



# Climate Smart Community Task Force Meeting

January 18, 2024 5:30 - 6:30, ZOOM

## MEETING Notes

**Present:** Andrew Stayman, Kathleen Spahn, Kathy Chow, Chris Kennan, Rich Stalzer, Matt Hartzog **Guest:** Anna Harrod-McGrew, CCEDC

**Absent:** Chris Virtuoso, Laurie Kerr, Claire Goodman, , Deborah Maier

Minutes from December 21, 2023 were approved.

**\*\* Meeting time will permanently CHANGE to 6PM**

**Kathleen Spahn** was officially appointed to the CSC Task Force. Yay.

**2024 task force:** 8 members are Chris Kennan, Matt Hartzog, Rich Stalzer, Kathy Chow, Deborah Maier, Kathleen Spahn, Andrew Stayman, Chris Virtuoso. **Advisors** include Laurie Kerr, Claire Goodman, Steve Fahmie and Lisa Erdner.

**NYSERDA's CEC program:** Great news: they upped the grant awards for 2024. Chow showed the new chart of High Impact Actions. Chow has a January 29<sup>th</sup> appointment with Lana and Liz Sun of HVRC to fill out an estimator tool of applicable HIA's for NE. Matt will join a second meeting about Millerton.

**Community Campaigns:** Andrew recommends doing a CEC Community Campaign. CSC AND CEC are both pushing to do it. Brad Tito volunteered to help – e.g. a Q+A event at the library. It's a group buy done by 5 or 10 residents. Individuals get their own accounts. Liz Sun is the NYSERDA contact.

Rich has experience. Clearly expertise is needed. A Community Campaign vendor needs to be a solar farm NOT an ESCO so not necessarily the deals we get in the mail. Village is skeptical of “too good to be true” deals (has 8 or 9 municipal accounts). Matt cautions us – he has heard CH residential billing was messed up after signing up for solar but that was for PANELS.

**Earth Day Planning** continues with Nancy Schaefer in Amenia, Chow, Chris V, Deborah, Claire Rhiannon will do something with the Amenia library.

**Social Media.** Emerald produces the Water Bill inserts. January bills DID have Water Smart tips. To do: InDow with Laurie's article. Earth Day promotion. Bulk Trash Day, collecting tires and textiles.

### MILLERTON

**Century Blvd :** Matt reported that the Village is looking for Century Blvd grants. Step 1 was to make an assessment. Chow will send Matt the Century Blvd. project excerpt from HVA's Ten Mile River Watershed Plan they are trying to fund. The Village has adopted the plan.

**Hudson Highlands** - Matt will recommend passing a Village resolution to be Included in the program (as North East and Dover did)

**Millerton Bronze:**

Anna is uploading to Dropbox. We're at 150-ish points. April 1 IS the submission plan so we can include Earth Day 2023 even if we miss some actions. **Millerton Solar** – Andrew reported that one inverter is “humming”. Required CSC signs could say “this array was designed to do...” Placement will be Jenn’s call e.g., on the fence by the Park. Matt is writing up **traffic calming**. The new **Village website** is imminent – it will need CSC AND benchmarking links. **Fleet inventory** Matt will work with Road Dept. Pete and Dave Sherman. **Brownfield Site** was deleted. It was a county gift. They removed the building but no engineering.

**Possible Actions:** Chow showed the Jan 18 chart. **Green infrastructure** is added. Kevin Hasselwander will send plans from Eddie Collins. **Outdoor lighting** was changed to LED’s. Lighting specs will come from Jeanne. **Cooling Center** – Points are available for designating certain hours at Village Hall (no improvements would be made as it’s rented). **Education and engagement** document needs board blessing. Matt will take it to the Village Board. **Biking and Walking plan** is being finalized by Chris K and Dave S. Tom Parrett will need to present to the Village. **Tree Ordinance:** Matt and Jenn will work on a Dept Env Conservation tree plan for the Village. It’s a future subject to add more trees to Millerton.

**NORTH EAST**

**New Town Hall:** PCA grant will be announced in February. Chow will look for an alternate MEP engineer. Anna asked about timeline because they’re working with the County to help. **Town Garage lighting** is way too intense. Chris will work with engineers to reduce – e.g. putting timers on lights to go on only when the gate is open. **DEC-OCC grant** Millerton approved Policies & Procedures which finishes our initial grant funded work. Chow, Rich, and Lorna will finalize paperwork. **Green Power Procurement:** Brad Tito will send Andrew the executed NE contract. (earns points for CEC) **CAC Annual Roundtable** will be February 29. Chow and Rich will attend. **CSC Website** annual maintenance will need to be paid. Chris K will look for \$. Chow will send Rich website “about” info and updates. **Road Salt:** Andrew talked to Bob. It’s a CAC subject so transferring to CAC. Mary Lynn started it.

**This is our Dropbox**

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/now1abgu97dswrhzaj92n/h?rlkey=enedfx58lkarsw767e2em9dqx&dl=0>

**Dropbox Link to Millerton Bronze Submission Folder :**

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/8d49hwm6c782cdh1srncx/h?rlkey=8p21wa1hwepbpt0burlxyhqc7&dl=0>

**Next Task Force Meeting: February 15, 2024 at 6 PM!!**



# Climate Smart Community Task Force Meeting

February 15, 2024 6:00 - 6:30, ZOOM (new time)

## MEETING Notes

**Present:** Chris Kennan, Kathy Chow, Andrew Stayman, Kathleen Spahn, Rich Stalzer

**Absent:** Deborah Maier, Matt Hartzog, Chris Virtuoso, CCEDC Guest, Anna Harrod-McGrew

**Minutes** from January 18, 2024 were approved.

Matt had given updates from the Village Board meeting. The Edu & Engagement document was accepted. Millerton is interested in doing a cooling center. Chris K is concerned about having an “attendant” when Town Hall or American Legion is used. It can be open during business. Yorktown got points. They were open as a cooling center just a couple times a year. Chris wonders how Ancram does it. It says, “open 24 hours”.

Millerton can get points for Bathhouse updates: interior lighting and low flow toilets.

Social Media – it was decided to end CS Facebook after this Earth Day and focus on Instagram. There’s not much traffic on Facebook. Rich still needs web updates from Chow. The new Millerton Website, done by Thorunn, is live and spectacular. The Tangent annual maintenance invoice will come to Chow around March 1. Chris K will “scrounge around for web \$\$”

Possible earth day encores:

1. Landscaping: Public meeting with presentation by Chazen’s Kevin Hasselwander on their impressive engineering for phase 2 of Eddie Collins.
2. Community Campaigns: Public meeting as ED encore to launch that event. Andrew suggested to Chris K to read Brad Tito’s letter. Brad sent a PPT to take the place of an in person. Brad is far away but he does have people to be a moderator. CSC isn’t confident to be able to answer questions. Andrew can ask Brad once we commit and set a date.

Chow had 2 great CEC meetings with HVRC’s Liz Sun and Lana. The Town is poised to get 10K plus 5K grants for Fleet inventory, Green Power Procurement (once we get the first bills), and the Benchmarking (when updated to current). Matt joined a second meeting about Millerton which will earn \$10K for points plus \$5K for completing 4+ actions: LED Streetlights, CSC Bronze, EV Charger, Fleet Inventory, Energy Code Training once they’re all DONE. These are no-match grants that will need to be spent on approved energy related projects. Earth Day expenses can be one of them. Reminder – the Town has 3K for “windows”. We need to allocate to specific tasks and communicate with NYSERDA.

Re: electrifying Town Hall. We haven't heard from PCA about our application for their HVAC grant. Jeanne is finding out if Engineering study counts for benchmarking study benefits.

Chris K and Dave S are trudging toward a final Biking and Walking Plan. Chris K will present it in the March Meeting for adoption. Tom will "smooth any rough edges".

The Annual Dutchess CAC roundtable is on February 29<sup>th</sup>. Rich and Chow will attend. Rich asked status of streetlights – there's no word yet.

Social Media: Indow and water calculator were last month.

Chris K has been invited to write a Millerton News Column. Each will be on a specific topic. His first about brining roads. Bob S., Cary, and Red Hook super are his road salt sources. Rich, Chow and Andrew will make a spreadsheet. Andrew has questions for Bob e.g. how many tons per run. Chris said it's complicated as it varies if he'd treat all roads / some roads. We will need to use estimates such as load sizes in trucks.

Chris talks often with the Red Hook super as they have a L3 charger in a great location and in good working order. The sign says ...Title 15. which is the same NYSERDA funding Millerton got. By contrast, the Pine Plains charger is town owned, damaged / neglected. It's free.

The meeting ended a bit early.

**This is our Dropbox**

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/now1abgu97dswrhzaj92n/h?rlkey=enedfx58lkarsw767e2em9dqx&dl=0>

**Dropbox Link to Millerton Bronze Submission Folder :**

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**Next Task Force Meeting: April 18, 2024 at 6 PM**



# Climate Smart Community Task Force Meeting

March 21, 2024 6:00 – 7:00, ZOOM

## MEETING Notes

**Present:** Chris Kennan, Chris Virtuoso, Kathy Chow, Andrew Stayman, Kathleen Spahn, Rich Stalzer. **Guest:** Anna Harrod-McGrew, CCEDC

**Absent:** Deborah Maier, Matt Hartzog,

**Minutes** from February 15, 2024 were approved.

**Bronze submissions:** Chow showed the organizing folders including actions needing work by the April 1 submission target. Kathleen will do Community GHG inventory, Chow - Waste Campaign, Claire or Chris V - Farmers market, Rich – will add website posts (especially the about page) and write it up, Chow or Kathleen - Social Media, Andrew - Waste Campaign, Chow – Green Vendor fair. Anna reviewed how to submit actions: writeups vs attachments. Anna and Chow will finalize what to upload. Anna reported that 150 points are ready to be submitted. 😊  
The goal of silver is meaningful – not many town have achieved that.

**Community GHG / CAP:** Kathleen talked through the HRVC aided process of creating strategy / goals / initiatives for reducing emissions for the community: prioritized actions based on greatest impact – engaging the broad community - with quantifiable progress along the way (timeline and specific goals). She showed pie charts of current emissions estimated based on population. We'll focus on our biggest pie pieces: transportation, residential, commercial, waste, ag. The Village has its slight differences but is a smaller portion of the total town. Millerton has more industrial, NE has more ag. HRVC's working tool shows the categories. E.g. transportation has 2 "solutions": reduction of miles and reduction of emissions. Our job is to come up with how to achieve those KPI's. Education is one option (300 people at a meeting is measurable). How many people actually join a community campaign is even more measurable. HRVC will help with estimating reductions and KPI's. Public review and comment is a component and needs to get done within the schedule for the cohort. Publicize inventory / solicit comments, also, get comments at the stage when we have a plan. (Like the RSCMP made available at the library and online.) Reference Project: the Gov't Operations CAP had a chart with prioritized actions we can control. Joint gov't / public meeting presented the draft. Tweaks were made for final version.

**Task Force CAP brainstorm:** Re. transportation: conversion to EV's is registered by town on the DMV website. Energy from several charging stations can show progress over time - including pass through transportation. Chargepoint portal (every month since dec 2022) shows how much gas was saved. Reducing miles: ridesharing (80 – 90 percent is just one person per car.) Expand NECC van as a resource. E.g. when Dover's supermarket closed there was a bus to Freshtown on a schedule. We can offer to organize green teams for businesses and districts to help them understand opportunities. School district: rooftop solar, LED lights, buses, carpooling, drop off idling... Water district: fix the pump solar, fire district - ?. To reduce transportation miles, we can

discover patterns and opportunities, especially every day repetition, to coordinate commuting. A green team could suggest ridesharing to Harney's, school, and Sharon Hospital which have set routines / shifts. Chris V. will connect with Megan at 511 Rideshare. Putting in a sewer is one action to enable attracting a grocery store which will reduce food shopping miles. We are rural so we need to customize the HRVC suburban based tool. Ag is a relevant target. Regenerative farming reduces (very bad) nitrous oxide fertilizer and sequesters carbon. Also look for projects in process that need a restart.

**Public meeting?** Do we want to have a public outreach meeting after Earth Day? Combined Village water, home efficiency, Community Campaign with Brad Tito. We need to get our ducks lined up first, then schedule it. Set expectations and market it well to get a good turnout. Content needs to be good / selling needs to be good. The 2018 Comp plan meeting had lots of attendance but that was special because there was a lot at stake. Sewer pres. was well attended too. Need a compelling spin (GHG emissions is an aside). Key will be to emphasize saving money on water, electric, gas...

Can include: solar on landfill signup. Govt incentives untangled... A community campaign needs Chris and town board to support it. It's a group buy but backed by the town. Chris is OK with "we've checked this out", tell them how to sign up. Good way for the town to help people save money (and GHG). Andrew said heads up: hurry - grant money is going away.

**Earth Day:** Chris V reviewed the plan with Amenia at their gym. Lots of last year exhibitors will attend. We'll have a suggestion box for ideas. Chris wants to nail down food to make a presence on the grass leading toward the gym. Last minute weather predictions will determine the final layout and outdoor activities. Setup starts at 10AM. All task force members will be there. Yay! NECC will have a special farmers Market that day in Millerton and MAYBE have a shuttle to Earth Day. Next year we can move Earth Day to 150 anniversary in July. PR: Chow showed the Mian Street ad. We won't have a merchant presence like the raffle last year. We want to ask local businesses to repost on THEIR social media, but Chris gave a heads up: we're promoting going to a different village. Amenia businesses are most relevant. Check with Paige and Freshtown. Have a sign across the street on 22 where cars pull out?

**Chris K updates:** CSC web invoice will be paid at next TB meeting cycle. Green energy supplier: Andrew will look at C Hudson bills which should show the discount at lower left. Landfill: AC power has made the first payments and is in line for interconnect. Moving forward! Sewer: Jeanne and T&B finished review of all parcels on the Blvd. The costs are daunting. CSTF will need to support the sewer! We'll have bronze for both town and village though Chris said no grants have come yet as a result of Bronze. CEC grants are almost ready to get. We should go to a Village Board meeting to present results. Jenn said Brian at Central Hudson is not so sure about good savings from LED streetlights. Follow up with Laurie to quantify. Bulk Trash Day: would coincide with county electronics recycling May 18 sept 14 oct 19. To be scheduled by Chris K.

**This is our Dropbox** <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/now1abgu97dswrhzaj92n/h?rlkey=enedfx58lkarsw767e2em9dqx&dl=0>

**Next Task Force Meeting: April 18, 2024 at 6 PM**



# Climate Smart Community Task Force

## April 18, 2024 6:00 – 7:00, ZOOM MEETING Notes

**Present:** Chris Kennan, Chris Virtuoso, Kathy Chow, Andrew Stayman, Kathleen Spahn, Rich Stalzer, Deborah Maier, Matt Hartzog.

**Guest:** Sarah Rigano

**Minutes** from March 21, 2024 were approved.

**Earth Day is in 2 days!** Chow showed pictures of the Amenia Town Hall gym with blue panels that can be used for display and structures for hanging. Chris talked through the inside floor plan and outdoor site plan: parking, and food vendors. Set up will start at 10. Gym will be open Friday morning 9 – 11:30 for planning. Rich will bring a computer and screen to show the new environmental mapper. Chow asked for colorful, self-explanatory props about plastics for the front Planet vs. Plastic table. Andrew will bring a water filter. Kathleen will explain NYSERDA programs. Deborah mentioned a Scoville Library display we can include about what to refuse, reuse, and refill. M News will have a suggestion box. Chow showed student art from Webutuck to hang on walls. Webutuck's LED Sign has the ED announcement. We'll have lawn signs, a sandwich sign hack, and posters for Encore Events. Chris offered to let food vendors sell drinks from the trunk of his EV Mustang. Food vendors have been reminded to have no plastic. ED photos will be posted following EDT. Deborah Library display will be a SM post. Going forward social media posts will be Instagram only though sharing on Facebook will be encouraged.

**Repair Café** will be May 4. Tom Parrett, Andrew Stayman, Deborah Maier will see Nancy Schafer at Earth Day to coordinate volunteering as fixers or hosts.

**Bulk Trash Day** will be May 18 – at old town garage. Kathleen will run a swap table with Sarah called Swap Shop or Take It or Leave It. Left over things will be put into trash. Chris and Matt will help publicize. Sarah recommended Natalia Z and "top secret folders" to publicize. Willow Roots may take home goods and clothing at the end. Tom Parrett will find a textile recycler. Tires will be recycled by Welsh. The new poster will need to be updated with new prices.

**Millerton's CSC Bronze** application was submitted 4\_3\_24 with Anna's help. Chow gave a salute. We requested over 200 points! Chow will present a summary to the Village of what was submitted at a future VB meeting. New focus will be on CEC actions as grants are awarded at achievable thresholds. Andrew submitted benchmarking to NYSERDA. TBD how that gets added to the scorecard as no notification will be coming from Liz Sun's office.

**Chris Updates:** Reconstruction of Town Hall RFP bids are due May 16, thanks to Jeanne Vanecko. Habitat will build a 3-bedroom Habitat house on Rudd Pond Road. Their new method is a modular delivered to the prepared site. He mentioned that Red Hook has high speed chargers (grant funded) and recommended the Hammond Museum Waste Not exhibit. Garage paving will be completed within a month. Sign design is to be worked on.

**Matt Updates:** Century Blvd is being planned. Eddie Collins will get energy efficient lights through a donation.

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**Next Task Force Meeting: May 16, 2024 at 6 PM**



# Climate Smart Community Task Force

## May 16, 2024 6:00 – 7:00, ZOOM MEETING Notes

**All Present:** Matt Hartzog, Rich Stalzer, Chris Virtuoso, Kathy Chow, Andrew Stayman, Kathleen Spahn, Deborah Maier, Chris Kennan

**Minutes** from April 18, 2024 were approved.

**Earth Day** - Chris V reported a good showing of vendors, press, and attendance. He thanked Nancy Schaefer, the Amenia host. Matt said it was not a problem not being in Millerton. Chow will give Rich a carousel of Earth Day pictures to update the CSC website right after Bulk Trash Day.

**Bulk Trash Day** – We’ve had lots of SM. Welsh Scott Cales approved tires and rims. This is our first time collecting textiles which will go to a collection box in Amenia. Kathleen needs people to know about the pilot swap table. We’ll have 4 dumpsters: trash, metal, A/C’s and tires go in one, one extra in case we need it. Mattresses must go in the dumpster. TF volunteers will work in 2 groups: 9 – 11AM: Kathleen, Chris V, Matt. 10 – 12: Deborah, Andrew. (No Rich). Chow, Henry & Chris K will be at both. Reminder to ask how they heard about it. Andrew will bring posters as a price list.

**Millerton bronze submission** - Chow showed a preview of the reviewer’s approvals: 127 points so we definitely got bronze :- ) ... and they’re not finished reviewing. There are potentially 53 more points. Millerton’s reviewer was much stricter (legitimately) than North East’s in 2022. E.g. Comp Plan with Sustainability Elements: for the same document NE got 21 points, Millerton earned only 12. Comments for Promote adaptation to climate change (including strategies related to land use and public education and engagement): “Strategies were short one to two lines snippets that failed to expand further on use and implementation in the municipality. No public engagement and education mentioned.” Road Stream Crossings: “appears to be largely the work of the Town of North East.” More justification of how the Village participated is needed. If we can make the case we can resubmit to get more points. TBD how to go about resubmitting. Chow will make a presentation to the Village once the results are in.

**Library exhibition about plastic reduction** - Deborah has some pictures in situ. Chow will take others and post on social media.

**PR** - Herrington’s donated for Earth Day. Half was spent on a Main Street ad. Rest will pay for a sandwich sign. Andrew building one is the best plan. Needs to accommodate swapping out a poster. 24 X 18 is standard size for Rhinebeck’s lawn sign printer.

**Repair Café in Amenia** - Deborah went to help but was not needed. Looked like a good group: caning, knife sharpener, 3 sewers.

**CEC projects ready to submit - Village:** CSC Bronze (upon notification), EV Charger, Fleet Inventory (ready), Energy Code Training (done). Village will earn \$10K for points plus \$5K for completing 4 actions. LED Streetlights will count once they’re switched on. Matt is waiting for the Public Service Commission to review the utility and the Village to bless the project before installation. **Town:** Upon completion of 1 we will qualify for a \$10K. Benchmarking – Andrew did the update to 2023 with new buildings and data. Chow uploaded benchmarking to Liz Sun’s portal link. Liz will alert NYSERDA. (No Points but qualifies for a free energy audit for

Town Hall or Garage. Green Power procurement – still waiting for the first bill to reflect savings to submit the action Fleet Inventory updated to 2023: Andrew is waiting for Bob’s report which was due by Sept 30. Tilly should have emailed him based on the “reminder” calendar. Andrew will follow up. This action is the 4<sup>th</sup> for the Town and will trigger a grant.

**Village 150<sup>th</sup> party** – Matt explained it is changed to 2026: 175 years since founding of Millerton. July 13 Community day: MBA will have sidewalk sales and concert in the park. CSC table opportunity for who we are / what we do.

Community Campaign for Heating and Cooling – Village and Town each get credit (Town also gets Village installs). Goal is 5+ installations through education and connecting with vendors, available subsidies. Kathleen and Rich are getting each getting ducted systems. Deborah will investigate mini splits because her house doesn’t have ducts. Existing heat pumps don’t count, they need to be installed after the official launch. Town and Village need to be the LEAD; to agree it’s good for the community and they want to get behind it. Kathleen will do the draft scoping document (NYSERDA’s official form). NYSERDA needs a couple weeks to approve the scoping doc prior to “official” beginning. Acceptable vendors are included from NYSERDA’s list. We’ll highlight Rycor and Malcarne’s. Planned public events will include the Village July 13 day, table at the farmers market and library event. Chris and Matt will each review to take to the Town and Village boards. Chris is envious of other towns that have more events. Matt announced the new rec director Crystal. Suggested adding the October NECC Latino Festival and July 23 Brunch. Chris thinks a table can be there and has someone to ask. That’s a good audience open to upgrading their houses. Start the conversation with Christine.

**Town hall renovation** - Chris K said sadly, the Town got only 1 bid and it was 3X the expected budget without electrification. TBD how this will work out. The HW Garage is done. Move in will begin June 1. Opening event to be announced. It needs a sign. Deborah suggested that smaller / younger companies should bid on projects like Town Hall. Discussion followed about how to advocate for BOCES to train contractor back office competence / train students to be municipal projects manager / navigate the gov’t paperwork and rules such as prevailing wage. Matt will suggest this as part of the building trades program, perhaps with the county exec / Ron Hicks. Unfortunately it won’t happen fast enough for Town Hall in 2024.

**Community CAP:** Kathleen talked about engaging businesses and school as a focus. Webutuck has opportunities. There’s an upcoming vote for 20 passenger buses, AC in the classrooms. Matt described Didi’s roundtable about buses and Webutuck is looking into logistics. The Business Officer at Webutuck is the one to talk with (also for LED street lights, solar panels, etc.).

**HW Garage and Millerton Bronze** were positive notes ended the meeting.

### **This is our Dropbox**

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**Next Task Force Meeting: June 20, 2024 at 6 PM**



# Climate Smart Community Task Force

June 20, 2024 6:00 – 7:00 PM

## ZOOM MEETING Notes

**Present:** Deborah Maier, Andrew Stayman, Chris Virtuoso, Kathleen Spahn, Kathy Chow

**Absent:** Chris Kennan, Matt Hartzog, Rich Stalzer

**Minutes** from May 16, 2024 were approved.

**Colleen Flynn** is our new M News reporter. ColleenF@millertonnews.com

**Bulk Trash Day** was actually cash positive this time as the metal was valuable and offset the transportation. The swap table was popular for dropping off but there was little interest in adopting. Most was thrown away :( Bicycles eventually got picked up. We got 11 tires and no textiles.

**Flea market / Swap:** Millerton's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary party can include a flea market. We would suggest radically cheap and/or free. Crystal, the new rec director, said we can do it this year too. Eddie Collins does good PR so we can reach a wider audience: Email blast, Village website and more TBD. Our flea market would likely be combined with another event in the fall e.g. their Ice Cream Socials. Repair café was discussed but we are unlikely to host it because others are nearby and indoors. Our support should be to direct folks to neighboring Repair Cafes.

### **Community Campaign for Heat Pumps.**

Kathleen walked through the summary that was given to the town. North East actually passed a resolution to be a "Lead" at the TB meeting. Yay! Meg Winkler said the building department already has applications in process. Installations need to happen after the official launch to count. One water heater or a single heat pump qualifies. The Village and Town get grants, but the public message is about helping residents saving money and emissions. Campaign launch will be at the July 13 Concert in the Park. We'll have a tent. After that, pop-up tables monthly at the Farmers Market, also a meeting at the Library. Whenever possible, a CCE rep be there. NECC will host a meeting and senior lunch at the library. We need TF volunteers to be at the popups. It's great exposure and visibility along with SM (including radio). Chow showed the Water Heater flyer (which needs an unfinished basement). All Task Force members need to be there on July 13 from 5 – 7PM. Herrington's donation paid for a tent.

**Climate Action Plan** is a secondary purpose for the popups as it needs public interaction – e.g. half of community emissions are transportation, so we'll solicit ideas for what to do about reducing miles. A quarter of emissions come from buildings. Heat pumps are one solution for that. We'll ask for other ideas.

**Landscaping gear transitioning to electric.** This is a good subject for our Climate Action Plan. It's not a separate "action" (State doesn't give rebates and CSC doesn't have an action) but it's a great education subject. Coordinating an exchange program was suggested - engaging local businesses. E.g. an Agway campaign to trade in 2 cycle gear for discounted electrics. It's really

for homeowners. Current technologies are not heavy duty enough for landscapers – they can't deal with battery time, strength. Easier lift to convince homeowners than pros. Consider also people powered rakes and brooms!

**Social Media for water bill.** Emerald's Insert format has become like a newsletter, and we can add content by contacting her. The last households are just being added to the system so direct metering billing hasn't started yet. July 1<sup>st</sup> is the next water bill

**Website update priority.** Heat Pump Campaign info is urgent. Every time we do a program, we should put it on the website (and social media). EG adding the Water heater flyer.

**Town Garage** has finally has vehicles and Bob has moved in. WIFI TBD. Town Hall renovations are not resolved. We were barely involved with building the Garage, but we CAN talk about what's so great about the Highway Garage. E.g. moving from the old site and the drainage system. Chris V will arrange a tour for Colleen and Chris (and Chow) to inspire an article – the whole story. Chris V. has scanned every planning and zoning file from 1968+. That deserves a story too!

**Bronze - and counting.** At the June 26 Village Board meeting Chow will review actions they got points for (159 points) and actions that were denied but can be revised (40 more points possible). All are encouraged to be there. July 5 is actual deadline to resubmit. She showed a chart of what will be discussed and what can be updated.

1. Regional Program – all set – we have a new CEC score card
2. GOCAP – needs some tricky points addressed (priority as it's worth 16 points)
3. Lighting upgrade – need records which Lisa is searching for
4. Infrastructure for Biking and Walking needs before pictures. Andrew will find some.
5. Culverts and dams – needs new writeup.
6. Tracking system need to be transposed to a new tool if Andrew agrees
7. Education and Engagement – The evening concert and table at the park concert didn't qualify as sufficiently climate related. We need another event from 2023. (The Library event was good but was included under a different action.) Andrew suggested the best one: sidewalk meeting at library annex. The public was asked for input. Other possible events discussed were: the Eddie Collins pool engineer presentation, the Tighe and Bond sewer presentation (but that was too long ago). There was no public engagement about the water or water meter system.

## Final thoughts

**Attend Village Board Meeting June 26 for Campaign Kickoff and Bronze Presentation!**

**Come to Eddie Collins 5 – 7 to man our tent.** Katheen will explain the materials we have. We will post PR in advance. Deborah suggested prompting people for questions – e.g. run around with a clipboard. We can have a suggestion box.

**This is our Dropbox**

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/now1abgu97dswrhazj92n/h?rlkey=enedfx58lkarsw767e2em9dqx&dl=0>

**Next Task Force Meeting: July 18, 2024 at 6 PM**



# Climate Smart Community Task Force

July 18, 2024 6:00 – 7:00 PM ZOOM MEETING Notes

**Present:** Rich Stalzer, Kathleen Spahn, Kathy Chow, Andrew Stayman, Chris Virtuoso, Chris Kennan, Deborah Maier **Absent:** Matt Hartzog

**Minutes** from June 20 were approved.

**Community Campaign** - Chow showed a picture of the new CSC tent, thanks to the Herrington donation from 2024, to be used at the Farmers market Community Campaign popup July 20. Kathleen will update Chow about flyer handouts for Tilly to print. Add'l events will be 3 more Farmer's Market popups, Library, NECC, and seniors. 3 contractors working in our area are anxious to join info sessions. All Task Force members need to join at least one pop-up: Dates are August 17, September 21, October 19. Final proof of installation will be from Building departments. NE BD Ann Deneen will track permits. Emerald / Lisa are interim building department for Millerton (and will track). Discussion about 19<sup>th</sup> c. radiators: Air to water temps are about 130 degrees, radiators need 140 – 180 degrees so heat pumps are unlikely to be strong enough. They WILL work for modern radiant floor (hydronic) heat. Steam radiators are unusual. 19<sup>th</sup> c. houses are also typically hard to insulate well enough for heat pump's gentle heat. Modern European radiators may be applicable in the future, but US industry isn't ready.

**Community Campaign at Eddie Collins.** The new CSC tent was at the Eddie Collins Concert, July 13 for the Community Campaign, with new sandwich sign, 7 of 8 Task Force members and Fernando Ahumada, energy advisor, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Orange County. The Bronze Plaque was presented to the Mayor. CSC sent out a press release July 14. Newspaper coverage followed July 18.

**Community CAP** - The NE emissions pie includes Millerton. Our goal is to engage with people about our #1 emission source: transportation and #2 buildings. Commercial / business is also a target. Landfill is #3. Chris K will get the new CPL 3-year report. Chow will follow up about Eleanor's HV biofilter grant application.

**Survey** - We'll have a new survey to be ready for the Aug 17 pop-up. Focus on Transportation and Houses. Get THEIR thoughts about how to reduce. What could be done to cut down emissions in transportation, buildings (eg heat pumps). First, we need to know WHAT to reduce. Where do your miles come from? Tell us what you're doing. We'll make recommendations. CAP needs a path to quantifiable emissions reduction goals but that's not possible for many initiatives. Chris K said state wants to know that we've engaged / started the conversation so e.g. saying 100 people came to a meeting is the "data". Chris K has started getting text questionnaires of about 3 questions which is more likely to succeed than our previous 20 question) format. The survey can be multiple choice rather than open ended. Ask "do you live in Millerton, town, other. We can start with 3 questions about where miles and house energy comes from, then add a MORE button for add'l questions. Survey needs to be done through many avenues: digital link, email and text, as well as in person e.g. at the farmer's market. Chris K said current communication is evolving toward text. He will be getting phone numbers for Town emergencies. TBD if that is effective / appropriate for this use.

**Recruiting new CSC members** – It's challenging to get follow-through beyond putting a hand up. Younger families are tough to engage. Most who actually do get involved aren't working. The questionnaire is an easy way in, e.g. at Farmers Market popups. Send it through the school. Deborah will contact Webutuck teachers as school starts and students commit to community service.

**Electric Landscaping Gear** - Discussion about gear for residents (it's not realistic for landscaping companies). TBD if there are incentives. Rich noted a 2025 / 2026 proposal to ban gas powered gear (with an exception for commercial models) but it did not pass. There's not a town noise ordinance – it too was voted down. Maybe the Village has one. Jenn would know. Andrew said Agway Dave told him reps don't generally come anymore. If they do, he'll ask about gas to electric incentivized trade ins. Dave mentioned that a Pine Plains lady replaced all her gear. We could ask her about her experience .

**Social Media** - Chow sent Deborah pdfs of the Library Reuse display to write a social media post. She'll also do posts about bringing left overs containers to restaurants and for take-out. She likes the classic metal Asian containers.

**Earth Day 2025:** Changing our approach! Consensus is that the festival result doesn't justify the effort. Ideas: tree planting. Years ago, Marty Marconic planted trees on John Street with some school kids. It got great PR. We could organize landscaping at Eddie Collins or new Town Hall. Also have a Farmers Market presence. Continue the heat pump campaign as folks are thinking about A/C for the summer. Help the school do plastic free lunches. Encore events. (FYI 2025 Earth Day is a Tuesday.)

**Millerton Bronze** - application was resubmitted for a potential of earning 38 additional points. The 16-point Gov't Operations CAP credit had been denied because reduction targets were combined with the town. Hopefully the new explanation will reverse their decision.

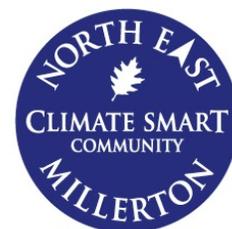
**NYSERDA CEC** actions for Millerton were submitted: CSC Bronze, EV Charger, Fleet Inventory putting the Village over the threshold of a 4<sup>th</sup> high impact action and 1000 points. The Village can expect \$15K. For the Town, Central Hudson bills DO now show savings and can be submitted. CEC toolkit has an official form. FYI CEC money comes immediately from NYSERDA electric fees whereas CSC money is a different process. It comes through earning scoring points on grants. So far, no results. CEC grant money needs to be used for energy related things e.g. inverter!

**Closing Thoughts** - Chris talked about the New Town Garage open house next Thursday for boards and committees. County and State officials should be aware that both Millerton and North East are now Bronze. CEC points are the next push. CSC Silver is a stretch. The Village is closer. NE Town Hall solar & biofilters will help.

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**Next Task Force Meeting: August 15, 2024 at 6 PM**



# Climate Smart Community Task Force

August 15, 2024 6:00 – 7:00 PM ZOOM MEETING Notes

**Present:** Kathleen Spahn, Andrew Stayman, Chris Kennan, Chris Virtuoso, Rich Stalzer, Kathy Chow. **Absent:** Matt Hartzog, Deborah Maier

**Minutes** from July 18, 2024 Meeting were approved

## Community Campaign – Heating and Cooling

Kathleen will be at each event with task force volunteers. Farmers market pop up dates are Aug. 17 (Chris Kennan volunteered to be there from 12 – 2 + at community table). Sept. 21 (Chris V. 10 - 12, Chow 10 – 2). Oct. 19: Chow and Rich 10 - 12, Andrew, 12 – 2)

**Chris K announced the Highway Garage Sept 14 open house** for public. Colleen will write a story about how great the garage is for the M News. Town Hall has further delays before it can start the renovation process.

## HVRC Biofilter Grant approved

Eleanor Peck has announced that HVRC was awarded funding for the [Landfill Mitigation Project as part of the EPA's CPRG Grant!](#) They got the only the only awarded project in NY and the EPA received over \$30 billion in applications for just over \$4 billion in funding. We are the pilot program. Amenia, Beacon, Bethel, Cornwall, Gardiner, Hurley, New Paltz , North East, Philipstown, Rhinebeck, Wallkill, Woodstock, Mamaroneck all have landfills that will get biofilters based on our model. Co-locate solar with biofilters.

## Community Climate Action Plan - Kathleen

Draft Survey by Kathleen and Chow was reviewed along with the previous CSC survey. Decision was to simplify intro and focus on saving money rather than emissions. Separate sections for residential and commercial. It will be structured / designed for Rich to use on the google template. The CEC action requires public engagement. We won't be collecting data. Questions are ticklers to get people to start thinking about their own situation and resources to start. Rhinebeck did it differently: "Tell us your ideas..." We'll work on a different type of survey: Stimulate people's ideas for how they can reduce their miles and improve home efficiency. Pie charts are to show priorities – e.g. heat and transportation outweigh smaller efforts. "What's in it for me" is about saving money. Questions can be like "have you ever insulated your attic, upgraded your heating system? Are any of these things applicable to your house, then have the resources. What can CSC do for me? The goal is to raise awareness, offer education, provide resources is our service to the community. EG lead question: Are you interested in save money on energy? For bigger businesses we'll just have direct conversations. Talk with farmers and big businesses directly: Harney, Irving Farm, Arnoff, NE Ford, McEnroe, Herrington's, Lo Nan Farm, Julie Schroeder, Webutuck, Police dept, Highway Depts. Construction companies – Jenn.

**Assessor Katherine Johnson** provided a list of 1900 addresses of owners (now renters), 300 commercial. Businesses, Farms. Reminder to ask Thorunn, M News, MBA. We can do a mass mailing. Aimed at building owners. The Webutuck contact is Lauren Marquis

**Town CEC Action** – Green Energy, Village Scorecard!

**Earth Day 2025:** ED type celebration in September. Columbia County and HRVC. Timeframe for climate IPCC (Int'l Climate Council)? Real Earth Day events will be Library, Moviehouse, Community

**CEC High Impact Action for electric Landscaping Equipment:** 200 points. “Landscaping Equipment for municipal operations is a significant contributor to operational GHG emissions, noise, and other pollutants”. Total MTCO<sub>2e</sub> Saved per year (must be >5 MTCO<sub>2e</sub>). EG we’d need to convert 400 hours of zero-turn mowing to electric. Chow showed the GHG Calculator. Fun interactive comparisons <https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gases-equivalencies-calculator-calculations-and-references> <https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator#results>

**Good news Hannah Ritchie climate change videos** are recommended by Andrew. They’re about data-informed progress going forward e.g. dropping birth Rates. (Though it doesn’t fix the existing CO<sub>2</sub>.)

**Big Think** - What the news won't tell you about climate change | Hannah Ritchie, PhD  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3XNQFqUwCnU>

**TED** - Are We the Last Generation — or the First Sustainable One? | Hannah Ritchie  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kl3VVrggKz4>

**Big Think**- The overpopulation myth, debunked by a data scientist | Hannah Ritchie  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xrbyl-CuZe4>

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**Next Task Force Meeting: September 19, 2024 at 6 PM**

# Climate Smart Community Task Force

Sept 19, 2024 Meeting at PCA's Mixer

## MEETING Notes



**Present:** Kathy Chow, Kathleen Spahn, Steve Fahmie, Andrew Stayman, Chris Virtuoso, Chris Kennan, Deborah Maier

**Absent:** Matt Hartzog, Rich Stalzer

**Minutes** from August 25, 2024 were approved.

**Community Campaign – Heating & Cooling** – The next pop-up will be on Saturday 10/19 at the Farmers Market. The first information meeting was held at the Seniors Lunch at the library annex last Thursday. Presented by Mike Murphy and Rocio Sharrock, Energy Advisors from Mid-Hudson Clean Energy Hub (Cornell), the focus was on resources available to assist in making homes more weather-tight and comfortable to save money and reduce emissions. The larger community meeting will be held at the Annex on Sat., 10/26 at 3 PM. Asking everyone to send out invitations to their own contacts as a way to get the word out to a wider audience. Chow will make a graphic that can be included. Paul Bengtson met with Mike and Rocio after the presentation to discuss how/when to have a similar event with NECC in Spanish, hopefully to be recorded for clients to view when they are able.

**Community Climate Action Plan** – We had a side conversation with Martha Schultz (Dutchess County Council on Aging) and Paul Bengtson of NECC after the senior lunch. Chow asked what their top priorities were to try to reduce their transportation footprint. First was the presence of a supermarket in town, second was to have increased ability to provide group transportation for clientele. NECC finds their capacity is increasingly dominated by clients needing to get to Poughkeepsie for medical appointments – which means almost no capacity left to bring seniors to events hosted by the Council on Aging in other areas. Considered innovative ideas such as a local urgent care center, health facility where different specialists spend rotating days, a Town Nurse Practitioner who could serve as a local support and preventive care professional. Chow summarized the CAP zoom call that we attended with Melanie Petapis's original cohort from last year. Key take-aways: the importance of focusing on things we can quantify; avoid trying to “do all the things” and becoming overwhelmed; rather than polling individuals, speak with leaders, organizations, agencies who are representative of the community. Discussion of “Who should we connect with???” for that...Chris V – Landlords, (business buildings); Chris K – Larger businesses (Harney's, Irving, McEnroe, fire dept, American Legion), multi-family landlords; Deborah – Webutuck; Steve – Farmers, Silamar; Andrew – Fleet owners; Food - ???. Steve suggested we try to identify a group of owners interested in solar and organize a group audit/review in order to get a group proposal on solutions. The overall approach in these contacts will be to ask what they have already done, what are their goals, and what can we do that will help them achieve their goals. Chris V suggested we develop a general info sheet or email template that can be used as a conversation starter that describes who we are and some of our accomplishments.

**HVRC Biofilter Grant & process** – Chow announced the EPA biofilter grant has been approved and can begin moving forward. Background: Laurie Kerr first mentioned adding the landfill to the Municipal GHG study which generated recommendations from First Environmental for the installation of biofilters. Chow and Andrew gave presentations to Mary Lambert at HVRC and her cohort of towns with similar landfills which eventually resulted in the HVRC application for the \$3 million grant that includes 13 other small municipalities.

Chris K Summary: At 93%, the town landfill is our biggest emitter by far. Our methane is going down slowly, too slowly to flare. Steve found a company that uses mulch/compost that mitigates the methane by converting it to CO<sub>2</sub>. HVRC brought together 14 towns to look for a major grant and came up with this pilot program. The money is a federal EPA grant and the announcement event (9/13) brought EPA Regional Director Lisa Garcia to the area along with the Hudson Valley Regional Council's Carla Castillo. It will be at least a year before plans are in place and the grant comes through. If successful, this pilot can be replicated throughout the region/state in future.

<https://westchester.news12.com/methane-eating-mulch-to-cut-emissions-at-14-old-underground-landfills-in>  
<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-highlights-3-million-community-driven-solutions-cut-climate-pollution-across>

Chris was interviewed at the Sept 13 press event. <https://www.facebook.com/reel/920408086655306>

Steve mentioned that reporters had asked how this helps locally, and he pointed out that the reduction of methane has a documented hyper-local co-benefit of reducing ground-level ozone which is known to have negative health impacts. Still to be determined as part of the pilot, is exactly how to measure the effectiveness of this innovative process. Landfills 'breathe' resulting in fluctuating emissions. Any measurements will have to be conducted over a long period of time – one possible method is the use of infra-red sensors. The best mitigation is to facilitate composting instead of ever using landfills (e.g. McEnroe's).

Chow made a pitch to Ryan Corbett of HVRC about applying for a wastewater grant from the EPA. He will look into our needs so he can write them into his grant proposal. To be followed up with Carla Castillo.

**CEC** – The Village has earned grants for \$5,000 and \$10,000 which need to be allocated by Dec.1. Next step is discussion with Jenn. Suggestions are: 1. LED Streetlight conversion - pay down the loan 2. Solar panel fixit - use it to pay for a feasibility study including cost/benefit analysis 3. Energy upgrades for the Water Department building - note this energy study requirement from the application 4. Designing a solar pool heater for Eddie Collins

**Webutuck clean-up** coming Up November 9 – Claire Wegh with HVA will be holding a stream clean-up where the Webutuck & Kelsey Brook connect (partnering with Trout Unlimited). They are looking for volunteers on the day and that we help publicize with our social media.

**Partners for Climate Action** <https://www.climateactionhv.org/about1> sponsored the Climate Smart networking event at Kingston's Hutton Brickyards and gave speeches about their work including "Pollinate Hudson Valley" <https://www.pollinatehv.org/place-plants-pollinators>.

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**Next Task Force Meeting: October 17, 2024 at 6 PM. ZOOM**

# Climate Smart Community Task Force

Oct. 17, 2024 6:00 – 7:00 PM ZOOM MEETING Notes



**Present:** Kathy Chow, Kathleen Spahn, Rich Stalzer, Chris Virtuoso, Deborah Maier

**Absent:** Matt Hartzog, Andrew Stayman, Chris Kennan, Steve Fahmie

**Minutes** from Sept 19, 2024 were approved.

## Next steps

- \*Chow to check with Daisy Hill for pumpkin smash conflicts with our McEnroe's event.
- \*Kathleen to finalize logistics for the October 26th community meeting, including seating arrangements and vendor tables.
- \*Deborah to follow up with neighbors on Simmons Street about their heat pump installation and gather details for the task force's records.
- \*Deborah to get a digital copy of the plastics visuals to print.
- \*Deborah to inquire about Irving Farm participating in the Oct 26 Heat Pump meeting
- \*Chow and Chris K meet with Liz Sun re: CEC grant money.

## Summary

### Pumpkin Smash Event Planning

This replaces the HVA cleanup as the trash that Claire had found has disappeared. The event was initially suggested by McEnroe. McEnroe's farm stand on 22 would host the event on November 9th (rain date Nov 10th) with plans for food trucks, PR, and a front-end loader to scoop up the smashed pumpkins. Chow showed various references to smash pumpkins including using spikes on targets, hay bales, and a catapult. She suggested reaching out to local farms to donate unsold pumpkins. Chris suggested checking with Daisy Hill to ensure they weren't planning a similar event on the same day. Ideally, the pumpkins could be fed to pigs...or composted.

### Compost Grant Discussion and Implementation

Chow described a visit with Andrew and Chris K to McEnroe where they discussed a grant available from Dutchess County, which could be used to set up a drop-off compost operation. She proposed coordinating with the farmers market to collect compost and then transporting it to McEnroe's, who already have a drop-off at their farm stand. The challenge is getting the compost from the farmers market to McEnroe. Chow and Rich will discuss this with Jenn the next day, considering solutions such as buying a lift gate for a truck / providing compost bins for people to take home, etc. Deborah suggested neighborhood composting, but Rich clarified that the grant would only support a municipal program. He suggested setting goals and metrics for the grant.

## **Heat Pumps**

The next Popup will be at the farmers market, Saturday Oct 19. Kathleen, Chow, and Deborah will man the tent. Chow encouraged everyone to share the Heat Pump Community Meeting on October 26th widely. Kathleen discussed the logistics including the setup and seating arrangements. The Senior Lunch meeting was a "dry run". Chow will bring cookies. Deborah proposed the idea of having a coffee pop-up from Irving Farm, which aligns with their sustainability goals. Bill and Melinda McKnight will attend. Their company specializes in evaluating buildings and providing recommendations for making them comfortable and weather tight. Rich said the McKnight company is also involved in construction and aspects of house maintenance. Kathleen said that local HVAC installer, Kingston Hot Water Systems, will attend the meeting and could provide solutions for ductless, ducted and geothermal installations. The first heat pump application has been received by the building department. :-) Rich suggested that we know the official procedures for installing a heat pump and have samples of the application process. Deborah reported a couple at 52 Simmons Street put in a heat pump, which would have required a permit. Chow inquired about the progress of Kathleen's and Rich's heat pump projects. Kathleen will only get the insulation prep work done this year, and possibly a heat pump water heater, with the heating installation possibly next year. Rich will be starting insulation in a week. Re: sustainable insulation materials: Rich will use paper-based insulation. Kathleen said she installed new windows during her renovation. Deborah said a neighbor had recently installed solar panels, but Chow clarified that this wouldn't be eligible for credit unless a campaign had been officially launched.

## **Webutuck**

Chow, Kathleen, and Deborah had a conversation with Lauren Marquis from Webutuck, focusing on the challenges of engaging their diverse student population. Lauren noted that 25% of their students don't speak English as a first language (22% are from Guatemala with Quechua as their native tongue, then Spanish), 25% are special needs students, and 65% live below the poverty line. There is more optimism about the school's facilities. Lauren will introduce us to Business Administrator: Robert Farrier. The school's art teachers can collaborate for Earth Day as in past years. Deborah discussed using visuals, such as the plastic waste training she had conducted, to provoke discussions in schools. She mentioned a student who founded a club with classmates, who were interested in the topic. Lauren has regular meetings with staff and department heads to present ideas. Materials can be introduced through her.

## **Clean Energy Communities**

We have a grants for the village and town from CEC of 10K each plus an additional 5K for the village. We need to allocate where the money goes. For the village it's December 1<sup>st</sup> and for the Town it's January 1<sup>st</sup>. For the town there's not a lot on their list that we can do with it so we were considering exterior lighting for New Town Hall (those lights have not been updated to LED's) but doubtful it will qualify without having an energy audit, and the

building has not been ours for 2 years, so we couldn't benchmark it. We could put an EV Charger at New Town Hall. If 10 K isn't enough, we could at least put in the electrical infrastructure. So that's a possibility. The 3rd option is electric landscaping. Bob Stevens said he wants another chainsaw and a blower. That gear would probably add up to between 2 and 3K so we can do those 2 projects. Chris K and I need to check in with Liz to discuss.

### **Solar Array and Energy Audit**

Big progress in fixing the Millerton solar array: Steve found a supplier! The cost of fixing the panels was around \$20,000(??). \$15,000 from the 2 NYSERDA CEC grants could potentially be used for this purpose. A FREE NYSERDA energy audit of the building housing the water department is planned which will assess energy consumption, insulation, air leakage, and suggest improvements. The grant money can also be used towards those upgrades. Steve also wants to install solar panels on the highway garage and recommends REC Alpha Pure Black Series - 410w. through REC Certified Solar Pros (who could also fix the Millerton solar array). Steve also recommends engineers McKnight from experience

**Community Climate Action Plan** will highlight our local businesses' sustainability actions. Irving Farm's "bring your own coffee cup to get a discount" is a prime example.

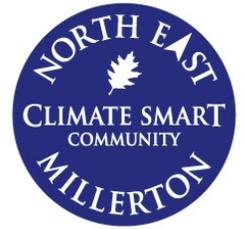
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**Next Task Force Meeting: November 21, 2024 at 6 PM. ZOOM**

# Climate Smart Community Task Force

Nov. 21, 2024 6:00 – 7:00 PM ZOOM MEETING Notes



**Present:** Kathy Chow, Kathleen Spahn, Rich Stalzer, Deborah Maier, Steve Fahmie  
Matt Hartzog, Andrew Stayman, Chris Kennan **Absent:** Chris Virtuoso  
**Minutes** from Oct. 17, 2024 were approved.

## Next steps

Chow / Chris follow up on EV Charger Make Ready through Turtle  
Steve / Andrew / Chow / Matt site visit and contract for Village HW Garage  
Chow follow up with Liz Sun Re: village assessment  
Co\how introduce Merry Kane Re: the Copake solar project

## Summary

**Election Impact:** are state funds solid? Chris said that Federal IRA funds are already in the pipeline and should be safe.

**CEC's NYSERDA** grant money for this round is running out. We hurried and submitted for Town and Village grants Nov. 20.

**Village** applications were for 5K and 10K for building upgrades to the water building. We'll also get a free energy audit – application still to be made. The NYSERDA engineer L&S kickoff site visit is next. Andrew and Steve will be included. Their subsequent report will recommend upgrades. Village will do upgrades based on those recommendations. Liz Sun explained that if some details of the work change, but the intent stays the same, grant revision is not necessary. The 10K can't be used for inverter fixit but the 5K can if we choose.

Steve explained the cost benefit analysis he prepared (avoided costs for Central Hudson compared to installation of new inverters costs). The payback is between 11 months and a few year's depending on if the 5K is applied to the cost and if we get the 30% "refundable tax credit" which mimic tax credits for non-taxable gov't entities. Costs are 16 – 26K depending on vendor and monitoring options. Steve highly recommends doing the fix BUT Andrew and Chris explained that the Village simply doesn't have money to invest in the upfront costs and - importantly – the bandwidth. Matt said the Village backhoe has died and the truck for yard waste is broken. Both need replacement so that's the priority. Chris mentioned private gifts e.g. Stanfordville's 2 million gift for three years of ambulance service or passing the hat - but the 10K+ fixit is too much. Bottom line is the solar fixit is on hold again.

**North East's** 10K grant will be for an EV Charger at New Town Hall. Still TBD are where it would go. Turtle's (ChargePoint) estimate (with 1 day turnaround!) names Woodhollow Construction as the installer. One of those companies will initiate the (free to us) NYSERDA Make Ready process which will assess the site / panels / electrical existing & needed, etc., help figure out the location and logistics and prepare the site for the charger. Turtle recommends the Level II Dual Port CP6000-DS-Commercial Charger for \$13,460 including software and 5 years of service / warranty. Blink also submitted a proposal for \$15,261. The grant timeline is over a year.

**New Town Hall** mold mitigation will be complete in 2 weeks then an RFP can be issued for renovation. Estimate of completion is by 2025 year's end. Add-on projects like rooftop solar will wait because of Town overload. The original DEC-OCC Grant reimbursement is still pending and on the front burner.

**Heat Pump Community Campaign** Farmers Market Pop Up was October 19. The Library Annex Meeting was October 26 and attracted 20 attendees. 80% of the time was spent in Q&A by Mike Murphy of CCEDC and McKnight engineers who can evaluate and recommend systems and steps. The big obstacle for most residents is insulation. Primary messages going forward should be about sealing and insulation with a bonus end game of the possibility of a heat pump. Matt sent around a proposal for legislation that would earmark \$200 Million in the NYS Budget for helping Low to Moderate income households to apply for grants to ready a structure for pre-electrification - a green affordable pre-electrification program (GAP Program). TBD if it passes.

**Landfill Biofilter Project** is moving forward through the HVRC grant, now at the planning stage. HRVC is investigating methods for measuring emissions. The team will schedule a site visit, we gave them lots of material already. Optimistic timeline is 2026 for installation though possibly co-locating solar makes the project more complicated. Chris doesn't have an update yet on solar interconnect from A/C Power. Steve will make the connections with HRVC and A/C for co-locating discussions. Chris wants to generate local support; with broad neighborhood messaging emphasizing it as a multiple solutions demo site with pollinator plantings, resident advantages, and money to the town. Chris and Chow held a neighbor meeting 2 years ago with lots of positive comments. Matt mentioned the Copake Hecate project's town involvement. Chow will intro Merry Kane and their strategy doc. NY State can overrule local zoning at the Copake site whereas ours is different.

**Pumpkin Smash** was great. 800 – 1000 views on social media! 20 people attended – mostly young families – who chucked pumpkins (their own and McEnroe's that Olivia got from Big Rock) onto sticks planted in the ground. Learnings for next year: more visibility from the street and investigate doing it at Eddie Collins. Schedule it a week later so people are ready to get rid of them (and the pumpkins are softer). Andrew will build a trebuchet with Henry to launch them.

**Food scraps** grant application is on hold till next year. Hopefully a 2025 grant will include transportation. Restaurants like Willa throw away lot and Elenna told Andrew YES to separating trash, but they can't pay to take it away. Steve suggested understanding Welsh savings as incentive. Do they pay by container? What would a reduction in containers save? Avoided cost might cover some cost of trouble or transport to an Eddie Collins drop off. The grant WOULD pay for equipment and a shed container. All TBD. The new grocery store will also generate lots of food scraps. That site might be considered too. Chris reminded us to be respectful of a business's issues and avoid being pushy – just offer to HELP.

**Supermarket** – Ray Nelson is preparing plans for a new look. Pre-existing conditions don't need reviews – just for parking lot and landscaping design. The manager guessed late March to open.

**Habitat House** was installed on Nov. 6. The septic system was a big fiberglass tank piped to a D Box and tight leach field of gravel beds covered by plastic “roofs”. Move in is scheduled by year end.

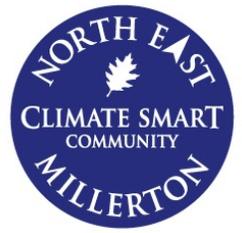
**Earth Day events:** Movies: Chow suggested Wilding, Isabella Tree's experiment rewilding open land over 50 / 100 years using herbivores. Deborah suggested Plastic People in partnership with the Library. Projects: Julie Hart of DLC and partners CLC and Rock Steady are planning a discussion (at the Moviehouse?) bridging the gap between farmers and non-operating landowners.

**Social Media** Deborah suggested posts to reduce single use plastics and with local level action e.g. restaurant posters suggesting NOT to take unneeded utensils / packets / etc. Scoville Library has a “techno waste” box but it's for small things like cords - it's not actual “electronics” recycling. There's also (limited) plastic film recycling at the Copake Library up 22.

### **This is our Dropbox**

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/now1abgu97dswrhzaj92n/h?rlkey=enedfx58lkarsw767e2em9dqx&dl=0>

**Next Task Force Meeting: December 9 21, 2024 at 6 PM. HOPEFULLY IN PERSON**



# Climate Smart Community Task Force

Dec. 19, 2024 6:00 – 7:00 PM IN PERSON MEETING Notes

**Present:** Kathy Chow, Kathleen Spahn, Chris Virtuoso, Deborah Maier, Steve Fahmie, Andrew Stayman, Chris Kennan

**Absent:** Rich Stalzer, Matt Hartzog

**Minutes** from Nov. 21, 2024 were approved.

## Next steps

Chris K reappoint Task Force members for 2025

Confirm Turtle for the EV charger, Woodhollow Construction as the installer

Initiate NYSEERDA's Make Ready with Turtle and / or Liz Sun

Chris, Andrew, Steve, Chow review landfill archives / update HRVC inc. solar issue

Review Policies and Procedures assessment

Deborah follow up with the Webutuck student to post plastics posters.

Kathleen follow up with Sue Bangs and Leslie Farhangie about heat pumps

Steve & Chris discuss a power purchase agreement to fix the solar panels

## Summary

**2025** Chris K will reappoint the Task Force members for 2025. Chow reviewed the Task Force Expectations. All present agreed to continue – with Chris's thanks. Chow will ask Rich and Matt.

**Original CSC matching grant** has finally been approved for reimbursement. It's been 4 years in the making. Administering it has been a pain and state administrators have switched several times, changing the process. HVA matched 29K. Task force volunteers (at a \$10+/hr. rate) counted towards our match. Laurie had a modest pro rate.

It covered three projects. Reminder to review Policies and Procedures assessment that HVA helped with.

**CEC Village HW building** 5 + 10K grants. Matt Arishon from L&S Energy Services made a site visit December 17. Matt's report will suggest tasks including estimated costs and emissions savings. The village can choose from his recommendations. He will recommend adding garage openers and sealing garage doors. Solar panels help reduce the electric needed to pump up to the water tower, but they are excluded from the eligible grant funded fixits. Steve reported that fixing the array could have as little as a 2-year payback. He has gotten quotes. The village won't borrow money for it (LED lights were financed with an arduous loan). If we have a turnkey solution where admin would be provided, we can propose it once they have more bandwidth, perhaps this summer. Steve generously offered to prepare a simple power purchase agreement. Steve's company, Solevis, would finance it and be paid a monthly amount equivalent to the electric savings until the cost of repairs is covered plus 10%. Chris and Steve will work to

propose it to the Village. Somebody from the Village would still need to do the paperwork for tax incentives. Jenn already sees significant savings and the EV charger produces revenue so she might be supportive. Chow and Andrew had a (pending) contract call with our NYSERDA project manager. Notes: Pete wants GFCI outlets for safety. Steve says there is probably an efficient way to group them. Andrew described the new tech Perovskite (not silicon) panels which are more efficient because they capture more spectrum. One of 2 Village wells is inside the building. The well pump is 30 feet deep and taps into the aquifer. The watershed (to the north) is big. Pete is well versed, and the Village brings in an independent water quality tester annually.

**CEC North East EV Charger.** 10K grant (received). Andrew reviewed the Turtle Charge Point and the Blink proposals and recommends Charge Point. Chris K finds their chargers to be reliable. Turtle recommends a machine that's a faster L2 than the Village charger. NYSERDA's Make Ready will assess the needed infrastructure and pay for it. Andrew explained the power pole with the transformer is the one south of the building which will need to be trenched. Liz Sun/Turtle will help. Confirming Turtle is next step. Notes: Ford pulled the plug on the chargers at NE Ford. Village's Rail Trail parking lot is a great place for the next EV Charger. County has lost interest in Rudd Pond Road's Rail Trail Parking.

**Landfill**— Chris really wants to do the AC Power solar installation. Under their exclusive contract we already get \$1250 / quarter BUT the deal is dead for now. Central Hudson's notification indicated the wires have almost no uptake capacity. Steve showed March 2023 capacity map with nearby 5 mw lines and the current map showing all lines now changed to near zero capacity. The question is WHY / what's going on?. Chris wants to bird-dog the reason. Steve said there can be many explanations. E.g. if solar development is approved upstream, the capacity map might be updated to reflect only the capacity remaining. Ownership of the grid (there are 4 grids in the country) is by opaque consortiums. Our distribution grid is owned by Cen Hud. Buried in AC's note from Central Hudson is mention of the lower capacity as opposed to needing to upgrade the sub-station (\$\$\$). HRVC can dig into this. They'll be interested. Chris, Andrew, Steve, Chow will see what's in the basement town archives about the landfill to collect relevant info to pass onto HRVC. Chris noted many towns don't know what is in their landfills. K&E was a Millerton company that disposed of photo chemicals east of Arnoff (an old cleaned up site). Chris wants to know what's there and if it's dangerous especially as it's adjacent to wetlands. The neighbor required Town testing of their well long ago, which passed. The landfill is downstream from the village so any issues would likely appear in Amenia. Steve has added landfill solar exploration to the HRVC project scope. Chris will do an article about "What to do with a landfill?" E.g. 3 things solar, plantings, biofilters. Mary Lambert will have good input. She works for Elenor Peck.

**Food Markets.** Tri corner Feeds, buying the Old Hathaway building, had a small scale NECC grocery popup during the summer with sliding scale prices. It was a grant funded test run. Producers got their regular price and liked it because they didn't need retail staff. The new supermarket will open in the orig. footprint with all new coolers. Owning the building changes the finances compared to the previous failure. Owner Chris Cho plans to build greenhouses and grow produce and flowers for the store (he owns a farm in Canaan). Notes: Riley's space will become a housewares store. In the future, all the little adjacent parcels will be connected, and

the planning board has reduced the number of required parking places. The McDonalds will become a farm to table fast food restaurant from 2 guys who bought a house in the village. The old New Yorker Restaurant, across from NE Ford, is owned by the Metz daughters with plans TBD (might be affordable housing). Mana Dew will open (a café?) with a back terrace and has an upstairs residence.

**Sewer update:** its fate will depend on politics. The Senate promised \$3 Million – next it goes to the republican house. Chris will give an update.

**Upcoming grant:** Partners for Climate Action will offer to partner on a Community Conversations process. Jason Angell moderates community meetings for how to prep a town to get things done / to get input for subjects like comp plans. The process invites 3-minute pitches from the community to say what they want gov't to do. He collects the ideas, holds a vote, and presents to the town what the residents want. The grant will be competitive like the New Town Hall electrification grant. This could be a good input for our zoning update.

**Heat & cool campaign.** 3 applications are in the building department. Candidate Sue Bangs, Stacey Moore's tenant, hasn't replied. Leslie Farhangie asked about heat pumps. Kathleen will follow-up.

**Earth Day 2025.** Deborah had recommended Plastic People. Though it is gloom and doom it prompts people to question what should be. Chris K. prefers "what are the solutions?". Notes: Post about Refillery in Pine Plains. NY Focus is a news group of 13 reporters in Albany which is badly opaque due to lack of reporters.

**Social Media** Webutuck can post Plastics posters if we give them to them. Deborah will FU with the student to post them.

### **This is our Dropbox**

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/now1abgu97dswrhzaj92n/h?rlkey=enedfx58lkarsw767e2em9dqx&dl=0>

**Next Task Force Meeting: January 16, 2025 at 6 PM. ZOOM**

### **Earth Day ideas 2025:**

- Wilding, Isabella Tree's experiment rewilding open land using herbivores.
- Plastic People in partnership with the Library.
- Julie Hart, DLC, CLC, Rock Steady Moviehouse discussion bridging the gap between farmers and non-operating landowners.
- Tree Planting
- Eddie Collins Flea Market