

Monroe County Climate Action Plan Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

via zoom

August 5, 2021 (3:30 – 5:00 p.m.)

Drafted: August 6, 2021

Approved: September 2, 2021

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

Absent: Karla Boyce, Sue Hughes-Smith

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

Guests: Robert d'abadie, Kiernan Playford, Chris Robasco, Kim Baptiste, Ram Shrivastava

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

1. Meeting called to order at 3:35 P.M. by Co-Chair O'Connor.

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

1. Minutes from the July 1, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved. Motion by Matt O'Connor; seconded by Liam Smith.

Legislative Update (County Legislator Yudelson):

1. Legislator Yudelson thanked Legislators Boyce and Ancello for their assistance in making the Open C-PACE Legislation a reality. The Energy Improvement Contract is in the final stages of review by the County and was finalized last week. Companies interested in the program can contact Energy Improvement Corporation directly. Information will be made available on the Monroe County website in the near future. The program will also be promoted by the County's Planning and Development Department.

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

1. As a point of clarification, Clem Chung stated that the Airport was not included in the study. One of the reasons was that the County has no control over the airlines. The County does own some aircraft and has control over those emissions. The Airport facility and Airport fleet will be added to the study.
2. Robert D'abadie and Chris Robasco from Bergmann/Michael Baker updated the committee on the GHG study:
3. Monroe County is a member of an Organization whom assist agencies in developing responses to Climate Change
ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability
 - International, non-governmental organization for sustainable development
 - Guidance for governments as they develop Climate Action Plans
 - Ensures consistency from agency to agency
4. ICLEI historically developed protocols for GHG inventory analysis, forecasting and including data needs
5. These protocols have evolved into the ClearPath modeling tool, provided by ICLEI
 - Emissions management software
 - Models for Inventories, Forecasts, Planning
6. ClearPath can be applied in a number of ways:
 - Can be used for Local Government Operations or the Community-Scale track
 - Defines sectors/scopes (indirect and direct) and recommends analysis methods
 - Data needs and data requests are standardized and predetermined
 - Avoids different regions using different definitions and methods
7. Approach:
 - ClearPath Sectors or Pathways
 - Streetlights/Signals
 - Vehicle Fleets
 - Transit Fleets
 - Buildings & Facilities
 - Water & Wastewater Treatment
 - Solid Waste
 - There are additional sectors not currently applicable to Monroe County
 - Port and Airport (not under the county's purview)
 - Power Generation (other than landfill co-generation – falls under Solid Waste)
 - Other processes and fugitive emissions (i.e. Leaks from county operated NG transmission facilities)

8. Results to-date and Distribution:

| Sector | CO2e | Percentage |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Water and Wastewater Facilities | 9,225 | 2.61% |
| Solid Waste Facilities | 313,897 | 88.80% |
| Transit Fleet | 278 | 0.08% |
| Vehicle Fleet | 3,017 | 0.85% |
| Street Lights and Traffic Signals | 1,004 | 0.28% |
| Buildings and Facilities | 26,073 | 7.38% |
| Total | 353,494 | 100.00% |

9. In the Streetlights/Traffic Signals sector, the largest single contributor was MCDOT Streetlights, followed by Traffic Signals and Buildings.
10. In the Transit Fleet area, largest contributors were 7-Ford E450 Trucks and one Ford E350 truck.
11. Vehicle Fleets:
 - Total Emissions (2019): 3,017 CO2e (MT)**
 - a. Sheriff's Fleets: 1,424 CO2e (MT)
 - i. 47.2% of sector total
 - ii. Gasoline: 1,160 CO2e (MT)
 - iii. Diesel: 196 CO2e (MT)
 - iv. Marine: 68 CO2e (MT)
 - b. 9 Oshkosh Jets: 228 CO2e (MT)
 - c. 47 Chevy Impalas: 227 CO2e (MT)
 - d. 34 F250s: 200 CO2e (MT)
 - e. 18 Chevy Tahoe's: 103 CO2e (MT)
 - f. **These 5 inputs = 72.3% of sector emissions**
 - 42 other vehicle types with emissions under 100 CO2e (MT) - Remaining 27.7%
12. Water and Wastewater Treatment Facilities:
13. **Total Emissions (2019): 9,225 CO2e (MT)**
 - a. FEV WRRF: 6,448 CO2e (MT)
 - 42 69.9% of sector total
 - ii. Combustion: 2,649 CO2e (MT)
 - iii. Grid Electricity: 3,799 CO2e (MT)
 - b. NWQ WRRF: 1,441 CO2e (MT)
 - 42 15.6% of sector total
 - ii. Combustion: 709 CO2e (MT)
 - iii. Grid Electricity: 732 CO2e (MT)
 - c. FEV + NWQ WRRF = 85.5% of sector emissions
 - i. 94 other stations, pumps, facilities combine for remaining 14.5%
14. Buildings and Facilities: Electricity is the main contributor of CO2e, followed by combustion, RDH to COB and Civic Center and Iola Electricity and Heat.
15. Solid Waste: The Mill Seat Landfill is the biggest emitter of CO2e, followed by the inactive Gloria Drive landfill and a small amount from flaring methane at Mill Seat. Gloria Drive was closed in 1981 and is capped only with soil. Matt O'Connor asked why Gloria Drive was never capped. There are several reasons: the waste mass is small (less than one year's aggregate at Mill Seat) and regulations in 1981 were limited with no requirements to cap or collect leachate, etc. The County continues to be proactive regarding the facility and has a plan and a Capital Improvement program in place to cap the landfill.
16. Mike Garland noted that the Monroe County Water Authority and the Regional Transportation System (RTS) are not under county purview and will be included in Phase 2.

New Business:

1. Committee Youth Representatives Liam Smith and Helen Frank gave overviews of their organizations and involvement. Liam Smith is a student at Middlebury College. During high school at Brighton, he started a statewide organization to advocate for climate solutions, the New York Youth Climate Leaders. 2020-2021 has seen his organization work by virtual lobbying, press releases and online events. The organization was rallying at the Capitol on Friday, August 6, to protest the inaction of the NYS Teachers Union in divesting themselves from fossil fuels.
2. Helen Frank is a member of the Rochester Youth Climate Leaders. Recently, they had their first in-person meeting in over a year. They are focused on growing their membership and are tabling at various community events. The group will launch Color Your School Green this Fall, an organization designed to mobilize students into action regarding climate change. Website: <https://www.ny2cl.org/>
3. Leah Wirley is a student at Webster Thomas who lobbied school officials to switch from Styrofoam to reusable trays. Thanks in part to a NYS ban on Styrofoam that takes effect in January of 2021, all schools in NYS will no longer be able to use Styrofoam for food service needs.

Public Forum:

1. Per Matt O'Connor: an email was received through the public mailbox and distributed to all members from Victoria Snyder, an intern with the New York State Office of Climate Change. She was taking an inventory of municipalities throughout the state for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to compile a database of all local governments with a Climate Adaptation Plan (CAP) and/or Climate Action Plan. Sue Hughes-Smith provided a comprehensive answer on behalf of Monroe County.
2. Next meeting is Thursday, September 2 at 3:30 via Zoom. Link will be sent one week prior.
Motion to adjourn by Mike Garland; second by Mike Yudelson. Meeting adjourned at 4:35 P.M.