

**Energy & Environment Committee  
Meeting Minutes**

**DATE & TIME:** February 1, 2021; 6:15 PM  
**LOCATION:** Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing (646) 558-8656,  
Meeting ID:  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Fawn A. Tantillo, Laurie Lichtenstein  
**PRESENT:** Legislators Al Bruno, Peter Criswell, Laura Petit and Mary Wawro  
**ABSENT:** None  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Legislator Tracey Bartels; Deputy County Executive Evelyn Wright; Department of Environment Director Amanda LaValle; Tim DeGraff, Fred Wadnola, Charles Landi and Angelina Peone, Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA); James Quigley, Supervisor, Town of Ulster; David Haldeman, Ulster County EMC; Patriica Doxsey, Kingston Freeman; Kathy Nolan, Catskill Mountain Keeper.

Chairwoman Greene called the meeting to order at approximately 6:27 pm and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**Motion No. 1:** To Approve the Minutes of November 30, 2020 and December 9, 2020  
**Motion Made By:** Legislator Bruno  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Criswell

**Discussion:** None

**Voting in Favor:** Legislators Greene, Bruno, Criswell, Petit and Wawro  
**Voting Against:** None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 5  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Minutes Approved

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Members of UCRRA board and staff made a presentation about possible landfill feasibility study, UCRRA bonding authority, potential closing of Seneca Meadows Landfill and issues with thier host community Waterloo, NY; meetings with DEC solid waste advisors and other solid waste issues.

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Amanda LaValle gave an update on the implementation of the local Food Waste Composting Law on January 1<sup>st</sup>. She told the committee to expect some suggested language in March to add to the local law to facilitate a smooth transition to the State Law

Ms. LaValle discussed the ongoing evaluation of several local laws and legislative policies to ensure green building and green procurement practices, the County's Climate Action Plans and efforts for the County's Climate Smart Communities recertification.

Ms. LaValle shared a link to Ulster County Government Sustainability Initiatives: Environmental Executive Orders, Laws, Resolutions & Procedures

<https://ulstercountyny.gov/sites/default/files/documents/environment/2019%20Ulster%20County%20Sustainability%20Guide.pdf>

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### **Resolutions for the February 16, 2020 Session of the Legislature**

**Resolution No. 242 of 2020** -Approving Ulster County's Local Solid Waste Management Plan

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution will approve a 10-year Local Solid Waste Management Plan

**Motion No. 2:**                   **Motion to discuss Resolution No. 242 of 2020**  
**Motion By:**                   Legislator Criswell  
**Motion Seconded By:**       Legislator Bruno

**Discussion:**                   See attached transcript.

**Motion No. 3:**                   **Motion to Amend Resolution No. 242 adding a Resolved to include Zero Waste Implementation Plan if and when it is approved by the Legislature as part of the 10-year Local Solid Waste Management Plan**

**Motion By:**                   Legislator Petit  
**Motion Seconded By:**       Legislator Wawro

**Discussion:**                   See attached transcript.

**Motion to amend and Second withdrawn**

**Voting in Favor:**               Legislators Greene, Bruno, Criswell, Petit and Wawro  
**Voting Against:**               None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:**       5  
**No. of Votes Against:**       0  
**Disposition:**                 Approved as presented

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**Resolution No. 8** -Confirming The Reappointment Of Member To The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution would reappoint Frederick Wadnola to the UCRRA Board.

**Motion No. 4:** **Motion to Postpone Resolution No. 8**  
**Motion By:** Chairwoman Greene  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Wawro

**Discussion:** See Transcript

**Voting in Favor:** Legislators Greene, Bruno, Criswell, Petit and Wawro  
**Voting Against:** None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 5  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolution Postponed**

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**Resolution No. 44** - Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Payment In Lieu Of Taxes Agreement (PILOT) With 103 Sparling Road, LLC For Solar Energy Systems Pursuant To Real Property Tax Law Section 487 – Department Of Finance

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution authorizes the Chair to authorize an agreement for a 15-year payment in lieu of taxes agreement for a tax exempt solar project.

**Motion No. 5:** **Motion to discuss Resolution No. 44**  
**Motion By:** Chairwoman Bruno  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Criswell

**Discussion:** See Transcript

**Voting in Favor:** Legislators Greene, Bruno, Criswell, Petit and Wawro  
**Voting Against:** None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 5  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Approved**

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**Resolution No. 45** - Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Payment In Lieu Of Taxes Agreement (PILOT) With 103 Sparling Road, LLC For Solar Energy Systems Pursuant To Real Property Tax Law Section 487 – Department Of Finance

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution authorizes the Chair to authorize an agreement for a 15-year payment in lieu of taxes agreement for a tax exempt solar project.

**Motion No. 6:** **Motion to discuss Resolution No. 45**  
**Motion By:** Chairwoman Bruno  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Criswell

**Discussion:** See Transcript

**Voting in Favor:** Legislators Greene, Bruno, Criswell, Petit and Wawro

**Voting Against:** None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 5  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Approved**

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Mr. Haldeman reported ongoing concerns regarding New York City Department of Environmental Protection's release of heavily turbid water that is fouling local waterways in several downstream municipalities. The committee discussed working with the UC EMC to register their concerns.

Mr. Haldeman shared the following links:

**Ashokan Reservoir – NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation.**

For Public Review and Comment: Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Modification of the CATALUM SPDES Permit, and Draft Permit Information on how to provide public comment and participate in the Virtual Public comment hearing can be found here:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/79771.html>

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation COMBINED NOTICE OF COMPLETE APPLICATION, NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD for NYSDEC APPLICATIONS AND ID NUMBERS: Article 17, State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) Permit Modification DEC #3-9909-00023/00006 (SPDES # NY)

[https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water\\_pdf/catalumnotices.pdf](https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/catalumnotices.pdf)

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Chairwoman Greene asked if there was any other business, hearing none;

**Motion to Adjourn**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Bruno  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Criswell  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 5  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Time:** 8:15 PM

**Respectfully submitted by:** Fawn Tantillo  
**Minutes Approved:** March 1, 2021

# Ulster County Climate Smart Committee Meeting Transcript

**DATE & TIME:** January 25, 2021; 7:00 pm  
**LOCATION:** Powered by Zoom Meetings: Meeting ID: 941 7494 7702  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Fawn Tantillo, Laurie Lichtenstein  
**PRESENT:** Elizabeth Broad, Kim Mayer, Cal Truman  
**ABSENT:** None  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes  
**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Europa MCGovern, Ulster County Department of Environment; Jim O'Connell, Cornell Cooperative Extension; Misha Fredericks, Gardiner; Maitreya Motel, Climate Reality Project; Jim Hoover, Stone Ridge; Rachel Busher, Plattekill; Kristen Shara, Hurley; Matt Kovner, Olive; Alex Bolotow, Woodstock; David Edinger, Olive Town Board; Erin Enouen, Rochester; Ken Panza, Woodstock

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**Chairwoman Greene 04:47**

Yeah. Please put their phone on mute except if you're speaking and I see a little typo. And just for the record, this is the Monday, January 25, 2021. Meeting of the Ulster County Climate Smart Committee. We have a quorum. Today's the 25th.

**Chairwoman Greene 05:22**

January 25. Yeah. And it's 2021. Somehow, we need to update that. And at this point, I would like to call for a pledge of allegiance and then we will do our introductions. So, if everyone would please rise, and say with me, I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it...

**Chairwoman Greene 06:00**

[Audio cuts out] and if we could remain, did I fade out? Because I couldn't hear myself.

**Chairwoman Greene 06:11**

... Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. And if we could just remain standing for one moment, in honor of John Wackman, who passed away on December 1, thank you.

**Chairwoman Greene 06:35**

Oh, goodness. Let's see. Let's start with in brief introductions, because I see a few new people on the call. And just, you know, we only meet once a month, you might not remember from last month. So Europa, you're first on my screen, and I'll call on people. So to go quickly, who you are, who you're representing. If it's a town or a department or an agency, and anything else urgent, we will have time for a more in depth go around. But Europa, you want to start?

**Europa McGovern** 07:23

Alrighty, Good evening, everyone. It's Europa McGovern from the Ulster County Department of the Environment, I think on the agenda in a couple places, so I'll leave it there. Right.

**Chairwoman Greene** 07:33

Thank you, Misha.

**Misha Fredericks** 07:37

Hi, I'm Misha Fredericks, I'm with Climate Smart Gardiner.

**Chairwoman Greene** 07:43

Kim.

**Kim Mayer** 07:48

Hi, everybody. I'm Kim Mayer. I'm also with climate smart gardener, and I'm a member of this committee.

**Chairwoman Greene** 07:55

And just for any new people, there are five voting members that are appointed by the Legislature. Fawn if you would introduce yourself, please.

**Fawn Tantillo** 08:10

I'm Fawn Tantillo and I'm the Legislative Clerk for this committee.

**Chairwoman Greene** 08:16

And let's see, I'm Manna Jo Greene. I'm the chair of this committee. And I represent District 19 which is Rosendale and Marbletown in the Legislature. Maitreya.

**Maitreya Motel** 08:43

My name is Maitreya and I am part of the Climate Reality Project. And my mom is on call in...

**Chairwoman Greene** 08:51

Wonderful. And we'll get to her. Wonderful, Jim Hoover.

**Jim Hoover** 09:00

Hello, I'm Jim Hoover. I'm a resident of Stone Ridge and I'm very interested in climate matters.

**Chairwoman Greene** 09:08

Thank you. Rachel.

**Rachel Busher** 09:11

Hello, I'm Rachel Busher. I live in Plattekill and I'm trying to learn a lot so that I can get Climate Smart started and plan. I'm here to learn.

**Chairwoman Greene** 09:24

Great, thank you. This is a good place for sharing information. Kristin.

**Kristen Schara** 09:33

Hi, I'm Kristen Schara, and I'm on the Climate Smart Community Task Force for the Town of Hurley.

**Chairwoman Greene** 09:44

Cal.

**Cal Trumann** 09:48

Hi, my name is Cal Trumann. I live in Ulster Park. I'm a member of this committee and I'm also on the Kingston Climate Smart Commission. I do climate education and outreach as my job.

**Chairwoman Greene** 10:02

Thank you. And Matt, you're next but just to give you a heads-up so you can take yourself off mute. Alex, you will be next. Matt, go ahead.

**Matt Kovner** 10:16

Thank you, Manna jo. Matt Kovner here. I live in Olivebridge. I am the Town of Olive Climate Smart Committee Task Force coordinator.

**Chairwoman Greene** 10:26

Yay. Great. Alex, you're next.

**Alex Bolotow** 10:29

Hi. I'm Alex Bolotow. I'm from Woodstock. I'm on the Climate Smart Task Force in Woodstock. And I'm the chair of the Environmental Commission here.

**Chairwoman Greene** 10:42

And thank you, Jim O'Connell. You're up next.

**Jim O'Connell** 10:47

I'm Jim O'Connor. With Cornell Cooperative Extension, Ulster County, I'm a [inaudible] educator. I'm also part of the Cornell Climate Smart Farming team.

**Chairwoman Greene** 10:58

Great. David, you're up next. And Betta, you'll follow.

**David Edinger** 11:04

David Edinger. I'm on the Town Board in Olive and liaison to the Climate Action Advisory Committee.

**Chairwoman Greene** 11:14

Very good, Betta.

**Betta Broad** 11:16

Hi. Betta Broad, Kingston Climate Smart and I'm on the committee.

**David Edinger** 11:23

And did I miss anyone? Sometimes the squares move around on the screen. Okay, very good. Well, I think we should then get started. I think I'll hold off until next month, about the minutes and we'll do both sets. Would that be okay? Yeah. Okay.

**Chairwoman Greene** 11:53

And so we'll give about 15 minutes to the Climate Smart Communities Update. We have formed a task force. And it has a website, which I put in the agenda. And I believe also a Facebook page. And then any updates on Climate Smart Communities.

And then, any new information on the Ulster County Climate Action Plan? So, at this point, I would turn that over to Europa.

**Europa McGovern** 12:44

All right, great. Perhaps the discussion will end up taking 15 minutes, but I'll just start with a brief update. And then maybe we can go from there.

So, as Chairwoman Greene said, we, the this committee formed a Climate Smart Municipal Task Force we're calling it, I believe, at the November monthly committee meeting. And the task force is basically an ad hoc subcommittee of this committee, and it's chaired by the Department of the Environment. And so basically, I've been functioning in that role. We haven't gotten to the point of appointing committee members or chairs yet, we're still in the planning process.

But I'm very excited to share that we had a first planning session meeting with a group of regional stakeholders and local stakeholders last week. My colleague, Amanda Laval and I had been kind of making the rounds since the since the taskforce was appointed or created that is in late November.

So, we've been kind of talking to different partner organizations. Talking to some of you on the call today separately, and we brought everyone together for that planning meeting, I think it was on Thursday, the 20th last week. And so, present in addition to Amanda and myself, they were Carla Castillo and Anilla Cherian of the Hudson Valley Regional Council. Of course, that's my former employer. And they were there



in their role as the regional coordinators for the NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities Program, which is of course closely linked to the Climate Smart Committee Program.

We had Belinda Herzog of Cornell Cooperative Extension. Cornell Cooperative Extension is an important local stakeholder because they also provide targeted or us support for specific climate adaptation actions under the Climate Smart Committee program. They usually basically work with specific communities each year. This year, I think they're working with five communities locally on the Climate Smart Resiliency planning tool. They're working with a couple of communities on Climate Smart Committee, he's certification assessments, and they're also working with the Boat Builders, which congratulations to the two communities that were awarded that assistance in the county. So, they were important to have at the table as well as the Hudson Valley Regional Council.

And then we also had Kim, of course, from the committee and from Gardner. Kim Mayer was there. And then Aaron Moran, who I believe is the Climate Smart Coordinator for Woodstock. And Alex, you're on the call tonight, Alex Bolotow from Woodstock as well. So it was a really good mixture of local and regional stakeholders to bring together to start to just brainstorm some ideas on how we can help local municipalities get engaged with the Climate Smart Committee Program, how we can provide targeted support.

I think the outcome of the discussion really was that we're hoping to build sets of templates and resources and projects related to different Climate Smart Committee Program actions. So I'm just going to run through just a quick list of some of the potential projects we discussed. And then maybe we can open it up for discussion.

So, one project in the wings is there's the Bard Environmental Policy graduate program. At Bard, there's potential to connect with a professor and a graduate student class there in the spring or fall. They're looking to work on some climate adaptation and policy actions related to the Climate Smart Committee Program.

So, we're hoping to get that off the ground. Amanda and I have been in touch with the professor over at Bard. So we'll share more and at the point, when that gets off the ground, we'll definitely be presenting and trying to round up a group for whatever the project ends up looking like.

So, we're hoping to get a small group of communities together to work on a project. Again, related to a specific set of Climate Smart Committee Program actions, or a small set of CSC actions to work with this Bard group. So, that would be a great opportunity. My understanding is that, you know, that that graduate program is, you know, those students could be a great resource for communities in the county.

Another project, I just wanted to also provide an update on what we're doing at Department of the Environment is we're completing a Community Scale Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory. The county became a member of Local Governments for Sustainability last year. And as part of that, we get access to the ClearPath, software to complete Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories. The county already, of course, has a government operations inventory. So, now we want to expand that to include Community Inventory.

We're still gathering and inputting the data. But one idea now that this project is off the ground, and we're starting to use the ClearPath software, we're realizing that all of the energy usage and transportation and other data across all of the emission sectors is we're going to be holding it aggregated at the county scale, right. And so we'll be able to enter it for countywide into the ICLEI software.

We're collecting all the data for 2018 as our baseline year. So, a potential project that we would love to be able to figure out how to support a group of local municipalities and doing is walking through helping communities complete local community greenhouse gas emissions inventories, if that makes sense. So, not just for government operations, right, but where you're looking at your residential and commercial energy, your transportation sector, potential to include local consumption activities, and land use and agriculture. Things like that. So, that would be a really exciting project.

I think, in my former role as a clean energy companies program coordinator, I know what a heavy lift completing a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory is. And I also know that that's a heavily weighted Climate Smart Committee Program action, I think it's a 16 points. So, it'd be great if we could help a group of communities get that off the ground.

And then if everybody used the same data sets, from the same baseline year, it would be comparable, right? So that, for example, City of Kingston's updating their Community Inventory now, and they'll use X-year, and then another company might use Y-year. And so, and there's always benefit to completing these, but I think there would always be an even greater benefit to complete them using the same data from the same baseline year. So, I'd love to talk about that more with everybody on the call today.

And let's see, a big one we talked about, thanks to Kim and your energy and enthusiasm for this, is the energy audits which are essentially, it's a billing and energy audit. Right. And Kim can share more about this. I know you've done this at other meetings. But basically you'd be supporting a group of municipality and completing energy audits, you get all your electric bills and other bills together. Start looking over simultaneously, complete a field inventory of your street lighting system. And then, you know, you kind of go from there. Start talking to Central Hudson. And Kim, maybe you just want to jump in and provide a little update on that project, what it's looking like in Gardiner, I think that'd be helpful.

**Kim Mayer** 20:11

Okay, sure. So, the update is we've completed our energy audit, you know. And we're willing ready to submit it now to Central Hudson. And we now have to find out how long it's going to take. It usually takes a couple months. I don't want to go too much into it with this group, because I already spoke a lot on this. But the idea is through this task force, online, we might be able to make available the same templates that we found go into lots of different sources. So, this way, if anyone wanted to work on this, it might be a little bit easier, there'd be a central location, where you could pick up these resources. And that would be just one, you know, example of a project. The same thing could be for another project. Say somebody wants to

get a grant for recycling bins, etc. So, I feel like that's sort of where, we are at, I could see the how it would relate to that what we're doing in the task force.

One thing I do have a question, Europa. So, you're saying you'll assist with the Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Now, usually, you have to go through ICLEI which costs money. So, is that a potentiality that the county might help municipalities with the software?

**Europa McGovern 21:33**

No. So, what we're talking about is because we're compiling all of the data for the inventory at the county scale, we're basically going to have it, right, in aggregated format. Some of the data is from, say, you know, the electricity and things from Central Hudson. That's already broken down by municipality, I mean, any municipality can get that. Some of the other data will just be for the county, right? Like we have livestock numbers or different things like that. And so, I think the idea would be that much like communities that worked with me on the Hudson Valley Regional Council previously to do Local Government Operations Inventories. It would be a way to get a group together, say, here's the data, how do we break it down? And you can use spreadsheets and formulas and things. You don't need the ClearPath software. You know, so again, we make it accessible in a way that those most communities in the county are not ICLEI members. From my understanding, I think that cost about \$600 a year.

**Kim Mayer 22:27**

We applied for that, that's why.

**Europa McGovern 22:30**

Wonderful. Well, that's great. But again, there's 24 municipalities, and only a very small handful at best are ICLEI members. So, again, it would be a way of making or figuring out a way to collaborate to help companies get these done without paying that. Without doing all the entries into ClearPath. Which honestly, a lot of the calculations need to happen on the back end. You know, like, you don't just plug in the numbers of how many cattle you have, and how many sheep you have, and it pops out a number. You actually have to build the formulas and the calculations, and then enter them into ICLEI. So, you know, again, I think we can be helpful at the other end of that project and a couple to a few months when that's done.

**Kim Mayer 23:09**

No, that's very beneficial. That's really good.

**Europa McGovern 23:12**

And Kim, actually the last item I had, so I covered the first three major potential projects where we're thinking about brainstorming, helping municipalities within the next year or less. Hopefully, the last one I had was the Ulster County Fair. And I think that's back over to you, if you don't mind.

**Kim Mayer 23:31**

Right. Okay, so we've brought this up a few times with this committee. And usually people are very excited about it. We're not sure if there is going to be an Ulster County Fair this year. But we're going to... last I actually had corresponded with Manna Jo about checking in with the Ulster County Fairgrounds just to see if they're going to be holding it. But we were touching, we were discussing how basically be good to get green vendors, attract them and, you know, try to put together something with green vendors. Have some sort of educational exhibit, and also the zero waste part of it, which you were discussing Europa, I don't know if you want to follow up on that, or Manna Jo Greene. I know you're both were talking a bit more on that.

**Europa McGovern** 24:20

I defer to Manna on that.

**Chairwoman Greene** 24:24

Well, you know, Ulster County Fair was one of the most progressive fairs, really, on the East Coast. We were written up in in BioCycle magazine. We had a team of people who came in, mostly young people, and helped process... wash and flatten and put the paper where that belongs and.. You know, so we had really perfect recycling for the hauler. And each business I think, paid \$60 to the fair. The workers got admission to the fair, so they would work a few hours on and then enjoy the fair, and then come in.

So, that. And then we added composting. And we worked with Cornell Cooperative Extension. And we had, you know, all sample bins from chicken wire, to the plastic igloos, to concrete blocks to just a pile, a layered pile. And people would go come over and you'd hear them, they'd ask a few questions. And you'd hear them walking away, saying, well, should we use the chicken wire or the concrete blocks. And you could see that they went from meaning to, to getting enough information, and feeling comfortable enough that they were really going to go out and do backyard composting of food and yard waste.

And so, you know, over the years, I don't think that those programs are as aggressive as they can be. But the Fair is a wonderful opportunity for education. So, I'm trying to remember Ron's last name. Fawn? From the Ulster County fair, the director. I looked it up the other day, and I sent you that information, Kim, if you want to.

Gary Newkirk.

**Kim Mayer** 26:37

Say again?

**Kim Mayer** 26:38

Gary Newkirk? Or a different person?

**Kim Mayer** 26:40

Yeah, Gary Newkirk, yes, absolutely, yes. You know, to set up a meeting, of course, it will, be determined about whether or not they're going to actually have a Fair this year. But it wouldn't hurt to have some conversation. Go ahead.

So, I did a little research after our meeting, Europa, actually. Because there was a... I keep asking if anyone has seen this exhibit, but a couple years ago, at in Schenectady, there's the Museum of Innovation and Science, and they had a great climate change exhibit. So, I finally connected with them. And I found out it was an exhibit from the University of Chicago's Museum, which they had spent like \$100,000 to rent for three months, but, which is a little expensive. But you know, I'm still kind of talking to them to see if they have any pictures, you know, we could use for inspiration to potentially put an exhibit together ourselves.

And they also connected me with a foundation. It's called the Paley Foundation, which rents out free educational banners. They don't have any on climate change, but they are about like endangered wildlife, and about pollinators. So, it basically, you know, I really think we could potentially put together something like that ourselves. Like have some outdoor banners, that maybe, you know, it's just an opportunity. If there isn't a Fair, maybe we could do some climate change banners that go at libraries and rotate around the county.

So, I think we could have maybe some sort of educational components to this task force. And I'm just curious if anyone on here is interested in helping out with this. And it'd be great actually even Maitreya, because I feel like this would be something great for, you know, schools to do. So, I don't know, it just, there's an opportunity here. Cal, did your hand go up? I saw a hand.

**Cal Trumann** 28:42

Yeah, I didn't want to like jump in. So it's interesting that you're talking about climate change exhibits, because I'm, I've just started working with the Hudson River Maritime Museum in Kingston, to build them a climate change exhibit that's going to be a permanent part of the museum's collection. So, I've been doing a lot of research on the exhibits already at the Museum of Natural History in the City, and also in Ithaca. at the Museum of the Earth, I think it's called. It's mostly paleontology, but they've also got an incredible climate change exhibit. So, that kind of thing I'm really digging into right now. So, I'd be interested in sort of connecting on this. And it may be that there will be components of what the Maritime Museum does that they would be happy to sort of shop out a little bit to let them be seen in other places.

**Kim Mayer** 29:39

That would be great.

**Cal Trumann** 29:39

Because I'm sure they'd like to get more people in once it's safe to do so. Also, you know, so it feels like it'd be very reciprocal. So, I think if we could connect on that that might be very positive.

**Kim Mayer** 29:48

That sounds awesome. Is anyone else interested? Because maybe we'll...

**Europa McGovern 29:53**

Kim, I was going to, sorry to jump in. And the other thing we talked about was again, like with the Task Force. We're really trying to keep it Climate Smart Committee action focused, right? Because it's a municipal Task Force. So, we were thinking, okay, what's the plug there? Right? What's the in for the Fair component. And one idea I had was that we could print out that Climate Smart Communities, you know, the countywide CSC participation map that we now have on the county's website. And somehow, you know, so people can walk up and see, is my community participating? Are they Climate Smart Community? And maybe even have a list or those little pull off things with the website or the contact information for who to reach out to in your community to get involved with your Climate Smart Task Force, something like that? And again, just that picture, is your community involved? And if not, who do you contact. You know, contact your elected officials to past the pledge, you know, and kind of give them that synopsis of the steps. So, that's just one piece of it, Kim, I know, but we liked that idea.

**Chairwoman Greene 30:54**

I would also like to strongly encourage Jim O'Connell. Jim does, are you Jim or James? I get I forget between meeting,

**Jim O'Connell 31:05**

Jim but the default is thing always puts me as James.

**David Edinger 31:11**

And if I think Cornell is really essential. We did most of our teaching our booth, right between the two Cornell buildings, the one with the livestock and the one that has more education in it. And we worked very closely with Cornell. And I forgot to say, but we were actually written up in BioCycle magazine, that the Ulster County Fair was a Blue Ribbon Fair in it for composting and recycling. And I still have that article, something. They said that we were the best Fair from Maine to Florida, in that regard. And I'd love to have us reclaim that acknowledgement. I think we can do it. We've done it before.

**Chairwoman Greene 32:05**

And also, it may, we may want to reach out to the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency if they are the recipient. And, you know, if they're providing the containers, and so forth, we'll, we'll find that out. This will be a little subcommittee, and we'll get back to you. And again, a lot will depend on whether or not there can be a fair this year. But I did see a date with 2021 published. So, I know they're hoping. And I believe that... So, reach out to Gary Newkirk. And maybe we can have a meeting with those people who just volunteered. And Jim who I volunteered. Okay, great.

**Europa McGovern 32:54**

So, Manna, I just have one more one or two more sentences on the task force, if that's all right.

**Chairwoman Greene** 33:00

Okay, go ahead.

**Europa McGovern** 33:02

Perfect. So, yeah, because each item, each one of those projects is huge, right? I just wanted to say in some that we got together with the regional partners and stakeholders and local municipal stakeholders. Although the meeting schedule for the taskforce itself and the membership is still to be determined, I think it was a really productive session. As far as those four potential projects that that we just discussed at length here, you know, at least one of those, if not more, we hope we can get off the ground.

And then, like Kim was saying, figure out what virtual platform to use. Kim and I have been toying around in Slack. Seeing if you can create different channels and start to build out those resources, as we run a cohort of communities or run one of these projects with a local, you know, partner, or someone who's an available resource, right? With the knowledge that we build out the resources. And ideally, in the long run, figure out how to share it through these virtual platforms. We're talking about linking Slack with Dropbox. We're still playing with it, right, Kim? There's a lot there. And so that's, you know, that's kind of the simultaneous part of the project.

And then the last thing I'll say, Manna, as you mentioned, is that again, we put links and information about this committee, about the task force, on the Climate Smart Community's Program webpage. I'll put it in the chat for everybody again, although it's in the agenda. And we also have a link to the Facebook page. The Facebook page, it's.. I said this at our task force meeting, Kim, it's pretty dry. It's really just what resources are available for municipalities. What municipal meetings are happening, municipal grant opportunities, right? So, it's not going to be a really exciting social scene on that Facebook page, but it will provide important information and that's linked from the webpage. And that's all I have.

**Kim Mayer** 34:49

And the one thing I'll say is I really encourage everyone I don't know if you've ever invited friends to like a page but there are you are listing events on there, and I do think it will help make you know all of our communities stronger by maybe tapping into other people because they see an event and they're interested. So, yeah, just encourage you to invite friends on Facebook if you're on social media because it can really help with recruitment.

**Rachel Busher** 35:16

Just a quick question, Can I steal whatever is on that page to put on the Facebook Climate Smart page?

**Europa McGovern** 35:22

Anything online is fair game. Right?

**Rachel Busher** 35:25

Great. Thanks.

**David Edinger** 35:28

I have a quick related question. We had mentioned at a previous meeting about the Vassar students were doing greenhouse gas inventories. Is that a resource that's available to help? I don't remember how that resolved?

**Europa McGovern** 35:50

I feel like I'm the person here that was actually attended those Vassar meetings. So, I'll just answer in saying that. I am, I have been peripherally in touch with that Vassar professor for a couple of years. And I actually recently reached out to her to put it out there that we're doing this and we're hoping to be able to collaborate with them. I think she said, the last communication I had with her is that they would like to support potentially another group of municipalities in completing green community greenhouse gas emissions inventories over the summer or fall, so that timing could work really well, if the county has compiled all of our data, the countywide data, and already completed our inventory in ClearPath by say, April, or so. So, I'll keep everybody updated. And if anyone else is in touch with them, let us know too.

**Matt Kovner** 36:37

And let me jump in. This is something that we in the town of all have are interested in. We would be willing to talk to a consultant or students, whatever you guys suggest, to have someone help us do the greenhouse gas emissions inventory, not only of our buildings, but also of the community. So, if anybody has a lien on that, that would be very helpful.

**Chairwoman Greene** 37:03

Great. I think Europa and Europa who is now working with the Hudson Valley Regional Council, she was on last month.

**Europa McGovern** 37:20

Anilla and Yes.

**Chairwoman Greene** 37:22

Yeah, I think she'd be able to help. Can you put Matt in touch.

**Europa McGovern** 37:27

Matt is in touch with her. Yes. We've been on some emails.

**Chairwoman Greene** 37:31

Okay. Yes.

**Matt Kovner** 37:32

I have been in touch with Anilla. I will reach out to her again. Thank you.



**Europa McGovern** 37:36

Perfect.

**Chairwoman Greene** 37:38

Great. All right. So, the next thing on the agenda is the 2021 goals. And quite frankly, it's been an intense couple of weeks for me. And I would ask that we pick that up in February. We have a long agenda, a rich agenda. And we reviewed and updated the goals late in 2020. SO, it should be fairly easy to adapt them to 2021. But if the committee members wouldn't mind, I'd like to take that up in February. And I don't see any disagreement with that.

So, let's get to... This is the part of the agenda where we actually get to do a go-around and touch on various topics that are related and what the municipalities are doing. As we do this. I would ask that if it's not directly related to climate change or climate solution, and it's more environmental, that can be put into the written report. But given how, you know, many municipalities, thank goodness, are participating, and how much is going on, let's stick to in our reports. items like what is listed under Local Climate Smart Community Updates

And I just want to be sure that everyone knows that on the Scenic Hudson website and in the agenda is a live link to How to Solar Now using Scenic Hudson's solar mapping tool in your community.

And related to this, some of us are thinking of approaching the town of Marlborough. I don't see anybody here tonight from Marlborough, but we'll be reaching out to supervisor Williams and others, to see if they would want to use this tool to do that mapping as a pilot. If anyone else wants to, be our guest. But there are specific issues in Marlborough, for which this might be very helpful moving forward, and they haven't agreed yet.

So, you know, it's just a thought, but I know Misha is aware, and a few other people on the call, that we're really interested in working with one town as a pilot for the entire region. And if any of you want to take that on.

If we're really going to get from where we are now to meeting the goals of the climate act of New York CLCPA by a by 2030, we have to have this information. We have to know where the best areas for larger scale solar. You know, certainly developed infrastructure, rooftops, parking lots. brownfield sites, landfills are wonderful. But some of them are smaller quantities than what we're going to need. We're going to need community solar and utility scale solar. And so, we're very interested in having a pilot to see where that could go. How close it is to the grid infrastructure that would be needed. So that large scale solar energy could be delivered to the grid, and so forth. And there's a... it's not just a document there's some on the Scenic Hudson website is a link to a presentation about how to use that document. And when to call that to folks attention.

And, and I think with that... I'm not so good at figuring out who's from which municipality, but Misha, can you report? Yes, please. Go ahead.

**Kim Mayer** 42:30

Just one quick thing. I didn't... I have not watched that video. But one of our task force members had mentioned that they were advertising in such a way that all of the Superfund sites were part of the that, I guess, if you're assessing if it's a feasible site for solar. And I don't know how many of those sites we have in Ulster County, I know Rachel, Plattekill has one of those sites. So, it's one of... it could be like a wonderful story to take, you know, this acreage that really is just sitting there. And it's kind of an example of the environmental distress and turning into something positive. So, I don't know which, you know, if there are other examples, but I think there's 80 acres and Plattekill, where they have one of those sites. And I just wanted to throw it out there. And if anyone knows if one of your towns has it, just another thing to think about.

**Chairwoman Greene** 43:32

Yeah, and I think collectively, we can develop some expertise on this committee so we can support towns in identifying the potential sites, and ultimately, that is a form of revenue. And I know that because I sit on Public Works and Capital Projects. And every month or so we get 1-2-3, sometimes even more applications for what's called a reverse PILOT. A PILOT agreement is where a municipality has a payment in lieu of taxes, because they're going to bring some benefit to the community. Jobs or improved housing or... so, there's different reasons to grant a PILOT.

This is the opposite. These facilities, community and utility scale facilities, are exempt for I think it's 20 years, for a substantial period of time from paying taxes, and yet they're using municipal services. So, they form an agreement based on a formula that NYSEERDA is recommending but not requiring. And so far, all the larger projects are agreeing to do this reverse PILOT. They come in front of Public Works for approval.

And so I, you know, I just want to mention that that means they are paying school taxes, they are paying municipal taxes, even though they don't have to, under this recommended formula for the services that they're using. So, you know, that's another aspect. It's not just good for the environment, it can actually be good for the school district or the municipality.

Okay. So, I was going to ask if Misha had any update from New Paltz.

**Misha Fredericks** 45:47

I'm actually in Gardiner. So, I'm in the same place as Kim. But I can just share that I think it was four members of Gardiner today, we had a training with (first name) Roberts, I think it was from ICLEI. Our first training, so, we're going to do a community-wide greenhouse gas emissions for Gardiner. And our town is also met with three solar developers so far for our landfill, we want to try to get a solar developed on our landfill.

But the... okay, so here's the issue, the issue is that down here... Upstate, the infrastructure is really good for solar and wind. The problem down here is the infrastructure is really terrible with the lines. So, that's going to be a real big issue with getting solar developed in our area. So, that's right now, that's... we're probably going to have to look at trying to... There's some issues here. We're trying to get a big enough farm to make it worth the developers money, because they're going to have to shell out money for the infrastructure improvements.

Also, the substations about five miles away from where the landfill is. But the EPA gave the site a really good solar rating. So, it's potentially a really good site. And then, of course, you know, we've been doing streetlights, I was also involved with streetlight inventory. So, we've been doing a lot of good Gardiner.

**David Edinger** 47:26

So, I just wanted to let you know, by way of somewhere on the agenda is the Regional Renewable Energy Implementation Planning Process. And we've identified this as a number one issue. The grid evolved with large fossil fuel plants or nuclear power plants. And they put the energy on to a power line of a large transmission line. And then the utilities step that down and distributed in a distribution grid.

**Chairwoman Greene** 48:07

They are figuring out now, how to make that distribution grid two-way because a lot of the energy is going to be generated locally, not at a distant power plant. And so, they're focusing on distribution, but not yet on interconnection and transmission. And it's a huge problem.

Because if we're going to meet those goals, and we're a rural area, or mixed area, we have open space, but they wouldn't put, you know... what do you call it when you step down the electricity, you just said it, but I have a mental block about saying that word... where you connect the electricity to... not the grid, but the actual power station.

**Multiple speakers** 49:08

Substation?

**Chairwoman Greene** 49:10

Yes, thank you. I hope I don't forget it again. So, they don't... they wouldn't put a substation in a rural area because there would be no demand. But now there's going to be supply. And so they have to... Central Hudson in our area, and all the utilities in this in New York State, in the seven County area, those four utilities, have to start paying attention.

And what they have been doing is charging more than what it really cost. Sometimes double and triple what it really costs for Inter connection. And, and that's not fair. So, we're going to go to them and ask them what

would be a fair system that would allow the developers to meet the goals of CLCPA. And how could this work for the developer and for the utility? And what would the state need to do to make that work?

And we've really identified it as a number one priority for this region. It came up because some folks from Olive were looking at a solar development out there, and they were told there was no capacity west of Woodstock. All of that route 28 corridor, which is where there's a lot of open space. Now, we don't want to be taking down trees or using up prime farmland. But there is marginal open space, or open space that's ideal for solar. And not much other use.

**Matt Kovner** 50:57

Manna, can I jump in for a second on that? On that Town of Olive comment? Great. So yeah, Simon Strauss is on our committee, and he was working with Central Hudson and discovered that they have now opened up 900 kilowatts west of Woodstock. And we at the Town of Olive have met with a private landowner who has the three-phase electric. Apparently, this is one of the biggest problems.

Simon was telling me that at the landfill in our town, that's a perfect spot. I know Dave was involved in the possible siting there. But to run the three phase electric, Central Hudson charges something like a million dollars a mile and it was half a mile away. So, that makes it difficult.

However, this private landowner has three phase electric. We have met with Solar Generation, and they seem to think it's a possibility to put in a solar array on that land, and have it been financially feasible for everyone. So, we will keep you posted on that I'm expecting a proposal from them. We were hoping to get it Friday. I thought I would have it for today, but we don't. So, we will be getting a proposal from Solar Generation. And it looks like we may be able to cite a solar array in the Town of Olive and take advantage of the Central Hudson new information we have about accepting a solar array.

**Chairwoman Greene** 52:31

And as some of you may remember, a few years ago, (Name) was on this committee was working with folks to try to develop a solar array on the Town of Kingston. And that project...landfill. It's it was the City of Kingston's Landfill, Jockey Hill, that closed. It's located in the Town of Kingston. And it would have been an ideal site. He had raised the funds for the development of the solar system but not for the interconnection. And that's a case where the interconnection fee was two or three times what the actual cost was. So, that's going to have to change. I think that the utilities are going to have to allow development to occur at the real costs plus the nine or 10 percent, which is their typical return on investment.

But maybe there's a way to sweeten that with NYSERDA or the Public Service Commission. And that's the creative conversation. And Simon and I are working on that. And we'll keep you posted if anybody else is interested.

But Misha, I hate to get sidetracked, but you raise such an important issue. And it's going to be the same throughout this county because we have towns and villages and a city. But we also have a lot of open space.

And we're located near the greater metropolitan area. So, if we can feed, if we can store electricity, and feed it onto the grid, we can be a big part of the solution. But the State has to work out policies and funding that will support that. All right. Go ahead.

**Misha Fredericks** 54:34

Can I just make one more quick comment about what Kim was talking about the landfill Plattekill, that 80 acre one. That one would probably be eligible under the NYSEERDA Build Ready Program. But again, we're looking at what's the infrastructure with the power line, what's the capacity, that might also be an issue. But because it's so large, that one would definitely... because I went to the NYSEERDA Build Ready website and I looked at what they're, you know what their criteria is. That one looks like that one could be... because I think NYSEERDA picks, I think maybe six or eight out of the state, that one could be a real potential one that they might pick for that program.

**Chairwoman Greene** 55:30

Okay, super. Let's see. Maitreya, do you have anything you... I know you're not on the environmental commission, per se. But do you have any anything you want to report either from your work or that you are aware of in Rosendale or elsewhere?

**Maitreya Motel** 55:51

There's nothing really all that new that's been happening in Rosendale in terms of climate. I'm just very glad that we're back in the Paris Agreement.

**Chairwoman Greene** 56:04

Yeah. Thank you. Thanks for reminding us about that. Great. Rachel. Is there anything from Plattekill, more than what you said so far?

**Rachel Busher** 56:15

No, nothing else.

**Chairwoman Greene** 56:18

Okay, well, it sounds like you might have an opportunity there. So, be in touch with Misha. And Kristen.

**Kristen Schara** 56:36

No, we don't really have anything new from Hurley. We've just been sort of trying to get organized and making our first stabs at what kind of actions we want to pursue. And then as you mentioned, I was accepted into the Boat Builders Local Champions Program.

**Chairwoman Greene** 56:57

Yeah.

**Kristen Schara** 56:58

That was pretty exciting for me. It hasn't started yet. So, I'm eagerly awaiting our first sessions to see how you know what I can learn.

**Chairwoman Greene** 57:12

Excellent. Who was the other municipality in Ulster County? Europa, do you know who the other one was that was awarded?

**Europa McGovern** 57:22

I bet Kristen knows, I can't remember off the top of my head.

**Erin Enouen** 57:25

It was us, the Town of Rochester.

**Chairwoman Greene** 57:28

Yay. Wow, that is so great. All right, just for that you get to go next, Erin.

**Erin Enouen** 57:38

Thanks, I joined late because I had another meeting. And that was my update. We receive the grant and we have a Local Champion who will be entering the program. And we're waiting for that to start before we begin the work. So, we're just going to rely on the program for that.

**Chairwoman Greene** 58:03

And what that is, for people who are new to this call, is I think an \$8,000 scholarship in a sense, or funding for a municipality that has joined the Climate Smart Community Program but wants to go for certification. And support for, for example, a Climate Smart Coordinator to be paid to do some of that work, were to hire assistance. And also, that cohort of groups will be working together and learning from each other. So, it's so good to see that Ulster County is represented.

Let's see. Alex any news from Woodstock?

**Alex Bolotow** 59:00

Why don't you guys get Ken's very in-depth reports. So, probably not too much. You know, this year, we're talking about doing our Community Climate Action Plan. We're at the very beginning stages right now. And it'll probably be like a very massive undertaking for us. So, that's probably going to be a big part of what 2021 is going to look like.

In addition to, kind of similar to what Misha was saying, you know, we've been looking into some... I mean, for years now, I know it's been going on and I'm trying to get up to date because I'm very new to

Woodstock, too. What some of the issues have been in the past, but some of the solar siting here. What our possibilities are.

**Chairwoman Greene** 59:50

Oh, so it looks like Ken Panza is trying to join if he's successful, we can see if he wants to highlight anything else

**Alex Bolotow** 1:00:02

Ken knows a lot more than I do, so.

**Chairwoman Greene** 1:00:06

But he did send around a very comprehensive report? Let's see. Maybe cow and or better for City of Kingston.

**Cal Trumann** 1:00:20

I did not attend the last Kingston meeting.

**Betta Broad** 1:00:23

I yeah, I have the notes, which I can get up here. Sorry, I'm dealing with a little family situation over here, my partner just cut the end of his finger off. Not the real end, but it's been bleeding a lot. So, I'm a little distracted over here. Hopefully he's going to be okay, though.

So yeah, it's very sad because the last Climate Smart Kingston meeting, we had John Wackman. We don't have John Wackman anymore. So anyway, it's very sad.

We have had a lot of progress in Kingston with our Climate Action Plan. We had a meeting on January 14, which I don't know if anyone here attended. But the consulting firm that the city has hired, Cadmus presented on the different kind of high impact actions that the city could take as we formulate our new Climate Action Plan over the next year. So, that was kind of the highlight of the excitement for January.

The LED project that the city is doing is close to complete, which I feel like we've been saying for a long time now, but it is a big endeavor.

Let's see anything else? It's so sad about John. I'm just reading the notes.

Oh, this is kind of a fun thing. We started this Pizza Box Sticker Campaign to educate people about what part of the pizza box they can recycle and what part they can't, and printed 30,000 stickers to let people know about that. And we're starting to reach out to pizzerias to distribute those stickers, because I guess they foul up the recycling process, because people just throw the whole pizza box into the recycling. And that was something John was, I know, really excited about.

Ah, let's see anything else to tell you. The New York Energy Stretch Code. We're still really hoping that, you know, that will be adopted by the city, but I guess that's like, still being deliberated on. And I think that is pretty much the highlights. The main thing is really the Climate Action Plan that we had the public event on January 14th. So, that's all I've got.

**Europa McGovern** 1:03:23

Hey, Betta. I was going to add that to that. So that was an event we tried to post on the Facebook page. But Kim and I have got confused with the Kingston, Canada which that's happened to me in the past, as well. So if anybody saw a post about Kingston, Canada, they are also doing a simultaneous project. So if anybody wants to visit them, they also are having Climate Action Plan events, so that's a cool aside.

**Betta Broad** 1:03:49

I remember we used to do these like sister city things. Especially with like Central America solidarity and stuff like that back in the day. We should do like climate sister city things, right?

**Europa McGovern** 1:04:05

I love that though, with the name being the same too. And they just kind of seem like I've looked at their website and they seem like they're in a similar place to the City of Kingston.

**Betta Broad** 1:04:13

Very cool. Well, we'll have to reach out to them. That's fun. Yeah. We do have the Kingston climate page, Kingston, New York climate page on Facebook that actually John Wackman was the one who is the real prolific poster. So, I guess I'm going to have to step up my Facebook game. But yeah, I can put the link in the chat if people are interested in going actual Kingston, New York Facebook page.

**Alex Bolotow** 1:04:45

We had toyed here with doing some sort of like, a friendly competition, with another, you know, like Woodstock and Saugerties sort of have like a little bit of friendly competitive nature. But just to get sort of public awareness up and get everyone, like on board with some of the stuff that we're all doing, I don't know if that is ever... and maybe Europa that's more for like one of your meetings but if there's a group of towns that want to, like you know, kind of work together to set some kind of goal, see who reaches it first. Make it a public, sort of like the sister city kind of thing. We've talked about that a bit in our meetings.

**Europa McGovern** 1:05:31

I love that idea. I've seen that healthy competition be really beneficial. I would say for what we're trying to do here you know, like for example, Plattekill we're hoping, right, to, to get you guys to pass the pledge. And I'm happy to support you know, the town would have presentation. But it'd be interesting to me to see who the last community and Ulster County the past the Climate Smart Committee is pledge would be, for example, right? Because every month or to another community, like Rochester, passes the pledge and changes colors out that map, so maybe that would be a good competition, though.



**Chairwoman Greene** 1:06:06

Great, okay. Since Betta brought it up, I just, I want to let people know that there was a spontaneous gathering on Sunday. John passed away on a Friday and Sunday, people just spontaneously gathered at Willow Park, Willow Kiln Park in Rosendale.

And the two things that came out of that is that on the Sustainable Hudson Valley site, he was a Sustainable Hudson Valley board member. And they are the fiscal sponsor for the Repair Cafes. So, if anybody wants to go on that site, and make a specific contribution, in his honor, for Repair Cafe, it's easy to do either on Facebook or their website. And if somebody can put that in the chat, I can't do it while I'm moderating

And the other thing is that John, and I've mentioned this before, but the day before he passed away, with our Zero Waste implementation plan, he sent us a list of all his research on model, what he was calling, resource recovery parks. Others are calling it a Reuse Innovation Center. We don't know what it'll end up being called. But what we do know is that there's a deep commitment to manifesting that vision, that goal that he shared with us the day before he had a heart attack. So, I just wanted people to know that his work will continue.

And we are redoubling our efforts for waste diversion and reuse which was so central to this phase of his life. And if you have a chance, you know, Google him, his obituary, and he was quite accomplished in so many fields. Television Production, he was a licensed massage therapist, he was a songwriter and singer and etc. So, he will be sorely missed. But he has also inspired hundreds of people to work on repair and waste diversion. And we hope to name it, whatever, whatever and wherever the center is, after John Wackman. So it was a little out of order, but you brought it up, and I thought maybe it would help to add a positive note to a very sad occurrence.

**Betta Broad** 1:09:03

Thank you so much, Manna, for helping to move that forward.

**Chairwoman Greene** 1:09:08

Yeah, thank you. Okay, let's see. Kingston. Dave, do you have anything you want to add? David Edinger.

**David Edinger** 1:09:20

I'm referring all this information to Matt, he's our coordinator.

**Chairwoman Greene** 1:09:26

Okay, and Matt, where did he go? Ken Panza. I see you for a while look like you were trying to get on and it looks like you're on now. Did you want to add any highlights? You always send around such a good report. Did you want to add anything?

**Ken Panza** 1:09:53

Well, I could just mention that today we finalized our analysis of our 2020 electricity usage. And now we know how COVID affected us. Overall electrical usage is down about 10%. But part of that, you know, most of that came from a couple of installations, which really dropped significantly, as you might expect the Youth Center, which is pretty much shut down for the entire year, dropped about 30%. The town offices where we hold a lot of meetings at night, those were all canceled, so that dropped significantly. The Town Hall really didn't do much of anything. I mean, that's where the police station is. And the and the courts and although the courts weren't in session, just a minor drop. Our electric vehicle charging station, that dropped about 30% because people weren't coming to Woodstock to charge their cars, you know.

But other than that, you know, the water system, the sewer system, are they, they were right on what their historical usage patterns of water, so people weren't using more water or flushing more toilets than they normally did.

So, and our LED light installation is going really slowly. I mean, Central Hudson, we, we hired central Hudson, or paid central Hudson to change all the lights, but that's just kind of dribbling in. Yeah, I don't think we did more than five or 10 lights this past year, out of our total about 130. So we're about 30% converted to LED. So, that's the news from today.

**David Edinger** 1:11:37

Great. One thing that maybe a county could help with, since it has a GIS map, would be to help locate where the public EV charging stations are. Because I was at Willow Kiln for several hours. And I didn't realize that there was a charging station until after the gathering was over. Now I know where the Rosendale charging station is. But I found out by accident. And more and more people are switching to electric vehicles. And the state is encouraging that. So, maybe that could be... we could take that map and put layers on it for climate solutions like that. So, just a thought.

**Ken Panza** 1:12:35

Because before we put the charging stations on our... it's on a tourist restroom, you know, a public restroom for tourists. We are paying about \$1,000 a year for electricity. This past year, we paid about \$5,500 for electricity with the charging station. So, it made a big difference.

**Chairwoman Greene** 1:12:57

Wow. Yeah. Yeah. I know that they calculated the cost of a charge at the Ulster County Office Building because there was debate that I was using it as a legislator, and was it you know, sort of a gift that I would need to report or there was questions about it. And, and the calculation was 45 cents a charge.

**Ken Panza** 1:13:25

Yeah, we did the same calculation. And for building that's already a heavy electricity usage, the marginal cost is quite small 35 to 45 cents. We also found, but you know, we're we put it on a building that have low electricity usage to begin with, and drove it up into demand charge areas and drove up the surge quite high.

The second thing we found out is such a charge point, electric reports underestimate the electricity used by about half. So, we doubled the amount in order to cover that default, that deficiency.

**Chairwoman Greene** 1:14:05

Okay, great. Well, we've did I miss any municipality? Fawn, please. You're on mute. Okay.

**Fawn Tantillo** 1:14:15

I just wanted to note that there are several apps you can get on your iPhone to show you where charging stations are. I know that my... I was with a family member, like before COVID, when we were going someplace and she was looking for a charging station. And I know there's... I saw there were several apps on the phone.

**David Edinger** 1:14:36

The ChargePoint app is for ChargePoint chargers.

**Fawn Tantillo** 1:14:39

Yeah. And there's one for Tesla but there's some that are more general than that also.

**Chairwoman Greene** 1:14:46

Okay, great. Thanks. Jim, do you want to... is there anything you want to share with us? That is, you know, climate-related from Cornell

**Jim O'Connell** 1:15:00

So, continuing to work with the Climate Smart Farming Program, and I'm sorry, it's Monday, I'm forgetting now. The Estuary Program to Cornell there, I'm sorry, I can't remember the names. But we're trying to work with the program similar to Master Gardeners to develop climate action teams so that you make people more aware of climate and recruit volunteers who can answer some of the basic climate change questions.

At Cornell Cooperative in Ulster County is also having a beginning farmer program this will be in March, April. One of the topics that I'm trying to schedule is on climate change. So the big topic right now is carbon sequestration. How does that affect the farmers bottom line, and we'll let you know some of the background information on that. So, I have a couple people that I'm interested in speaking, I just need to... I talked to them a little bit more and get some more details from them. And then we just finished the program last Friday. We had Dr. Jennifer Phillips from Bard College speak about climate change and agriculture. It was very well received. We had 64 attendees. And the video from that will be up on the Corporate Extension website as well as the Climate Smart Farming website. And I think that's it.

**Chairwoman Greene** 1:16:30

That's really important. For this area, you know, different climate solutions are, for example, transportation is important here. But it may even be more important in areas like Westchester, and Rockland, and the City. You know, we have rural transportation, and our buses are little by little switching over to electric vehicles and installing large scale solar and in various places. We're making progress there.

But what we have in this area is agriculture. So the more that can become Climate Smart Farming or regenerative agriculture, carbon farming. And Jared Buono, the executive director, and I are meeting with Scenic Hutson to try to also schedule, or at least coordinate the scheduling of some events so that all of us can learn more about what carbon farming is or isn't. And the research that's being done. And little by little, hopefully, have more and more of our farmers adopt those practices.

So, I think we've covered a lot of these topics. And I, I want to say I think good things are coming in terms of the county is really working on the Green New Deal. And I got a little bit of a preview of what that's going to entail. And I think we have some good news coming. They're planning to fully release that on Earth Day. And the Ulster County Green Business Program is definitely a centerpiece of that. So, you know, we've been pushing that for several years.

And Betta, do you want to do any update on transportation and TCI? Are you able to just...

**Betta Broad 1:19:01**

You know, I wish that we had an update. I mean, I'm trying to remember where we left things. I don't think much has changed since our last meeting. I mean, New York did not sign on to the MOU (memorandum of understanding). Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and DC did. So, they're, you know, forging ahead. There will be rules--I forget what it's called exactly. But it's more than an MOU which was like 20 pages. There's some kind of rules that will come out that will be like 200 plus pages that will have more details. And the thinking is that more states will sign on then once there's more details out there. But we definitely need to keep building pressure.

There's also the Transportation Advisory Panel for the Climate Action Council and so there's some thinking that if the recommendations from the Transportation Advisory Panel include TCI (Transportation and Climate Initiative), then that would go a long way towards New York joining TCI. So, we'll see. You know, there's quite a few people who are supportive of it. But then there's also people on the Climate Action Council who oppose, or say they oppose, market based solutions. So, continues to be a challenge. But if people are interested in getting more involved, they could reach out to me. And if, you know, you are part of an organization, or church, or anything that wants to join, NY for TCI are definitely still looking to, you know, expand members and grow support for New York joining.

**Chairwoman Greene 1:20:50**

Great. Let's see CLCPA. I just wanted to say that Ben is actually on one of those advisory panels. And several of us have been tracking all of their meetings. And their reports are due in March. And then that will be open to public comment. But we'd like to get some comments in before the reports are finalized. In

particular, those of us working on the Renewable Energy Implementation Plan and the Regional Climate Action Plan out of Hudson Valley Regional Council.

We think that climate planning really has to be done at the local and regional level. That it's great to have the state taskforce. But a few years ago NYSERDA granted, each economic development area, the 10 economic development areas in New York State, a million dollars each to write a sustainability plan. And many of those are sitting on the shelf.

But we would like to see funding for counties and regions to come up with a plan to ensure that the goals of CLCPA are met by 2030 and 2040. So, if anybody... what I'm particularly interested in is what's working and what's not. And if you can send me anything that you think those task forces need to hear from our community, we'll add it to a letter requesting that NYSERDA Public Service Commission that there be state funding for local, county and regional planning.

There is going to be a Green Concrete Forum. Unfortunately, I haven't worked out the date but Fawn, and Chris Neidl and I are looking at some potential dates. And we'll let you know. It probably won't be before our next meeting, but if it is, we'll definitely send an invitation widely not just to this committee, but to the involved departments of the county and so forth.

Nothing new on refrigerant management, but it is really crucial that as we step up beneficial electrification, that is encouraged people to switch from burning oil or fossil fuel or gas in in their homes for heating and switch to ground source or air source heat pumps for heating and cooling, that the refrigerant management aspect of that is really critical so that it's not leaking. We don't want to be encouraging people to change it to a technology and then have the refrigerants, which are very potent greenhouse gases, leak. So, the training around how those are installed is really critical.

The Ulster County Solid Waste Plan is going to come in front of the Legislature, I think in in February. And I talked about John Waxman and his participation in the Local Zero Waste Implementation Plan. And we're meeting weekly and making very good progress. Europa is actually a very central part of that. And our goal is to take a document that was very good, but it was aspirational, and make it implementable. We know what we're doing in the short-term, in the medium-term, in the long-term, whose responsibility it is to ensure that implementation. What it's going to cost? How's it going to get paid for. You know, all of those very concrete aspects. And when that is ready, it'll be a complimentary document to the existing Local Solid Waste Plan. Which has a lot of information about waste diversion, but it's not at that level. It's, as I said, you know, both were very aspirational. And are trying to get them so that they can be implemented.

There's a lot going on with a real coalition that has emerged on green jobs and the Green Jobs Academy at the county level.

And then I did... When Fawn sent around the agenda, she also included two attachments. One on green hydrogen, so-called green hydrogen. And one on low impact hydro. And there's also a lot of information now about renewable natural gas.

I'm sorry. Let's see. I mentioned that because that is what the fossil fuel industry universally.... I'm so sorry about that background. Let me see if I can make it shut up. Oh, good, that was ..

So, it's important that we know about green hydrogen and renewable, natural gas. Renewable natural gas basically comes from sewage treatment plants, manure. Composting of manure can generate that. Composting of food waste can generate methane. And that can be captured. Actually, to say composting is not correct, I would say anaerobic digestion. If it's composted, it should not be giving off methane. But if it's put through an anaerobic digestion process. And so those are some of the sources but they tend to be regeneration is relatively small and should probably be used locally. I'm not sure that there's enough to run it through existing pipelines.

And in terms of green hydrogen, that actually can embrittle existing pipelines. So, you can't use more than typically 5%. Where with when you're adding methane, that's the same as what's already in there. And those percentages are more like 85%, if you're mixing it.

And I just wanted everybody to know that there is a Hudson Valley Environmental Justice Coalition. And if you go on their website, they're having wonderful presentations. It's not directly related to climate change, but it is related to climate justice.

And then I just put in some other events that might be of interest, you can take them or leave them. I would strongly recommend the February 19 Sustainable Hudson Valley has invited the Nature Conservancy to present on the Long Island Solar Roadmap. And if you're not familiar with it, they've really that's a model we want to replicate in this region.

Okay. I feel like I've gone on and on. Is there anything else to add? We usually take about an hour and a half to get through this agenda. I think we did relatively well. Anything important?

I want to know, I know that, although there's a lot of planning going on with the Climate Smart Communities and high impact actions and greenhouse gas inventories. There's also a lot of on the ground changes taking place, with the LED lighting with developing solar projects on an increasingly large scale. And the regenerative agriculture. And we really are making progress. And the question is, will it be soon enough? And I don't think we know the answer to that. But we give it our best effort. And hopefully, we'll have good results.

And Fawn, are you able to save the chat? I'm not very good at saving the chat. Thank you.

Any, any final closing words? Anybody on the call that hasn't had a chance to participate that would like to? Well, in that case, I wish everyone stay well, and keep up the good work. And we'll see you in a month. And maybe Kim and I and a few others can call some of the people that didn't make it onto this call. And, you know, invite them personally, to share what they're doing because this work is critically important to make Ulster County a real model for climate solutions. So, thank you all. Thank you, Fawn. Good night, everybody. Good night.

**Fawn Tantillo** 1:32:27

Someone move to adjourn though.

**Betta Broad** 1:32:29

Thank you.