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Gallatin Climate Smart Communities Task Force Update

Community Solar and Clean Heat Campaigns are ongoing

We Completed the following actions

- Town Hall presentation, Solstice
- Transfer Station – tabling to promote both Heat Smart and Community Solar
- Email blasts and various webinars
- There will be another countywide zoom/webinar for the County Heat Smart Campaign
- Upcoming event Solstice Party Oct 8 Lake Taghkanic Park 1-3 with a CAC tie-in to be determined soon. Likely a naturalist led hike at the park prior.
- Our task force wants to identify low-income community members who may qualify for free energy upgrades and we need guidance how to identify households

We have enough signups in the 2 about actions to expect \$15,000 in energy grant funds. Town should consider shovel ready projects for when energy funding is available. EV Charging, grant writer, possibly consultant or Sustainability Coordinator. (I sent an email with a listed of qualified items, and we can request others).

CARP (Climate Action Resiliency planning) is ongoing. A survey was shared throughout the county. I expect this will inform some ideas for our Natural resource inventory and zoning review by highlighting vulnerabilities and protective actions.

NOTE - Zoning Review – Zoning for protection of Natural areas is a Climate Smart action with associated points (2 - 6 points). Zoning with Smart Growth policies (1 – 10 points)

Natural Resource Inventory and Open Space Plan - This action is a Climate Smart action with associated points (8 -10 points). CAC will be pursuing this project.

Comprehensive Plan with sustainability - This action is a Climate Smart action with associated points. (3-21 points) We plan to submit for review but haven't had the time.

Community Campaign planned for Electric Vehicles **EV** (another \$5000 grant opportunity). We need to learn the options for consumers, prepare and submit a scoping document, and then proceed.

CAC UPDATES

NRI/Open Space plan We are soliciting bids from consultants and working on a budget

Website GallatinCAC.org is “up” . Please take a look and submit constructive comments. Once updated, we will have an official announcement/ launch. We plan to add a Climate Smart Community Page

CAC has an Instagram page. Please follow and share

Planting was done at the Conservation Area in the deer enclosure (Used Grant funds and donations of time, labor, and equipment)

County EMC Meetings Updates

Columbia Land Conservancy discussed plans to do a County Conservation Plan much like the Taghkanic Headwaters Conservation Plan. These plans establish a pathway to conservation and environmental preservation by identifying specific actions, places, goals. Plans are needed before seeking grants or enabling legislation for environmental transfer taxes. CLC goal is to get Albany approval for a transfer tax to be used for environmental and affordable housing uses.

A "Green revolving fund" was passed in Germantown

There's a new web site for the county Climate smart task force
<https://climatesmart.columbiacountyny.com/> They are pursuing the same community actions at the county level.

Note, County CSC meetings are all done via zoom. Many county towns are doing Zoom and hybrid CSC meetings with the notion that the task force is outside the open meeting laws.

Everyone should be aware that the transfer station now accepts home food scraps.

The County Board of health is promoting re-usable food take away containers for leftovers at restaurants. In the early stages. Some restaurants are signing on.

NY State DEC program re wetlands

The DEC will be hosting a training "Protecting Wetlands and Streams in your Community. Carol forwarded the email. In person at Columbia Green on Monday 10/30/2023. Virtual Webex events details will also be forwarded (Oct 18, 6 pm, Oct 23, 6:30 pm and Nov 9 1- 2:30)

The program will cover changes to federal and State regulations which directly impact the town and cover, actions that towns are taking to protect their water resources and quality, prevent flooding, reduce stormwater runoff and preserve biodiversity.