

MINUTES

Bronxville Climate Smart Task Force Public Meeting

February 3, 2022, 7-8 pm via Zoom

Attending: Mary Behrens (Bronxville Trustee), Susan Cody (Bronxville resident), Josyane Colwell (Bronxville resident), Ellen Edwards (Chair), Maryanne Joyce (Pelham resident), Helen Knapp (Bronxville Trustee), Pamela Lippe (Task Force), Charles Miers (Task Force), Alexandra O'Keefe (Intern), Jim Palmer (Bronxville Town Administrator), Stephen Shallo (Bronxville Assistant to the Town Administrator & Task Force Coordinator), Maria Terjanian (Task Force), Ruth Walter (Bronxville resident), Carole Upshur (Task Force)

Stephen Shallo, Task Force Coordinator, opened the meeting and reviewed the format for the session. Ellen Edwards, Task Force Chair, gave a brief recap of the Climate Smart Communities program and Bronxville's participation.

- CSC is a New York State program that helps local governments take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate.
- 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.
- 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. Our current goal is to submit our application for certification by the July 8, 2022, deadline.

The group then reviewed and discussed each of the action areas Bronxville's Task Force has been working on:

List of Pledge Elements (PEs):

PE1: Build a climate-smart community

- CSC Task Force: Completed except for minutes of this meeting and one other public meeting, to be held in April. The first public meeting was held on May 19, 2021.
- CSC Coordinator: Completed
- National/Regional Climate Program: Stephen Shallo has uploaded some documentation for our ICLEI membership
- Partnership with Other Entities: Stephen has uploaded some documentation for our membership in Sustainable Westchester; he will also upload our participation in NYSEDA Charge Ready program for EV stations; a partnership with ConEd may also qualify.

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

Carole Upshur introduced intern Alexandra O'Keefe, who will assist her on municipal and community greenhouse gas inventories, based on 2018 data.

- Government Operations GHG Inventory: Carole has fleet data and volunteer Susan Cody is crunching the numbers; Carole created a commuter survey which has been sent to Village staff; Stephen has unearthed electric, heat, sewer, and water bills for 2018 for analysis.
- Community Operations GHG Inventory: Carole will request data for water and waste-water treatment from the utilities; she found data for solid waste and electricity use; she knows how to access data of the number of homes that use heating oil and will contact B-Line bus company for data. She has aggregate data on vehicle miles traveled in the county and will break them down for Bronxville.

PE 3: Decrease energy use

- Government Building Energy Audits: Stephen has gathered bills requested to get audit of Village Hall, Police, DPW, perhaps also the library; he will soon get a quote for the audit
- HVAC Upgrades: Stephen is still searching for documentation for a library upgrade and is not sure this action will apply
- Fleet Inventory: This action is complete
- LED Traffic Signals: Stephen is finalizing documentation
- Energy Code Enforcement Training: Task Force Chair Ellen Edwards reported that she spoke with the village building inspector, and he has not yet taken this training. It may not be offered in time for the July deadline and will be added as an action step once training becomes available.
- LED Street Lights: Trustee Helen Knapp asked about this step and Stephen reported that we have not yet converted enough to LEDs to get credit; we will continue to work on it; there may be NYPA funding available.

PE 4: Shift to clean, renewable energy

- Heat Pumps: The vendor for installation of geothermal in Village Hall, Connecticut Wells, no longer has paperwork (from 2007) so Stephen Shallo and Town Administrator Jim Palmer will go through the physical files to find specification or purchase documents and proof that the system is currently in use; then Task Force member Maria Terjanian will arrange to post signage in Village Hall, issue a press release, and publicize the installation for public education, as required.

PE 5: Use climate-smart materials management

- Organic Management Plan: Ellen Edwards is gathering information from organizations and other municipalities so she can write a report about our current systems of organics management (Giving Garden, Food Scrap Recycling, yard waste management, Farmers Market) and possible future projects (Pumpkin Smash, Compost Take-Back). The trustees will need to review the plan and pass it by a resolution, to get points for this action; Jim Palmer said he'll send Ellen the email address for the director of the farmers market so she can fill in some of the missing pieces in her report
- Recycling Bins in Government Buildings: Stephen is taking photos to document that this is complete
- Organic Waste Program for Government Buildings: Stephen will set up food scrap starter kits and invite the Green Committee to give a demonstration to Village staff

- Waste Reduction Education Campaign: Maria will document our on-going campaign, which was started last fall and is continuing through the winter
- Residential Organic Waste Program: We will document Food Scraps Recycling and yard waste management

PE 6: Implement climate-smart land use

- Comprehensive Plan with Sustainability Elements: This action is complete
- Traffic Calming: Stephen is documenting recent implementation of Zebra striped area bump-outs to slow traffic along Midland Ave and Pondfield Road; he will document our speedbump policy
- Alternative Fuel Infrastructure: Stephen is documenting our installation of EV charging stations
- Planning for Biking and Walking: The trustees are working with Safe Streets group to identify safe corridors to school, especially from the east side of town; DOT has given ok for a crossing at RT22 and Westchester County is helping to fund sidewalks and crosswalks; Stephen will double check requirements for this action and provide documentation

PE 7: Enhance community resilience to climate change

- Hazard Mitigation Plan: The trustees passed this County plan to which Bronxville contributed; Ellen didn't find a mention of cooling centers in the plan, and we'll check with our CSC coordinator to make sure that won't lose us points
- Cooling Center: Stephen will follow up with the school as a potential site

PE 8: Support a green innovation economy

- Farmers Market: Jim confirmed that the village provides trash pick-up and police work pro bono for the FM.

PE 9: Inform and inspire the public

- Local Climate Action Website: Maria/Ellen are adding a required section for businesses
- Social Media: Maria will post about clean energy to fulfill this requirement; Stephen will provide info on new EV charging stations, so we can promote them

After a few questions, and appreciation for the Task Force expressed by several participants, Task Force Chair Ellen Edwards closed the meeting at 8 pm.

Task Force Members: Helen Knapp, Bronxville Village Trustee; Stephen Shallo, Assistant to Town Administrator & Climate Smart Coordinator; Ellen Edwards, Chair, Bronxville Green Committee & Chair, Climate Smart Task Force; Maria Terjanian, Community Engagement Chair for the Bronxville Green Committee; Carole Upshur, Professor Emeritus, Department of Family Medicine & Community Health, University of Massachusetts Medical School; Craig Hart, Director of Pace Energy and Climate Center, Pace University Law School; Pam Lippe, President of e4, Inc., specializing in energy efficient construction; Charles Miers, Publisher Rizzoli USA; Thomas Breglia, New York Presbyterian Hospital Director of Westchester Facilities; Elizabeth Brennan, Bronxville High School Student; Joseph Cutaia, Bronxville High School Student