

Monroe County Climate Action Plan Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
via zoom
July 1, 2021 (3:30 – 5:00 p.m.)
Drafted: July 2, 2021
Approved: August 5, 2021

Members: John Botelho, Matthew O'Connor, Sue Hughes-Smith, Leah Wirley, Helen Frank, Michael Yudelson, Kathryn Walker

Absent: Karla Boyce, Mike Garland, Liam Smith

Staff: Tina Stevens, Joe VanKerkhove, Patrick Gooch, Clement Chung, Yasmin Guevera, Isabelle Haddad, Ryan Guerra, Joe VanKerkhove

Guests: Robert d'abadie, Kiernan Playford, Chris Robasco

Welcome, Introduction and Announcements (Co-Chair O'Connor)

1. Meeting called to order at 3:05 P.M. by Co-Chair O'Connor.
2. Matt thanked Clem Chung and Sue Hughes-Smith for their presentations about Climate Change on WXXIs Connections on June 29.

Approval of Minutes (Co-Chair O'Connor):

1. Minutes from the June 3, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved. Motion by Matt O'Connor; seconded by Sue Hughes-Smith.

Legislative Update (County Legislator Yudelson):

1. The Monroe County Legislature approved the Open C-PACE program at their June meeting. All Climate Action committee members were invited to a ceremonial bill signing on Wednesday, July 7, at 11:00 am at Home2 Suites - 400 Bellwood Drive.
2. Legislators Karla Boyce and Fred Ancello were thanked by Legislator Yudelson for helping to get this bill through the process.

New Business:

1. Co-Chair O'Connor introduced an email from Montgomery County, Maryland County Executive Marc Elrich. Montgomery County, the most populous of 23 counties in Maryland, just unveiled an ambitious Climate Action Plan that will guide the County toward the goals of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 80 percent by 2027 and by 100 percent by 2035, compared to 2005 levels.

Co-Chair O'Connor provided the links to the Climate Action Plan webpage where the Plan and supporting details can be found. He recommended committee members familiarize themselves with the Plan tenets. He also noted that the nature of feedback received from constituents as the Plan was evolving was of particular interest. Montgomery County categorized all comments and responded to each one as the draft plan emerged.

<https://montgomerycomd.blogspot.com/2021/06/county-executive-elrich-unveils.html>

2. Clem Chung presented regarding the County's progress toward Climate Smart Community certification:
 - Monroe County registered with CSC in February, 2021 – Monroe County Legislature adopted CSC pledge; County Executive appointed CSC Task Force and CSC Coordinator
 - Certification Program: 10 Pledge Elements; 117 Action Items in current program; 2 mandatory, 13 priority
 - Bronze Certification: 120 points, 4 PEs, 2 Mandatory, 3 priority
 - Silver Certification: 300 points, 7 PEs, 2 Mandatory, 6 priority
 - No rolling application; can build Silver off Bronze
 - Some action items have sliding scales
3. Pledge elements: Build climate-smart community; inventory emissions, set goals, and plan for climate action; decrease energy use; shift to clean, renewable energy; use climate smart-materials management; implement climate-smart land use; enhance community resilience to climate change; support a green innovation economy; inform and inspire the public; engage in an evolving process of climate action. Additional elements include innovation and performance.

4. Current Status:

Category	Total Action Items	Total Points	# PEs Represented	Mandatory Action Items	Priority Action Items
Complete (or partially complete)	33	168 (320*)	6	2	1
In Progress	12	110 (132*)	4	0	5
Near Term / Feasible	15	105 (155*)	5	0	3
Long Term / Desirable	22	116 (183*)	7	0	2

5. Next steps:

- Submit CFA for CAP Phase 1 Grant
- Collate documentation for Action Items already completed
- Determine additional documentation necessary to review GHG impact (cf 2019)
- Submit Bronze Certification Application
- Review Prioritization alignment with CAP goals / strategies
- Continue to review funding opportunities
- Submit Silver Certification

6. Available Funding:

- Community Rating System, Zero Emission Vehicles (secured)
 - Consolidated Funding Application – CSC Grants (up to \$100k):
 - PE2: GHG Inventory/CAP (government/community)
 - PE3: Fleet Inventory, Efficiency
 - PE5: Organics Management, C&D Waste
 - PE6: Comp Plan, Complete Streets, Bike/ Pedestrian Master Plan, Natural Resources Inventory
 - PE7: Climate Vulnerability Assessment, Resilience / Adaptation Plans
 - Clean Energy Communities / NYSEDA
 - As a Clean Energy Community, four of ten items need to be completed to unlock lowest level of funding.
7. Silver is County's goal; have been benchmarking against other Counties with the same certification. County should be in a position to submit for Bronze along with completion of Phase 1 of the CAP.
8. Certifications are only good for five years; recertification always has to be front of mind.

Climate Action Plan Update (Joe Vankerkove / Bergmann Associates):

1. Robert d'Abadie talked about the progress on the data inventory: ICLEI has reached out to provide assistance. The data is in from most areas and the inventory is being run, with early results comparable to other communities and plans. The numbers are currently in review by ICLEI. Initial reports were high on methane from the Solid Waste Facilities, but those numbers are expected to decrease once flaring and power generation efforts are added. Mill Seat and the closed Gloria Drive Landfills are thought to be the main generators.
2. Chris Robasco stated that the adding of flaring and WTE is expected to lower outputs by 15-20%.
3. There are still holes, including Sheriff's Fleet, but County personnel are being very cooperative and helpful in obtaining numbers. Where holes exist, national averages will be used.
4. Joe VanKerkove added that the goal is to have data and numbers prior to the August meeting to help in formulating goals. Early results are similar to those found in the City of Rochester study.

Public Forum:

1. Sue Hughes-Smith asked about the term for appointed members of the CAPAC. The Legislation that was adopted with the inception of the CAPAC indicates the committee will sunset upon the issuance of the CAP.
2. Clem Chung added that the members of the CAPAC are also convened as the Climate Smart Communities Task Force as well, so the roles/responsibilities of the CAP may morph or be extended.

Next meeting is Thursday, August 5 at 3:30 via Zoom. Link will be sent one week prior.

Motion to adjourn by Mike Yudelson; second by Matt O'Connor. Meeting adjourned at 4:28 P.M.