

**Energy, Environment and Sustainability Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: August 5, 2022 – 6:30 PM (or immediately following the Law Enforcement and Public Safety Committee meeting)
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meetings, Meeting ID: 857 3954 6010,
By Phone Dial (646) 558-8656
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Manna Jo Greene
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Fawn Tantillo, Chelsea Villalba
PRESENT: Legislators Gina Hansut, Phil Erner, Eric Stewart
ABSENT: Legislator Joseph Maloney
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Director Nick Hvozda, Department of Environment; Dr. Katherine Beinkafner, Chair, Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA) Board of Directors; Dave Haldemann, Chair, Ulster County Environmental Management Council (EMC).

Chair Greene called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and asked Clerk Villalba to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Beinkafner shared an update on the UCRRA search for a new Executive Director and progress on a study of UCRRA Solid Waste practices.

Director Hvozda reminded the committee about an upcoming Climate Smart roundtable scheduled for August 29 at the Rosendale Rec Center for Ulster County Climate Smart Communities and gave a brief update on the RFP for the Innovation Center.

Mr. Haldemann did not attend the July EMC meeting but was interested in topics to be discussed at this meeting to take back for the August EMC meeting.

See attached transcript.

Motion No. 1: **Moved to APPROVE the Minutes of the July 7, 2022 and July 19, 2022 meetings of the Energy, Environment and Sustainability Committee**

Motion By: Legislator Hansut
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Greene, Hansut, Erner and Stewart

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 4

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Minutes APPROVED**

Resolutions for the August 16, 2022 Session of the Legislature

Resolution No. 419 - Establishing Capital Project No. 644 – Site Ready Services For Electric Vehicle Charging Stations — Department Of Public Works (Buildings & Grounds) And Department Of The Environment

Resolution Summary: Establishes Capital Project No. 644 for the Electric Vehicle Charging Station Project to install electric vehicle charging station at various county locations.

Motion No. 2: **Motion Resolution No. 419 for DISCUSSION**

Motion Made By: Legislator Hansut

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner

Discussion: See Transcript

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Hansut, Erner and Stewart

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 4

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution APPROVED**

Resolution No. 421 - Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – J&J Sass Electric, Inc. – Department Of Finance And Department Of Public Works

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves a contract for the installation of electric vehicle charging stations at various county locations.

Motion No. 3: **Motion Resolution No. 421 for DISCUSSION**

Motion Made By: Legislator Erner

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Stewart

Discussion: After a lengthy discussion, Legislator Stewart Called the Question.
See Transcript.

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Hansut, Erner, and Stewart

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 4

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution APPROVED**

New Business

Chair Greene discussed revising the Resolution declaring a Climate Emergency to include action items. Legislator Stewart mention a resolution drafted by Legislator Petit and suggested the revisions include recent recorded climate changes; actions Ulster County has already undertaken to address climate change as well as action items.. The committee discussed developing this resolution using a shared document.

Chair Greene discussed training on the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) for EE&S members. She will review some videos to suggest to members and hopes to follow up with additional training from Legislative Counsel Gordon. She was also considering a requirement for all resolutions regarding a SEQRA determination to come before the EE&S Committee.

Legislator Erner wanted to be sure committee members were aware of the New York City Department of Environment planned temporary shutdown of the Delaware Aqueduct for repairs.

Legislator Erner discussed requiring the IDA to improve benchmarks for projects. Chair Greene reported that she and Legislator Petit discussed this previously with IDA members and suggested Legislator Erner take the lead with the IDA to follow up and asked him to include Legislator Petit.

Legislator Stewart reported on a presentation at a recent Rondout Valley Business Association meeting regarding the installation of a waterline in Marbletown and the potential to use this opportunity to install a municipal geothermal system in the same trench. The scoping for this project would be about \$6000 although the project would be significantly more. They discussed how the legislature might support this effort.

Old Business

The committee discussed the initial results of a survey of local municipalities regarding local policies for the application of pesticides and herbicides. Members asked for the spreadsheet to be shared with them and offered to follow up with their local municipalities to fill in missing information.

Legislator Erner said he will discuss the possibility of a county wide ban on pesticides and herbicides with legislative counsel.

There was no one in attendance who had firsthand information on progress with neighbors concerns about the Central Hudson Training facility although members reported a recent email announced a meeting with Central Hudson scheduled for August 29 at 6:00 to address neighborhood concerns.

Chair Greene reported that 4 of the 5 solar mapping training sessions scheduled for this summer were done.

Legislator Stewart said he will follow up with New York State Senator Michelle Hinchey regarding the installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations along the NYS Thruway rest stops.

Chair Greene reported federal government is considering standardization of EV chargers.

Committee members discussed the Climate Row efforts at the Ulster County Fair. Legislators reported that the exhibitions were beautiful and offered enjoyable educational opportunities. They praised the efforts of the many volunteers and Climate Smart committees that made this possible.

Chair Greene gave an update on the Zero Waste Implementation Plan.

Legislator Erner reported on a presentation on indoor air quality given at a recent Low-Income, Affordable Housing working group meeting.

Legislator Erner reported that the Champlain Hudson Power Express (CHPE) project was reported to be approaching the Dutchess County IDA for a possible PILOT.

Legislator Erner asked the committee to consider an Environmental Advocate position in the county to act as an independent “referee” between public and private groups to address local environmental concerns on projects or developing conditions.

Chair Greene noted that many topics were discussed and asked each of the members to detail what they would be doing for “homework” for the next meeting.

See Transcript

Chair Greene asked the members if there was any other business. See attached transcript

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Erner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hansut
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 8:41 PM

Respectfully submitted: Fawn A. Tantillo
Approved: September 8, 2022

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Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Okay, thank you. I would like to welcome everyone to the August 4 2022. Energy Environment and Sustainability Committee. And, Fawn, would you be kind enough to please call the roll?

Fawn Tantillo

I certainly will. Chair Manna Jo Greene

Chair Manna Jo Greene

President.

Fawn Tantillo

Gina Hansut. It is with us. I see.

Legislator Gina Hansut

Yes. President

Fawn Tantillo

Joe Maloney, I don't see Joe yet. And Eric Stewart.

Legislator Eric Stewart

I'm here. All right. So you have a quorum, Madam Chair.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

All right. I thank you. And I would like to ask, if is there a volunteer who would kindly say the Pledge? We have somebody willing to step up.

Chelsea Villalba

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. And to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Thank you, all right, and next is Approval of the minutes of the July 7, and July 19, we had a special meeting. 2022. Do I have a motion? Regarding the minutes?

Legislator Gina Hansut

I'll move it.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Moved by Legislator Hansut, do I have a second? Okay. I see. Legislator Erner. All in favor, please signify by raising your hand and or saying aye.

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Does anyone oppose? All right, motion carries. And the next on the agenda is an update from the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency. Chair Rocky.

Dr. Katherine Beinkafner

Good to see everybody. Um, let's see what have we been up to? We're in the process of trying to hire an executive director, we have some excellent candidates, I think we're down to three. And we have more interviews with the same people this week, coming. And so pretty soon, we should settle in on deciding who will be the next executive director. And let's see the other thing that's happening with respect to the reuse Innovation Center. I was over at the site the other day and I was out at the new education building. And the people from Stony Brook who are classifying the waste were there. And they had like a whole pile of waste that they were actually going through. So I'm hoping that we can get some of their data, I think they came last year and did the same thing. So I'm hoping for the Reuse Innovation Center will be able to get some of the data from them. And that gives us a head start for for that project. So, you know, it's not really what's going on at UCRRA, what's going on with UCRRA. So that's that's all that's happening at the moment. Tim DeGraff is away on vacation, he went down to Delaware having a good time on the beach. So he'll be back beginning of the week.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Okay, and what follows almost directly is if let's see, Nick, remind me your title is director of Department of Environment.?

Director Nick Hvozda

It is yes.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Would you please share an update and you know, just for continuity, maybe let people know about the Reuse Innovation Center. Any progress in that and then anything else you want to bring to our attention.

Director Nick Hvozda

The the review process for the Reuse Innovation Center Planning study capital project, request for proposals is coming to a close. The committee has assessed two proposals and is finalizing the decision at this point. So by my next month's meeting, we should have be able to announce what the next steps are for the project. What we'll be doing between then and now is doing the contracting, preparing, negotiating the budget with the, with the vendor that is selected, and ultimately preparing a resolution for, for the capital project to be created and funded. So

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

And I was, I was going to remind you that we need to take that step. But there's no need to remind our Department of Environment is completely on top of what needs to be done. And it's it's a real privilege and pleasure to work with them. Yes, what else?

Director Nick Hvozda

The only other announcement I have is the County Department of the Environment and a couple of other groups are have formed a climate smart municipal Task Force to support municipalities around the county who are doing climate smart communities work. And out of that group is coming the first annual municipal environmental and climate committee annual roundtable, which will be held in August, Monday, August 29. A few few weeks short weeks from now, it will be 5:30pm. At the Rosendale rec center. The audience for this roundtable is is volunteers and municipal staff who are working on climate smart projects throughout the county, at the municipal level, might it may be EMC members, climate smart, taskforce members or conservation Advisory Council test members from around the county who might attend. And it's in person. And we're looking forward to having it be a fun gathering where we all learn something. So if you if you'd like more information, we do have a event, right res registration, and can share that with you.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

And then, to I understand we could also invite members, for example of Climate Reality and other affiliated groups, or do you want to really not limit but specify?

Director Nick Hvozda

Because this is the first one and because we have very limited time timeline we're keeping, keeping the time for presentation is short and the time for collaborating between towns longer. So that's, that's how we're tailoring it. So certainly could attend. Those groups could attend. But we want to focus on municipal support, particularly around the Climate Smart Communities program.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

And we had a lot of interest at the fair. And particularly people noticing if their community wasn't participating yet.

Director Nick Hvozda

Yeah, the poster is effective.

Legislator Gina Hansut

Nick, can you email us on the committee that?

Director Nick Hvozda

Yes, I will. Thank you. The a one page PDF.

Legislator Eric Stewart

One page is always good.

Director Nick Hvozda

Yes, short and sweet. Alright, that's all I have to agree. And thank you.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

And I'm Dave Haldeman. If you could give us an update on me. Ulster County Environmental Management Council, please.

Dave Haldeman

Well, unfortunately, I'm not able to be at the last meeting. So I really can't give you the update. And I really have nothing on the agenda tonight. So I will pass, unless, unless there's anything that came up meeting that we should mention.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Well, you're also our liaison. So we appreciate your being here and some of the things we'll be discussing this evening, you might want to bring back to them. So thank you for participating. At this point, I'd like to move to the resolutions. And I just have one question, but let's ask for a motion To discuss resolution number 419, establishing capital project number 644. site ready services for electric vehicle charging stations and this is from DPW. And a motion to discuss would be most welcome.

Legislator Gina Hansut

I motion.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

All right Legislator Hansut, seconded by Segislator Erner. Does anyone have any questions or discussion? Yes, please, Legislator Erner.

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you Chair Greene. So how, what are these stations for? Are they for workers at these departments personal vehicles or they for official county vehicles or both?

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Yes, please, Legislator Hansut.

Legislator Gina Hansut

So I was on the Monday, the chair meeting because Manna couldn't be there. So I did. So what I was told were kind of for both, it has access to the public as well. And then I did ask about how they came up with these five sites. And again, it was the locations in the county that made the most sense with accessibility. And I did ask also about if we could moving forward if more sites could be added? And they said yes. So. So it was really it's for the public and for, for all so.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

So that is very similar to the existing charging stations at the county building. Not part of the county system, but SUNY New Paltz has similar and it's a just an interesting point that almost all of the charging, either uses charge point or something compatible, except for Tesla. And Tesla has its own separate system. And I have been noticing various restaurants and other places are installing Tesla. And I'm like, Could you put one universal and you know, not have them all be specifically for Tesla's but it just seems to me that that industry needs to work this out. Because having separate charge, it's hard enough to get charging stations installed. But I think this is a good step forward.

Director Nick Hvozda

Might I add a point?

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Please.

Director Nick Hvozda

The the capital project is set up so that it can prepare sites for both public and for fleet only use there are some sites where we know that the county fleet is departments that will have electric vehicles and that need additional charging capacity. And there is some plan to have stations that are dedicated to fleet use only, which will differentiate currently all of the stations around the county are available to the public, to for workplace charging by employees and to the fleet. But as we have more electric vehicles in the fleet that having dedicated stations will be necessary, particularly at places like the jail and the Public Works garage. Probation.

Legislator Eric Stewart

So, I was wondering like...I thought there was going to be eight I'm sorry. So I guess I'm confused. So there's going to be how many chargers actually installed and of those chargers like how many vehicles are able to be charged at one time. Do we know?

Director Nick Hvozda

the number of stations at each site is is being determined now. So we did estimate in the capital project what that would be. We're estimating based on the number of vehicles that that department serve, but then also planning for future proofing. future proofing. Typically for the level two style of station that would be installed, multiple vehicles could use that throughout the day to maintain operate operating charge. So it's, it's not necessarily a one to one relationship between vehicles and plugs.

Legislator Eric Stewart

Okay. And do we have a list of? I mean, do we have an exact list of these locations? Or? I mean, I was going through the, the backup and I, for some reason I couldn't find that information. So the way this particular contract is written is that it's not specific. But when DPW put out the request for bids, certain sites were listed. So it was social services probation, UCAT. And the jail, I think were the four that were listed specifically. But the capital plan has a listing of where the, you know, the initial needs or so okay. Cancel services, UCAT, the jail. And what was the other one that you mentioned? I'm sorry, Nick, probation, probation?

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Nikpai Oh, go ahead. Legislators are good know, you

Legislator Phil Erner

haven't spoken yet. Shereena. Can we?

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Thank you. I have a question. That relates to the second resolution as well. But in the resolution we're considering right now, construction is estimated to be 50,000. And professional services is the bulk of the resolution. But it doesn't mention the contractor that I could see. And is that because first we need to authorize the funds? And then the next resolution is also really, it's not so clear that these two are directly related, at least not to me. And I just want clarification that in the the next resolution that we're talking about the same firm? Is my question clear.

Director Nick Hvozda

To my knowledge, it's the same project. So the capital project encompasses the site ready services, but will also encompass the procurement of the equipment itself, and then the installation of the equipment. So the first resolutions, larger scope, the second

Legislator Eric Stewart

Kind of along those same lines, I mean, I just thought that the professional services kind of I mean, considering the the unit's themselves, the charging stations themselves were our estimated cost \$50,000. And then the professional services was roughly five times that. That just seems like kind of an unusual imbalance to me. And I I kind of ran this by someone who has dealt with EV chargers a lot. That would be Tom Conrad, and he thought that seemed a little excessive, as well, as far as the professional services go. And I was wondering, we have like some explanation as to whether that is true that it seems high, or, you know, some explanation as to you know, why that is so much more than the cost of the charges themselves. I

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

If I can make, go ahead, Nick, please.

Legislator Eric Stewart

I mean, it just, it just seemed out of line. I was just wondering if this is something that you typically see or if it's just, you know, yeah, new to me, because I don't claim to be an expert about this. So

Director Nick Hvozda

at this stage in the project, a lot of the costs are, are highly variable. So we know we have pricing for the site, ready work. But we also know that a good portion of that cost will be rebate, eligible for rebates from the utility. So I think that's where the \$50,000 is being allocated to allow for that work. Not knowing where it's, you know, where the costs are going to. And especially until we do one or two projects in which we're getting pricing for those right now.

Legislator Eric Stewart

And so some of the money being spent on professional services could perhaps come back to us and in the form of rebates, you're saying.

Director Nick Hvozda

So the rebates would be applied to the construction for the site ready services, professional services, I think, are I'm not sure how this was written, but I think it may, it may be intended to capture other costs that are not known at this point. And then be amended after that. But I'm not DPW

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

I see Legislator Erners, hand. And I made an assumption, but we should never assume that the actual equipment other than preparing the site, which I expect is DPW work, but the equipment and overseeing all that installation and the engineering, but I expected that it includes the equipment as well. But I'd like to get clarification and Legislator Erner, please.

Legislator Phil Erner

Yeah, thanks. I'm, it looks to me in the backup. For this resolution on the fifth out of the 27 pages that we might have some of that clarification, with a start, I guess to this from last August that I'd love to hear about what's been going on since August. But as far as the money there breaks it down design \$95,000 construction 158,000 acquisition 63,000 has timelines for each of these, it has year breakdowns of the spending. And it totals up the same number we have in this in the the summary of the resolution. So it looks to me like much more of the money is actually going to building the thing than than the 50,000. And then as far as the funding at the bottom of that page, you can see we at least anticipated 152,000 coming from the state so about half and then there's a line that says other and then the county's unfunded share. I'm sorry, the other line is 89,000 the county's unfunded share 76,000. So that that's certainly if that's what what we're voting on that that helps me understand a lot better than the summary. And

Legislator Eric Stewart

Thank you for that, Phil

Fawn Tantillo

Resolution 421 shows that 60% is county 40% is other. But if you go in the contract in your backup to Schedule A, it lists how many they're going to, you know what the contractor is going to do for that money. It says " it shall include but not limited to sight work, concrete pads, installation of Ballard's and electrical work" and at social services they are going to put four stations with two ports per station, what

the models of those stations are at probation, they're putting three stations with two ports per station at law enforcement. They're putting three stations to fourth power stations. And at UCAT, two stations with two ports per stations. And it goes on to detail all of the work in the next several pages that they're going to do. And then Schedule B shows what each of those services are. It's like a cost basis based on the work for each one.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Thank you. That's really helpful. All right. Go ahead. Legislator Erner.

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you. And I did read about a fifth site the public works department itself on on Shamrock in Kingston, we get some of these is that is that correct?

Fawn Tantillo

It's possibly in here. I haven't read through the entire thing. But it does say it can be more sites.

Director Nick Hvozda

Yeah, I don't think that was specified, but it is on the list of places to add stations

Legislator Phil Erner

I had another question come in, if I might.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Go ahead.

Legislator Phil Erner

Um, I've, I've spoken publicly about my interest in terms of, let's say, transport, individuals transportation to move as many people in Ulster County to mass transit as possible as the greenest thing we can do in that department. As part of this initiative, is there any effort to incentivize the use of transit to get to these sites, a lot of these sites I know have have buses along them and we've talked in other committees and elsewhere in this body about about some challenges that we are also working on, I'm happy to report, but when I had when we had debated the gas tax for example, and you know, I had I had stated that I will wanted us to first make make transit more equitable. So I'm just wondering if that's part of the plan too here we're installing some, some charging stations that for the fleet, that's one thing, but for the public and a lot of us don't aren't going to have access to electric vehicles anytime soon. So what are we what are we doing about that part of the public? as well? Thank you.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

I know that there is a plan also being developed for electric vehicles that would be made available to help people get to public transit. And that's it. Nick, do you have? Are you aware of that program that I believe the Executive branch is working? Maybe? I don't

Director Nick Hvozda

know, the VIA is that VIA.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Yes.

Director Nick Hvozda

Yeah, I know that. We the county has submitted a proposal to NYSERDA for funding for a micro mobility program that would cover pilot projects in in four locations, I believe. And yes, that would be the one of the goals of that program is to connect people with transit.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Please finish, I'm sorry.

Director Nick Hvozda

Sites that are that are planned. The the two that stick out as public sites or Ulster care, Ulster area transit, the UCAT bus garage, so that would be connected to transit. And the other one is the Trudy Resnick Farber Center in Ellenville, which would be close to transit within blocks, but also potentially a Micromobility Hub.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

It's, it's a step in the right direction, you know, we, we need a lot more. And my last comment, or unless other people have other comments, is that I kind of feel like, we have to install solar at all of these sites. Otherwise, I'm putting more pressure on the grid. And that could result in more fossil fuel being burned, not at the vehicle, but in the overall. And so I you'll have to forgive me if I keep pushing for that. But it almost seems like you need to put the solar in place before going to the electric vehicle. And the same thing with air and ground source heat pumps. Let's get the renewable energy infrastructure in place, as we're switching to what they call beneficial electrification. Chelsea's heard me say that a dozen times or more, but I think it's important to stress and and have be part of the record. Well,

Legislator Eric Stewart

I'm glad you mentioned that, Manna Jo, because there's something that I would like to discuss under new business that sort of falls under that category, some things.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Yes, Dave, go ahead, please.

Dave Haldeman

I just wanted to mention that I have seen that there's some proposed federal legislation to make universal charging points. To follow up when you're concerned that to have a test report that nobody else can use, and then everybody else has limited access doesn't make any sense that I'm seeing the federal government starting to step in and said we need universal ports. So just to let you know, good.

Legislator Eric Stewart

I think it'd be great at some point to approach Michelle Hinchey office to to see what progress is being made on her efforts to bring charging stations to the rest areas along the Thruway.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Yep. Maybe a few of us could do that outreach and just, you know, kind of put that on our to do list I I'd be glad to be part of that conversation.

Legislator Eric Stewart

Okay. Well, since I brought it up, I might do the initial outreach and see where that leads us. So I'll put that on my agenda that works for people.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

And I think Legislator Erner would like to be part of the conversation. Go ahead.

Legislator Phil Erner

Sure. I wanted to strongly second what you said earlier, Chair Greene if we're putting EV stations to charge electric vehicles when that electricity comes from the same fossil fuels that we would have been burning in a internal combustion engine. And I've got a serious problem with it. And I would want us to guarantee that that electricity did not come from burning fossil fuels, in fact, or we're just fooling ourselves in our, in our constituents.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Let me suggest a little later on, we're going to have a conversation, because some some of the legislators are asking that we revise the declaration of climate emergency. And that could be one of the actions given the fact that the climate crisis is worsening, basically faster and worse than predicted. So let's make a note that one of the actions is, and by the way, both Clearwater and the seven county, mid Hudson, Regional Sustainability coalition, energy working group both made that recommendation about the draft scoping plan, let's get the renewables in place to support the beneficial electrification, not the other way around, and also the emphasis on public transportation and also and Gina now, this is probably 101 times I've said this, but um, you know, deep energy retrofits retrofitting our buildings so that we're not wasting fuel to heat or cool. All right, any? Yes, go ahead.

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you. So I just, I'm just quickly brainstorming because if we test this right now, we, we might be setting ourselves up for possibility of, of not doing what we say we want to do. I did read somewhere in the proposal, and I don't remember, honestly, if it was in the 419, part of the 421 part, but where it connects to the grid, or connects to the central Hudson. And that's going to, at least for the time being guarantee that we have no control over how that electricity is generated. I'm wondering if there's any interest in holding off for a month while we figure out if it's possible, like we could talk with a prospective contractor if it's possible to not have to connect to the grid and and then we can research the options for for an independent generation that we do control as the public of Ulster County.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

I'm going to make a counter proposal, and we'll see what everyone thinks. You know, just as if I'm, like, I don't want to say we shouldn't do any air source or ground source heat pumps until we have the renewables in place. I also think we, you know, this is a handful of charging stations is a step in the

right direction. But I absolutely think that we should create a policy as part of that. Re declaring a climate emergency, that we should have a very strong action relating to Ulster County modeling, putting the renewable energy in place. But you know, is there an urgency were asking that question. Oh, Nick, your hand is up anyway, you're probably ready to address that. I'd like to hear your take on it, please.

Director Nick Hvozda

Thank you. I wanted to add the note that currently the county has a policy to purchase 100% of its electricity from renewable sources, which lately has taken the form of renewable energy credits from our energy supplier, but also subscriptions and community solar projects and remote net metering arrangements. So the from an accounting perspective, any power used at county facilities is technically renewable, but it It isn't a direct relationship, or it isn't a direct connection to a generating source.

Dave Haldeman

So, that's, that's all.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Alright, let me see if we can get the sense of the committee about postponing and talking to the contractor or moving forward. And making this a real priority for a resolution that many people are interested in developing. That is to revise the climate emergency declaration with very specific actions. So I'm a Legislator Hanset where did you go? legislator Stewart, I want to just canvass each of us and and figure out our next step.

Legislator Eric Stewart

Is there any drop? Is there any unfortunate consequences for delaying a vote on this? Until next month? I mean, does that cause, you know, problems for the contractors or for the county?

Director Nick Hvozda

From my perspective, it will delay the project to do the site ready work.

Legislator Eric Stewart

On um, I mean, we're not talking about humongous amounts of money. As far as you know, county expenditures go. But um I guess I don't, I don't know if I really have a strong feeling one way or another.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Let's hear from Chair Beinkafner, she might have something valuable to add, please.

Dr. Katherine Beinkafner

Yeah, I've just gone through this entire thing of putting solar on my garage, and I'm upgrading to heat pumps from my house. And all of that still has to be connected to the grid. So even if you had a huge solar installation, next to this car charging point, it would still be connected to the grid. So I don't think delaying would have any effect as I was going to work out,

Legislator Eric Stewart

Other than delaying,

Dr. Katherine Beinkafner

Yeah. Right. Right. So especially if the county is already committed to renewable resources in their billing. I know, UCRRA does the same thing we were in with some community solar programs to one as part of our billing. So that's all I had to say just I don't think it's gonna make any difference.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

I think the benefit of that is the more people that sign up for community solar, it enables that infrastructure to be put into place. I know that Legislator Hanset had to step away for a minute, I would like to just postpone the vote on this and move to... just for temporarily for a few minutes, and move to discussion on the next resolution. So we can get everything clear, since that you are interrelated. And then come back and make a decision.

Legislator Phil Erner

So I'll move that for discussion.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Great. Do we have a second for discussion?

Legislator Eric Stewart

I'll second that.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Okay. And I think that's 421 Which is... where did it go

Fawn Tantillo

Would you like me to read it.?

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Yes, please. I'm sorry.

Fawn Tantillo

421 - Approving the execution of a contract for rates anticipated to exceed \$50,000 entered into by the county, J&J Sass Electric, Inc., Department of Finance and Department of Public Works?

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

So it's my understanding that Oh, I guess Yeah, we have a motion and a second that J&J is going to do the bulk of the work other than the site preparation did... Am I reading that correctly? Is that what others understand? That's why you know there's so much of the project. Yes, please.

Director Nick Hvozda

So J& Sass will be doing the site preparation through this contract. Oh, today we are we are coming to contracting out. And they'll be doing what's called the Make ready. And then and then at that point the

site, we can hire a separate installer to put in the station, which it has to be a certified installer through the through the manufacturer. So

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Okay. Oh, I see it's at the end of... Does anybody have any questions or concerns about the work that they'll be doing.

Legislator Eric Stewart

And they've worked on a lot of projects in the area. So the county has worked with them before?

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

It's not clear to me in the resolution, maybe in the backup it usually, it just says financial impact rates anticipated to exceed 50,000. But it's not more specific than that. So usually, if we're going to award something, the amount is more clear.

Director Nick Hvozda

The the way that the bid was designed was to set rates for various components of the Make ready work that has to be done. So at some sites we need, we need an entire new electrical service and a new circuit breaker panel. Other sites, we don't some sites, we want to have three stations, other sites, maybe five. So we asked the vendors to bid based on the rate for doing either a foot of trenching or the installation of a new panel or each each individual mounting pad that would go in so it was priced that way and then each individual project will be will be priced accordingly based on based on the scope that we determined at the time. So some of those are getting priced now and some of them will be priced in the future. The total amount is unknown.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Fawn, what is it, like I see what you're holding up, but can you tell us what basically what you're looking at?

Fawn Tantillo

Oh, that schedule B a contract its fees and expenses. So if they're forming, installing a concrete wall, so that's going to be \$4,452. Each installation of wire from pole to panel is \$588 per linear foot. Protective bow bollards Ballard's installed is \$1,910 each. So it doesn't say how many of each of those would just has a cost breakdown. For each of those services, there's 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 different services. Installation of a new electrical panel would be \$28,442 each. Electrical panel and meter pan would be \$16,229 each. And then there's some wire and like blacktop and concrete, conduit wire in blacktop and concrete \$380 per linear foot, so it's it has a breakdown of what we're paying for it, but it doesn't give you a total just a "not to exceed" amount.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Okay, Legislator Erner

Legislator Phil Erner

Just to add to that on page 21. Item two, we have a list of the services and the location. So the four locations that Director Hvozda had mentioned are each specified, for example, four stations at DSS, three stations at probation. And then there's some other details that it gives and then it says, additional information site may include installation of outdoor rated 120 volt fixtures details in particular subject to change perryton direction from the project manager. So we have Commissioner Masterson as listed as the project manager, I believe here so like, it sounds like they'd have to check in with him, too, as as to what he'd authorize, and, or what they'd like to do. And I also had two questions or one comment and one question. If I might,

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Yes, please.

Legislator Phil Erner

Okay, thank you. On page 18. I believe there's a typo it's listing the address for the vendor, the vendor, I, I, is located in my district in Midtown, but it says Poughkeepsie I think that needs to change to Kingston 12401.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

So do we need to amend that?

Fawn Tantillo

No,

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

No Okay.

Legislator Phil Erner

Okay, thanks. And then my question is on page 23. There, item 23. On page 23, is referring to any services performed at the Ulster County Law Enforcement Center. And it basically talks about history and background checks and so forth. For anybody working there, and then the vendor has to replace anyone that the sheriff denies access to immediately and so forth. I'm just wondering if anybody has experiences that standard language around work that a contractor does at the law enforcement center. And also I would have assumed that this work was being done in the parking lot outside not inside any secure area. So I'm just that's the sheriff's obviously not here to to talk to us about it. But that just struck me as interesting.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Certainly electric would be indoors. Go ahead. Okay. Are there any other questions or comments? Because we could, at this point..

Director Nick Hvozda

I had an answer.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Okay,

Director Nick Hvozda

For. Legislator Earner. I do believe that that language is standard for public works whenever there's a contract related to the law enforcement center. I have seen that in other contracts.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Thank you. All right. So if we're ready, I would like to go back to 419. And Legislator Hansen, when you had to step away, there was a question about...Phil. Do you want to just restate your suggestion? And then we'll figure out the next step.

Legislator Phil Erner

Sure, thanks. I just thought we might postpone for a month to determine whether we could assure that the power would not come from burning the fossil fuels we're trying to avoid by charging cars, electrical cars. Director Beinkafner pointed out probably not because everything just connects to the grid no matter what. Director Hvozda pointed out, we do do 100% credit purchases and other other things that to offset, and so forth. So and then, Chair Greene, you were kind of canvassing us to see where we're at.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

And also saying that, um, you know, if, if one thing comes out of this discussion, it's an action step for, you know, to be very specific, in terms of future policy. And I think that would be really great if Ulster County, in addition to supporting community solar through rec credits and things like that, I've we can actually start to plan to put the infrastructure in place on the various locations, we have an amazing large solar facility at the closed down Town of Ulster landfill, and I'm gonna grab a cough drop. And Legislator Hanset, would you like to just momentarily? You know, see if we're ready to take action on this, and I'll be right back when I can talk.

Legislator Gina Hansut

Okay. Are we going to vote on this? Are we ready to vote?

Legislator Eric Stewart

I think the responses that we got kind of swayed some of my concerns, and I wouldn't want to just delay it for the sake of delaying.

Legislator Gina Hansut

Oh. All right.

Legislator Eric Stewart

And I think it's super important that, you know, we make the changeover to electric vehicles and obviously if we're going to do that we need to have the infrastructure in place. It's not like say having not that 360,000 dollars or whatever is chump change, but I mean, it's. Yeah, I'm ready to vote on it, and I would be in favor of it.

Legislator Gina Hansut

Um, Fawn, should we take a vote?

Fawn Tantillo

I think you're ready to take a vote.

Legislator Gina Hansut

Okay.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

All in favor of resolution number 419, please signify by raising your hand and you're saying aye.

Committee Members

Aye.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Does anyone oppose? This was a really good discussion, motion carries. And I think we're also ready to take a vote on 421. Does anybody have any further discussion? Or can we,

Legislator Eric Stewart

I move we call for questions.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

All right. All in favor of resolution number 421. Please signify, aye. Anybody opposed? Motion carries. All right. Now back to the agenda.

Legislator Phil Erner

Give me just a minute. I'll be right back.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Okay. For new business. Delaware Aqueduct temporary shut down. Please remind me who asked, you know, to put this on the agenda.

Fawn Tantillo

I sent you an updated agenda to with the items that you had asked for on there. Hmm. So the first item I have on the agenda under new business as "possible revisions of resolutions declaring a climate emergency with specific actions." Did you want to leave that on your agenda for tonight?

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

I, I'm not prepared to speak to it. And if there's no one else, you know, that brought this forward, I'd like to leave it on the agenda for next time and try to, you know, see what is relevant.

Legislator Eric Stewart

If I may add something to that. Legislator Petite, sent us all. Because when this initially came up when I received Tim guineas initial email, and then I sent it to all the members of this committee as well as to public works. You know, legislator petite, actually drew up a draft resolution. And I mean, I don't know if he wants to go through her draft and figure out what we want to keep and what we'd want to add. I was gonna say, maybe if I'm trying to think which would be the best way to deal with this, you know, that doesn't involve a lot of, you know, back and forth. I was wondering if perhaps we could either break into a smaller informal group and discuss that or if we should take a look at legislators, legislator, petites draft and make changes to that. Perhaps with a Google document or something like that,

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

I'm going to interrupt you because I'm sure. We're not quite there there. Um, I was still back on new business, Delaware aqueduct. And it sounds to me like you're speaking about the

Legislator Eric Stewart

I was I was speaking about the, the resolution declaring a climate emergency.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Oh, I see. I pulled up an earlier version of the agenda. You're absolutely right. And so I do want to suggest that we have a little bit of discussion about that. But that it really has to happen outside of the meeting and, you know, bring something a little more formed to the meeting. That could happen by creating a shared document or holding a, you know, a special meeting. If we're doing that kind of preparation work. I don't think that that has to be noticed. Especially if it's a handful of legislators that want to work on it. But let me check with the clerk,

Legislator Eric Stewart

And, and Fawm just send us all in the chat offered to provide us with the initial resolution that was passed several years ago. So I think that is also a great starting point. So I'm just I'm just trying to figure out the best way that we should proceed. I mean, should we all, like you say, use a Google Doc and just play around with it? Or I'm just not quite sure, how is the best way to, you know, move forward,

Fawn Tantillo

I might suggest you take a combination of things and talk with maybe David Gordon, he's, you know, quite knowledgeable about environmental issues, or one of your attorneys, and have them help you draft a resolution. And certainly, you could talk to the clerk, she's, you know, she's a pro. And she could give you some great advice on this. I don't believe anybody spoken to her about this yet.

Legislator Eric Stewart

I have not mentioned it to her at all. But that's something I think that's someone that we should definitely speak to for sure. I think perhaps I think your idea about going to David Gordon is great, too. But I think we need to have at least something more concrete before we approach him. I would think.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Absolutely. And my suggestion would be to do both. To have people who want to work on this, have a shared document. And between now and our next meeting, let's see if we can add in action items. And

I think that's the two things that justify moving forward is that, you know, the ice sheets are breaking off in Antarctica, the Arctic, and Himalayas. That there's just been, really since December, the news has been devastating. And and so it does make sense to revise the original emergency and give very specific reasons why we are revising, but also very specific action items.

Legislator Eric Stewart

Right. And another thing that came up in the conversation is that, you know, not only do we need to have specific actions, which I totally agree with, that we can actually take, you know, on a county level. But also point out what, you know, things that we've already done. And perhaps I don't know if that should be in the last year, this this specific legislative session, you know, to address, you know, some of these issues as well. So, I think we need actions and also showing what we have been doing. Both. And also, as you said, reasons why we're revising now. So it's almost like, I kind of envisioned, like three, three sections of bullet points, why we're doing it, what we have done, what we intend to do, sort of situation.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Sounds great. Can we move that to that forum, have a shared document and one or two zoom meetings. And I also want to ask if others on the call other than the committee want to be kept in the loop, Department of Environment or UCRRA, or EMC, just so we know who to be in communication with. And no pressure, but I also don't want to exclude if if you want to participate.

Legislator Eric Stewart

I also wanted to just point out that Chair Bartels has expressed an interest in being a co sponsor of whatever resolution we as a group come up with. And also I ran into Tim Guinea the other day, and he was very excited that his initial email had started such a, you know, back and forth. And he also, and I also approached Chair Bartels about this and, you know, we're hoping to have Tim address the entire legislature. He does extremely compelling presentations. And, you know, I think if we gave him 10 minutes or, you know, however long we determined as appropriate, you know, he'd be a great person to, to speak at an upcoming session. And I told him that I would send him our legislative session and see if we could figure out have, you know a date that works with his schedule? Because I know that he travels frequently. So

Fawn Tantillo

Just clear it with the chair.

Legislator Eric Stewart

I'm sorry, what was that, Fawn?

Fawn Tantillo

Just make sure you clear any presentations with the Chair and she if she would grant him "Privilege of the floor".

Legislator Eric Stewart

Yes. Great. Thank you for that reminder. Yes.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Okay, I think I have the right, updated agenda now. The next is SEQRA [State Environmental Quality Review Act]. Chair Bartels asked us for another month before we discuss this, but what I do want to suggest we have new committee members, and even those of us I've been working with SEQRA for more than 20 years. But it's tricky. And there is a thought that we might create a policy that says that all SEQRA needs to be reviewed by this committee. So my suggestion is, and Fawn very kindly, provided a list of videos and I'll try and review those and see which I would recommend. But also, I think we need to have an interactive session. And all three attorneys are knowledgeable on this as the county attorney, but I think this is one of Dave Gordon's strong points. He seems to be a real specialist in SEQRA and has written memoranda, etc. So what I'd like to do is essentially set up a class, after we've had a chance to look at the videos, but something that can be interactive. And, for example, the way the resolutions are set up for a project, I don't want to get into the details of that, what, I want to, the point I want to make is, we can't pass a resolution out of committee and then pass it on the floor to make Ulster County lead agency. And then also, that same night, issue a negative declaration. There has to be a month inbetween. So, those are the kinds of things that I think we could all use a refresher. And then we can help remind each other because it is tricky. And because it's tricky, unless an attorney jumps in and says, "Be careful of this", things tend to slide by. And I don't want to, you know, I want us to be as prepared as possible to remind each other. So things get done correctly. And ultimately, I personally believe that SEQRA needs to be updated even more because of climate change. So that may end up being one of the things that we put into a list for the revised declaration. So we'll just make a note of that. Legislator Stewart.

Legislator Eric Stewart

So I guess I just had two questions about what you just said. So you're, you're saying that you think that this committee should review every SEQRA action in which the county is the lead agency?

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

It's open for discussion, right? That the thing is,

Legislator Eric Stewart

I mean, do we know how many I mean, like, like, how much? How much work would we be taking on by doing that? I guess is my my ultimate question.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Director Hvozda, you have a sense of that? I don't mean to put you on the spot. But the...

Director Nick Hvozda

Could you rephrase the question? I'm sorry.

Legislator Eric Stewart

My question was, if this committee took it upon themselves to review, every action in which Ulster County was the lead agency, I mean, how many applications would we be looking at?

Director Nick Hvozda

I don't, I don't know if I can quantify that. depends on. I think it's typically submitted in the resolution for the project, specifically, many public works projects have it.

Legislator Eric Stewart

But I don't. I mean, I'm saying, I'm not opposed to the idea, but I'm just concerned that might be an enormous amount of work. That's all.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Why don't we leave it for now? We'll check with planning, I think, yeah, that's, that's where we can get a good idea. It's just this is just a suggestion that was made. I see your hand. Is it a direct response? Because legislator Stewart had another point.

Legislator Eric Stewart

Oh, and my other question was the SEQRA class, I think, would be an awesome thing. And I mean, it's something that I have wanted to learn more about, for several years. Since I've served on the town board in Marbletown. I would think that would be a very valuable class for us to take. Um, but were you suggested that class would be basically conducted by by David Gordon, or, I mean, who would actually conduct that class?

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Well, Fawn also did some research for us. And there are some videos that are available. So, it may end up being that on our own time we watch the videos, and formulate questions, and then have a meeting for clarification, more for clarification, then have him have to teach the whole class. So I think

Legislator Eric Stewart

it's a great idea. Great.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Legislator Erner.

Legislator Phil Erner

Thanks, I just would, I would like to see our committee have some more, I guess, foreknowledge about projects, involving SEQRA. I've, I've found this in my my first seven months on this body that there's, there's often a pace of things that goes too slow. And then in my opinion, and, and others that goes too quick. And some of the environmental review related projects I feel might go too quick, at least for me to get a handle on what was, what was studied, what the conclusion was, and why. So I have any other opportunity to have have more, at least understanding of it, if not input I would appreciate.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

In the meantime, until this gets resolved. We can all, whenever we have a resolution that is coming to our committee, just do a word search for SEQRA, or negative declaration or you know, and just be alerted. I I'm trying to encourage us all to be thinking about it. Because over the years, I think some

things have kind of just got "rubber stamped" and not really thought through. So is that a current hand? Legislator Stewart?

Legislator Eric Stewart

Oh, no, I'm sorry. I failed to take that down. My apologies.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

All right. Back to the agenda. I'm ...need for SEQRA...energy benchmarking requirements for IDA. I do know that. A while ago, legislator petite, and I had a very productive meeting with the Ida and the thought was to increase the ranking for sustainability criteria, especially as they relate to climate change. Not sure that any action was taken and I've thought about the need to follow up. But let me just ask. Who? The benchmarking energy benchmarking. Did that. Who added that to the agenda? And I apologize if I did.

Legislator Phil Erner

I did, Oh, maybe we both did i I remember having something about it, but

Fawn Tantillo

It was you, Legislator Erner.

Legislator Phil Erner

Okay. Yeah, well, Chair Greene. I'm glad to hear to have your previous work on that and maybe I could I could follow up with the with the IDA. I've been to their last two meetings.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

How about if you request a, an agenda item, you know, basically who they're two suggestions and maybe in a conversation, we could get clarity from their perspective and our perspective and actually have them adopted change. If you would sort of take lead on that and let us know if it becomes an agenda item. And also, when you let us know, please include Legislator Petite because she was part of that really productive discussion, but like so many good ideas, it tends to get layered over with other good ideas. All right. Thank you. All right. And then

Fawn Tantillo

Don't want you to miss Delaware aqueduct, temporary shutdown, that Legislator Erner also put on the agenda.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Okay. Do you have any anything on that? The delay?

Legislator Phil Erner

Unfortunately not and legislator Stewart, I thanks for your recommendation. I think you speak to your town was a your town supervisor in Hurley?

Legislator Eric Stewart

It was Rich Parete in Marbletown. I know that he has dealt with this situation previously. And he's knowledgeable about that. And I thought he just might be a good person to touch base with.

Legislator Phil Erner

I didn't have any special concern other than to have just seen that story in the news and thought the public. I mean, hopefully the news is informing the public as that's their that's their job to do. Yeah, I have not followed up yet, obviously.

Legislator Eric Stewart

Well, there's a crazy situation in Marbletown where they hired like, Navy, retired Navy divers to go down like something like 1000 feet below the surface and scrape remove this biofilm from the interior of the of the pipes. And it was just quite an engineering feat. And it's been something that's been going on for many months. And it was something that was totally paid for by New York City. You know that they were they were footing the bill for this, this really massive project and for a while they were paying to have water shipped in to folks in the High Falls Water District. While you know they were unable to tap into the aqueduct. So, like I said, he's he's very knowledgeable about it. And if you have concerns he might be a good person just to chat. But

Fawn Tantillo

And a few years ago, the county bought a lot of properties along the aqueduct that were being flooded.

Legislator Eric Stewart

Down in the town of Wawarsing, especially I know that was the case.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Yes, It is quite a miraculous project and very much needed for New York City's water supply the fact that they are cleaning that. Okay, um,

Legislator Eric Stewart

May I bring something up in new business as well?

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Oh, okay. Yes, in new business go ahead.

Legislator Eric Stewart

Earlier today, I attended a meeting of the Rondout Valley Business Association of which I sit on their board. And it happened to be at the the Rondout Municipal Complex, which is the shared town halls of Rosendale and Marbletown. And Tom Conrad who I mentioned earlier, who's the Chair of the marble town ECC gave a brief presentation about something that I thought was really super interesting and, and something that I was unaware of. As many of you know, the town of marble town is looking to extend its waterline, the waterline that serves SUNY Ulster. They would take that down Leggett Road in marble town to 209. And and you know, and extend public water to folks along 209 in the town of Marbletown. And it looks like through the the sewer and water resolution that Joe Maloney and Laura Petit put forward. It looks like the town of Marbletown will be receiving and then the County Executive

signed off on that. So it looks like the town of Marbletown, we will be receiving half a million dollars for that particular project for phase one which is awesome. But then Tom Conrad said, you know, while we are working, and we don't have a start date for this yet, by the way, but he says, But he asked like when, when we start to do the trenching for the extension of this water pipeline. He's trying to get funding of \$6,000 to do a scoping project. And that scoping project would be to install a geothermal network that would run along side the water pipeline, and this thermal network would be for geothermal energy so that residences and businesses along that route would be able to tap into this geothermal network. And this also could possibly serve to update the heating and cooling system at SUNY Ulster itself. And, like I said, he's, he's trying to, he approached the Rondout Valley Business Association because he wanted them to basically write a letter to the town to, you know, sign on and say, "We should do this." And, you know, I thought this might be something that we should look at on a county level, to provide, you know, this, this kind of unique approach to, you know, geothermal. That is something that I wasn't even aware, you know, one could do. So it's basically they're looking for \$6,000, for a scoping project. And this would be like, say, would allow individual homeowners and business owners to tap into this network and use heat pumps, and get energy from geothermal sources. So I just wanted to bring that to your attention. And I don't know, I don't know what the next step would be. I don't know if we would want to also sign a letter or write a letter that would encourage this project to move forward. Or if, if we could look into getting funding. Like I say, this does, this would only serve the town of Marbletown, as opposed to the entire county. But it would certainly be a very interesting pilot project that could be used in other places as well. So that that was my thought. So thanks,

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

If I may, it's a community heating and cooling system. And so if it were, you know, this could be a pilot for other systems. The 6000 would be for a feasibility study, the actual construction and equipment would be considerably more.

Legislator Eric Stewart

It would be far more. Yeah, I have no idea of what sort of money we're talking about.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

So but the energy savings, and this has come up in the mid Hudson regional, you know, those discussions. This has come up, really over the last decade. It's been bookmarked - the idea of community energy systems, for heating and cooling. They are in use in your Scandinavia, in particular, and and other places around the world. And if Ulster County is going to take leadership and addressing the climate crisis, this is a really good one, because it's a lot less expensive to do a community system than for each household to do air source or ground source heat pumps and ground source are ultimately much more efficient. Right? Because the ground is 50 to 55 degrees year round. It absorbs heat in the summer that it can use in the winter. It gives off heat in the winter, to have a better cooling system in the summer. And so I think it's a really good project. And Tom Conrad should be commended. But I think we should think of it as a pilot. And let's think about what the next steps would be. Because what we don't want to do is have it be Oh, it's too soon. We can't think about this now. Too soon. Too soon. Oops, sorry. Now it's too late. Yes, please. Katherine, go ahead.

Dr. Katherine Beinkafner

Have to find the unmute button. Sorry, Eric. I was wondering, do you know where the water is coming from? I thought it was from wells over at the community college.

Legislator Eric Stewart

That is actually what Tom had suggested using would be the, you know, that the college used to rely on on wells that were there, at on site. And now because they're, you know, having water, you know, from a municipal water line, and part of the High Falls Water District, you know, those wells are no longer being used. And so it would be, you know, basically two water pipelines running next to each other. And, you know, since that would be, you know, water as opposed to some other, you know, chemical or something, you know, it wouldn't have the same sort of environmental risks of, you know, running next to a municipal water line that, you know, other projects might entail. And, like I said, the whole idea would be, as you know, while the county and the municipality are sinking millions of dollars into this new water pipeline, and at the same time, you know, they might consider doing this.

Dr. Katherine Beinkafner

So there's an existing pipeline between High Falls and the college.

Legislator Eric Stewart

Yes, there is an existing water pipeline that was installed. A couple of years ago, when I still served on the town board. And it runs basically up Lucas, if you're familiar with that neck of the woods that goes from high falls up Lucas, over to Leggett Road. And from Leggett Road, it then cuts across private property, the Vivekananda estate, if you know, if you know that area, and then goes to the college, and yeah, so. So and then, you know, the talk would be to take the water pipeline down like Route 209, and then go both both north and south, on 209. And part of the reason the town wants to do this is because there's all sorts of water issues there people are having with their wells. And also, you know, the town of marble town would like to invest money in building public housing. And, you know, having municipal water is is a key consideration in that as well.

Dr. Katherine Beinkafner

Yeah, actually, is another aquifer, sort of northwest of Route 209, toward the southern end of Marbletown, that I found in a study a long time ago. I had to be really careful because I didn't want to expose this great aquifer, and then have someone run out and buy it. But I believe the I think I heard after that did the Open Space, Open Space Institute, had actually made an arrangement with the people who owned the farm there. And I think they have control over it. But that's that's a fabulous groundwater aquifer for Marbletown because I know that water is just full of all kinds of carbonates and very, very hard water.

Legislator Eric Stewart

Yes. And there's also a very strong sulfur smell, which is not necessarily hazardous, but it's unpleasant. So

Dr. Katherine Beinkafner

Right. Okay, well, we got a long ways away from things but

Legislator Eric Stewart

But but anyway, I just when Tom brought this up at this meeting today, I said, "Wow, what a great idea, I would like to bring this in front of our committee and get your, you know, and get your input in it". And perhaps, like I said, come up with an idea for, you know, next steps or if we should write a letter or if we should, you know, try to like I said, I just wasn't sure what the next steps would be.

Dr. Katherine Beinkafner

Yeah, I think most subsurface geothermal systems involve either deep wells, or a lot of piping that goes may be, oh, I don't know, a few 1000 feet, something like that underground. So I don't know how it would work with the water main like that. Oh,

Legislator Eric Stewart

So, it was my understanding that thing would be kind of run right alongside the water main, which is only like four or five, I don't know if it's eight or six or 10 feet below the surface. So I guess I'm not an expert by any means in any of this, but I just thought it sound like a really intriguing potential pilot for the entire county.

Dr. Katherine Beinkafner

Sounds worthwhile to explore it at least.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

One thing I would like to add is when we were building the Sustainable Living Resource Center, we had had dug a trench for the foundation. And at that time, I thought about putting in geothermal and someone talked me out of it. And it would have been, you know, just Well, I don't want to go into details but I defrayed, because of the cost. And that system would have more than paid for itself by now, had I taken advantage of the fact that there was a six foot trench open and available for a geothermal loop. And so I think what Legislators Stewart is bringing forward is the fact that all this trenching is going on anyway. And to be able to take advantage of that, to develop a community heating and cooling system as a pilot, I think is a really valuable suggestion. And why don't we think about what the next steps are, and possibly even maybe if you could reach out to Director Dennis Doyle in Planning and Director Hvozda could speak with his folks. And, you know, just to help us figure out how maybe we could make this possible. So it's not just a good idea, but actually happens.

Legislator Eric Stewart

Well, this pipeline is a project that we've been working with, with Dennis Doyle with supervisor parity with a bunch of folks. And so yeah, I need to speak to Dennis Doyle anyway, so I might mention this to him.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

All right, well, to let this will become Old Business, it was New Business This time. We'll consider it again next month.

Legislator Eric Stewart

Right. Thank you for letting me hijack things there with this update. So thanks.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Well, it could prove very beneficial. So thank you.

Legislator Eric Stewart

Certainly. And it definitely ties in with what Legislator Erner was bringing up earlier about how, you know, we need to be sure that we're actually generating power from renewable sources and not just having, you know, a nice Band Aid approach or, you know, whitewash or greenwashing things, I guess is a better term.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Yeah. Okay, survey of local municipal policies on pesticide and herbicide application. Legislated Erner was that your...

Legislator Phil Erner

It was. if I might, I just, before we even moved on to new, from new business, I did want to make a quick plug to this committee that the Public Works transportation and Capital Projects Committee on Monday evening is planning to hear from the Center for Post Carbon logistics based in in Rosendale. And they're going to talk about their, their, what they do and their comments about the the state climate action Council's draft scoping plan. So I just wanted to bring that to this committee's attention. They're gonna focus there of course on transportation related matters, but it does impact our business here as well.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

And that's Andrew Willner, who guided he was one of the 15 experts that that wrote sections of the draft scope, comments on the draft scoping plan and he and Betta Broadm a former member of the Climate Committee work together on the transportation sector so thank you all right. Let's move to pesticides if getting cognizant of the time here

Fawn Tantillo

I sent you I think in the backup of the committee information, but I just share my screen I was trying to find a way to get this up here. Hang o Oh, hello. Power just went out. Hey, are temporarily it's not really my my power just went out for a second pan. Oh, while you're while you're finding it. I was at I've been at the Ulster County Fair all week and I just wanted to share this. Oh, it's Can you guys read that? Yes. Nice. Okay, So I will just quickly show you sorry, it's not as pretty as I would have liked it, come on come back. I, I sent something out to each of the towns. So like Gardener's not that most of the towns don't actually have a policy, but they are all, the ones the only one the town of Lloyd. Apparently, if they do use it in some designated areas, it's done with a licensed pesticide applicator application technician. Any he they use it on some right of ways and things?

Legislator Eric Stewart

I can tell you the town of Marbletown does not use any herbicides or pesticides.

Fawn Tantillo

Okay, did they add something? Yeah, they'd never, they just never answered me. So first, I sent an email to the whole highway department's organization, the highway they have a, just like the supervisors have a group the highway departments in across the county have a municipal highway departments group. And they sent something out for me. And when, I if I didn't hear from them, I followed up with an email to each of the highway supervisors and town supervisors and got a few more answers. I don't know how far you want me to go with this or what you want to do with the information? I can. It's been kind of busy to collect it and make phone calls to all these folks and try to write up started to do that. But that's it's, I'm leaving messages with them and will keep on...

Legislator Gina Hansut

Can I... Can you email that to me?

Fawn Tantillo

I certainly can. And I think it's in the on the OneDrive for tonight but we can email it to you, too.

Legislator Gina Hansut

Whatever. Okay, thank you. I want to look that over and then take I'll take it from there as an speak with my town.

Fawn Tantillo

So a lot of the town's didn't have a policy, but they don't apply any. So

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

. The county does have a policy, but I think it may be specific to glyphosate,

Fawn Tantillo

I think policy applies to our property. I'm not sure it applies to you know, I don't know if it has any requirements of the towns. Of course, the towns have to follow state and federal, you know, guidelines, any applications and it has to be done by a licensed professional. So that was made very clear to me.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

It has come up quite a few times, um, because people are seeing the brown vegetation, which means it's been sprayed, because if you use manual cutting than it lays down, it's not still standing up. And

Fawn Tantillo

Of course the state does spray on their right of ways.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

I don't mean to make more work, but is this something, Chelsea could help with ? Then that's up to Victoria. And I don't want to get in the middle of that. But I just know that she does really...

Fawn Tantillo

Chelsea has her hands full right now, too.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Okay. All right.

Legislator Eric Stewart

Um, so I believe Phil had his hand up.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

I'm sorry. Go ahead.

Legislator Phil Erner

Are you Thank you, Eric? Yeah, just like a few thoughts about this. I've definitely seen some. I see the City of Kingston, my municipality didn't respond. I've definitely seen some brown around so I need to call them and see what's going on. And I know that the state.. if, if a property owner asks them not to, they're not supposed to spray that, that section. I want to suggest though, that we consider just getting all the municipalities together and talking about what it would look like to ban this totally. I am reading here from the Landless Workers movement. That's one of the things that they call for worldwide, that Brazilian popular movements who responded to the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow with dissatisfaction: they they also asked, they, they have a demand that no more pesticides or herbicides, they have some other things related to agriculture. That's not our committee, but And I'm hearing it from the public to I'm hearing it from no less than the Mayor of city Kingston. So I just I think it's time for us to have that discussion in Ulster County.

Legislator Gina Hansut

I agree with you.

Legislator Eric Stewart

I, I agree as well.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Why don't we initially each take responsibility or the town's in our district and get the information to supplement. You know, since fun has started, would you be so kind of make that into a shared sheet?

Fawn Tantillo

I can figure out how to do that.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Maybe Chelsea can...

Chelsea Villalba

I can help you with that, Fawn.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay, we got help. All right. Very good.

Legislator Phil Erner

Fawn, I wanted to thank you, by the way for for for doing that research. Thank you.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Yes. And we'll follow up. And that'll be, you know, five or six or seven more municipalities? Because some of us are in more than one. So. All right, very good. We'll see what's missing. Maybe some of our colleagues can help with that.

Fawn Tantillo

In their defence, it is a really busy time of year for the highway departments. And so..

Legislator Eric Stewart

That's true.

Fawn Tantillo

Anyway, and the neighbors for Central Hudson? I. I know Marc said he could not be here tonight. He had suggested to Joe give us an update on that. I'm, I'm not, I believe some meetings happened, but I'm not. I don't know how far they got. If they did any well testing or or if they had reached any solutions.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Why don't we keep that on the agenda and and try to get an update for September. At this point.

Legislator Phil Erner

I can give a brief update just because I've been on the email, their email list.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Okay, please. Okay.

Legislator Phil Erner

So well, I guess the upshot is the next meeting that the neighbors are having with Central Hudson and all them is at the end of this month, Monday, August 29. At 6pm. And where's my other email about this? Sorry, one second. Caitlin's one second. Okay. Nope. Oops. Come back to me. There was some there's some back and forth between a newspaper reporter and the residents about about covering it. And I guess we can check the the Freeman story. But yeah, why don't I just leave it at that and can hear from Joe next time?

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Yeah, I think that'd be wise. And also, just when Joe presents it, you know, for Chelsea and others who might not have no, know the background, just a sentence or two of you know, what, what the background? Is? Right now?

Legislator Phil Erner

You'd like a sentence or two?

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Sure. Yeah. I think you wait till next time. I'm just looking at the time and we have several other agenda items. So let's, let's have a focus discussion next time because it's an important issue. Photovoltaic, power generating project, solar mapping, upgrade, upgrading infrastructure. I can just report that we have completed four of the five training sessions for the solar mapping for the summer and Clearwater, New Yorkers for local power, for clean. Now, what is it...New Yorker's for Clean Power will be sharing and Scenic Hudson will be sharing a full version and we have a volunteer that's going to analyze what we've done over the last year and make some good suggestions. He's from the West Coast, I think, Tucson and did sustainability planning for that city for many years. There's coming East in the month of August to help really analyze that and move forward and see how we can be more effective in empowering municipalities to do wise, solar siting. And the Ulster County Fair it we're midway through, it was a big deal setting up but we have Climate Row, which includes the Climate Smart Committee, and various educational displays. And then New Yorkers for Clean Power created a nonprofit organization shared space with even more information about climate change and climate solutions. And if you're haven't been to the fair, please come. Actually, I'm going to ask Legislator Hanset, who and Legislator Stewart, I think, both for your feedback on Climate Row. Want me to go first, Eric?

Legislator Eric Stewart

You go right ahead.

Legislator Gina Hansut

All right. Um, first of all, Manna Jo, you did beautiful job on, um, that whole row there that you did. It was very enjoyable. It was very educational. So I attended and we listened and we learned. I was with the sheriff. And he had a good time doing the crossword puzzle and looking at all you had. And it was interesting to look at that map. And it was very, everything was very interactive. So hats off to you for that. Great job.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Thankyou.

Legislator Eric Stewart

Yeah, I thought, like, I mean, echoing Gina, I thought it was a great effort. And I think you're extremely lucky to have Kim Mayer helping with this project, because she just seems amazing. And who was the gentleman Manna Jo, that was there the other evening from New Paltz?

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Joe Landa

Legislator Eric Stewart

Joe Landa. Okay. Anyway, yeah. So, and you had some, you know, and I knew Jim Hoover and, and his and his husband, who were there, you know, from Marbletown. So it seems like, you know, you had a really great turnout of volunteers and folks seem really interested in what was going on. And I did a

little crossword puzzle, too. I thought that was fun. So yeah, so it was good all around, I look forward to, I don't know, if you're going to, I don't know if any of y'all are going to be there. But I look forward to going back on Saturday, I'll be there from two to, two to six.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

And we have, you know, like I think it's 18 slots to fill over six days. And just wonderful volunteers, people that are willing to volunteer to give a four hour block of time, and sometimes several four hour blocks. It's just amazing how enthusiastic they are, in the hundreds of conversations that we have, and the awareness that we build. And one thing particularly for Director Hvozda. We we find that people look at the map of Ulster County. And if their community is not represented as a Climate Smart Community, they're really concerned and they're gonna follow up. And I let them know that, you know, if they hear from some of us... we're always asking people to take action on climate change, but when they start hearing from their constituents, I think that the town board or the village or city council will pay more attention. So, and it really is fun, you know, and it sounds sort of strange to be talking about a global climate emergency and having fun, but because of, you know, in in at one booth, you spin a wheel and then you get asked some questions and if you have the right answer, you get a little prize and so forth. So, um, you know, we've we're doing a lot of education at and having a good time,

Legislator Eric Stewart

And proximity to corndogs helps! (Laughter)

Fawn Tantillo

Chelsea wanted to say something about climate row. Oh, no.

Chelsea Villalba

Okay. I was just gonna say that I will also be there Saturday two to six. So

Legislator Eric Stewart

Yay. Okay.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

All right. Let's see Ulster County Fair. One thing that happened this year is we were too slow on recruiting vendors. And by the time we got people that were interested, the fair had sold out all its vendor space. So next year, we'll start a lot earlier. And UCRRA was there today. And we'll be back tomorrow. And very delightful new staff person. Very good to see. And that kind of cooperation is just so much what's needed right now. Climate Smart Community - Nick mentioned this earlier. We are not meeting the Climate Smart Committee will not meet at its regular fourth Monday. Instead, we'll have the the Summit, the Toundtable. And then

Legislator Eric Stewart

That's the roundtable at the Rosendale. Community Center. Correct? Yes.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Yes. And then Nick also reported on the reuse Innovation Center. And I just wanted to say that we have also, people have heard us talking about for several years now, a zero waste implementation plan. The Recycling Oversight Committee, which is a formal county committee created a document, I believe it was called a Zero Waste Action Plan. And it was more aspirational than implementable. And so some of us have been working to try to take that document and make it implementable. And we just recently hired someone to take all those pieces and put it into a coherent document, which will go to the UCRRA for their input that will get incorporated into the Recycling Oversight Committee. And then once those entities have had a chance to have their input, and it'll be an iterative process until everyone is complete with it, then we'll go out over the course of then this year, with stakeholder meetings from haulers and businesses, and education facilities, and so forth, to make sure that it makes sense. So we have these two parallel projects happening, to do to do a feasibility study on the Reuse Innovation Center, and to pull together a final draft of the Zero Waste Implementation plan. And if all goes well, by the end of the year, we will have had those conversations and incorporated them. And then it would go to UCRRA and the county to become an official addendum to the local solid waste management plan. And DEC recommends that every two years that plan is reviewed. So we would have essentially reviewed it and have an agenda. It may not work out that way. I, you know, but that's the plan and the hope. And that, you know, everybody's input will be incorporated. I think that we were successful at that with the Composting law, the food waste diversion. And so we're using a similar process. And I think that that can be another way that Ulster County can be a model in terms of addressing climate. And at this point, yes, please go ahead.

Dr. Katherine Beinkafner

I just wanted to mention from this is my personal viewpoint. I'm not speaking for the board of UCRRA but our biggest problem I see is single stream recycling. And you know, I've been driving around and I see the haulers picking up the stuff, it all goes into the same place, whether you have the green tote or the black tote. And I just can't help but imagine that all this recycling is going to the landfill. Somehow, we have to get it sorted out. And I don't know what how we're going to do that. The haulers are the problem. And if we, if we didn't do flow control back when we did it for the waste, now, if we tried to do it on the recycling, man, we would just get sued to death. So, I don't know how we're gonna get buy in. But somehow we have to get the haulers to really separate it out, you know, people are good at home, they separate it out. But then it all goes into the same place and to the landfill. So somehow, we have to figure out a way to deal with that, that's all.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Two steps that I know of are: those of us who have been working on this, and anyone who wants to join us, there's a sorting facility in Beacon for single stream and waste management has one up in the open area. So that's the first thing is to see what they are actually doing, and how effective that is or not, or is not. And then, you know, that may be end up being a recommendation in the Zero Waste Implementation Plan is that in Ulster County, they did it in Kingston. And as as you well know, that was not an easy transition, but they made the transition. And now they have, you know, much cleaner material, because people are paying attention. And the spaghetti sauce is not getting on the newspaper. So I do think that one of the reasons we were successful 20 Some years in taking our waste diversion from 4% to 40%, was that it was all source separated material. And the haulers had trailers that each had different components. And when they picked up the recycling from the one blue

bin here was the green glass here was the brown glass and, you know, so forth. And men to increase with the thought that would increase participation, little by little that went from source separation to single stream. And then China said, We don't want your garbage anymore. And so now we have to rethink it and get put in place a system that will really work. So all of that, you know, waste is one of the major areas where we can make a difference for climate change. So, you know, we'll, we'll see how each of these comes forward, but I think there's a lot of agreement that we have to do better in terms of engaging the haulers and also in terms of overall a lot more can be done at the town transfer stations than is currently being done. So engaging the municipalities as well. All right,

Dr. Katherine Beinkafner

I give Kingston credit for I was at the agency the other day to big trucks came in with recycling, and they're doing a great job. So I was really glad to see that. So we just got to work on the towns. I know my town is great. We put everything where it belongs and it comes in and that's great but I don't know what's going on in the other towns.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Penny Coleman has visited every single transfer station and written up and that will become a section of the Zero Waste implementation. What are they doing well. What are their concerns? What more could they be doing right I think I see Legislator Erner's hand.

Legislator Phil Erner

I had when we're ready. Just a couple real quick updates for old business.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Please.

Legislator Phil Erner

Okay, thank you. Although we haven't had the indoor air quality joint committee meeting or presentation to a large group the The low income affordable housing working group did have a fairly detailed discussion and presentation from the Hudson Valley Indoor Air Quality Coalition that this committee might be interested to watch. And so that's one thing. And we're, you know, in that in that working group, hopefully that leads to some policies that then will come before our committee. Another update is about the electrical line proposed for the Hudson. I've heard a rumor that the transmission developer TDI that wants to put the CHPE [Champlain Hudson Power Express] that we've talked about here and memorialized against, and that they might be putting another application into Dutchess. So I'll keep us updated if I hear anything else, because the last thing we heard was that they were no longer coming before our IDA here in Ulster. So I do know that they're doing some exploration in some diving in the river to see I guess, where they might put it, if they are doing it. Whether we have any authority over that is seems unlikely, but that doesn't mean we can't find other ways to to express our dissatisfaction. And the Hudson Seven, I think are also involved still from what I, from what I've seen. So that's about that. And and do I have one more thing? Oh, yes, the environmental advocate. So that that partly came out of the discussions with the Esopus neighbors and with the Golden Hill redevelopment, but just just keeping that on our, on our map here for this committee. The idea of having that type of position, someone who either can referee among different government and private interests, if the, if our, if our, if

the public are not satisfied with how things are going or possibly even if there is an issue that they're having directly with the county in the way we're doing a project, that there could be some sort of advocate or auditor type person who can independently be like, okay, the residents are not happy about this, and let's see if we can address it. So just just keeping that on our, on our radar here, and welcoming any any thoughts, certainly from the committee and, and, and from the public about how that could look.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Okay, at this point, what I'd like to do is just summarize are the things that we've said we would do. So for example, between now and the next time we meet, we're going to have a shared document on the revised declaration and at least one Zoom meeting with regard to the pesticide use. Chelsea's gonna work with Fawn to create a shared sheet and each one of us will follow through with our municipalities. Legislator Stewart is going you see what you're going to do each each person say, Legislator Stewart. Wait, you're on mute.

Legislator Eric Stewart

Sorry about that. Okay, on my list, I have: to check with the sprain policies for the towns of Marbletown and Hurley; I'm going to touch base. I'm gonna send an email to Michelle Hinchey to see what the status is on charging stations at rest stops; I'm going to be reaching out to Dennis Doyle and Christopher Kelly, and others about this potential study for geothermal on Marbletown's water line project; we are all going to look at the draft resolution for the climate emergency and make comments on that; I'm going to send the legislative scheduled to Tim Guinee to possibly make a presentation before us and, and that's what I have. Hold on one sec. And I'm just going to show up at the fair on, on Saturday and see Chelsea there.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Okay Legislator Erner, your homework?

Legislator Phil Erner

Yes, I was thinking to go to the fair tomorrow night, but it might be Saturday based on the weather. And that'd be just as well see some more friends: I am going to get in touch with the IDA around energy benchmarking and copy to Legislator Petite, as well as this committee, what's going on; then looking at the Delaware aqueduct with Supervisor Parete in Marbletown; check with my municipality, the City of Kingston, around spraying herbicide, pesticide and so forth and invite them to a meeting to be scheduled. And I'll just add, actually, to that, I'm going to check with counsel about our ability to regulate such things on private property. And then my tasks like everyone else has to contribute to the climate emergency declaration.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

And I, I will send around the list that ...or Fawn can just send around to the committee, the list of videos, but I will preview the videos and let folks know what I think is, you know, the most valuable; and and reach out to Attorney David Gordon about a q&a type of forum. And let's see, Legislator Hansut, do you have a homework assignment?

Legislator Gina Hansut

I do. I'm going to look at the draft. I'm also going to check on Highland, Town of Lloyd and Marlborough on their pesticides in their policies. And then something else that we didn't that I didn't mention, but I we have a new. So I work in Marlborough school district, we have a new superintendent, and I'm going to meet with him because prior to this, we do no recycling down there. And I'm gonna follow up on that and find out what our policy is.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

That's great. And that reminds me that Legislator Stewart.

Legislator Eric Stewart

I was gonna say the same thing.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

You say what.

Legislator Eric Stewart

Gina, thank you for sort of reminding both Manna Jo and me that one thing that we are planning on doing along with Legislator Hewitt is to set up an appointment to meet with the Rondout. School District Superintendent to do that very same thing.

Legislator Gina Hansut

Yeah, so I'm in my classroom, there's, in none of our classrooms, we had the blue bucket, we had nothing. And we had a lot of turnover down there. So... and then I had a little bit of a crazy year as well. So but that's something that I want to do. And I'm going to do it also in Highland, but I know in Marlboro, they're not recycling. So I'm going to follow up with both of my school districts, and I'm sure that there's a policy so.

Legislator Eric Stewart

Well, that's awesome. Good for you.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Thank you. Yes. And in Rondabout Valley, we're gonna encourage them to even consider composting on site. But at least instead of all the disposables that they're using, reestablish a dishwasher, you know, a dishwasher that sterilizes and yeah, you know, some basic. And the students from the Human Rights Club and the Environment Club, want to help and participate. So, all right. I don't want to, you know, ask if others have taken on homework assignments. But if you want to volunteer that you have, I think we've covered the committee. And I think we've got a lot accomplished. It's, it's a long meeting. It's an hour and 40 minutes, but it's an important topic or set of topics. So anybody else have any closing thoughts? You're all right, then. Thank you all. We will reconvene next month and we have our homework and yes. The motion to adjourn.

Legislator Eric Stewart

So moved.

Legislator Phil Erner

So moved.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Let's see. We have a couple. Motion and second. All in favor, please signify by saying aye.

Committee Members

Aye.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

All right, we are officially adjourned.