

Monroe County Climate Action Plan Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Monroe County Fleet Center / Zoom
June 5, 2023 (3:30 – 5:00 p.m.)
Drafted: June 14, 2023
Approved: July 10, 2023

Members: Matthew O'Connor, Michael Yudelson, Akilah Skerrette-Banister, John Botelho, Sean Delehanty, Mike Garland, Richard Milne, Anna Yatteau, Lola DeAscentiis

Absent: Alden Smith

Staff: Clement Chung, Madison Quinn, Pat Gooch

Guests: Molly Gaudioso and Tom Robinson (from Bergmann); Loretta Morrell, Federation of Monroe County Environmentalists; Claire Louise Herrman

Attending via Zoom: Kate Walker, Josh Bartlett (Anchor QEA)

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

Meeting called to order at 3:40 P.M. by Co-Chair O'Connor.

Approval of Minutes (Co-Chair Yudelson):

Motion by Matthew O'Connor to approve minutes from May 4, 2023 meeting; seconded by Sean Delehanty. The motion passed unanimously.

Legislative Update (Legislators Yudelson, Delehanty and Milne):

No report.

Climate Action Plan Phase II Update (Presentations by Molly Gaudioso (Bergmann) and Josh Bartlett (Anchor QEA), followed by discussion):

1. Public Engagement Updates

• **Ideas Wall**

- Sent notice closing out Ideas Wall, but will keep open on back end.
- 1741 site visits from 614 users (82 unique stakeholders), 195 comments submitted.
- Transportation most commented sector, followed by development and land use. Green space was of particular interest, possibly due to increased public awareness during No Mow May.
- Comments being tracked and categorized for action.

• **Popups**

- Popups tracked in Google Doc. Committee members encouraged to attend to review level of engagement and build confidence for future tabling events. Members can edit directly when they can assist with outreach or have other events to add.
- Bergmann can produce hardcopy materials as necessary.
- Recent events:
 - Reconnect Rochester's Bike to Work Pit Stops (Pat Gooch, Tom Robinson)
- Future events:
 - June 10: Rochester Public Market (Pat Gooch/Planning)
 - June 11: Brighton Eco-Fair (Lola DeAscentiis, Anna Yatteau)
 - June 17: Juneteenth Festival (Bergmann)
 - July 14: Zoo Brew (Pat Gooch, Madison Quinn)
 - TBD: RMSC Climate Action Days

• **Interim Public Input Summaries**

- Summaries will include Ideas Wall comments and statistics, pop-up event feedback, stakeholder feedback, and emailed questions and comments.
- Comments broken out by category and type of feedback.
- Surprising comments include opinions that are unsupportive of the County's climate action work or concerned that climate investments may support problematic foreign governments. Perhaps value in delving deeper to understand core of a skeptic's resistance to identify what needs to/can be changed (e.g. unfamiliarity with operating newer technologies could be overcome by hosting events where public can interact prior to investing). Also understand sophistication of audience – if someone is less familiar with climate issues, keep conversation at a basic level.
- Demographics were not collected for Public Workshop #1 but respondents' geographic information was available. Desired breadth of cross-section has not yet been achieved, but using connected

- stakeholders will expand network.
- Will follow up on stakeholder survey, reach out to organizations that did not respond.

2. Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory Data

Phase II Emissions Inventory covering Scope 3 community emissions being assessed.

ICLEI ClearPath Tool incorporates:

- Residential energy
- Commercial energy
- Industrial energy
- Transportation
- Solid Waste

ClearPath models based on available input data (e.g. modeling for energy use based on national and statewide trends). Air travel emissions includes fuel consumption within the County borders, fractional use that is taken into account by ClearPath.

Climate Solutions Accelerator created GHG inventory for the Finger Lakes region; used a lot of generalizations because they did not have access to specific data. Anchor QEA will use Monroe County subset of Accelerator's inventory and supplement with more refined data for certain sectors (e.g. solid waste, agriculture), which can then be compared with state data.

Development of inventory and CAP has included benchmarking with other counties and municipalities (can use Climate Smart Communities website to find others to compare). Oversight and citizen advisory functions vary between jurisdictions (e.g. Erie County uses Environmental Management Council).

Discussion on broader concerns from Monroe County constituents regarding cost and effectiveness of investments in climate action. Possible to remind them that climate change is affecting them now, and that investing in GHG mitigation is less costly than adapting to impacts from unchecked global warming (e.g. flooding damage, loss of agriculture/tourism, resource stress from climate migration). Next phase of strategy will be to perform climate vulnerability analysis to evaluate impacts. Also workforce/business opportunities from investing in green economy (e.g. lithium battery recycling).

While Monroe County GHG inventory will evaluate emissions from municipalities within the county, the CAP will not dictate actions by these jurisdictions; will lean on incentives and education/advocacy.

3. Public Workshop #2

Public Workshop #2 will present findings of the GHG inventory and the goal framework; share what we know and what actions should happen.

Either week of July 17 or July 24. 12pm virtual presentation and Q&A, and 6pm in-person event (location TBD, likely Monroe County facility). Virtual presentation will be recorded and online engagement will be available after the meeting. Desire for downtown location accessible for public transit. Will offer registration for virtual session but likely drop-in for the in-person event to allow freedom for participants to participate as they choose.

Workshop to be advertised via County Communications department (including press release, media interviews, social media, etc.), upcoming popup events and at Monroe County libraries. Email notification to municipal and legislative contacts, Comprehensive Plan outreach list, and CAP stakeholder list to share with their networks. Will also advertise future popups at the event. If location is at MCC Downtown Campus, possibly advertise at the Innovative Field.

Desire for talking points to inform/counter opinions that have been expressed via existing public engagement.

4. Next Steps

Committee:

- Review stakeholder & pop-up event opportunities
- Review public input summaries

Consultant team:

- Assemble talking points document for use with public outreach

- Preparations for Public Meeting #2 in July

New Business: None

Public Forum:

No comments or requests to speak were received.

Next meeting: Monday, July 10, 2023 at 3:30pm **in-person** at the Monroe County Fleet Center Building 1 Conference Room. Changes or updates to the meeting venue will be communicated to the committee via email.

Motion to adjourn by Matthew O'Connor; second by Richard Milne. Meeting adjourned at 5:08pm.