



**Ecology and Natural Resources Advisory Committee  
A Climate Smart Communities Task Force**

February 27, 2022, 6:30 to 8:00 PM

**IN PERSON** – City Hall, Development Conference Room  
515 North Ave, New Rochelle NY 10801

• **MINUTES**

- I. 6:30 – 7:00 – Dinner & Commencement
  1. Welcome and Introductions
  
- II. 7:00 – 7:15 – Committee Reorganization & Logistics
  - Most agree that in-person meeting with a virtual option are preferable.
  - Several members support meeting every month to make it easier for members to make the meetings. Several members disagreed. Agreement seems achievable for full-committee monthly meetings so long as subcommittee participation is acknowledged equally to full-committee meetings.
  - Most members are in favor of Monday's being the designated meeting day. However, at least one member is unable to attend. A compromise suggested is to meet on a rotating basis (e.g., Mondays one month and Tuesdays the next).
  - Members suggested that the subcommittees can provide reports / updates for other members to bring to the full-committee meeting on the subcommittees behalf.
  - Alex suggested that the group establish a consistent group-chat means of communication, such a via WhatApps, Slack, etc.
  - Organizing subcommittees by tasks/projects rather than subject matter was proposed by CW Kaye. Most if not all present agree with this change.
  - Members suggests that the city can help provide clarify on how best committee members can engage by providing context to tasks/projects.
  - Members are in agreement regarding adding a vice-chair designated-person.
  - Members suggest that the committee establish a recruitment goal for both broader representation within the group, as well as replacing inactive members.
  - Members discussed adding a Green Schools Com't / Youth representative via Ms Glenn at NRHS; as well as establishing a liaison connection with the African American Advisory Committee and the Hispanic American Advisory Committee.
  - Members discussed engaging youth representatives and organizations (such as the local colleges) for assistance with subcommittee tasks and projects.

### III. 7:15 – 7:30 – 2023 ENRAC Engagement

#### 1. GreeNR

- Raya asked for the opportunity for more than one iteration for ENRAC comments / input
- Raya asked for a timeline of the cadence of input. A comment schedule in advance. Members emphasized the need for a schedule given the likelihood for family and personal conflict to arise over the summer months.
- Members and staff discussed the possibility for an ENRAC presentation about GreeNR in April
- Carol & Kevin advised about how the main focus is adding contemporary nuisance and changes in the sustainability landscape, such as overarching NYS climate goals, along with updating the GreeNR's themes. The update does not change the original goals.
- Paul discussed the need for more ways to increase recycling around the City.
- Paul emphasized the need for a structure or framework for feedback and input.
- Staff and members to discuss SW's proposed GreeNR update during the Chamber Night events or the 18<sup>th</sup> Ward event with FCWC.
- Members discussed the need to align the original GreeNR

#### 2. Climate Vulnerability Assessment

- Staff and members identified how the CVA has an opportunity for a subcommittee-oriented task/project.

#### 3. Sustainable Landscaping

- Staff and members identified how the Sustainable Landscaping has an opportunity for a subcommittee-oriented task/project.

#### 4. Climate Resilience Policy Evaluation

#### 5. April Earth Month Celebrations

- Staff and members identified how the Earth Month requires a subcommittee-oriented task/project.

### IV. 7:30 – 7:40 – Grid Rewards

- Lauren discussed the following:
  - Upcoming mix & mingle at 18<sup>th</sup> Ward with FCWC on March 18<sup>th</sup>
    - Lauren asked if ENRAC would like to present an ENRAC or GreeNR update?
  - Sustainability Story with Sustainability Actions
    - Reach out to Lauren if you're interested in sharing your sustainability story!
    - [lauren@sustainablewestchester.org](mailto:lauren@sustainablewestchester.org)
  - SW has been participating in the Chamber of Commerce's Chamber Nights (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month. All are invited under SW's membership).
    - Interest in conducting a sustainability/ENRAC radio broadcast on the Chamber's radio show?
  - GridRewards Campaign & Earth Day Cohort
    - The campaign cohort presents a fundraising opportunity as an organization's referral code provides a \$10 reward for each signup for the both the referral org. and the signee.
    - Institutions are also eligible for Grid Rewards
    - Lauren to advise the current number of Grid Rewards sign ups in New Rochelle

### V. 7:40 – 7:50 – Subcommittees Updates

#### 1. Energy

2. Trees
3. Water
4. Education & Outreach
5. CSC Task Force - Climate Smart Actions

- Members discussed starting a Textile recycling programs within the City
- Members advised the near completion of tree ordinance recommendations.
- Members discussed the ongoing NYSDEC air monitoring program in New Rochelle and neighboring municipalities.
- Members discussed the CSC taskforce, seeking CSC certifications, and leveraging the task force for CEC project planning.
- Discussed George Profous (“Trees are rivers to sky”) and the NYSDEC’s upcoming urban forestry grant opportunities.
- Soulful Synergy recently awarded a community development space at the Trump Tower to conduct their sustainability and energy efficiency job training programming.

VI. 7:50 – 8:00 – Open Discussion

- Members discussed starting a Textile recycling programs within the City.

VII. 8:00 - Adjournment

Attendance Rooster

Members & Liaisons

Guests:

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Paul A. Presendieu - Chair</li> <li>2. Jeff Apotheker</li> <li>3. Miriam O'Malley-Dias</li> <li>4. Rand Manasse</li> <li>5. Jessica Schuler</li> <li>6. Marilyn Brown</li> <li>7. Justine McClellan</li> <li>8. Nancy Street</li> <li>9. Alan Greenburg</li> <li><del>10. Jayne Peister</del></li> <li><del>11. Raya Salter</del></li> <li>12. Millie Magraw</li> <li>13. Alex Alvarez</li> <li>14. Tom Constabile</li> <li><del>15. Lisa Owen</del></li> </ol> <p>Sara Kaye - Council Liaison  Carol Samol – Deputy Development Commissioner  (optional)  Kevin Kain - Director of Planning &amp; Sustainability  Nicholas Sioufas - Sustainability &amp; CSC  Coordinator</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lauren from Sustainable Westchester</li> </ol>
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