

PE1: National/Regional Climate Program

Village of Bronxville

This document explains how the Village of Bronxville has fulfilled the requirements outlined for this action, “National/Regional Climate Program” and demonstrates why Bronxville has earned 3 points toward Climate Smart Community certification.

ICLEI Membership

The Village of Bronxville is a member of ICLEI, Local Governments for Sustainability. ICLEI is a global nonprofit that assists local governments by providing guidance and technical assistance on maintaining safe, sustainable communities in our changing world. Over 2,500 cities, towns, and regions worldwide (encompassing 20% of the global population!) are ICLEI members. 12% of ICLEI local governments are in the Hudson Valley (Hastings, Pleasantville, Mount Kisco, White Plains, New Rochelle, and more). The current cost of membership is \$1200/year.

Attached are proof of membership fees paid and minutes of two virtual meetings between ICLEI and the Bronxville Climate Smart Task Force. Several other additional meetings were held; ICLEI also runs general webinars which members of the Task Force have attended.

How ICLEI membership supports Bronxville’s climate action

While NYSERDA Coordinator Eleanor Peck helps the Village of Bronxville plan and strategize actions, in 2021-2022 ICLEI is assisting Bronxville with Greenhouse Gas Inventories (for municipal operations and the community). We also anticipate their help in preparing Climate Action Plans. Specific benefits of ICLEI include:

- Toolkits, templates, and technical support.
- ICLEI’s ClearPath software tool allows us to convert data such as gallons of fuel oil and kilowatts of electricity into tons of carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, and methane.
- ICEI staff will review our GHG inventories for accuracy before we submit them.
- As a next step, ICLEI will help Bronxville identify beneficial climate actions to take as we use their software to run different possible climate mitigation steps to determine which will have the biggest impact.
- ICLEI facilitates communication and partnership among municipal departments and other entities (utilities, etc.) to set up processes for data collection as needed.

Minutes of Introductory meeting between Bronxville CSC and ICLEI

October 6, 2021 via Zoom

Attending: Kale Roberts, ICLEI; Ellen Edwards, Bronxville CSC Task Force; Carole Upshur Bronxville CSC Task Force; Craig Hart, Bronxville CSC Task Force; Stephen Shallo, Task Force Coordinator and Assistant Town Administrator; Maria Terjanian, Bronxville CSC Task Force

Kale welcomed Bronxville to membership which will extend to September 2022. He reviewed ICLEI history and goals and the ways BXV could participate in this international effort of communities to limit GHG and address climate issues.

He reviewed the various benefits of membership in ICL in terms of information, webinars, and technical assistance. He pointed out ways for the Bronxville CSC members to join conversation groups and events with other municipalities working on GHG inventories and climate planning. Various special opportunities to join cohorts around specific planning tasks are also available.

He said regular check ins and monthly TA would be available and we would have access to TA for using the Clear Path software to conduct the GHG inventories.

We discussed in a bit more detail who and how we would have access to the Clear Path software and he asked us to nominate a Village staff person and CSC members who should be granted access.

He indicated he would be attending the Climate Summit in Edinburg so gave us a back up staff member as we got started on our GHG inventory work.

He indicated that he would forward all the required links for enrollment in the various communication groups, special opportunities/projects, and the Clear Path software to us after the meeting.

ICLEI MEMBER JOURNEY

MEETING OF THE BRONXVILLE CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE

February 15, 2022, via Google Meets

Attending: Ellen Edwards (Chair, Climate Smart Task Force), Helen Knapp (Bronxville Trustee, Climate Smart Task Force), Kale Roberts (ICLEI Coordinator), Stephen Shallo (Climate Smart Task Force Liaison, Assistant to Town Administrator), Maria Terjanian (Climate Smart Task Force), Carole Upshur (Climate Smart Task Force)

Carole reviewed her progress on GHG inventories

*She expects to start drafting a Municipal GHG report by mid-March

*Staff commuter survey: Carole and Stephen will encourage more of the staff to fill out the commuter survey

*Carole is documenting her sources, which Kale agrees is vital for people doing GHG inventory updates in the future; Kale also suggests we include our methodology, gaps in data, lessons learned

*Stephen says Eastchester Fire Dept is pulling together data

*Kale said that much of our GHG reports should involve telling our climate story

*When we're ready, ICLEI will review our data and narrative and suggest corrections/changes

*We are still hoping to make a connection with Lawrence Hospital; at the very least, Carole would like to know what kind of fuel they use for heating/cooling, since their sheer size has a big impact on Bronxville emissions; Kale will send EIA on fuel oil data, in case that helps

Upcoming Opportunities through ICLEI

*There will be a June cohort on creating a sustainability plan; we decided we won't be ready by then; cohorts require 4-5 stakeholders who make commitment to be involved in the project. This one will go from June-November, meet every 2 weeks and once month by half-way through the project, with separate meetings on side; 20 municipalities will be involved in the cohort; application closes in March.

*September and for 15-18 months to follow: cohort on adaptation/vulnerability assessment; application not yet open; no fee for these cohorts; this one may be right for Bronxville.

*Cohorts are flexible, we can set the agenda and create workshops; themes or topics might change each week; might include internal audits of stakeholder's facilities with sustainability

actions to date factored in; use ClearPath software to model actions and seek actions with greatest impacts in lowering emissions.

*March 10th climate communications: a brief workshop; Maria has registered; will hold these quarterly, free for members

*Climate Law Clinic: closed session with attorney on how to apply laws such as building codes, gas laws, etc.; a short workshop offered once a month over next several months

*Helen has been asked to be Village's liaison with Chamber of Commerce and she would like to involve them in any cohort; Lawrence Hosp is a member of the Chamber

*Other important stakeholders might include a youth rep and a senior rep since Bronxville has a large senior population which tends to be more vulnerable

*Community engagement: That's the biggest challenge; Kale said that once we have a GHG inventory and a story to tell, we may find it easier to engage people in serious discussions around climate change; half of the cohort time is often spent on discussions about how to gain and keep stakeholder/ community engagement; Zoom offers , which can be useful; once we can run models showing different results from different action steps, we'll have something concrete with which to raise awareness and encourage commitment.

*ICLEI will assume we'll be ready to start running scenarios from April-September; they will plan to assist.

*Costs of inaction: ICLEI will send some data; Kale suggested we lead with that in our climate narrative

*Race to Zero: Kale encourages us to work toward making this commitment; Hastings has joined and their mayor is happy to share how she thinks they can get to zero emissions; Albany and handful of others have also joined and many more are expected to join in the next year

*Exactly what does getting to zero or climate neutrality mean? Kale said it involves, among other actions, all switching to EVs and retrofitting homes to run on clean electricity—actions that have big impacts in reducing the use of fossil fuels

*Climate Action Plan: we might spend an entire year telling our story and getting people on board; plan must be owned by the entire community for it to have a chance of becoming reality; each municipality will take a different path to get there; a Plan can also include the landscape: tree density, ability of open space to take in carbon, etc.

*Kale suggested that although Bronxville is small, many residents are in positions of great influence; once we convince a few key people, we may find that others swiftly join in; also, because of the influence of our residents in the wider world, we may find that our efforts have an outsized impact.