



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, 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 20th, 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 4th. 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 50th 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





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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 27th.
 - 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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City of Buffalo Climate Smart Communities Task Force
 Tuesday, June 16, 2020 3:30 – 5:00pm, phone conference

| Name | Affiliation | Sign |
|----------------------|---|-------------|
| 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 |
| Brandye Merriweather | BUDC | |
| Kevin Meindl | Buffalo Sewer Authority | Present |
| Oswaldo Mestre | City of Buffalo | Present |
| Marie Pazych | Business BEactive | 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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City of Buffalo Climate Smart Communities Task Force
 Tuesday, August 18, 2020 3:30 – 5:00pm, Zoom video conference

| Name | Affiliation | Sign |
|----------------------|---|-------------|
| 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 * |
| Brandye Merriweather | BUDC | |
| Kevin Meindl | Buffalo Sewer Authority | |
| Oswaldo Mestre | City of Buffalo | Present |
| Marie Domon Pazych | Business BActive | 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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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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| 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 |
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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 1st 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: 3rd 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



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, 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 |
| Marie Domon | Freelance Business Week Buffalo | Present |
| Emily Dyett | Resident | |
| Jessica Geary | Intern, Buffalo Sewer Authority | Present |
| Bridget Houck | City of Buffalo | Present |
| Jason Kulaszewski | UB Regional Institute | Present |
| Rob Mayer | City of Buffalo | Present |
| OJ McFoy | Buffalo Sewer Authority | |
| Kevin Meindl | Buffalo Sewer Authority | Present |
| 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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CSC COORDINATOR

City of Buffalo Climate Smart Communities Task Force

Tuesday, February 16, 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#,,,,*199619# US (New York)

+13126266799,,6042782223#,,,,*199619# US (Chicago)

Agenda

1. Welcome – Kelley St. John
 - a. Roll call
 - b. Introductions
 - i. Heike Jacob, UB Regional Institute – CSC representative
 - ii. Julia Merante – UB Law 1L, originally from Rochester area with a community programming background, supporting our engagement work.
 - iii. UB Carbon Reduction Challenge team – working to complete a GHG inventory for the City.
 1. Isabel Hall, Sofia Powell, Charlie VanNess
2. Silver Certification Workplan Review (Kelley St. John)
 - a. DEC grant has finally moved on to contract execution – currently negotiating workplan timeline, likely complete within the month.
 - b. Intending to do two submissions – April 2 and July 2 – simplifying the application process some and making it more efficient for all those involved
 - i. April – re-submit items, those that have expired or were insufficient.
There are 29 actions for an anticipated 207 points.

- ii. July – new/in-progress action items. **There are 24 actions for an anticipated 143 points.**
 - iii. In total, this means the City is intending to apply for Silver Certification through 53 actions for 350 points total.
 - iv. Some of these actions are still in discussion with relevant departments/partners, so this list will be updated monthly as we make progress.
 - v. You're going to hear about a few of the in-progress items today, and subcommittees will be contacted this month about new items to support for the July submission.
- 3. BSA Climate Vulnerability Assessment (BSA)
 - a. Please share your feedback ASAP, if you have not already done so. You can submit comments in a word document, in the Google Drive file, or via the survey.
 - i. Guiding questions for reviewing the CCVA: <https://forms.gle/WUnihvyRhe7iaTNM6>
 - b. BSA encouraging the taskforce to share our community survey for the CCVA on social media pages or amongst their network to increase the breath of outreach efforts: <https://raincheckbuffalo.org/climate-change/>
 - i. If you have connections/suggestions for community representatives or organizations that BSA can interview for the CCVA, please send to Sydney: scollins@buffalosewer.org
- 4. Social Media content & engagement (Kelley St. John, Marie Domon)
 - a. Content calendar – getting the instagram channel @ClimateSmartBuffalo active again beginning in March with information about the City's existing bronze certification, ways for residents to get involved, and events.
 - b. Photos to share – we have created a web-based folder for task force members to share photos they have of sustainability tips or climate action in their lives/the communities they live: https://chcibuffalonyus-my.sharepoint.com/:f/g/personal/kmosher_buffalony_gov/EoyXna4xGD5DkTw1klopyQcBWZCcu59OvOvql10yS-w-Lw?e=myzcQH
- 5. WNY Youth Climate Council climate justice workshops (Emily Dyett, Anyiang Yak)
 - a. WNY YCC facilitating a workshop with Anyiang (City TF rep) and Nadiya (County TF rep) to highlight in-progress and future work of City/County and engagement.
 - b. Event will likely occur during mid-late April around Earth Day.
- 6. Membership outreach– Expanded opportunity due to DEC grant, therefore we are reevaluating how we can leverage resources, coordinate with existing activities, and move forward with intention.

- i. The Membership subcommittee is going to shift focus a bit to support outreach/engagement efforts for the Silver certification application
7. Subcommittee support/assignments
 - a. Engagement – Sydney, Marie, Emily, Susan, Bridget, Julia
 - b. Policy – Nick, Kevin, Jason, Rob, Brandye
 - c. Membership – Anyiang, Heike, De’yron, Oswaldo, Rob
8. Discussion
 - a. Is a climate action plan coming? Overdue in timing and what’s coming that is going to be available, we need to be prepared.
 - b. Climate refuge is not a statement that implies we can be “hands off” when it comes to local climate action.
9. Announcements
 - a. UBRI learning series, events centered around 1RF Plan – 5 Big Ideas:
<http://www.oneregionforward.org/learningseries/>
 - i. Workshop in February focused on the CEC Leadership Round:
<https://buffalo.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYoceCsqzwpHd10eZlO6vk6vr28yCfkhGy->
 - ii. March 17 workshop focused on Community Campaigns:
<https://buffalo.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJModuygrDoqH9aJkGGpqEhzWtJjshAuy7lo>
 - b. Freelance Business Week Buffalo – Austin, Dallas, Tampa, Miami, Buffalo – April 19-23, 2021, will be integrating sustainability and climate change education and engagement opportunities: <https://freelancebusinessweek.com/>
10. Meeting Schedule: April 20, June 15, August 17, October 19, December 14 (Note adjustment in December date due to holidays).
 - a. Calendar appointments with meeting links will be sent out in the coming weeks.



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City of Buffalo Climate Smart Communities Task Force
 Tuesday, February 16, 2020 3:30 – 5:00pm, Zoom meeting

| Name | Affiliation | Sign |
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| Susan Attridge | City of Buffalo | |
| Sydney Collins | AmeriCorps Vista, Buffalo Sewer Authority | Present |
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| Emily Dyett | Resident | Present |
| Bridget Houck | City of Buffalo | Present |
| Heike Jacob | UB Regional Institute | Present |
| Jason Kulaszewski | UB Regional Institute | * excused * |
| Rob Mayer | City of Buffalo | |
| OJ McFoy | Buffalo Sewer Authority | |
| Kevin Meindl | Buffalo Sewer Authority | Present |
| Julia Merante | Resident | Present |
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| Nicholas Rajkovich | University at Buffalo | Present |
| Kelley St. John | City of Buffalo | Present |
| De'yrone Tabb | PUSH Buffalo | * excused * |
| Anyang Yak | Youth Representative | Present |
| Isabel Hall | UB Carbon Reduction Challenge team | Present |
| Sofia Powell | UB Carbon Reduction Challenge team | Present |
| Charlie VanNess | UB Carbon Reduction Challenge team | Present |





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CSC COORDINATOR

City of Buffalo Climate Smart Communities Task Force

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, 10th 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=

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=
- 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>
- 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 17th event; 2500# of clothing/textiles donated; April 30th 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>

8. Meeting Schedule: June 15, August 17, October 19, December 14 (Note adjustment in December date due to holidays).



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| Marie Domon | Freelance Business Week Buffalo | *excused* |
| Emily Dyett | Resident | Present |
| Marika Frankenstein | The solar-powered Buffalo Heritage Carousel | Present |
| Isabel Hall | UB Carbon Reduction Challenge team | Present |
| Bridget Houck | City of Buffalo | Present |
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Join Zoom Meeting

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Meeting ID: 604 278 2223

Passcode: 199619

One tap mobile

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

+13126266799,,6042782223#,,,,*199619# US (Chicago)

Agenda

1. Welcome – Kelley St. John
 - a. Introductions
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, 2021 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 |





CITY OF BUFFALO

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City of Buffalo Climate Smart Communities Task Force

August / September Progress Update

We elected to postpone our August meeting due to difficulty with scheduling and participation, yet September proved equally difficult for many. The update that follows shares the progress the City made during the summer months in preparation for our October meeting.

The Climate Resiliency Planning grant is moving along. We are finalizing a development strategy and timeline to share at the October meeting. During the last few months we focused on coordinating with internal stakeholders to participate on the Technical Advisory Committee for the project. Many will be joining us at the October meeting. Come ready to brainstorm and share ideas for who we need to join us on the community task force for this process.

Over the course of the summer, the City participated in the ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability [integrated climate action planning \(I-CAP\) cohort](#). The cohort was made available to the City as a soon-to-be member of ICLEI to assist with developing a framework for our climate action plan, specifically how we can integrate equity and community engagement into the plan's process and elements from the outset. Cohort participants have access to a suite of [technical assistance tools](#) that we will utilize throughout the planning process and ICLEI will support us as a reviewer of our plan as it develops. The cohort runs until March 2022.

The City's American Rescue Plan (ARP) spending proposal was approved and adopted by Common Council on August 26. You can read about the Buffalo Transformation Fund programs [here](#). While the ARP is specifically focused on supporting economic and public health recovery from the pandemic, we know there are climate and resilience-related impacts of our recovery that must be incorporated into this once-in-a-generation opportunity. Some of you shared feedback on the Draft Spending Proposal during public comment in July, but please share if new ideas come to you or you have insights to share on how we can incorporate community resilience, economic and public health equity, and social justice into specific programs.

An upcoming event that might interest some of you in learning more about the CSC actions:

Climate Smart Communities High Impact Action Roundtable event with UBRI & NYSDEC on Wednesday, October 20 at 3:30pm, [register here](#).

The October meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 10/26 at 3:30pm. Our final meeting of the year will be Tuesday, 12/14.



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City of Buffalo Climate Smart Communities Task Force

Tuesday, October 26, 2021, 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

+1646588656,,6042782223#,,,,*199619# US (New York)

+13126266799,,6042782223#,,,,*199619# US (Chicago)

Agenda

1. Welcome – Kelley St. John
 - a. Introductions – New folks joining us:
 - i. Heike Jacob, General Planner with the City of Buffalo
 - ii. John O’Brien with The Tool Library
 - iii. Colleen Makar, GIS Specialist with Buffalo Sewer Authority
 - iv. Maria Melchiorre, Paralegal and Green Team Lead for Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency
 - v. Antonio Parker, Project Manager for Buffalo Urban Development Corporation
2. August / September progress update
 - a. Everyone received a short report on our efforts throughout the summer months. We have been coordinating on the Climate Resiliency Planning grant to ensure we continue progress, Kelley participated on behalf of the City in an equity & engagement focused planning cohort sponsored by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, and the American Rescue Plan spending blueprint was prepared and the first round of projects is underway.
3. DEC announced new graphics and communications resources for CSC certified communities. We will be preparing sample pieces to send to the Communications Office

to share on the City's website and our @ClimateSmartBuffalo social media. See email contents attached.



DEC_New scorecard for certified Climate Smart Communities!_20210924.msg

4. Clean Energy Communities designation & grant
 - a. The City received notice of designation in May. We currently have 1,300 points from six (6) relevant actions, and have about 4 in the pipeline, some we're working to complete before the end of the year.
<https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/Clean-Energy-Communities/Tracking-Progress/Scorecard>
 - b. Our Designation Grant came in late September. The grant is \$5,000 and we intend to use it to support community outreach & engagement for our climate planning efforts.
 - c. Currently in conversation with Marie about utilizing freelance to advance this effort and proceeding with developing a budget/timeline.
5. ICLEI Integrated Climate Action Plan (I-CAP) Cohort participation
 - a. Cohort of a few dozen U.S. communities in the process of preparing or updating Climate Action Plans that focus on mitigation and adaptation with a specific emphasis on integrating equity and community engagement from the outset.
 - b. There were a few sessions that specifically spoke to municipalities' efforts for consistent, evolving community outreach & engagement throughout the planning process (links below).
 - c. Main takeaways: comprehensive guide for proceeding through the CAP process including potential timelines; community engagement frameworks and examples of successes/failures.
 - d. Participation was possible due to the City's commitment to be an ICLEI member as part of the match for the DEC grant; and as such, we have access to the technical resources of ICLEI Staff and their suite of tools, including ClearPath for GHG emissions inventories and Temperate for forecasting & climate adaption.
 - e. The Cohort runs through September 2022. We are at the stage where municipalities are beginning individual work and consulting directly with ICLEI advisors, meeting every two-three months with the full group to report progress.
[ICLEI I-CAP Cohort Resources](#) – for viewing purposes only, do not distribute.
6. Climate Resiliency Planning, phase 1
 - a. The Project has five components focused on climate mitigation and adaptation of local government operations, some to be completed internally and others with the support of a consultant.

- i. [Fleet inventory](#) (internal)
 - ii. [Climate Smart Resiliency Planning](#) assessment (internal)
 - iii. [GHG emissions inventory](#) (consultant)
 - iv. [Climate Vulnerability Assessment](#) (consultant)
 - v. [Climate Action Plan](#) (consultant)
 - b. Committee participation – there are two committees, intending to be internal and external facing for the project:
 - i. Technical Advisory Committee (internal) – primarily City Hall stakeholders responsible for implementing the actions of the plan and advising on feasibility of goals, timelines, etc. The TAC will be directly involved in the local government operations plan development and internal action items.
 - ii. Community Task Force (external) – members of this task force plus additional community representation to review work products of TAC and Consultant, and communicate efforts to community networks. The Task Force will continue to be a resource between the City, TAC, and community, supporting outreach, engagement, and education activities, with the intent of beginning the work for a community climate plan.
 - iii. It is anticipated the committees will meet similarly to the current schedule, bi-monthly for about 2 hours, with more frequent meetings occurring as required by workload and production of action items.
 - iv. The TAC will request feedback from the Task Force, that might include community feedback gathering, but the Task Force activities will be primarily focused on the community’s information, needs, and involvement in a community planning effort
7. Climate Smart Communities silver certification strategy
- a. Recertify at Bronze level during January 2022 cycle
 - i. Annually-required actions (including Task Force meetings, educational events, etc.) and new activities that are ready for submission. Some of these actions were prepared for the July submission deadline
 - b. Apply for Silver certification in April 2022 cycle
 - i. A workplan memo is in the works that will be circulated for review by this group in the coming weeks, we will discuss in detail at our next meeting.
 - ii. Major actions that will contribute to this include: BSA vulnerability assessment; energy benchmarking & clean energy upgrades; GHG emissions inventory; green infrastructure projects. The LED Streetlight conversion project is in progress but will not be far-enough along to contribute to our application for silver certification.

- iii. The Task Force will engage in the CSC silver certification effort through many of the communications actions, by guiding our grant activities, and supporting the community engagement elements of internal actions.

8. Announcements / Events

UBRI Job Opportunities

Job title: Sustainability and Resiliency Planner - R2100176

Quicklink: <https://www.ubjobs.buffalo.edu/postings/30983>

Deadline for Applicants to apply by: 11/6/2021

34 & More community events:

- Community Shredding & Clothing Recycling Event – November 6, 9am-Noon at PS54 on Main Street: <https://149591165.v2.pressablecdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Shredding-Fall2021-Flyer.jpg>
- Bag It, Buffalo – ongoing through fall - <https://149591165.v2.pressablecdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/BagItBuffalo-Flyer-2021.jpg>
- Scrap It! Continues through the fall with three permanent locations and two weekly drop-offs: <https://149591165.v2.pressablecdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/COB-FoodScraps-Flyer-FALL2021.jpg>

UBRI One Region Forward community learning event – December 9th focused on inclusive environmental design. Jason will provide a link once available.

BN Waterkeeper – announcing the Clean Collective, hosting interest meetings within Buffalo to gauge community interest and participation opportunities to be a better resource to communities. Nov 10-11 from 5:30-7pm at Merriweather Library.



BNWKPR_Clean Collective_Interest Mtg-Flyer_20211028.msg

The Tool Library – volunteer events on Saturday Oct 30, Nov 6, Nov 13:

<http://www.thetoollibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/ServiceDaysFall2021FlyerNEWDATES.pdf>

9. Next meeting scheduled: December 14 at 3:30pm



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 Tuesday, October 26, 2021 3:30 – 4:30pm, Zoom meeting

| Name | Affiliation | Sign |
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| Marie Domon | Freelance Business Week Buffalo | Present |
| Emily Dyett | Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper | Present |
| Heike Jacob | UB Regional Institute | Present |
| Jason Kulaszewski | UB Regional Institute | Present |
| Colleen Makar | Buffalo Sewer Authority | Present |
| Rob Mayer | City of Buffalo | Present |
| Maria Melchiorre | Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency | Present |
| John O'Brien | The Tool Library | Present |
| Jason Paananen | City of Buffalo | Present |
| Antonio Parker | Buffalo Urban Development Corporation | Present |
| Kelley St. John | City of Buffalo | Present |
| Susan Attridge | City of Buffalo | Excused |
| Bridget Houck | City of Buffalo | Excused |
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City of Buffalo Climate Smart Communities Task Force

Tuesday, December 14, 2021, 3:00-4:30pm

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

Agenda

1. Welcome & Roll Call – Bridget Houck, Maria Melchiorre, John O’Brien, Colleen Makar, Heike Jacob, Kelley St. John, Jason Paananen, Rob Mayer, Emily Dyett, Nicholas Rajkovich, Marie Doman
2. Climate Smart Communities silver certification update – we are working toward Silver Certification in 2022 with the following action strategy:
 - Carry-over, no action needed: 14 actions, 80 points
 - Resubmitting “Expired” items: 13 actions, 98 points
 - In-progress/New items: 19 actions, 117 points
 - Opportunity items: 13 actions, 52 points
3. Clean Energy Communities grant proposal has been approved by NYSERDA and [funds were accepted by Common Council](#). Designation grant of \$5,000 will be used to create outreach plan and social media strategy for community outreach and education of climate action and resilience initiatives. The City intends to work with Marie Doman, Business BEActive a member of this task force to complete the activities.
4. Climate Resiliency Planning timeline & work groups (DEC Grant)
 - a. Two “work groups” that will guide the grant activities: Community Task Force (this group), and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).
 - b. Community Task Force will review grant deliverables as they are produced and work with community to understand the implications of activities.

- c. TAC will be mostly internal stakeholders responsible for implementing activities and technical experts in relevant areas.
 - d. The City's project management team for the grant – Kelley St. John and Heike Jacob – are working to develop a timeline for grant activities that aligns with the Silver Certification goal. More details will be shared at the February meeting.
- 5. ARP projects with sustainability elements – a few projects, listed below, have opportunities for carbon mitigation and increasing resilience of City operations. We'll share updates as projects progress, but please feel empowered to review the [ARP Project descriptions](#) and share feedback regarding how sustainability/resilience might be applied to additional project areas.
 - a. Community Center Renovation Fund
 - b. Cultural Institution Support Program
 - c. Smart Sewer and Water Infrastructure Buildout

The City's most recent ARP Plan submission to Treasury is available for viewing here: <https://www.buffalony.gov/DocumentCenter/View/9204/DOC082521-08252021122846>

- 6. Energy projects at the City
 - a. Solar development – After the Buffalo Sewer solar array project did not proceed, the City is evaluating opportunities for additional solar energy development within the City, on City facilities to support operations and achieve our energy goal of 20% reduction in municipal consumption.
 - b. Director of Policy Rob Mayer presented that the City is exploring options for Renewable Energy Purchasing Agreement for solar energy for City operations.
- 7. Director Mayer discussed the federal policy and funding landscape, sharing that the Biden Administration Labor Secretary visited Buffalo and highlighted many opportunities for the “green economy” and how Buffalo might contribute to that future. The EPA Secretary is also planning a visit to Buffalo.
- 8. Discussion
 - a. Updating the City's Energy Master Plan – revise language to include more specific goals; coordinate with NYS and Erie County efforts. The Energy Master Plan can be viewed here:
 - i. Re-evaluate 20% by 2020 goal and include more specifics, determine where we are at now as of 2022.
 - ii. How might our Climate Resiliency Planning effort and Energy Master Plan contribute to a larger effort? For consideration is updating the Comprehensive Plan with sustainability elements, such as amendments to existing Comp Plan for Climate Action Plan, etc.

- b. NYS constitutional amendment – right to clean air and water; how might we consider promoting and educating the community about it? What groups currently work in this space? Where could City implement?
9. Proposed 2022 meeting schedule – February 22, April 19, June 21, August 16, October 18, December 13
- a. Please advise if the timeslot not longer works with your schedule – **3rd Tuesday of every other month from 3:30-5pm**

10. Announcements

- a. NYS Draft Climate Scoping Plan public comment period open January - April:
<https://climate.ny.gov/>

The Mayor will be submitting comments on behalf of the City of Buffalo. We will discuss at the February meeting and there will be an opportunity to submit comment by March.

- b. MLK Day of Service on Monday, January 17:
<https://www.idealists.org/en/volunteer-opportunity/693d71dd091c479e81bfcb3ef9864de8-mlk-day-of-caring-community-clean-up-monarch-of-infinite-possibilities-buffalo>



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City of Buffalo Climate Smart Communities Task Force
 Tuesday, December 14, 3:00-4:30pm, Microsoft Teams meeting

| Name | Affiliation | Sign |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Susan Attridge | City of Buffalo | |
| Taylor Brown | Buffalo Sewer Authority | |
| Darren Cotton | The Tool Library | |
| Sarah Dance | HSBC Bank/NAACP Buffalo | |
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**Climate Smart
Communities**



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City of Buffalo Climate Smart Communities Task Force

Tuesday, February 22, 3:30-5:00pm

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

Attendees: Jason paananen, maria melchiorre, Emily dyett, alex Carducci, sarah dance, Jason kulaszewski, Valerie juang, nick rajkovich, rob mayer, john o'brien, heike Jacob, Kelley St. John

Agenda

1. Progress on CSC grant activities
 - a. Workplan, timeline, project management team introductions
 - i. Heike – external
 - ii. Kelley – internal
 - b. Stakeholders for Technical Advisory Committee, CSC Task Force
 - i. Business community outreach? TAC recommendation. Are there unintended consequences of involving? Recommendation to utilize the WNY Sustainable Business Roundtable.
 - ii. Will there be opportunities for two groups to engage together?
 - iii. Cleveland Climate Action plan update – required racial equity training as a first-step to participation in the CAP update (2018).
2. NYS Climate Act Implications for Buffalo – Link to the plan documents and overview: <https://climate.ny.gov/Our-Climate-Act/Draft-Scoping-Plan>
 - a. What's the timing of all this? Scoping document finalization by 2023; implementation beginning 2025; implementation and results by 2040.
 - i. Is there a timeline for comments on the scoping document, and is there a submission goal? The City is preparing a Message from the Mayor with comments on the Plan to submit in April which will include a Press

Release. The WNY Regional public meeting remains TBD-scheduled, but the City will share info when it is available.

- ii. What perspectives do we have about a community engagement process; direct-to-NYS comments or comment to the City then pass along to NYS?
- iii. Does any of the Climate Action Planning timing align with the CLCPA public comment? Possible opportunity for more engagement around the City's plan and the CLCPA process.
 - 1. The Erie County CAP group has been hearing from local experts that are involved in developing the State Scoping Plan and could be a resource to supporting public engagement/education.
- iv. Are other local organizations/agencies planning to submit comment? Do education/outreach?
 - 1. Opportunity to utilize technology tools, such as Open Madison(?), which potentially could support.
 - 2. There is a standing biweekly call for CLCPA Scoping Plan mobilization with NYRenews partners, including PUSH, and unfortunately I could not attend last week but we do have a partner who is performing a policy analysis and plans to create toolkits to help community orgs and members to help make comments
- b. Implications for local industries and major employers – what disruptions will there be to the economy and workforce?
- c. We have a need to respond in a way mitigates opposition from established institutions and supports the needs of the community, through labor, housing, education, etc.
- d. Tesla was a major opportunity for jobs and the green economy; Buffalo is slated to get more power from the NYPA Niagara River hydropower plant. We have an opportunity to leverage these net benefits for Buffalo to come out on top in the shift. How would a Climate Action Plan support this agenda?
- e. Focusing on workforce development and creating a just transition – some employment sectors will decrease while others drastically increase; we need to support capacity development of existing workforce to take advantage of new jobs. Example: Huntley Power Plant.
- f. Has there been any consideration on impacts of switching from NG to all electric on citizens HVACs and the cost associated with those upgrades? Equity considerations for our at-risk and high-need community members who do not have the resources/means to make required changes.

- i. Something to consider is that NY is following a similar model to California and there's potential for heating/cooling systems infrastructure to be retrofit in a way that considers existing conditions and economic needs.

3. American Rescue Plan project connectivity

- a. Sustainability and resilience initiatives -
- b. \$25M workforce development - \$2M NWTC, \$7M open competitive workforce development initiatives, \$16M wraparound services support for program enrollees
- c. Read the spending plan here:
<https://www.buffalony.gov/DocumentCenter/View/9799/ARP-Spending-Plan-2021>
- d. Register for ARP funding opportunity notifications here:
<https://www.buffalony.gov/ARPreregister>



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City of Buffalo Climate Smart Communities Task Force

Tuesday, April 19, 3:30-5:00pm

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

Attendees: Nick Rajkovich, Jason Kulaszewski, Sarah Dance, Emily Dyett, Antonio Parker, Jason Paananen, Bridget Houck, Maria Melchiorre, John O'Brien, Kelley St. John

Agenda

1. Happy Earth Week!
 - a. Freelance Buffalo and Beyond events happening all week:
<http://www.freelanceweekbuffalo.com/>
 - b. 34&More Buffalo Recycles events: <https://buffalorecycles.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/COB-EarthMonth-Poster-2022.pdf>
 - c. Erie County 2022 WNY Earth Day Challenge, participate all month long for the opportunity to earn earth-friendly, outdoor prizes:
<https://www3.erie.gov/recycling/wnearthdaychallenge>
2. CSC certification update
 - a. **Bronze** re-certification application submitted April 8th, 26 actions for 173 points.
New actions submitted include:
 - Partnerships (WNYEA), 3 points
 - Benchmarking, 2 points
 - Organics Management Plan, 8 points
 - Community repair, 4 points
 - Climate change educations & engagement, 8 points
 - Climate-related public events, 3 points

- b. Next certification deadline, July 8; **striving for silver!** We will have actions across all pledge element areas with this submission. New actions in progress:

- Green Infrastructure (with BSA), 14 points
- Social Media (NYSERDA grant),
- Climate Resiliency Assessment (DEC grant), 6 points
- Fleet Inventory (DEC grant), 4 points
- Fleet Efficiency Policy, 2 points
- Energy Code Enforcement Training, 5 points
- Complete Streets, 4 points
- Planning for Biking and Walking, 3 points
- Green parking Lots, 4 points
- Safe Routes to Schools, 3 points
- Traffic Calming, 7 points
- Cooling Centers, 6 points
- Farmers Markets, 3 points
- PACE Financing, 15 points

3. NYSERDA CEC designation grant

- a. \$5K will be used to develop a community engagement and education web campaign using the @ClimateSmartBuffalo Instagram page and City's webpage
- b. Grant is established internally; working with OSP and Marie to finalize professional services contract.

4. CSC planning grant update

- a. We have processed our ICLEI membership! Planning to have a member of the ICLEI support team join us at our June meeting for an overview of membership services and ways they'll be supporting us.
- b. Learn more about ICLEI: <https://icleiusa.org/>

5. NYS CLCPA Draft Scoping Plan

- a. Testimony event coming up next week, Wednesday 4/27 at 3:30pm at Central Library downtown: <https://climate.ny.gov/CAC-Meetings-and-Materials>

6. Community news and updates

- a. NYSERDA Clean Communities Challenge- LISC Buffalo has received a local grant to work around Bailey Ave on the East Side with community partners and organizations to uplift transportation alternatives that are not EVs. LISC awarded through Phase 1 for initial award; additional funding opportunities More info here: <https://www.cleaneighborhoodschallenge.org/awardees-announcement>
- b. ARP Community Center Renovation Program – Prioritizing improvement of community center facilities throughout Buffalo based on physical conditions/ needs of facilities and surrounding community needs/uses of facilities. Looking

to leverage the NYSERDA FlexTech program to complete a multi-tier evaluation process to prioritize locations for participation (

- i. Some FlexTech consultants are locally-based and have experience integrating resilience into assessments; discuss with NYSERDA.
 - ii. USDN network has a 'resilience hub' checklist that can be utilized for evaluation of facilities needs to prioritize improvements/services.
 - iii. UB is open to supporting City work and initiatives through student work/engagement opportunities.
- c. Waterkeeper annual Spring Sweep event, focusing on improving data collection with volunteers utilizing the Clean Sweep app that connects to 'Tides' website which stores waste collection data. Need help along the Buffalo River and Scajaquada Creek sites, registration required. Join here:
<https://bnwaterkeeper.org/programs/cleanup/>
- i. The City has data available in the Rain Check 1.0 report:
<https://raincheckbuffalo.org/rain-check-1-0/> and the 2.0 opportunity report: <https://raincheckbuffalo.org/opportunityreport/>
- d. The Tool Library has published their Spring Service Calendar for 2022:
https://www.thetoollibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/TL_ServiceDays_Flyer_Spring2022FINAL.pdf
- e. Dare to Repair Café events are resuming in 2022. City of Buffalo event is Saturday, July 16th at Delavan Grider Community Center.



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SENIOR RESILIENCY GRANTS
MANAGER, CSC COORDINATOR

City of Buffalo Climate Smart Communities Task Force

Tuesday, July 5, 3:30-5:00pm

Microsoft Teams meeting

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Attendance: Kelley St. John, Heike Jacob, Rosaleen Nogle, Taylor Brown, Matt Bourke, Brenna Reilly, John O'Brien, Emily Dyett, Bridget Houck

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Welcome Matt Bourke! UBRI new staff
 - b. Emily Dyett, Project Coordinator at Waterkeeper. Matt Bourke, S&R Planner at UBRI. Taylor Brown, Sr. Engineer at DPW. Brenna Reilly, program manager at WNYSBR, EPA EJ grant. John O'Brien, The Tool Library. Bridget Houck, Recycling Coordinator at COB. Rosie Nogle, Principal Sanitary Engineer at BSA.
2. CSC certification update
 - a. Technical Support from UBRI, new capacity added to staff. DEC provided new funding to CSC capacity building and technical support to NYS municipalities, UBRI is lead for Buffalo-Erie-Niagara region. Supporting certification efforts.
 - b. July 2022 submission deadline is Friday; we will be submitting for bronze recertification based on updated guidance and for more points than our previous bronze application.
 - c. We are still Striving for Silver! The City's current and projected planning efforts, and upcoming policy initiatives will help bolster us there.
 - d. Anticipate certification announcements in September.
3. Active Projects
 - a. Local Government CAP

- i. Beginning work on internal items starting with Fleet Inventory and finalizing Portfolio Manager resource for energy benchmarking of municipal buildings. The Climate Smart Resiliency Planning assessment remains ongoing using staff capacity.
 - b. NYSERDA CEC designation grant (\$5k) – website content and social media.
 - c. NEW Climate Action Manager position within OSP. Dedicated 1.0FTE to work on climate and sustainability efforts of the City.
 - d. OSP recently wrapped up their Envision Neighborhood, phase 1 project, focused on gathering city-wide and neighborhood-specific community insights. Climate/sustainability were identified as a mid-to-high range concerns residents have for their communities. OSP is currently sorting data and analyzing now to make city-wide and neighborhood specific recommendations.
- 4. Planned Projects
 - a. Silver Certification actions via DEC CSC funding being requested, Climate Resiliency Planning phase 2, focused specifically on community efforts.
 - b. Four-Year Strategic Plan, integrating climate & environment as a priority area for capital improvement dollars investment.
- 5. Scheduling and announcements
 - a. BN Waterkeeper shoreline resilience effort, Kerrie Gallo lead. Heike Jacob, Jason Paananen, Rosie Nogle, City Parks & DPW staff contributing. The effort will dovetail, but City's comprehensive, community VA will be broader in scope. Current timeline is projected to be completed in 2024 due to inputs, modelling, etc. Could this contribute to City's CSC certification efforts?
 - i. Potentially support additional CSC Actions in PE7, etc:
<https://climatesmart.ny.gov/actions-certification/actions/>
 - b. Summer recess; task force to reconvene in October.