Monroe County Climate Action Plan Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
via zoom
November 5, 2020 (3:30 – 5:00 p.m.)
Drafted: November 6, 2020
Approved: December 3, 2020

Members:, John Botelho, Matthew O'Connor, Michael Yudelson, Sue Hughes-Smith, Kathryn McArdle, Leah Wirley, Helen Frank, Liam Smith, Karla Boyce
Absent: Fred Ancello
Staff: Mike Garland, Tina Stevens, Joe VanKerkhove, Miles Cunning, Patrick Gooch, Clement Chung
Guests: Kimberly Baptiste (Bergmann), Robert D'abadie (Michael Baker), Haylee Ferington

Welcome, Introduction and Announcements (Co-Chair O'Connor):
1. Meeting called to order at 3:33 P.M. by Co-Chair O'Connor.
2. Co-Chair O'Connor encouraged members to review the Monroe County Climate Action webpage.
3. The Monroe County Legislature approved the Climate Smart Community resolution on October 13 and a copy was provided to members.
4. There was discussion regarding a letter sent from the President of the Legislature, Dr. Joe Carbone, regarding formulating a complete Climate Action Plan as opposed to sending individual pieces of legislation for consideration. Legislator Yudelson stated he would follow up with President Carbone.

Approval of Minutes (Co-Chair O'Connor):
1. Minutes from the October 1, 2020 meeting were unanimously approved with one correction: Change "Vice-Chair" to "Co-Chair". Motion to approve amended minutes by Matthew O'Connor; seconded by Kate McArdle.

Final Review of Bergmann Associates Draft Scope of Work – Phase 1 of Monroe County Climate Action Plan (Joe Vankerhove / Bergmann Associates):
1. Joe VanKerhove reviewed minor comments to the Bergmann Associates Draft Scope of work for the County's Climate Action Plan.
2. The scope, including the minor amendments, will be finalized and a referral submitted to the Legislature for November committee review and December adoption.

NYS Clean Energy Communities (Haylee Ferington, Genesee/Fingerlakes Regional Planning Council):
1. Clean Energy Communities: Program began in 2016 to assist municipalities reduce greenhouse gas emissions and lower electrical consumption through a series of 10 High Impact Action Items. 35 designated communities / 76 participating communities have achieved 216 high impact action items during that time period. There is expected to be a new structure launched before the end of 2020 that will expand the number of High Impact Action Items to 30. Haylee stated that for structures, High Impact Items could date back to 2014 or 2016.
2. High Impact Action Items include: BenchMarking; Energy Code Enforcement Training; Unified Solar Permit; Clean Fleets; Community Choice Aggregation; Climate Smart Communities; LED Streetlights; Community Campaigns; Clean Energy Upgrades and Open C-Pace Financing.
3. Monroe County has already taken action in several of these areas. Clean Energy Communities actions include Hybrid Vehicles, Charging Stations, Solar Arrays and Highway LED Conversion. Climate Smart Communities include Green Building Policy, Hybrid/Electric Vehicles, Charging Stations, Recycling and Composting, and Highway LED Conversion.
4. Benchmarking: Municipalities pass a resolution committing to tracking and measuring their energy use through inputting utility data into the EPA Portfolio Manager and must report this information to their communities once annually.
5. Energy Code Enforcement Training: Free training opportunities provided for code enforcement officials to better assess building envelopes and energy efficiency. Classes held for small-medium communities and one-on-one trainings for large communities.
6. Unified Solar Permit: Municipalities pass a resolution to use a standardized solar permit application for residential and small business solar pv arrays. Benefits seen have included increased efficiency for municipal staff in assessing applications from clerks to code officials.
7. Clean Fleets: Action item includes EV Charging Infrastructure as well as replacing vehicles with alternate fuel vehicles. This item is supported by funding programs such as NYSERDA CHARGENY, NYS DEC's ZEV funding, and the NYT-VIP funds.
8. Community Choice Aggregation: Municipalities pass a resolution allowing for the aggregation of all residential customers through a third-party provider. State approved providers bid out for energy mixes to provide the customer needs. Ideally, the energy mix would be greener and less expensive for the consumers. Significantly lowers GHG emissions for communities.

9. Climate Smart Communities: is a New York State program that helps local governments take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate. The program offers free technical assistance, grants, and rebates for electric vehicles. **Registered** communities have made a commitment to act by passing the CSC pledge. **Certified** communities are the foremost leaders in the state; they have gone beyond the CSC pledge by completing and documenting a suite of actions that mitigate and adapt to climate change at the local level.
    - Build a Climate Smart Community
    - Inventory emissions, set goals, and plan for 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 the evolving process of climate action
    - Innovation
    - Performance
10. LED Streetlights: Municipalities converts their streetlight inventory to LED bulbs from High Pressure Sodium or Metal Halide bulbs, with programs available through utilities as well as NYPA. Municipalities see reductions in energy costs that ultimately can transform the savings into other projects and saves taxpayers money
11. Community Campaigns: Solarize, Solar 4 All, Clean Heating and Cooling - Municipalities partner with community groups and champions to form campaigns supporting solar or alternative heating technologies. Customer registration targets are required for action item. Support materials provided through NYSERDA and partner organizations.
12. Clean Energy Upgrades: Municipalities use data gathered in EPA Portfolio Manager to gauge energy reductions over time achieved through building efficiency improvements. Projects can include water boiler replacements, building envelope improvements, low-flow toilets and faucets, and heating/cooling upgrades.
13. Open C-PACE Financing: Municipalities enact a law allowing EnergizeNY, an Energy Improvement Corporation to administer loans for property assessed financing for clean energy improvements. In cases of lien, the EIC pays back the municipality for back taxes, so no risk befalls the municipality.
14. Example Communities: Genesee Finger Lakes Region - City of Canandaigua 8/10 HIAs; City of Geneva 6/10 HIAs; Town of Geneva 7/20 HIAs. Other Regions of NYS - City of Cazenovia 6/10 HIAs; City of Lockport 6/10 HIAs; City of Beacon 8/10 HIAs; Village of Croton-on-Hudson 9/10 HIAs; Village of Hastings-on-Hudson 8/10 HIAs.
15. Other programs include: NYSTRETCH, Battery Energy Storage Systems Technology and Siting, Solar Siting, Electric School Buses, Climate and Environmental Justice and Clean Energy Communities Round 2.
16. NY Stretch: Municipalities enact a local law adopting the NYSTRETCH building code which is one cycle ahead of the May 2020 NYS building standard and efficiency codes. Benefits of the code include increased job opportunities and livability of communities. Strategies of adoption include aggregation with neighboring communities to equalize and spur development opportunities. Local circuit rider experts available for additional assistance with town boards, code officials and other decision makers (contact Clean Energy Community Coordinator for referral).
17. Battery Energy Storage Systems: BESS to be paired with renewable energy to even out ebbs and flows of grid and provide resiliency. Our region will see stand-alone BESS with central location and mid points between power generation and downstate demand. Lithium-ion most common technology. Lithium-ion recycling and refurbish center, as well as Battery Testing Center all in Rochester.
18. Solar Siting: New processes for large-scale under 94-C or "The Act" that establishes the Office of Renewable Energy Siting and the Build-Ready program. Evaluate opportunity to submit sites over 65 acres to the Build-Ready program, ie: brownfields, underdeveloped land etc. Community Scale 25/20MW and under will fall to local law.
19. Electric School Buses: Provide Opportunity to decrease toxic emissions for our most vulnerable population. Provide Opportunity to ebb peak demands through optimized vehicle to grid charging options while seeking partnerships with neighboring school districts for aggregated power purchasing agreements for early adopters.
20. Climate and Environmental Justice: Whether there are Climate and/or Environmental Justice communities in your municipality or not, we are all responsible for the wrongs committed to these communities throughout time and must move forward with this in mind. Partner with local grassroots organizations to uplift voices in climate/environmental justice communities and push decision makers to prioritize investments in climate/environmental justice communities.

Public Forum:
1. No public comments or requests to speak were received.

New Business:
1. Mike Garland introduced Clement Chung, the new Environmental Services Deputy Director.
2. Mike will pursue a December presentation for the CAPC from the County's Department of Transportation regarding the Complete Streets Policy. The County has reviewed this policy in prior administrations but it was not adopted.
3. Kate McArdle discussed the Renew Resource List, which was distributed to committee members via email. Mike Yudelson stated sharing resources such as these and using the Climate Action committee as a clearinghouse for information was an important function of the committee.
4. Mike Garland will discuss the C-PACE program with the administration. Sue Hughes-Smith asked about the expectations of the Legislature for reporting. Karla Boyce stated that interim reports could be submitted quarterly to the Environment and Public Works committee and added to the agenda for that group. Karla will confer with Legislative President Carbone on this issue.
5. Karla Boyce asked about car seat recycling, and possible events to promote it.
   Correction: the information given during the meeting by Tina Stevens was incorrect. Car seats, regardless of condition, are no longer accepted for recycling at the Monroe County ecopark, due to the ever-changing recycling markets. Current guidance is for parents who find themselves with an expired or outgrown carseat is to find a retailer or manufacturer take-back program.
6. Next meeting is Thursday, December 3 at 3:30, via Zoom. Link will be sent out one week prior.

Motion to adjourn by Matthew O'Connor; second by Kate McArdle. Meeting adjourned at 4:27 PM.