Monroe County Climate Action Plan Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
via zoom
October 7, 2021 (3:30 – 5:00 p.m.)
Drafted: October 8, 2021
Approved: December 2, 2021

Members:, John Botelho, Matthew O'Connor, Sue Hughes Smith, Kate Walker, Helen Frank, Michael Yudelson, Mike Garland
Absent: Karla Boyce, Leah Wirley, Fred Ancello, Liam Smith
Staff: Clement Chung, Tina Stevens, Joe VanKerkhove, Yasmin Guevera, Isabelle Haddad
Guests: Robert d'abadie, Ram Shrivastava, Jayme Thomann, Pat Gooch, Sally Howard

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 September 2, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved. Motion by Matt O'Connor; seconded by John Botelho.

Legislative Update (County Legislator Yudelson):
1. Legislator Yudelson encouraged members to participate in the redistricting process by attending a local meeting. Dates, times and locations for the meetings can be found on the County website.

Climate Action Plan Update (Joe Vankerkhove / Jayme Thomann / Bergmann Associates):
1. Inventory Updates:
   - Baseline inventory is relatively complete
   - Solid waste facilities account for 89% of the County GHG emissions – is a challenge; opportunities for big impacts
   - In the report, the GHG emissions inventory will note where average values are used (Not County Specific)
   - Going forward, more regular measurements of CO2 are recommended for monitoring
   - Putting aside Solid Waste Facilities, focus shifts to second largest contributor of County GHG emissions, which is Buildings and Facilities at 65%; checking for double counting - all sectors will be involved is goals are to be achieved
   - Baseline is 2019 inventory, but County has been doing many sustainable initiatives prior and since
   - Large SW number is partly due to methane to CO2 escaping from the Gloria Drive Landfill, which has no gas capture
2. Inventory Updates:

Sector	Emissions (MMT CO2e)	Percentage (All Sources)	Percentage (No Solid Waste)
Water Resource Recovery Facilities	9,225	2.61%	23.30%
Transit Fleet (Support vehicles only)	278	0.08%	0.70%
County Vehicle Fleet	3,017	0.85%	7.62%
Expressway Lights and Traffic Signals	1,004	0.28%	2.54%
Buildings and Facilities	26,073	7.38%	65.85%
Solid Waste Facilities	313,897	88.80%	-
Total	**353,494**	**100.00%**	**100.00%**

3. GHG Emissions Targets:
   - Emissions reduction targets establish a quantifiable reduction in GHG emissions by a predefined date
   - Set goals indirectly related to GHG emission but reflect large values, such as increasing participation in a particular program
   - It is important to consider existing goals set by the State and/or regional climate and sustainability plans
4. Establishment of a draft purpose statement, such as: Using 2019 GHG Emissions inventory as a baseline, Monroe County will reduce GHG emissions associated with operations by 25% by the year 2030.

5. NY Climate Leadership and Protection Act:
    - 85% Reduction in GHG Emissions by 2050
    - 100% Zero-emission Electricity by 2040
    - 70% Renewable Energy by 2030
    - 9,000 MW of Offshore Wind by 2035
    - 3,000 MW of Energy Storage by 2030
    - 6,000 MW of Solar by 2025
    - 22 Million Tons of Carbon Reduction through Energy Efficiency and Electrification
6. 100% Zero-emission Electricity by 2040:
    - New York Independent System Operator is committed to help the NYS Climate Action Council (CAC) develop its implementation plan to meet the CLCPA's mandates
    - This future depends on investment in renewables and infrastructure, as well as retirement of generation
    - Monroe County has a 5-year agreement with New York ISO
      Dispatchable Emissions-Free Resources: Dispatchable generation refers to sources of electricity that can be dispatched *on demand* at the request of power grid operators, according to market needs. Dispatchable generators can adjust their power output according to an order.[1] Non-dispatchable renewable energy sources such as wind power and solar photovoltaic (PV) power cannot be controlled by operators.[2] Other types of renewable energy that are dispatchable without separate energy storage are hydroelectric, biomass, geothermal and ocean thermal energy conversion.[3]
7. 85% reduction in GHG Emissions by 2050:
    - What are the projects in the Buildings and Facilities sector focused on consumption that allows Monroe County to attain the 25% reduction by 2030?
    - Scenario Modeling for Buildings and Facilities
    - Develop target scenarios to demonstrate how emissions could be reduced:
      - BAU
      - Planned
      - Conservative scenario
      - Moderate scenario
      - Aggressive scenario
8. Identify New Actions to achieve GHG reductions – Iterative Process for Project Identification – Organized around Focus Areas / Emission Categories:
    - What does County have control of?
    - What is the GHG reduction potential / impact?
    - How can actions be phased?
    - What are the costs in comparison to the benefits?
9. Broad Goals to support other sectors: buildings and facilities, expressway lighting and signals, Solid Waste and Materials Management, Transportation Fleets and Water Resource Recovery Facilities
10. Recognizing Past and Ongoing Sustainability Initiatives: Green Building Policy/LEED Certified Buildings; Alternative Fuel and Hybrid Vehicles /EV Charging Stations; Solar/Green Power; Recycling, ecopark, Resource Recovery; Lighting and Education, Outreach and Awareness
11. Set example Goals and Actions and an Implementation Matrix that includes Action, Lead Agency, Timeframe, Cost, Funding Feasibility and Metric
12. John Bothelo asked about the possibility of the County divesting itself of the Solid Waste facilities. Mike Garland said that the County has an operator for the Mill Seat Landfill, and the County will work with that operator to be a good environmental steward. Gloria Drive is a County responsibility and the County does not want to shift responsibility for either facility. Yasmin Guevara stated the County is currently working with a consultant to get updated and more complete data regarding the Gloria Drive Landfill. The County will work to find creative solutions for both of these landfills. High Acres Landfill, which will also have a high GHG number, will be addressed as the County does not own the land or have any jurisdiction at that facility.

New Business:
1. Sue Hughes-Smith: Community Choice Aggregation – company that she works with and is a sub-contractor for has brought clean energy purchasing to over 56,000 residents and small businesses throughout the area, with an additional 4,500 signing up for Community Solar through about half of whom participated through the Town and Village of Pittsford and Town of Irondequoit's programs.
2. City of Rochester recently launched their program.
3. Brockport and Lima will be introducing programs in the coming months.
4. Matt O'Connor asked about the abundance of natural gas depressing energy prices. Sue stated that in comparison to what individuals can purchase on the retail market and for the similar product, CCA programs are delivering savings. RG&E right now purchases half of their electricity from natural gas which with the subsidies and glut of supply has reduced; rates have risen dramatically as the pandemic has slowed and the economy has surged back. There are supply constraints. Forecasters expect electric rates and gas rates to remain high in the coming months.
5. Matt asked if you could do CCA and Community Solar at the same time. Sue said that both can be done at the same time, because in electricity supply you are purchasing a per KWH rate of electricity. Rules around community solar are different in that the utility purchases the electricity. Solar Developers can also sell savings, which allows you to participate in both programs. Solar electricity is not purchased at the same per KW rate rather community solar participants are purchasing solar credits (savings).

Public Forum:
No correspondence or requests to speak were received.

Next meeting is Thursday, November 4, 2021 at 3:30. Location will be sent one week prior.
Motion to adjourn by Matt O'Connor; second by Michael Yudelson. Meeting adjourned at 4:24 PM.