

Monroe County Climate Action Plan Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

via zoom

June 3, 2021 (3:30 – 5:00 p.m.)

Drafted: June 4, 2021

Approved: July 1, 2021

Members: John Botelho, Fred Ancello, Matthew O'Connor, Sue Hughes-Smith, Leah Wirley, Helen Frank, Liam Smith

Absent: Karla Boyce, Kathryn McArdle, Michael Yudelson, Mike Garland

Staff: Tina Stevens, Joe VanKerkhove, Patrick Gooch, Clement Chung, Yasmin Guevera, Isabell Haddad

Guests: Kimberly Baptiste, Robert d'abadie, Jayme Thomann, Ram Shrivastava, Kiernan Playford, Emily Ghosh, Abigail Griffa, Kristin VanHoreweghe, Emily Ghosh

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

1. Meeting called to order at 3:32 P.M. by Co-Chair O'Connor.
2. Co-Chair O'Connor noted that the committee has been meeting via Zoom for the past 10 months. Interest was expressed to continue meeting via Zoom for the summer months and pick up in person in September. Mike Garland has offered to coordinate tours of various County facilities (ecopark, Mill Seat Landfill, VanLare Wastewater Treatment Plant). Pat Gooch offered the Planning Department's second floor City Place conference room.
3. Co-Chair O'Connor encouraged CAPC members to share their areas of expertise in an upcoming meeting.

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

1. Minutes from the May 6, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved. Motion by Matt O'Connor; seconded by John Botelho.

Legislative Update (County Legislators Ancello, Boyce and Yudelson):

1. Legislator Ancello stated that the Open C- PACE financing program is scheduled for a public hearing on Tuesday, June 8.
2. Clem Chung mentioned that a contract had been authorized with the Energy Improvement Corporation for management of the Open C- PACE program.

New Business:

Kristin VanHooreweghe, Emily Ghosh and Abigail McHugh-Grifa presented on the Climate Solutions Accelerator of the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region, formerly known as the Rochester People's Climate Coalition.

1. Mission: to create a healthier, more equitable, and environmentally sustainable committee by catalyzing local efforts to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions and address the effects of climate change
2. Values: inclusive, non-partisan, solutions-focused, collaborative, scientifically informed, committed to social, racial economic, environmental and intergenerational justice
3. Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) – a not for profit research organization. Mission is to enable sustainable development by bridging science and policy. Named the world's most influential environmental think tank in 2020. Headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden with seven regional centers. This group originates from SEIs US Center in Somerville, MA. SEI is working on emissions reduction plans around the world and in other areas of the US.
4. Collective Impact for a Regional Climate Action Plan: Climate change requires systemic solutions that reach across agencies, sectors, & organizations. Collective impact brings together cross-sector stakeholders to: Develop a common understanding of the problem; Develop a shared system of measurement and accountability; Develop a regional climate action plan to encourage coordination, partnership and resource sharing across the region.
5. Steering Committee: Co-chairs: Simeon Banister (RACF) & Jan Nyrop (Cornell Agritech); diverse steering committee make-up.
6. Project Overview: Phase 1: Emissions Inventory (just being wrapped up); Phase 2: Scenario Analysis; Phase 3: Action Plan Development.
7. Which fuels are most responsible for emissions in our Region? Gas (27%) and Natural Gas (24%) are found to have the most emissions. Diesel was 12%, non-energy was 20% and electricity was 13%. Emissions from non-energy sources includes land use changes such as deforestation; livestock; waste-related emissions and industrial processes. Electricity is generated from both fossil fuel and renewable sources; CLCPA target is 100% carbon-free electricity grid by 2040. Transport sector has the most emissions in the region.

8. Comparison of emissions:

Region	Emissions Million Metric Tons CO2 Equivalent	Population (Millions)
New Hampshire	13.3 (2016 value)	1.3
Nepal	13.9 (2019 value)	28.6
Genesee-Finger Lakes Region	14.4 (2016 value)	1.2
Ghana	14.9 (2019 value)	30.4
South Dakota	15.0 (2016 value)	0.8

9. Emissions Breakdown by County:

County	2016 Share of Emissions	MMtCO2E per person
Monroe	47%	9
Genesee	9%	22
Seneca	6%	23
Yates	3%	15
Wyoming	7%	24
Wayne	7%	11
Orleans	4%	14
Livingston	7%	16
Ontario	10%	15

10. Sectors with biggest emissions by county: Orleans - 28% Industrial; Wyoming 62% Agricultural; Seneca – 27% Waste. Largest category in Monroe County is residential, which mostly come from natural gas and electricity.
11. Very low-income houses have an average energy burden of 10%. NYS Guidelines say that low-income New York residents should not be spending any more than 6% on energy use.
12. Majority of transport emissions in the County are from cars and light passenger trucks.
13. A significant reduction in chemical manufacturing has been noted between 2010 and 2015. Grocery and Food Service are the most energy intensive, due to HVAC, lighting and refrigeration requirement.
14. Agricultural emissions in the region are dominated by non-energy related activities, such as soils for animals, fertilizers and residues; manure management and enteric fermentation.
15. Solid Waste and wastewater emissions are measured from both energy (combustion) and non-energy (decomposition).
16. Increasing EVs and decarbonizing the grid by 2040 can lead to a 40% reduction in emissions. A 75% increase in EVs would lead to a 30% reduction in emissions. An additional 18% emission reduction can be earned if the grid is decarbonized.
17. Collaboration and intersections: consultants and committee participation, overlapping programs and initiatives, data sharing, coordinate and support climate action plans.
18. Yasmin Guevara asked about the implementation phase. Abby stated that no one group or municipality can do this alone, it needs to be done as a region and needs buy in from many partners. A great deal is from the NYS Level, but the vision needs to be community led and driven. The emphasis lies with a shared vision for change which creates an interest, and community organizations is where the ability to change lies.
19. Matt O'Connor asked what the group's next steps were. It is hoped they would have a draft plan in place by the end of 2021. Following that, it is implementation. Matt also mentioned the group working together with Bergmann to utilize the County's data. Matt also asked if the group had clarity on the parameters. It was noted that the group is following the NYS GHG guidelines.
20. The cooperation aspect of reciprocating plans from differing municipalities was discussed.
21. Clem Chung spoke about the fact that in various programs credit is only applied for limited numbers of items, such as electric vehicles. A sliding scale would be useful in incentivizing municipalities to lead.
22. Joe VanKerhove talked about not endorsing a regional plan until what is best for Monroe County is ascertained, which will be addressed in Phase 2 of the CAP.
23. John Botelho asked about a change in the method for accounting of methane. Abby said that it is thought a change is forthcoming and 3.65 is rumored. Ram Shrivastava talked about a seminar he had attended where in the near future methane emissions will be measured by satellite.

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

1. Joe Vankershove shared with the committee a copy of the Local Government Emissions Survey inventory which was shared with five key county departments: Buildings and Facilities, Street Lights and Traffic Signals, Vehicle and Transit Fleet, Solid Waste Facilities, and Wastewater Treatment Facilities. Information provided by these departments will be given to Bergmann and Michael Baker to determine the baseline, hopefully by the end of July. Robert d'Amadie mentioned they will be scrubbing the data for holes and gaps. The data gathered will be entered into the ICLEI database, which is designed for use by local and regional governments. It is expected to take approximately two months (if the data is of good quality) to generate a GHG inventory. This will be a baseline from 2019, as 2020 was atypical. From that, it can be ascertained what goals are achievable and realistic for the County to pursue.
2. John Bothelo asked if the Airport would be included in the data. Joe confirmed the Airport was included.

Public Forum:

No public comments or requests to speak were received.

New Business:

1. Next meeting is Thursday, July 1 at 3:30, via Zoom. Link will be sent out one week prior.

Motion to adjourn by Matt O'Connor; second by John Botelho. Meeting adjourned at 4:37 P.M.