

Monroe County Climate Action Plan Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

via zoom

April 1, 2021 (3:30 – 5:00 p.m.)

Drafted: April 5, 2021

Approved: May 6, 2021

Members: John Botelho, Fred Ancello, Matthew O'Connor, Sue Hughes-Smith, Kathryn McArdle, Leah Wirley, Helen Frank, Liam Smith, Michael Yudelson

Absent: Karla Boyce

Staff: Mike Garland, Tina Stevens, Joe VanKerkhove, Patrick Gooch, Clement Chung, Yasmin Guevera

Guests: Joseph Crimi, Casey Mastro

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

Meeting called to order at 3:31 P.M. by Co-Chair O'Connor.

Approval of Minutes (Co-Chair O'Connor):

Minutes from the March 4, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved. Motion by Matt O'Connor; seconded by Sue Hughes-Smith.

Climate Action Plan Update (Joe Vankerkhove / Bergmann Associates):

1. Bergmann is investigating data collection needs and formulating screening questions. DES group meets next week, followed by the County's internal working group to answer questions from Bergmann so that they can move forward on the GHG assessment.

Legislative Update (County Legislators Ancello, Boyce and Yudelson):

1. Mike Yudelson updated the committee regarding the adoption of the C-Pace Program. Currently, the legislation is with the Deputy County Executive and it is hoped it will be introduced during the April legislative cycle.
2. Mike was asked by the Rochester Youth Climate leaders to give an update on the Committee's activities during that group's online Energy Summit on April 14 from 9 A.M. – 12 P.M. The group has asked for a 45-minute presentation, and Mike suggested a zoom call for interested participants to discuss.
3. Mike was invited to the initial meeting of the Color Henrietta Green group, of which there are several groups in different communities throughout the area. He informed the group on the work of this committee and the two stages of the Climate Action Plan.

New Business:

1. Joseph Crimi – Senior Program Manager, WNY & CNY Clean Energy Solutions and Casey Mastro – Senior Key Account Executive, CNY Customer Energy Solutions, presented an overview of NYPA Customer Energy Solutions and supporting Clean Energy Communities.
2. Any municipality can work with NYPA on any project. The scope of NYPA was recently broadened to include water projects.
3. 1/3 of all transmission in NYS is run by NYPA.
4. The NYPA recently adopted Vision 2023, a 10-year plan for the organization, which includes:
 - Preserving and enhancing hydropower
 - Leaders in decarbonization
 - Continue leading NYS in transportation
 - Focus efforts on customers and development statewide
 - Reimagining the NYS Canal System to reduce costs and provide for economic development

Sue Hughes-Smith asked about closure of natural gas plants and decarbonization. Joe indicated no plant closures are imminent; prefer to lead by innovation. She also asked if NYPA could finance solar projects, and Joe stated tax credits are the biggest benefits for large-scale solar projects.

John Botelho asked about hydropower. Joe stated that the emphasis is on blended power, not hydro and the purchase of power on the open market.

5. Expedite Procurement with NYPA: Public Authority's Law (PAL) 1005 (17) authorizes NYPA to finance and design, develop, construct, implement, provide and administer energy-related projects, programs and services for:

- Towns, Villages, Cities, Counties
- Any Public Entity including SUNY, MTA, DOCCS
- All work will be performed under an Energy Services Master Cost Recovery Agreement
- NYPA acts as public sector energy advisor to the customer
- Dedicated customer services landing page on
- NYPA web site - <https://services.nypa.gov/>

6. NYSERDA CEC Grants and Scoring:

	Municipality Size by Population	Number of Awards	Grant Amount
Earn 3,000+ Points	Large (40,000+)	50 statewide	\$30,000
	Small/Medium (0-39,999)	40 per region	\$10,000
Earn 4,000+ Points	Large (40,000+)	20 statewide	\$70,000
	Small/Medium (0-39,999)	10 per region	\$20,000
Earn 5,000+ Points	Large (40,000+)	10 statewide	\$150,000
	Small/Medium (0-39,999)	4 per region	\$70,000

7. CEC High-Impact Actions w NYPA:

500 Points: Clean Energy Upgrades - achieve 10% reduction in GHG emissions from municipal buildings

500 Points: Clean Heating and Cooling Demo – convert municipal facility to all-electric with ground or air-source heat pumps

500 points: 100% renewable electricity - use renewable energy resources for all the electricity supply needs of municipal government

Up to 800 points: Climate Smart Community Certification – Earn Climate Smart Community Certification to reduce carbon emissions and build resilience

Up to 900 points: LED Street Lights – convert at least half of the municipal cobra-head or decorative-style streetlights to LED

Up to 1100 points: Benchmarking – Adopt a policy to track and report energy use of municipal buildings or large private buildings

Up to 1000 points: Clean Fleets – deploy light to heavy duty electric vehicles, or install electric vehicle charging stations

Up to 2000 points: Community Choice Aggregation – dramatically reduce carbon emissions by transitioning to a clean, renewable energy supply

8. NYPA Services for CEC High Impact Actions:

Energy Efficiency: Energy Audits and targeted feasibility studies, full capital energy project turnkey service offering, Direct Installation Model for LED Lighting, Environmental Impacts, energy audits, engineering design, construction and project financing

Audit Assessment:

- Analyze costs and historic utility use
- Electrify??
- Develop an Energy Utilization Index for each selected site.
- Have a certified engineer conduct a facility survey.
- Produce a project and cost savings analysis for energy savings measures.
- Determine greenhouse gas reductions that can be achieved through the implementation of recommended energy measures.
- Create an inventory of potential capital improvements that warrant future implementation.
- Recommend changes to operations and maintenance procedures to lower energy use.

Design and Construction:

- One point of contact at NYPA, a dedicated project manager assigned to your project
- Serve as trusted energy advisor
- Transparency in cost reconciliation and vendor selections
- Engineering design & procurement services
- Construction implementation and management
- Oversee logistics, timeline, communication, and progress meetings
- Quality control and safety
- Commissioning, staff training, warranties

Project financing:

- NYPA offers competitive low-cost financing, including short term financing during construction. NYPA will finance all up-front development and project milestone costs.
- No repayment to NYPA until project is 100% complete
- Long Term debt service payment aligns with utility cost savings and is structured based on payback of project

LED Street Lighting: Turnkey implementation including design services for larger projects, Rapid Response Implementation model for smaller projects and Maintenance Services.

Smart Street Lighting New York:

- Governor announced NYPA to implement Program in January 2018
- Goal of 500,000 street light conversions to LED by 2025
- Significant savings annually to NYS taxpayers
- Reduced energy consumption equal to 44,770 NYS households
- Improved quality of light, resident comfort and safety for communities across the state
- Full turnkey street light service
- Over 110 communities with 300,000+ lights participating with NYPA
- Street Lighting Conversion Benefits: LED – energy/cost savings; improve light quality and safety; long lasting light fixtures from Signify / Philips; environmental impacts. System improvements include reliable and cost-effective maintenance by NYPA; incorporation of asset controls and uniform street lights for improved optics for drivers
- Acquisition and Conversion of Lighting System:
 - Design (500+ fixtures): Street lighting infrastructure assessment and design, Sample photometrics analysis performed, Recommend fixture replacement, wattage, color temperature, lumen, beam spread; Secure grants/ rebates/ incentives, Digital asset management, Short and long-term financing
 - Rapid Response (<500 fixtures): Street lighting registry evaluation and field audit, Expedited process, Recommend fixture replacement, Color temperature, lumen, beam spread; Secure grants/ rebates/ incentives, Digital asset management, Short and long-term financing
 - Construction: One point of contact, Construction management, Oversee logistics and timeline, Quality control, Conversion report to utility, Commissioning, 1-year labor warranty
 - Maintenance: Assist with long-term operations and maintenance solution of street light system, NYPA direct O&M service offering, Support municipality through the selection process of a 3rd party O&M contractor, Direct maintenance by municipality required with ownership, Remove maintenance uncertainty, On-going street light advisor

Other NYPA Clean Energy Services

Clean Energy Advisory Services:

- Streamlined program structure, goal planning
- Feasibility assessments and conceptual site designs
- Standardized contracts, approved vendors, installation

Electric Vehicle Charging Equipment:

- Turnkey service includes site review, design and scoping, procurement,
- Installation and training

Blended Power Program:

- Expanded statutory authority to offer NYPA green power supply to municipalities
- Electric Account information needed to offer a supply price

Public Forum:

1. No public comments or requests to speak were received.

New Business:

1. Matt O'Connor thanked the County for their response to the email submitted by a Greece resident to the CAP by a current Boston College student regarding waste and organics collection in the County.
2. Discussion about viewing meetings on the YouTube site. Currently meetings are recorded and added to the YouTube site following the meeting.
3. Clem Chung reviewed the Community Eligibility for High Impact Actions chart.
4. The County Executive has designated the CAP as the Climate Smart Task Force, which achieves an action item.
5. Next meeting is Thursday, May 6 at 3:30, via Zoom. Link will be sent out one week prior.

Motion to adjourn by Mike Yudelson; second by John Botelho. Meeting adjourned at 4:57 PM.