation via new members.
  - d. Policy – examine external policies that impact COB and policy proposals for local implementation.
4. Certification update – going for Silver Certification in 2021, requires +119 points in addition to the current 181 points COB has for bronze; additional three priority actions
- a. One (1) of the additional priority actions is PE#9 – Education & Engagement
5. 2020 Meeting dates: April 21, June 16, August 18, October 20, December 15
- a. Timing – general consensus, people like this time and City Hall is convenient.
    - i. Kelley will touch base with those who expressed concern about 3:30-5pm timeslot, and explore options for demonstrations/presentations for meetings in the community.
    - ii. Jason has offered the UBRI conference call line as a standing call-in option for those who have limited availability.  
**Call in information:** dial in: (712) 775-7031 | pin: 925 865 571
  - b. Kelley will facilitate first meetings of subcommittees, coming in March/April.

6. Announcements

- a. WNYEA Annual Congress, June 2020
- b. Recycling Reinvented launch: <https://149362188.v2.pressablecdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/RecyclingReinvented-Graphic-2-scaled.jpg>
- c. Youth Climate Strike, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2-4pm - contact Ilyas for info
- d. ReTree the District, Sat. April 18, 9am at 995 Kensington - contact Darren for info
- e. Dare to Repair cafes continuing for 2020: <http://www.thetoolibrary.org/daretorepair>

Current Subcommittee Members

\*indicates Task Force member leading subcommittee

NOTE: If you were not in attendance at this meeting, please e-mail Kelley with your preferred subcommittee participation by COB 3/17/2020. Each subcommittee will have no more than four (4) participants at this time.

Public Engagement		
Marie Pazych*	Susan Attridge	Darren Cotton
Membership / Outreach		
Ilyas Khan		
Policy		
Jason Kulaszewski		



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**City of Buffalo Climate Smart Communities Task Force**

Tuesday, April 21, 3:30-4:30pm

Call-in Information

dial In: (712) 775-7031

pin: 925 865 571 #

Agenda

1. Welcome – Kelley St. John
  - a. Roll call & updates
    - i. Susan – Earth Week 2020
    - ii. Ilyas – Climate Emergency push continuing, participating in Earth Week events,
    - iii. Brandye – RCWJC Park project planning underway, improve shoreline ecologically and mitigate extreme weather through resiliency measures
    - iv. Kevin – continuing construction on Niagara St project; community engagement in world of social distancing.
    - v. Oswaldo – Citizen Services is predicated on engagement; considering new means and methods given current distancing protocols; discussion about Love Your Black grant funds using some for COVID-response; meetings/discussions with (Board of) Block Clubs to encourage and maintain engagement; launched “Good Neighbors Network,” door hangers on 150+ homes in challenged and underserved neighborhoods to encourage neighborhood use of 311 to build on existing community fabric – food security, welfare checks, etc. types of calls.
    - vi. Marie – update soon regarding communication efforts.
    - vii. Nick – UB is all online learning now, supporting work of network organizations to plan and expand COVID-response efforts.
    - viii. De’yron – PUSH is developing and integrating a mutual aid campaign for within the community; providing rent relief efforts for at least 1 month for PUSH tenants; supporting tenants and organizations; working with

four block clubs in Northland neighborhood to support neighbor needs via existing capacities and resources.

b. Introduction of new members

- i. Emily Dyett – WNY Environmental Alliance supporting the initiatives of the Youth Climate Council, formerly the Youth & Climate Justice Fellows; supporting learning of technology resources.

2. Grant / Certification Update

- a. Received processing directions and assigned program manager by DEC; currently updating contract, workplan, and timeline.

3. Task Force Subcommittee Strategies & Members

- a. Engagement: coordinate initiatives that support and encourage climate change education through communications and outreach.

Members: Marie Pazych, Susan Attridge, Darren Cotton

- Marie and Kelley working to establish an online presence via social media platforms; would like to connect with Susan Attridge and team for pointers, lessons learned from 34&More initiative.
  - Susan shared that the 34&More team learned it takes consistent management and scheduling to be successful; worked with a consultant to establish procedures.

- b. Membership: build community rapport and encourage participation of new members

Members: Ilyas Khan, Oswaldo Mestre, De'yrion Tabb, Emily Dyett

- c. Policy: examine external policies and policy proposals for local impact and assist with implementation efforts

Members: Jason Kulaszewski, Brandye Merriweather, OJ McFoy (Kevin Meindl), Nick Rajkovich

4. Discussion: How do we conduct and facilitate meaningful public engagement efforts given the current physical distancing protocols? Suggestions for what the CSC Task Force can contribute to the post-COVID world?

- a. Buffalo recycles – outreach in the community is essential to what they do; usually very active during Earth Month and Earth Week, so events have been switched to online and trying to maintain consistency and a presence as much virtually as possible. Dare to Repair café example: promotes landfill diversion, had a volunteer film video of repairing lamp to later post on social media; getting creative during this time.
- b. Social Media and webpages, what can we expect and when? Marie and Kelley currently establishing social media platforms, and will support monitoring/

management. An official webpage/website requires additional discussion with Mayor's Office, etc. but is in the pipeline.

- c. Contracting out for grant work – what will consultants do?
    - i. Planning and community engagement to support completion of five identified certification actions
    - ii. Grant project summary attached for reference
  - d. Sustainability and COVID-19
    - i. UB has created a resource page:  
<https://arts-sciences.buffalo.edu/sustainable-urban-environments-initiative/educational-resources/COVID-19.html>
    - ii. Garbage and recycling rates are UP – creating more waste because we are home...overall garbage is down, not generating bulk trash, pick-ups deferred due to COVID. Majority of commercial waste pickup is not done by COB, but some is.
    - iii. NYS did not drop the plastic bag ban requirement, but some stores have resumed use of plastic bags, some have temporarily stopped the use of reusable bags due to contamination concerns. Dash's is still allowing reusable bags; Trader Joe's and Wegmans using paper. Others?
5. Announcements
- a. WNYEA & WNY Youth Climate Council community webinar – May 4<sup>th</sup>. Learn about the work of the Youth Climate Council, the foundation for a Climate Emergency, and what a Climate Resolution might be for Buffalo.
  - b. Earth Week & Earth Day virtual events to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary within the City of Buffalo – events scheduled for every day of the week with opportunities for earning prizes. Please share:  
<https://149362188.v2.pressablecdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/COB-EarthMonth-Poster-2020-scaled.jpg>
  - c. E-waste and yard waste drop off is ongoing at the Seneca St garage; new compost vendor that will make material available to COB organizations and residents
  - d. Summer food scraps drop off will resume this summer as last year in five locations throughout the City + Elmwood/Bidwell facility.
  - e. New grant to support multi-family outreach initiative coming summer 2020.
  - f. 2020 Meeting dates: June 16, August 18, October 20, December 15





**CITY OF BUFFALO**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**



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 MAYOR

**ROB MAYER**  
 DIRECTOR OF POLICY

**KELLEY M. ST. JOHN**  
 RESILIENCY GRANTS MANAGER,  
 CSC COORDINATOR

**City of Buffalo Climate Smart Communities Task Force**  
 Tuesday, April 21, 2020 3:30 – 4:30pm, phone conference

Name	Affiliation	Sign
Susan Attridge	City of Buffalo	Y
Darren Cotton	UDCDA	N
Emily Dyett	WNY Environmental Alliance and Youth Climate Council	Y
Zoe Hamstead	University at Buffalo	N
Ilyas Khan	Youth Representative	Y
Jason Kulaszewski	UB Regional Institute	Y
Rob Mayer	City of Buffalo	* excused *
OJ McFoy	Buffalo Sewer Authority	* Represented by Kevin Meindl *
Brandye Merriweather	BUDC	Y
Kevin Meindl	Buffalo Sewer Authority	Y
Oswaldo Mestre	City of Buffalo	Y
Marie Pazych	Business BEactive	Y
Nicholas Rajkovich	University at Buffalo	Y
Kelley St. John	City of Buffalo	Y
De'yrone Tabb	PUSH Buffalo	Y





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CSC COORDINATOR

**City of Buffalo Climate Smart Communities Task Force**

Tuesday, June 16, 2020, 3:30-5:00pm

Call-in Information

dial in: (712) 775-7031

pin: 925 865 571 #

Agenda

1. Welcome – Kelley St. John
  - a. Roll call & updates
    - i. Susan – getting summer initiatives going.
    - ii. Ilyas – WNY Youth Climate Council hosting community meetings around “Climate Emergency” declaration.
    - iii. Jason, UBRI – submitted application to NYSERDA to continue technical assistance work with CEC, CSC.
    - iv. Rob, COB
    - v. Kevin, BSA – starting large scale GI implementation, assessing equity in procurement and contracting.
    - vi. Marie – securing social media platforms; launching Convergence Coworking in Hamburg, NY.
    - vii. De’yron, PUSH – working with community continually to check in on neighbors, provide assistance and services during this time as able.
    - viii. OJ, BSA – working on GI workforce plan, securing EIB of \$30 - \$50 million to infill GI projects moving forward.
    - ix. Emily, WNYEA
2. Mayor’s Carbon Reduction Initiative
  - a. Kelley working with DPW to assess emissions pre-COVID and create plan for reducing City Hall emissions by 40% this year. This builds on the Energy Master Plan initiative of 2015 and supports the Mayor’s climate initiatives, finding opportunity in the COVID-19 pandemic.

- b. Rob shared this “opportunity” to be just as or more productive from home as in City Hall; department heads and Mayor’s Office working collectively with union to implement. Hope for a WFH policy to come soon.
  - c. Emily – is there available resource online outlining to CRI plan? Mayor’s Earth Day announcement press release outlines the plan broadly:  
<https://www.buffalony.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=577>
- 3. Grant / Certification Update
  - a. Grant contract is currently with NYS DEC
  - b. The City is on track and still planning for re-certification in July 2021, pending no timeline changes from DEC. Action documentation work will likely begin in late fall of this year.
- 4. Review subcommittee strategies and next steps
  - a. Engagement meeting: <https://doodle.com/poll/y6wx6gf992p3f325>
    - i. Action item: plan Climate Smart Buffalo launch event (based on discussion, below).
  - b. Membership meeting: <https://doodle.com/poll/bw8pt6vdvnu5e68e>
    - i. Action item: evaluate techniques for soliciting membership, propose membership expansion model for Buffalo to implement.
  - c. Policy meeting: <https://doodle.com/poll/tuzrxu2vkhnmqgun>
    - i. Action item: research and propose climate-related equity and diversity training opportunities for task force members.
- 5. Discussion: Launch event for City’s climate action initiatives, focusing on sustaining greater environmental and social justice awareness that current public health crisis has demonstrated and generated.
  - a. Community work that the City can uplift? Absolutely!
  - b. When you “launch” something, people want to have something tangible to see and connect with, so anything we can share that makes it accessible to the community is helpful.
  - c. Wintermission program, great local example of engagement.
  - d. Timeline? A few smaller “launches” leading up to Great idea to build from, just need to mold all the work to our message.
  - e. Are we varying our approach to target all communities in the City of Buffalo? We need to consider language nuance and technology accessibility, etc.
  - f. Contingency planning for any regulations that may come back around re: social distancing, minimized occupancy, etc. due to COVID?
    - i. Yes. Good option to reach more people in the best way possible.
- 6. Announcements
  - a. 2020 Meeting dates (remainder): August 18, October 20, December 15



- b. Nick, offered up Zoom option for calls to share documents, etc. moving forward. Great Lakes Adaptation Forum will be held virtually next year; contact Nick if you have ideas/questions around planning.
- c. Oswaldo – Wintermission, very direct and deliberate about engagement methods and what communities they engaged in; assessed issues with a racial and social equity lens, being mindful of how different communities are consumers of information differently.
- d. Emily – thank you for training re: racial and social equity in climate action work to highlight interconnections of work and give the group that opportunity.
  - i. NYS CLCPA event in the next month or so hosted by YCC and community partners to achieve goals set in that policy.
- e. City of Buffalo
  - i. Bulk trash was announced (finally)! Push to remind people to keep yard debris separate:  
<http://www.buffalony.gov/ImageRepository/Document?documentId=7523>
  - ii. Scrap It! Starts this Saturday at the South Buffalo Farmers Market. Locations at 7 sites throughout the City this summer:  
<https://149362188.v2.pressablecdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/COB-FoodScraps-Flyer-SPRING2020-scaled.jpg>
  - iii. HHW collection event starts back June 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - iv. Climate change education information shared at each event
- f. Suggestion to get CSC Buffalo logo out into the community by addition on other materials going out into the community to bind our actions together. This can act as a binding thread between our actions, city, community, etc. We have a responsibility to keep this important work relevant and forward in our minds.
- g. Community Services recommendation: speaking to community in their language, where they understand it and are comfortable talking about it.



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 RESILIENCY GRANTS MANAGER,  
 CSC COORDINATOR

**City of Buffalo Climate Smart Communities Task Force**  
 Tuesday, June 16, 2020 3:30 – 5:00pm, phone conference

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Sign</b>
Susan Attridge	City of Buffalo	Present
Darren Cotton	UDCDA	
Emily Dyett	WNY Environmental Alliance and Youth Climate Council	Present
Ilyas Khan	Youth Representative	Present
Jason Kulaszewski	UB Regional Institute	Present
Rob Mayer	City of Buffalo	Present
OJ McFoy	Buffalo Sewer Authority	Present
Brandy Merriweather	BUDC	
Kevin Meindl	Buffalo Sewer Authority	Present
Oswaldo Mestre	City of Buffalo	Present
Marie Pazych	Business BActive	Present
Nicholas Rajkovich	University at Buffalo	Present
Kelley St. John	City of Buffalo	Present
De'yrone Tabb	PUSH Buffalo	Present





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**City of Buffalo Climate Smart Communities Task Force**

Tuesday, August 18, 2020, 3:30-5:00pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88382396788?pwd=a1N5NUZ0Mnp2S1pwWGJsOHd4UkYyQT09>

Meeting ID: 883 8239 6788

Passcode: 5LTwfT

Agenda

1. Welcome – Kelley St. John
  - a. Roll call & updates
    - i. Emily Dyett – WNYEA, WNY YCC; working to engage youth in climate work locally and regionally.
    - ii. Marie Domon – owner of convergence co-working in Hamburg, NY; organizer of FBW Buffalo.
    - iii. Oswaldo Mestre – Community Services director for Buffalo, NY; launched Love Your Block mini grants project, specific funding and technical assistance to communities. NAACP Board.
    - iv. Ilyas Khan – WNY Youth Climate Council; climate emergency declaration resolution in Buffalo, NY with Common Council this fall. Submitting climate emergency petition,
    - v. Nick Rajkovich – UB architecture professor; NYSERDA and DHS research.
    - vi. Sarah Dance, Environmental Justice Committee co-chair, NAACP Buffalo – guest of Oswaldo Mestre. Corporate sustainability team and grants administrator at HSBC USA, team in Buffalo, NYC, Chicago; major partner on Climate Week NYC.
2. Membership Updates
  - a. Changes to youth representative, some members stepping back. Reiterate commitment expectations – approx. 1-2hrs per month.

- i. Ilyas has moved, but remains a supporter and has identified a new youth representative to join us to participate.
    - ii. Anyiang Yak, City Honors student active with WNY Youth Climate Council – guest of Emily Dyett and Ilyas Khan.
  - 3. Subcommittee Updates – each subcommittee met in July, thank you all for making the time. Meeting minutes were shared internally, but we’ll share general updates here.
    - a. Membership – discussed options for bringing in new members, the Albany and Geneva models seem most appropriate for soliciting residents.
      - i. What did this actually look like? We need to ensure that our task force is representative of the community of Buffalo, and make sure “wanting to join” is accessible to the community.
      - ii. Internal nominations from full task force first, then evaluate commitment level.
      - iii. How many? Looking to grow the TF to approx. 20-24 members; goal is consistent representation at meetings by 12-16.
      - iv. Vetting? Part of the task force intent is to build capacity. Making sure we align with what we’re doing with who we are bringing on and what we are asking.
    - b. Engagement – launching @ClimateSmartBuffalo in September.
      - i. Review content calendar, share sample IG post
      - ii. Auto-post and content manager software; we will be using Buffer. Marie and Kelley will manage.
      - iii. Adding Emily Dyett to committee in place of Darren Cotton’s role. New Youth representative, Anyiang Yak will replace Ilyas Khan and eventually transition to Membership subcommittee.
    - c. Policy – reviewing options for climate equity training, trying to find a virtual-friendly set-up. Our proposed schedule is to determine training by mid-September, so all TF members have at least one month to complete training activities. At our October meeting we will come together for group discussion and next steps.
      - i. NAACP or National Urban League, maybe inviting in a speaker. HSBC has a manager that handles training opportunities, equity.
      - ii. Trying to speak knowledgeably and collectively, so when we are out in the community we have a common narrative.
      - iii. Recommendation made about looking into foundations or local organizations for funding to support ongoing training opportunities.
  - 4. Discussion: September event opportunities for Climate Week, 9/21 - 9/27

- a. Connect @ClimateSmartBuffalo with local organizations through Western New York Environmental Alliance and WNY Youth Climate Council to do live panel discussion about climate initiatives in Western New York.
  - b. Share/stream Climate Week NYC and NYS DEC online events; promote local initiatives of partner organizations.
  - c. All seemed interested and supportive. Kelley will work with WNYEA to plan and we will use @ClimateSmartBuffalo to advertise.
5. Announcements
- a. Subcommittee members, please complete the appropriate Doodle Poll for our September meetings.
    - i. Membership: <https://doodle.com/poll/8f2tu3vmdqxfqkgy>
    - ii. Engagement: <https://doodle.com/poll/nywhtqkp22am9u29>
    - iii. Policy: <https://doodle.com/poll/7c5acsy6rsnn54zn>
  - b. Next meeting: Tuesday, October 20 at 3:30pm.



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 CSC COORDINATOR

**City of Buffalo Climate Smart Communities Task Force**  
 Tuesday, August 18, 2020 3:30 – 5:00pm, Zoom video conference

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Sign</b>
Susan Attridge	City of Buffalo	* excused *
Darren Cotton	The Tool Library	* excused *
Emily Dyett	WNY Environmental Alliance, Youth & Climate Justice coordinator	Present
Ilyas Khan	Youth Representative	Present
Jason Kulaszewski	UB Regional Institute	* excused *
Rob Mayer	City of Buffalo	* call in *
OJ McFoy	Buffalo Sewer Authority	* excused *
Brandy Merriweather	BUDC	
Kevin Meindl	Buffalo Sewer Authority	
Oswaldo Mestre	City of Buffalo	Present
Marie Domon Pazych	Business BEactive	Present
Nicholas Rajkovich	University at Buffalo	Present
Kelley St. John	City of Buffalo	Present
De'yrone Tabb	PUSH Buffalo	
Sarah Dance	NAACP Buffalo, HSBC	Present





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CSC COORDINATOR

**City of Buffalo Climate Smart Communities Task Force**

Tuesday, October 20, 2020, 3:30-5:00pm

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

Agenda

1. Welcome – Kelley St. John
  - a. Roll call
    - i. Sydney Collins
    - ii. Bridget Houck
    - iii. Jason Kulaszewski
    - iv. Kevin Meindl
    - v. Kelley St. John
    - vi. Anyiang Yak
  - b. Introductions
    - i. Sydney Collins – AmeriCorps VISTA working with BSA on the climate vulnerability assessment and other Rain Check initiatives.
    - ii. Bridget Houck – Recycling Coordinator for the City of Buffalo, works with Susan Attridge in Streets & Sanitation; all around recycling rockstar!
    - iii. Anyiang Yak – junior student at City Honors High School, the new representative from the WNY Youth Climate Council.
2. Updates/Questions from the group:
  - a. What's the social media handle? We are on Instagram @ClimateSmartBuffalo – Marie and Kelley are working on a content calendar for the remainder of 2020.
  - b. What's going on with the Task Force subcommittees? The engagement subcommittee has been focused on getting the Instagram page up and running, with prepared content. The role of the subcommittees is being evaluated based on how our project timeline needs to adjust based on the grant funding delay.

- c. What's the process for recommending/adding new members? Currently, e-mail Kelley with your recommendations, to be brought to the full group. Internally, the City team is working on preparing solicitation materials, as discussed with the membership subcommittee, for the Task Force to be able to share with their networks to increase our membership participation.
- d. Next meeting is December 2020. Kelley will send out a poll to gauge alternative availability of group. This will be our final meeting of 2020.

#### TABLED ITEMS

##### A. General Updates

- a. September event with WNY Environmental Alliance
- b. Grant award from NYS DEC

##### B. Project opportunities

- a. 2021 certification
- b. BSA climate vulnerability assessment (Kevin Meindl)
- c. CSC and Clean Energy Communities initiatives crossover (Jason Kulaszewski)





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 CSC COORDINATOR

**City of Buffalo Climate Smart Communities Task Force**  
 Tuesday, August 18, 2020 3:30 – 5:00pm, Zoom video conference

Name	Affiliation	Sign
Sydney Collins	AmeriCorps Vista, Buffalo Sewer Authority	Present
Sarah Dance	NAACP Buffalo, HSBC	
Marie Domon	Freelance Business Week Buffalo	* excused *
Emily Dyett	Resident	* excused *
Bridget Houck	City of Buffalo	Present
Jason Kulaszewski	UB Regional Institute	Present
Rob Mayer	City of Buffalo	
OJ McFoy	Buffalo Sewer Authority	
Kevin Meindl	Buffalo Sewer Authority	Present
Brandye Merriweather	BUDC	
Oswaldo Mestre	City of Buffalo	
Nicholas Rajkovich	University at Buffalo	* excused *
Kelley St. John	City of Buffalo	Present
De'yrone Tabb	PUSH Buffalo	
Anyiang Yak	Youth Representative	Present
	The Tool Library	





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CSC COORDINATOR

**City of Buffalo Climate Smart Communities Task Force**

Tuesday, December 15, 2020, 3:30-5:00pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://buffalo.zoom.us/j/6042782223?pwd=L3JqaXo4TFNSeERVNG14U3NoRTVvUT09>

Meeting ID: 604 278 2223

Passcode: 199619

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,6042782223#,,,,,0#,,199619# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Agenda

1. Welcome – Kelley St. John
  - a. Roll call and introductions
    - i. Sydney Collins – AmeriCorps VISTA with City of Buffalo assisting Buffalo Sewer Authority with community outreach and communication on its Rain Check 2.0 and climate vulnerability assessment initiatives.
    - ii. Jessica Geary – Grad student at Cornell interning with Buffalo Sewer Authority working on climate vulnerability assessment.
2. Silver Certification 2021 Strategy
  - a. The goal remains to strive for Silver CSC certification in 2021, in doing so supporting local, state and federal initiatives, such as:
    - i. Passage of the WNY YCC [Climate Emergency Resolution](#) by Buffalo Common Council in October 2020
    - ii. Local implementation of the NYS CLCPA

- iii. USA re-entry into the Paris Climate Accords in 2021 – [official as of 1/20/2021!](#)
  - b. There are numerous ongoing projects and activities by various City departments that will support this effort, but we’re presenting today opportunities that directly engage the Task Force.
    - i. BSA land solar development did not go through in 2020 due to common council objection, decision made to reevaluate project based on local control ability. BUDC voting at its December meeting to develop 20-acres of community solar on a portion of land at Buffalo Lakeside Commerce Park with Uniland.
  - c. Mayor Brown participated in a conference call with the Biden transition team about the Energy Efficiency Block Grant program anticipated to come in 2021.
  - d. City leadership met with a venture capital firm in mid-December to discuss the LED streetlight RFP – adding redundancies to upgrades via 5G broadband capacity throughout City, “solar polls” to provide energy. A COB Team has been convened to shepherd the LED Streetlight conversion effort.
- 3. Project Presentation: Climate Vulnerability Assessment with BSA – Kevin Meindl, Jessica Geary, Sydney Collins (25min, starting at 3:45pm)
  - a. Scope
    - i. An additional factor to consider would be homes with high lead levels.
  - b. Understanding the changes anticipated in climate and local effects
  - c. Landscape features and Heat Exposure
  - d. Sensitivity & Adaptive Capacity examples
    - i. Populations 65+ - limited social networks, mobility, tech access
    - ii. Avg. impervious surface coverage ~58%
    - iii. Avg. tree canopy coverage is low, high discrepancy in LI/Dis communities
    - iv. Medium-High Vulnerability: Stormwater pipes, 60 miles in Buffalo. No backwater gates at sewer outfalls, with increased rainfall can contribute to decreased water quality and aquatic habitat degradation.
    - v. High Vulnerability: population w/o health insurance. Physical and mental health impacts of increased, prolonged heat and flooding events, combined with low capacity to respond. Increasing need might outweigh capacity.
    - vi. High Vulnerability: River and Creek Systems. Degraded water quality, habitat, proximity to great lakes and industrial/bulk storage areas. GI and “gray” infrastructure upgrades and investments can support mitigation.
  - e. Top-down initiative mostly from an outside perspective.

- f. BSA would like the CSC TF to review the VA – come January/February. Share with full CSC TF for members to review, specifically policy SC.
  - g. Questions:
    - i. What is BSA intending with the CVA? How is it to be used?
      - 1. Understanding the problem, a 1<sup>st</sup> step. Mindful of sensitivity toward at-risk communities and understanding influence with projects. Ensuring coordination and collaboration.
      - 2. RM advised CVA be shared with Office of Citizen Services and Division of Parks due to operational oversight. Comprehensive and practical approach to addressing issues with mitigation/adaptation efforts.
      - 3. RM & OM support discussion between BSA & OCS – OM gave examples of “seasonal” approaches to addressing issues facing vulnerable communities. Summer vs. Winter & “wintermission” program.
    - ii. how this will tie into investments in infrastructure?
      - 1. BSA has 6 priority CSO basins – we don’t know investment \*yet\* as this is currently an internal doc, but this will inform action plan.
      - 2. RM suggests reviewing Raincheck 2.0 and the infrastructure planning outlined in that document.
    - iii. what literature was included in the review?
      - 1. Headwaters Economics, GLISA
    - iv. Did you talk to other sewer authorities in the region?
      - 1. BSA is part of a working/network group
      - 2. NR suggests Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, they did some work with the City of Cleveland on a vulnerability assessment and recommends the City of Ann Arbor.
    - v. Will the be used for the City’s application for silver certification?
      - 1. Yes: **anticipating 4 points, could possibly receive 8 points.**
      - 2. The CSC requirements for Climate Vulnerability Assessment actions are available here: <https://climatesmart.ny.gov/actions-certification/actions/#open/action/85>
4. Project Presentation: CSC and Clean Energy Communities initiatives crossover – Jason Kulaszewski (15min, starting at 4:15pm)
- a. CLCPA is effectively NYS’s “Green New Deal.” **GOALS SLIDE.** It is a very heavy lift, but getting there takes all of us, and together we can achieve the goals.

- b. High impact actions to guide municipalities on taking energy-specific actions. The City has three (3) completed.
  - i. PACE financing for commercial projects
  - ii. Clean Fleets – EV charging infrastructure within public parking ramps
  - iii. CSC certification
- c. With one additional action the City will be designated CEC – revised CEC 2.0 program expected in 2021 to support additional projects and provide essential funding.
- d. CEC-CSC crosswalk
  - i. EX: Energy Benchmarking – policy adoption for CEC, direct action in CSC that supports additional grant activities, such as GHG inventory and CAP.
  - ii. Energy Benchmarking would add **at least 19 points, up to 29 points** to our 2021 Silver CSC application.
- e. Leadership Program: a points-based system with different values associated with each HIA; get designated and receive Designation Grant + become eligible for action specific grant funds based on points. Change to existing and new HIAs. Grants are tiered based on total action points and community size. There are more overall grant opportunities in the new program.
- f. Questions:
  - i. High Impact Actions || achievability – LED Streetlights ~\$150 M cost to City, thankfully in a strong Environmental Bond time but with constraint from current conditions – the State will have to support community implementation of some of these initiatives upfront. State and Local fiscal challenges are extremely relevant.
    - 1. There are Low-cost, no-cost opportunities, focusing on those to address entry into the program, then build on successes.
  - ii. It seems like a lot of these actions we're discussing on the call (e.g., vulnerability assessment, CSC certification, CEC actions, etc.) would traditionally be part of a formal climate action plan. Is the goal of the city still to create and adopt a formal climate action plan? If so, what is the timeline for adoption?
    - 1. First goals when getting CSC started was supporting the creation and adoption of a CAP.
    - 2. There is a political component of funding availability, spent and committed very quickly, so planning becomes a tricky activity. Maintaining political will and support for climate action relevant work through immediate funding. LED project – 100s+ jobs,

MWBE support, financial incentives for city undertaking i.e. low utility bills that can free up funds for reinvestment.

iii. Importance of having a formal (and adopted) plan in place to potentially take advantage of federal funding that may open up with a new administration?

1. Sends a signal to funding agencies, investors that buffalo is “Open for business” and has a strategy for implementation and prioritization.
2. Difficulty with Common Council and hot-cold nature, inconsistent opinions and will of movement.

5. Project Discussion: Outreach and engagement – Kelley

- a. Social Media – Instagram @climatesmartbuffalo
- b. Find, Follow, Like & Share.
- c. “Let’s take this show on the road!” Get the word out there about the CSC work, connecting with community groups and organizations. Use messengers to connect with communities.
- d. RM question to JK: put together a community outreach campaign around any of the CEC areas, would it support the City receiving grant funds?
  - i. Yes, there are ways to make this work!
  - ii. NAACP is interested in sharing our work and looking for engagement opportunities around climate and energy. Really utilizing that community and network spread.
  - iii. Potential block club info sessions and outreach to support via DCS.
- e. Deliverable we need to achieve: compile info that Marie can build a campaign around to connect with various constituencies and integrate with existing city channels and outreach. We eat our own resources, rather than pooling.

6. Meeting Schedule

- a. Proposed: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every other month, task force meets during even months.
- b. Project teams will meet during odd months, date and time TBD by groups.
  - i. Policy SC – support passage of Energy Benchmarking policy, review and comment on BSA Climate Vulnerability Assessment.
  - ii. Engagement SC – develop content calendar for 2021 Q1-2 IG and brainstorm community campaign ideas
  - iii. Membership SC – develop outreach materials for new members



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 CSC COORDINATOR

**City of Buffalo Climate Smart Communities Task Force**  
 Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:30 – 5:00pm, Zoom meeting

Name	Affiliation	Sign
Susan Attridge	City of Buffalo	* excused *
Sydney Collins	AmeriCorps Vista, Buffalo Sewer Authority	Present
Sarah Dance	NAACP Buffalo, HSBC	Present
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Jessica Geary	Intern, Buffalo Sewer Authority	Present
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Brandye Merriweather	BUDC	
Oswaldo Mestre	City of Buffalo	Present
Nicholas Rajkovich	University at Buffalo	Present
Kelley St. John	City of Buffalo	Present
De'yrone Tabb	PUSH Buffalo	* excused *
Anyiang Yak	Youth Representative	Present
Cerys Hill, Hailey Whitney, Hunter Spitzer	AmeriCorps VISTAs, Citizen Services	Present





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Join Zoom Meeting

<https://buffalo.zoom.us/j/6042782223?pwd=L3JqaXo4TFNSeERVNG14U3NoRTVvUT09>

Meeting ID: 604 278 2223

Passcode: 199619

One tap mobile

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Agenda

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  - b. Introductions
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Tuesday, April 20, 2020, 3:30-5:00pm

Agenda

1. Welcome – Kelley St. John
  - a. Roll call – forego for time
2. GHG Emissions Inventory, UB Carbon Reduction Challenge team (15min)
  - a. Presentation attached for review. Please do not share outside the group; students working on final version, will be shared with CSC application.
    - i. Other cultural institutions and community facilities, such as Kleinhans Music Hall, splash pads, etc.
  - b. Questions:
    - i. Was fuel from mowing, plowing, garbage, etc. included in the transportation GHGs?
      1. Yes, mowing and garbage, but plowing data was unclear but estimated based on type of vehicle use.
    - ii. How does Buffalo's use compare to other similar sized municipalities?
      1. Lower usage compared to similar cities, but comparison is difficult due to emissions inventory scope.
    - iii. How was lighting separated from other building functions?
      1. This is outdoor lighting, non-facility associated. Primarily, street lighting and lighting around parks, Erie Basin Marina, etc.
    - iv. Without a survey, how was employee travel to CH estimated?
      1. We estimated employee commute data using employee count and location data as a sample of the total City population.
      2. Buffalo Place completed a survey of downtown (regional?) commuting behaviors for 2014-2018. We should request a copy of the findings and data to see if its relevant and useful for a climate action plan, potentially to complete a City commuter survey.
    - v. Why were certain agencies not included? Other agencies not responsive?
      1. We limited the scale of the assessment to “direct operational control” to keep the project reasonable given the constraints of the students’ time and course capacity.



2. Other agencies are identified in the assessment to indicate where data would need to be collected to be consistent with other planning products, such as the Energy Master Plan.
  - vi. Students will be preparing a 2min “elevator pitch” of the project and outcomes to share with the course that they will expand upon for our sharing purposes.
  - vii. Opportunity to share the Assessment report with Mayor’s Office and public for baseline information to begin implementation of policies.
3. Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment update, BSA team (30min)
  - a. Kevin Meindl is no longer with BSA, so we are welcoming a new face from the BSA Team: Taylor Brown.
  - b. Online survey, interviews with stakeholders, draft review & feedback
  - c. Important note from BSA General Manager, OJ McFoy – The CVA covers stormwater and potential flooding aspects, but both Buffalo Sewer and Buffalo Water facilities exist on the shores of the Niagara River and Lake Erie respectively and are vital to our citizens. Historic Storm surges due to climate change continue to threaten our Colonel Ward Water Facility and needs to be highlighted. These vulnerabilities have an effect on our entire population and surrounding suburban communities. Opportunity to address the inter-connectedness of these physical and environmental infrastructure systems; Centennial Park is an example of how we are and can do this.
    - i. Shaping policy to support increased natural infrastructure to adapt to climate change through environmental measures, versus “hardening” the infrastructure to “resist” climate change impacts. We cannot build ourselves out.
  - d. Results of the poll we took regarding sensitivity and adaptive capacity of the natural systems in Buffalo:

SENSITIVITY					
Response	Rating	PARKS	WATERWAYS	BIODIVERSITY	STREET TREES
Will not be affected	0	0	0	0	0
Minimally affected	1	0	0	1	1
Somewhat affected	2	1	3	2	3
Largely affected	3	9	4	4	5
Most affected	4	0	3	3	1
TOTAL RESPONSES		10	10	10	10

ADAPTIVE CAPACITY					
Response	Rating	PARKS	WATERWAYS	BIODIVERSITY	STREET TREES
Not able to accommodate	0	0	0	0	0
Minimally able to accommodate	1	1	4	2	5
Somewhat able to accommodate	2	6	5	6	4
Mostly able to accommodate	3	1	0	2	1
Able to accommodate or adjust in a beneficial way	4	2	1	0	0
TOTAL RESPONSES		10	10	10	10

e. Questions:

i. Are the October and November Seiches included in the sewer vulnerability scores?

1. No, but these are events to consider as we review climate models and projections and develop the vulnerability scores.

4. Buffalo Solar-powered Heritage Carousel, Marika Frankenstein (15min)

a. Canalside, Mayor Brown endowed the Dunbar Site for the Carousel. Local project in the works for approximately 15 years; local carousel originally manufactured in N. Ton. In 1924, restored by volunteer corp. in N. Tonawanda (\$600K support from Sean Ryan); 25kwh solar array on roof donated by Tesla; lumber sourced from sustainably maintained forest in PNW; Edison-style LED lighting; local architect and construction firm(s); A truly local project focused on minimizing the impact in the development, construction, and operation of the facility.

b. Working with Tapestry Charter School on carbon-offset project by planting trees in LMI marginalized neighborhoods in Buffalo.

c. Some concern over Oct/Nov seiche events in Canalside area

d. Questions:

i. Costs associated with building materials/infrastructure choices?  
Balancing upfront costs with long-term payback?

1. Concerned more with long-term offset and payback

2. B-Green Project with BPS afterschool and Tesla, students studying advanced manufacturing, 10<sup>th</sup> graders

ii. When open, what will visitors learn about the development of the project? What education is included?

1. Series of videos about production/development of Carousel and alternative renewable energy opportunities

2. Celebrating the history of manufacturing and connecting it to the future of buffalo's energy and industry opportunities.

3. There will be a dashboard available through Tesla Solar to see the energy generation and load

5. Silver Certification Workplan Review, St. John (5min)

a. The Common Council approved our grant award, so we can get started on executing the grant activities:

[http://buffalony.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail\\_LegiFile.aspx?Frame=&MeetingID=2251&MediaPosition=&ID=14136&CssClass=](http://buffalony.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail_LegiFile.aspx?Frame=&MeetingID=2251&MediaPosition=&ID=14136&CssClass=)

6. Subcommittee Updates (10min)

- a. Policy – Energy Benchmarking implementation – Resolution passed 4/13/21 unanimously. UBRI and City energy manager working together to set up our EPA Portfolio Manager account for reporting purposes; first report anticipated in August. Benchmarking will support data-informed decision making about energy efficiency projects and cost saving upgrades to existing facilities in the City. The agenda item and policy are available here:  
[http://buffalony.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail\\_LegiFile.aspx?Frame=&MeetingID=2245&MediaPosition=&ID=14022&CssClass=](http://buffalony.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail_LegiFile.aspx?Frame=&MeetingID=2245&MediaPosition=&ID=14022&CssClass=)
- b. Outreach – YCC event on climate action in WNY on 4/29 at 5-6:30pm, register:  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfTdfzgXSM5GbJFdcED4pvRsDdMEUUyARx\\_UA2dXJfcOAa6g/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfTdfzgXSM5GbJFdcED4pvRsDdMEUUyARx_UA2dXJfcOAa6g/viewform?usp=sf_link)>
- c. Engagement – Love Your Black small grants program is open in the City of Buffalo  
<http://www.buffalony.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=909>; there are various environmental justice and community engagement grant opportunities available at State and Federal levels for community organizations and non-profits
  - i. DEC [Environmental Justice Community Impact Grant Program for Communities Exposed to Multiple Harms and Risks](#)
  - ii. EPA [Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement](#)
  - iii. EPA [Environmental Justice Small Grants Program](#)

7. Announcements / Events

- a. Recycle Buffalo – had about 85 vehicles participate in April 17<sup>th</sup> event; 2500# of clothing/textiles donated; April 30<sup>th</sup> is Arbor Day, Parks Dept planting tree.
  - i. partnering with BNWK & Tool Library for service days/clean ups beginning this weekend and through the month of May; Register here:  
<https://bnwaterkeeper.org/programs/cleanup/>  
<http://www.thetoollibrary.org/service/>
  - ii. Rain barrel & compost bin sale ongoing to May 8:  
<https://eriecompostersale.ecwid.com/?fbclid=IwAR12c36LAc5cKdGycTAbQgHbzIP7B7HkmNRceuf7UcWUMrzt9yt0r3itN4c>
- b. Stimulus funding and infrastructure bill, state budget (Mayer)
  - i. A main allocation is sewer/water infrastructure, so City is planning \$10+ million to related projects.
  - ii. American Jobs Plan – awaiting final determinations but focusing on integrating Infrastructure and GI investment to promote green economy.
- c. Link to register for the NYStretch Energy Code roundtable:  
<https://buffalo.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEpdemrqTljG9lp0z81qQcO4uiR6Kj6D5Q4>

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2. Silver Certification Workplan Review
  - a. July 2 deadline – submitting this round **41** actions for **280** requested points
    - i. **26** actions and **186** points are **maintenance**, updating previously approved or resubmission of expired items
    - ii. **15** actions and **94** points are **new items**
  - b. Silver certification goal for the coming fiscal year (2021-22); we have about **18** actions worth **84** points in the pipeline
3. Subcommittee Updates & Participation Requests
  - a. Energy Benchmarking
    - i. Properties are set up in Portfolio Manager, currently undergoing City internal review to be finalized; Data upload is getting started by the City's energy manager on properties that have been finalized.
    - ii. Report anticipated in Fall 2021 for 2018 reporting year. The report will establish 2018 as the City's baseline year, compare energy consumption to projections in the Energy Master Plan, and measure progress against 20% reduction by 2020 goal.

- iii. A second report will be prepared following the baseline report including energy data for 2019 and 2020. The reporting periods align with the local fiscal year (July 1 – June 30).
  - iv. Portfolio Manager has a lot of functionality, so when the first three years of data are input (2018, 2019, 2020) we will be able to generate a GHG emissions inventory for municipal buildings (majority of our Scope 2 emissions) and compare those results to the GHG Inventory completed by UB this spring.
  - v. The energy benchmarking data and reports will be incorporated into the Climate Resiliency Planning initiative within the local government operations Climate Action Plan.
- b. Social Media channel
- i. @ClimateSmartBuffalo is active – please check us out on Instagram and give us a follow!
  - ii. Content is approved to resume regular posting in July. We have content planned through the end of 2021 based on a strategy of getting out the word about Buffalo’s climate-smart initiatives. Focus is highlighted the climate impact, mitigation & adaptation activities of our work.
  - iii. Content is complimentary to other ongoing City activities that collectively represent much of the CSC activities, such as the work of 34 & More; @buffalorecycles prepared to participate & engage, all of us will cross-post are share.
  - iv. Timing – seasonally is great, but what about other state and national initiatives? Think about bike to work week/month, Earth Month in April, Climate Week in September, etc.
  - v. Forms have been created so the Community can submit photos related to climate/energy/sustainability for use on social media platforms.
- c. BSA CCVA community input/feedback sharing
- i. CCVA is undergoing final review for publication. Sydney and Kelley will work together to prepare materials for submission to DEC.
  - ii. There is a wealth of community input/feedback from the CCVA engagement process that could not be incorporated into the report but will be passed on to the Task Force in order to inform our outreach and engagement efforts.
- d. Coming soon ask of Task Force members:
- i. Review Energy Benchmarking Report (September-October)
  - ii. Review current membership and brainstorm community members for nomination to join us (September)

- e. Moving forward, subcommittees will review/advise on specific activities of the Climate Resiliency Planning Grant from DEC.
4. CSC 2019 Grant “Climate Resiliency Planning” status
- a. Updating and finalizing workplan, will likely adjust this group some to align with objectives and activities, provide new focus for group moving into FY2021-22 as we begin the Climate Resiliency Planning process
  - b. Technical Expertise Panel – members of the CSC Task Force that represent City departments, divisions, or agencies to advise on plan development, goals, implementation efforts, etc.
  - c. Community Advisory Committee – new role of the CSC Task Force; represent community organizations, residents, institutional partners, etc. to advise on CAP development and community Vulnerability Assessment, among others.
  - d. The grant administration team will begin outreach to potential participants for these two groups in the coming weeks.
5. Announcements / Events
- a. Jason Paananen – NYSEDA accepting comments on Great Lakes Wind Feasibility Study until end of year:  
<https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All%20Programs/Programs/Clean%20Energy%20Standard/Important%20Orders%20Reports%20and%20Filings/Great%20Lakes%20Wind%20Feasibility%20Study>
  - b. Scrap It! Program is officially underway:  
<https://buffalorecycles.org/events/scrap-it/>
  - c. City of Buffalo and Erie County have a new voucher program for Household Hazardous Waste: <https://buffalorecycles.org/resources-updates/>
  - d. Two (2) 5-gal buckets of compost each year, new roll out for yard waste compost and education
  - e. Comprehensive recycling analysis report, update – annual recycling report:  
<https://buffalorecycles.org/resources-updates/>
  - f. UBRI/PUSH Buffalo (Green) – clean heating campaign for residents:  
<https://buffalo.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJkfu-trDguGN3ciadGNRPjkct7dRwkLaK>
  - g. BNWK – hosting a week-long Buffalo River sweep from June 26-July 3  
<https://bnwaterkeeper.org/programs/cleanup/>
  - h. Saturday August 14, 11a-3p, “Climate Carnival” at MassAve Park; organizer is Colleen at PPG and they are soliciting participation via [<Colleen@ppgbuffalo.org>](mailto:Colleen@ppgbuffalo.org)

- i. Division of Citizen Services – Great American Clean Up – June 26 event to clean up and beautify the neighborhood: <https://www.buffalony.gov/579/The-Great-American-Clean-Up>
6. Meeting Schedule: August 17, October 19, December 14 (Note adjustment in December date due to holidays).





**CITY OF BUFFALO**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**



**BYRON W. BROWN**  
 MAYOR

**ROB MAYER**  
 DIRECTOR OF POLICY

**KELLEY M. ST. JOHN**  
 RESILIENCY GRANTS MANAGER,  
 CSC COORDINATOR

**City of Buffalo Climate Smart Communities Task Force**  
 Tuesday, June 15, 2020 3:30 – 4:30pm, Zoom meeting

Name	Affiliation	Sign
Susan Attridge	City of Buffalo	Y
Taylor Brown	Buffalo Sewer Authority	
Sydney Collins	AmeriCorps Vista, Buffalo Sewer Authority	Y
Sarah Dance	NAACP Buffalo, HSBC	Y
Marie Domon	Freelance Business Week Buffalo	Y
Emily Dyett	Resident, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper	Y
Bridget Houck	City of Buffalo	Y
Heike Jacob	UB Regional Institute	Y
Jason Kulaszewski	UB Regional Institute	E
Rob Mayer	City of Buffalo	
OJ McFoy	Buffalo Sewer Authority	
Julia Merante	Resident	E
Brandye Merriweather	Buffalo Urban Development Corporation	
Oswaldo Mestre	City of Buffalo	
Jason Paananen	City of Buffalo	Y
Nicholas Rajkovich	University at Buffalo	Y
Kelley St. John	City of Buffalo	Y
Anyiang Yak	Youth Representative	Y

