

Climate Smart Communities (CSC)

Team Meeting 12/8/2022

Present: Carol Smillie, Tim McHenry, Leah Cadwallader, Pat Odell, Tara Silberberg, Nancy Kuster

Carol explained to the group the basics of NYSERDA's Clean Energy initiative and NY DEC's Climate Smart Communities (CSC).

Haley from Capital Planning Group will assist with the DEC CSC effort. Columbia County also has a CSC group that may assist us with our efforts.

Gallatin already has 6 points on the NYSERDA scorecard, mostly from the town buildings meeting requirements. Carol identified 7 of the most obvious and hopefully easier actions to address to increase the points on the scorecard:

1. Community Solar Effort – The scoping document is needed. Pat has and sent to the CAC. Leah will assist Pat to move this effort forward.
2. Comprehensive Plan - This draft plan is on the way to the Town Board to adopt, likely in February 2023. It already has sustainability elements that meet requirements. Need to identify the points – 5 required and other recommended. Carol and Tara will work on this since they were on the committee that developed the Plan.
3. Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) – there already is a grant application outstanding to do an NRI in partnership with Town of Copake. Once the NRI is done, then an Open Space Planning Phase should begin in 2024/2025. The CAC will handle this.
4. EV Charging and Community Members – Tim will work on this effort and what is needed.
5. Community Campaign - Clean Heating & Cooling/Energy Efficiency – Heat pumps and geothermal outreach to provide education to residents. WHO DID WE ASSIGN THIS ONE??? The Columbia county CSC is embarking on this outreach and we can likely “piggyback”. It will involve community outreach.
6. Climate Vulnerability Assessment/Resiliency & Climate Adaptation Plan – Pat will work on this.
7. Roads – County Route petition for Bike and Walk space on one side of County Roads. Tara will work on this.

Tara will send a poll for our next meeting date in mid-January when we can report back on the tasks for the above actions.

Carol will send links to the Google Docs folder for this CSC group.

Notes by Leah Cadwallader