

TOWN OF GALLATIN

Climate Change Education & Engagement: Strategy for Mitigation and Adaptation 2023 -2025

Background and Objectives of the Climate Smart Communities Program

The Town of Gallatin took the Pledge to pursue the NYS Climate Smart Communities program with the goal of addressing the effects of climate change in our community through adaptation and mitigation efforts. Under this program, the Town of Gallatin, along with many other communities across New York State, have made the commitment to act by passing the Climate Smart Communities Pledge. By taking this pledge, the Town commits to completing and documenting actions that mitigate and adapt to climate change at the local level.

PE9 Action: Climate Change Education and Engagement

This strategy document outlines the critical education, outreach and engagement methods that are necessary to ensuring the Gallatin community is involved efforts to address climate change and understands its potential risks and impacts. Outreach efforts provide opportunities to collaborate with nontraditional stakeholder groups, start conversations about the future of the community, deepen a sense of social cohesion, and identify innovative ways to reduce GHG emissions and build community resilience.

This plan serves as the Education and Engagement strategy document for the Town of Gallatin to engage and educate our community about climate adaptation and mitigation. The purpose of this document is to outline the climate change engagement and outreach plan for Gallatin for the period 2022 -2025.

Strategy for Adaptation and Mitigation

Outreach Goals and Scope

The Gallatin Climate Smart Community (CSC) task force is now a subcommittee of the Conservation Advisory Council. Both groups work in tandem to address climate adaptation and mitigation. Their mission is to gather and disseminate information, conduct research, advise town agencies, and engage with the community.

Community Engagement Methods

There are a number of community engagement methods the Town uses to promote public education and outreach:

- Public Workshops and Presentations: Events hosted by the CAC/CSC are posted on the Events page of the group's website (<https://gallatincac.org/spring-events-2025/>). All events are open to the public.
- Website and Social Media: The CAC/CSC website (<https://gallatincac.org/climate-smart/>) is used to promote the campaigns, conservation efforts and upcoming events related to climate adaptation and mitigation. Adopted plans, reports and newsletters are also shared on the Town's CAC webpage(<https://gallatin.yourtownhub.com/conservation-advisory-council/>)
- Direct Outreach at Public Events: The Task Force tables at public events to promote their work and conducts targeted outreach on various topics related to



climate change. During 2023 and 2024 the task force focused our efforts on the NYSEDA Clean Energy Communities program - a program focused on the mitigation of GHG emissions. Through this endeavor, the CSC Task Force conducted outreach in a variety of ways. Actions included outreach for a clean heating campaign to reduce fossil fuel use, electric vehicles and community solar. Information about these campaigns are available on the website, and the group tabled at public events, pictured left. Gallatin achieved numerous actions supported by the program and was awarded \$92,500 in grants to promote

clean energy. The town board allocated these funds for uses including a newly created green fund, solar panels, and for heat pumps in the town hall.

The Climate Smart task force will continue its efforts in that program including work on the town Natural Resource Inventory and Conservation Plan and other endeavors.

Audience

Gallatin is located in [Columbia County, New York](#). Gallatin has a 2025 population of 1,596. Gallatin is currently declining at a rate of -0.56% annually and its population has decreased by -1.66% since the most recent census, which recorded a population of 1,623 in 2020.

The average household income in Gallatin is \$142,713 with a poverty rate of 9.14%. The median age in Gallatin is 51.5 years: 51.7 years for males, and 51.1 years for females.

In Gallatin, NY, high-risk populations vulnerable to climate change impacts include children, older adults, pregnant and breastfeeding women, individuals with chronic medical conditions, and those experiencing homelessness or living in poverty. Additionally, farming and agriculture communities may be disproportionately affected by climate change.

Community Engagement Methods

Climate Change Adaptation Engagement & Education

- **Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan**

August 2022 through March 25, 2024

Gallatin participated in a [County-wide Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan](#). Development of these plans relied on technical assistance from Cornell Cooperative Extension on behalf of the Capital District Regional Planning Commission (CDRPC) through a NYS DEC Climate Smart Communities Coordinator Services contract and Pilot Program. Completion of the CARP satisfies CSC PE7 actions for Climate Adaptation Plan, Evaluate Policies for Climate Resilience and Climate Vulnerability Assessment. Gallatin's finalized CARP and Appendix is posted publicly on the Town's website: [click here for the notice](#)

- **Earth Day Weekend 2023**

Gallatin Conservation Area Deer Exclosure Project and Trail Maintenance

April 20, 2023

[click here for the notice](#)

- **Affordable Housing Fair**

Roe Jan Library January 27, 2024 - The Gallatin CSC had a table to engage with attendees about heat pumps, community solar and electric vehicles

[click here for the notice](#)

- **Plan and Organize Support for Big Night, Amphibian Migration and Road Crossing**

February 14, 2025

[click here for the notice](#)

- Host a **NRICP public education session** for Gallatin residents
April 26, 2025
[click here for the notice](#)
- **Sponsored Native Ecosystem Restoration**
Lake Taghkanic State Park - May 11, 2024
Partnered with the Town of Taghkanic for trail work and native planting project at Lake Taghkanic State Park.
[click to read notice here](#)
- **Gallatin CAC and CSC Community Open House**
Lake Taghkanic State Park - April 26, 2025
[click to read notice here](#)

Climate Change Mitigation Engagement & Education

- **Municipal Benchmarking**
The town of Gallatin has completed NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities Benchmarking and Advanced Reporting High Impact Actions. The data is publicly available on the Town website for residents to view.
https://gallatin.yourtownhub.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Gallatin_Benchmarking-Annual-Report-2022-2023.pdf
- **Community Campaigns:** The Town of Gallatin conducted outreach and education as part of community campaigns to promote heat pumps, electric vehicles and community solar. Information about these campaigns are posted on the CAC website: <https://gallatincac.org/climate-smart/>. The Town earned high-impact action credit for conducting these campaigns through NYSERDA's Clean EnergyCommunities program: [click here for the notice](#)
 - **Clean Heating & Cooling Campaign:** Completed tiers 1 & 2. The clean heating and cooling campaign ran from 2/23/2023 - 6/26/2024.
 - **Electric Vehicle Campaign:** Completed tiers 1 & 2. The electric vehicle campaign ran from 1/2/2024 - 6/26/2024.

- **Installing Heat Pumps Can Save You Money-** Information at the Gallatin Transfer Station May 6 & 13, 2023 - 9am-1pm

[Click here for the notice](#)

Planned events 2025

- Update to the 2021 Municipal GHG Inventory (Spring/Summer 2025) to include years 2022 and 2023 in partnership with Haley Balcanoff, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
- Host Trail work day at Lake Taghkanic State Park (May 2025)
- Collaborate with the Town of Taghkanic and Columbia Land Conservancy on their “Forest in your Backyard: A Homeowner’s Guide to Managing Woodlands” series of talks this year. (MULTIPLE DATES - 2025)

Future Engagement Tailored to Local Circumstances

- Heat Pump Information Table at Gallatin Transfer Station, date TBD
- Utilize social media more to promote programming opportunities and ongoing education: <https://www.instagram.com/gallatincac/>
- Continue to promote education and outreach opportunities on the Gallatin CAC and Climate Smart Communities Website <https://gallatincac.org/climate-smart/>

Key Partnerships & Stakeholders

- **Neighboring Jurisdictions**

Partnerships with the Town’s nearest neighbors, the Towns of Copake, Ancram, and Taghkanic, as was done through the CARP planning process. There are many opportunities for future partnerships with these municipalities as well.

- **Roe Jan Watershed Community**

The RJWC is a New York State 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation working to monitor and enhance the Roeliff Jansen Kill, an important tributary of the Hudson River, mostly in southern Columbia County. We partner with RJWC to monitor the Roeliff Jansen Kill which flows through southern Gallatin.

- **Partners for Climate Action Hudson Valley**

PCAHV assists under-resourced, Hudson Valley municipalities with funding, training, peer support, interns, catalyst grants, grant writing coaching, and consultations with engineers as they strive for bronze certification and beyond in New York State's Climate Smart Communities Program.

Other Key Institutions for Future Partnerships

- Cornell Cooperative Extension | Columbia and Greene Counties

Developed CARP and working towards Disaster Preparedness outreach and engagement strategy which includes a disaster preparedness webpage on the Town website, social media posts for the Town outlets, and print material for the community [these actions fall under CSC actions [PE9 Action: Climate Change Education & Engagement](#) and [PE9: Social Media](#)]

- Capital District Regional Planning Commission (CDRPC): Partner with Outreach Coordinator Haley Balcanoff to pursue Bronze Certification in the NYS Climate Smart Communities program and high-impact actions in NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities program.