

MINUTES

Bronxville Climate Smart Task Force Public Meeting

April 6, 2022 7 pm via Zoom

Attending: Fredrica Beveridge (Green Committee), Kelly Cavanaugh (Green Committee), Ellen Edwards (Task Force Chair), James Keogh (NY Presbyterian/Lawrence Hospital), Helen Knapp (Trustee/Task Force), Pamela Lippe (Task Force), Alexandra O'Keefe (Intern), Stephen Shallo (Assistant Town Administrator/Task Force Coordinator), Maria Terjanian (Task Force), Carole Upshur (Task Force)

Ellen Edwards gave a brief recap of the Climate Smart Communities program and our intention to submit our application for Bronze Certification by the July 8th deadline. We need to complete two Mandatory Action Steps--to form a Task Force and appoint a Coordinator, which we've completed. We need to complete three Priority Action Steps; the two Greenhouse Gas Inventories and Comprehensive Plan with Sustainability Elements are all Priority Action Steps that will satisfy that requirement. Finally, we need to complete Action Steps in four of ten pledge elements. We plan to complete them in nine pledge elements, so we more than fulfill this requirement.

Background: In February 2021, Bronxville's Village Trustees passed the Climate Smart Community resolution to become a registered CSC, created a Climate Smart Task Force and identified a Program Coordinator, who will be a liaison between the Climate Smart Task Force and the Village government.

Requirements: As a registered community, we have made a commitment to act by passing the CSC pledge. We have identified the specific actions required to meet 120 points for Bronze certification.

Ellen introduced James Keogh to the group, then ran through the list of action steps we've been working on and got updates:

List of Pledge Elements (PEs):

PE1: Build a climate-smart community

- CSC Task Force: Completed except for minutes of this meeting
- CSC Coordinator: Completed
- National/Regional Climate Program—Stephen has uploaded documentation for our ICLEI membership
- Partnership with other Entities—Stephen has uploaded documentation for our membership in Sustainable Westchester; Maria is collecting documentation to support our participation in other organizations, including our membership in New York State Association of Conservation Commissions (NYSACC).

PE 2: Inventory emissions, set goals, and plan for climate action

- Government Operations GHG Inventory—Carole is putting the finishing touches on this report
- Community GHG Inventory – Carole reported that she has collected most of the data she needs and will focus on this report next. She welcomes the chance to meet with James Keogh to discuss the

hospital's contribution to Bronxville's GHG emissions. With 40 years of experience at the hospital, he knows its operating systems very well. Helen confirmed that the Trustees would welcome our presentation of the GHG inventories in a working session—perhaps in June when the inventories are sure to be complete. Going through the reports with them to explain the findings and to present some computer models that analyze possible future actions will, we hope, clarify how the inventories can be useful in setting priorities.

PE 3: Decrease energy use

- Government Building Energy Audits—Stephen is processing a PO for an energy audit of Village Hall and still hopes to complete this action step in time

- HVAC Upgrades—we will take this off the table for the time being

- * Fleet Inventory—This is complete

- *LED Traffic Signals—We are reviewing photos of traffic lights provided by high school students on the Task Force to make sure they are complete

PE 4: Shift to clean, renewable energy

- Heat Pumps—The summary of Village Hall's geothermal heating & cooling system is complete, and an educational campaign is now running; an article on Village Hall's geothermal heating & cooling system appeared on Apr 6th in MyHometownBronxville; social media post will run this week. Stephen has designed a poster and will have it produced and installed in the foyer of Village Hall

PE 5: Use climate-smart materials management

- Organic Waste Management Plan—Ellen will complete the report once she receives tonnage collected by the Food Scrap Recycling program; she will also include results of a survey to local food vendors, which will go out soon. Helen has arranged for the Trustees to pass by resolution the not-quite-finalized plan at the April 11th Trustee's meeting.

- Recycling Bins in Government Buildings –Stephen is completing the photos and summary; he is also drafting a letter encouraging staff to use the recycling bins and the food scrap recycling program. We still need a way to make this an official part of Village Hall operations, since that is required for this action step.

- Organic Waste Program for Government Buildings—Stephen has set up food scrap starter kits and will be responsible for bringing collected scraps to the drop-off site each week. He will complete the summary and photos required.

- Waste Reduction Education Campaign –This action is complete and uploaded to the CSC portal

- Residential Organic Waste Program—This is complete except for tonnage collected in the Food Scrap Recycling program; a bill that includes this information is expected soon from Suburban Carting.

PE 6: Implement climate-smart land use

- Comprehensive Plan with Sustainability Elements—This action is complete. We will ask Kat Carroll to review this step since it's a necessary Priority Action Step and worth a wide range of points. For the moment, we are estimating very conservatively that we will receive only 3 of a possible 21 points.

- Traffic Calming –Stephen is completing documentation with photos and a summary

*Alternative Fuel Infrastructure—Stephen is documenting our installation of EV charging stations

PE 7: Enhance community resilience to climate change

- Hazard Mitigation Plan—Last December, the requirement for this step was changed; it must now mention climate change and include climate science. Stephen wrote a summary of Bronxville's section; Ellen found language addressing climate change in the County section, including a reference to a NYSERDA tool that aids municipalities in assessing the impacts of climate change. Stephen has provided a letter indicating that FEMA has approved the plan. And Ellen found minutes of the Trustees' Meeting (Dec 2021) in which the Plan was passed by resolution.

PE 8: Support a green innovation economy

- Farmers Market—Stephen will get a copy of a letter between the Chamber of Commerce and the manager of the FM that indicates the Village's role in providing police and DPW services. Otherwise, this action is complete.

PE 9: Inform and inspire the public

- Local Climate Action Website—Required updates to the website are complete, including a new section for local businesses, and Maria is writing a summary

- Social Media –We are still running posts on clean energy; Maria will complete the summary

Possible future action steps were discussed:

LED Streetlights: Ellen attended a helpful webinar on the subject hosted by our CSC coordinators, who are offering to do a free analysis of Bronxville's lights and how much money and energy we can save by switching them to LEDs. Carole indicated that 30% of municipal GHG emissions come from streetlights. We will further investigate this potentially high impact action.

Energy Code Enforcement Training: One-day training is being offered in mid-April; Ellen and Stephen have notified Jim Palmer and Paul Taft, in case they'd like to take advantage of the opportunity, worth five points.

Ellen thanked everyone for their hard work, which has gotten us much closer to meeting our May 1 goal of completing the action steps. We are on track for submitting for 143 points, which gives us a small cushion in case some points can't be claimed at the last minute. We will meet again in early May.

The meeting ended at 7:45 p.m.

Task Force Members: Helen Knapp, Bronxville Village Trustee; Stephen Shallo, Assistant to Town Administrator Jim Palmer, Climate Smart Coordinator; Ellen Edwards, Chair, Bronxville Green Committee