

Monroe County Climate Action Plan Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

via zoom

May 6, 2021 (3:30 – 5:00 p.m.)

Drafted: May 7, 2021

Approved: June 3, 2021

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

Absent: Karla Boyce

Staff: Mike Garland, Tina Stevens, Joe VanKerkhove, Patrick Gooch, Clement Chung, Yasmin Guevera

Guests: Kimberly Baptiste, Robert d'abadie, Jayme Thomann, Ram Shrivastava, Kiernan Playford

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

Meeting called to order at 3:32 P.M. by Co-Chair O'Connor.

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

Minutes from the April 1, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved. Motion by Kate McArdle; seconded by Matt O'Connor.

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

1. Legislator Yudelson recognized and congratulated Leah Wirley and Helen Frank for their participation in the Rochester Youth Climate Leaders Summit, and thanked Mike Garland, Matt O'Connor and Clement Chung for presenting.
2. The Energize New York Open C-Pace Legislation was introduced to the County Legislature at the Committee of the Whole meeting in May and referred back to the CPAC for clarification.
3. Motion to resubmit this legislation was made by Sue Hughes-Smith; seconded by Matt O'Connor and unanimously approved. A letter of endorsement for the program was drafted and returned to the Clerk of the Legislature.
4. Legislator Ancello received a text during the meeting that Open C-Pace is being added to the agenda for the May 11 Legislature meeting, and a date for a Public Hearing on the proposed Law will be set during that meeting. This program will only be available outside of City limits as the City has adopted its own, similar program.

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

1. Kimberly Baptiste, Jayme Thomann and Kiernan Playford from Bergmann Associates, Robert d'Abadie from Michael Baker, and Ram Shrivastava from Larsen Engineering updated the committee on their efforts to date.
2. CAP Team / Roles and Responsibilities:
Bergmann – Project Management
Michael Baker – prepare baseline GHG emissions inventory; climate resiliency assessment; GHG inventory forecast
Larsen Engineers – identify strategies, policies and actions to facilitate GHG emissions consistent with defined goals
Sustainable Planning Design – quality control review and Executive Summary
3. Phase 1 Stakeholder Groups – Monroe County Internal Work Group; Climate Action Plan Advisory Committee
4. Role of the Internal Group: Assist with data gathering to inform Greenhouse Gas Emissions inventory; review recommended policies and projects
5. Role of the Climate Action Plan Advisory Committee: Charged by County Legislature with creation of Climate Action plan; identify and review practices and policies that may impact environmental sustainability; identify practices and policies that may reduce residential and commercial impact (Phase 2).
6. Project Purpose:
CAP for Government Operations – focused on emissions reduction; will not address other activities associated with reducing the effects of climate change; Phase 1 focused on Government Operations (sites/facilities that Monroe County owns OR has full authority to introduced and implement proposed changes; recognize the County as a leader in proactively addressing climate change.
7. Draft purpose statement Identify a strategy for Monroe County to decrease greenhouse gas emissions associated with its operations by XX% by the year 2035 and XX% by the year 2050 using the County's 2019 greenhouse gas emission inventory as a baseline. And develop complementary goals to support this purpose statement.
8. NYS Climate Leadership and Protection Act: By 2040: achieve 100% zero-emission electricity; by 2050 reduce emission at least 85% below 1990 levels.
9. Overview of Process and Outcomes: Develop GHG Inventory / Baseline; Select GHG Reduction Goals; Case Studies and BMPs; Identify and Analyze Actions; Prioritize Actions.
10. Past and Ongoing Sustainability Initiatives: Green Building Policy/LEED Certified Buildings; Alternative Fuel and Hybrid Vehicles / EV Charging Stations; Solar / Green Power; Recycling, ecopark, Resource Recovery; Lighting; Education, Outreach and Awareness

11. GHG Inventory – Methodology: Utilizes approach developed through the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Local Government Operations GHG Inventory Protocol; ICLEI ClearPath Online Tool: Comprehensive online platform to complete greenhouse gas inventories, emission forecasts, and monitoring of progress towards CAP goals; Using 2019 as a baseline (most recent year not impacted by the pandemic); Project team will identify other available data if not available from County. **2019 will be used as the baseline year – 2020 will be omitted.**
12. Emission categories: Buildings and Facilities; Streetlights and Signals; Solid Waste and Material Management; Transportation Fleets; Wastewater Treatment; Electricity Power Production. Water supply falls outside the County and will not be included. Individual departments have descriptions of the entries that are required. First round of data is due May 21, with goal of being complete by end of 2021.
13. Action / Strategy Identification and Analysis: Organized around focus areas / emission categories: What actions can the County implement? What is the GHG reduction potential / impact? How can actions be phased?
14. Implementation Framework: Prioritize actions that will help to achieve GHG emission reduction goals; Costs, funding and ROI; Responsible parties and capacity; Partnerships and collaboration; Challenges and barriers; Monitoring outcomes.
15. Biggest areas of opportunity are thought to be buildings and transportation, but include: electrification, lower emissions, LEDs, Waste Management, methane capture and waste reduction. Robert d’Abadie stated that everything was on the table and the programs that are already in place would be reflected in the 2019 timeline.
16. Using ICLEI protocol makes results consistent with other regions and reflect what has already been accomplished..
17. Sue Hughes-Smith stated that the County is still a long way from net zero by 2050 and that LEED is not thought to be Carbon Neutral. Kim Baptiste stated that the goals are not yet set, the project is still in the data gathering stage, and could end up being anything consistent with the NYS goals. The ICELI tool will provide and help understand comparative benefits. Robert added that the protocol is calculation and procedures, does not include goals or programs. It is strictly “what if” questions for date analysis.
18. Kate McArdle asked that the CPAC be part of the committee to set goals. Joe and Kim stated that the GHG reduction goals will be established in parallel with the baseline inventory and the CPAC will be involved in any goal setting.
19. Project schedule and next steps:

<u>Task</u>	<u>Timeframe</u>
GHG Baseline Inventory	April – July 2021
GHG Reduction Goals	June 2021
Case Studies and Best Management Practices	May – June 2021
Identify and Analyze Strategies / Actions	June – October 2021
Priorities Strategies / Actions	August – October 2021
Draft Climate Action Plan	November 2021
Final Climate Action Plan	December 2021

New Business:

20. Kate Walker, CAPC member gave an overview of her role at the NYS Center for Sustainable Materials Management.
 - NYS Center for Sustainable Materials Management: announced in September, 2020; funded for five years with possible five year extension; \$5.75 million grant from NYS DEC in partnership with Syracuse University, University of Buffalo, Alfred University and SUNY Stonybrook
 - Key priorities: Waste Prevention and Product Stewardship; Community Outreach and Education; Closed Loop, Responsible Purchasing; Composting options for fibrous materials; Economic Markets and Entrepreneurship; Conversion Options for Fibrous Materials
 - Task 1: Waste Reduction and Product Stewardship: Explore and continue research on regional and national approaches to product stewardship:
 - Develop quantitative, joint plan with for target diversion/reduction number
 - Identify specific product and packaging that pose management challenges and identify potential solutions
 - Explore strategies for increased use of recycled content, increased recycling opportunities, methods to improve recyclability of packaging and waste reduction goals/opportunities.
 - Task 2: Closed-loop, Responsible Purchasing:
 - Provide guidance for the state, municipalities, institutions and others regarding environmentally preferable purchasing
 - Evaluate and enhance NYS Office of General Services *GreenNY: State Purchasing and Operations* web portal

- Task 3: Market Development & Entrepreneurship:
 - Develop a market-gap analysis
 - With partners, develop market strategies
 - Train & support local economic developers focused on recycling market development
 - Develop and provide cooperative marketing services and other entrepreneurial opportunities
 - Provide policy development support as needed
- Task 4: Outreach and Education
 - Further develop statewide education, engagement and outreach related to waste reduction
 - [Recycle Right New York \(RRNY\)](#) New website launched Earth Day
 - “Know Your Local Program”
 - Statewide consistency (as much as possible!)
 - Resources for all
 - Stakeholder group (statewide membership)
 - Monthly recycling resources
- Task 5: Composting
 - Create better management practices for difficult to recycle fibrous (paper) material
 - Ex: waste paper fines
 - Compost trials on ESF’s Syracuse campus
 - Survey & Demonstration projects
 - Material Recovery Facilities
 - Municipalities
- Task 6: Conversion
 - Create better management practices for difficult to recycle fibrous (paper) material
 - Bioplastic creation
 - Most bioplastics are made from soybean or canola oil
 - Developing bioplastics made from “waste”
- Sustainable Materials Management Universities: Center for SMM / SUNY ESF; University of Buffalo; SUNY Stonybrook and Alfred University
- University of Buffalo:
 - \$1.9 million
 - Assess state of plastics recycling market, including contamination
 - Evaluate sorting technology
 - Assess costs and benefits of improving recycling infrastructure
 - Find sustainable substitutes for plastic
 - Evaluate effectiveness of single vs multi stream recycling and bottle deposit efforts
 - Behavioral science – outreach and education methodologies
- SUNY Stonybrook:
 - \$4.2 million
 - Solid waste characterization study
 - Determine top recyclable items that remain in waste stream
 - Waste/recycling process analysis
 - Determine efficiency of recycling programs across state
 - Create a user friendly economic analysis tool for municipalities to determine the cost of recycling programs
 - Conduct case studies on single stream recycling
 - Circular economy research
- Alfred University:
 - NYS College of Ceramics, Center for Glass Innovation
 - \$1.7 million
 - Assist NYS based glass manufacturers in increasing their utilization of recycled glass feedstock
 - Reduce amount of glass going to landfills
 - Improve quality of glass cullet for reuse and recovery
 - Anticipated private sector industrial involvement across NYS
 - Develop new, high performance materials, low cost feedstock alternatives and energy efficiency manufacturing
 - Reduce glass manufacturing industry's carbon footprint

- Partnering with the Center:
 - Stakeholder groups for Industry partners, municipalities
 - Outreach and education materials for municipalities
 - Technical assistance for reaching zero waste for businesses, municipalities, universities and schools.
21. Matt O'Connor asked about a "road map" that will define all of the players in this project. Kate stated that she is working on a public-facing document that defines the responsibilities of the different organizations.

Public Forum:

1. Letter was received from Carol Hinkelman of the Federation of Monroe County Environmentalists, requesting a meeting with County Executive Bello. CPAC chairs will attend if requested.
2. Yasmin Guevara played a video produced by Monroe County's communication department celebrating Compost Awareness Week.

New Business:

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

Motion to adjourn by Kate McArdle second by Matt O'Connor. Meeting adjourned at 4:55 PM.