

## Monroe County Climate Action Plan Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

via zoom

August 13, 2020 (3:30 – 5:00 p.m.)

Drafted: August 14, 2020

Approved:

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

**Staff:** Jack Moffitt, Mike Garland, Tina Stevens, Mike Garland, Joe VanKerkhove, Miles Cunning

**Guests:**

### **Roll Call and Welcome (Jack Moffitt):**

1. Meeting called to order at 3:33 by Jack Moffitt, followed by Roll Call, with each member introducing themselves.

### **Goals and Objectives (Jack Moffitt):**

1. The Committee will be following the parameters set under the Legislation (Resolution 76 of 2020) approved by the County Legislature:
  - Identify and review practices and policies which may reduce residential and commercial environmental impact;
  - Practices or policies included or recommended should also include costs and timeline for implementation;
  - Committee may request relevant information from County Agencies and have access to County employees;
  - Committee should issue their plan within 12 months of its appointment – grace if deadline needs to be extended;
  - Committee shall terminate upon the issuance of the Climate Action Plan – permanent may be considered.

### **Monroe County Sustainability Practices (Mike Garland):**

1. Review of Monroe County Sustainability Achievement Areas:

**Green Building:** 9 LEED Certified buildings, 22 green infrastructure projects

**Fleet:** 744 Alternative fuel, hybrid and electric vehicles

**Solar / Alternative Power:** 19.8 MW of renewable energy

**Lighting:** 50% reduction in energy use in major LED projects

**Resource Recovery:** 90,000 tons of waste, 40 billion gallons of water

**Education and Outreach:** Award winning public education campaigns

2. Green Building Policy:

- Adopted by Monroe County Legislature in 2008: All County new construction and renovation projects of more than 5,000 sqft follow Green Building Policy to incorporate sustainable design and evaluate potential for LEED certification.
- Green building Infrastructure Review Team consists of representatives of four County departments: Environmental Services, Planning and Development, Transportation, and Finance.
- Monroe County currently has 9 LEED certified buildings: 1 Platinum, 5 Gold, 2 Silver, 1 Certified.
- Projects include: 2 rainwater harvesting and recycling systems, 2 green roofs, 6 porous pavement projects, 3 stream buffer restoration projects with native plantings and 9 bioretention projects.

3. Fleet:

- Monroe County's Fleet consists of 873 vehicles, including 103 Airport, Airport fire and Rescue, and non-motorized.
- 707 of these are Alternative Fuel vehicles, including 34 propane; 395 biodiesel; 66 E-10; 2-1 E-85 and 11 CNG
- 31 Hybrid Vehicles include 30 hybrid and 1 plug-in hybrid.
- Green Fueling Stations at City of Rochester Operations Center, Van Lare Water Resource Recovery Facility, and Scottsville Road.
- EV Charging stations at Fleet Center Complex, MCC Brighton Campus and MCC Applied Technology Center.

4. Alternative Energy:

- Solar parks installed in 2017 (combined 13.4 MW); Required no taxpayer dollars, as installations are owned and operated by private contractor; Estimated to provide \$7.3 million savings in energy costs over 20 years.
- Rooftop photovoltaic arrays: Hall of Justice 85 kw; MCC 34.5 kw; Crime Lab.
- Mill Seat timeline: 1993 – Mill Seat opens and begins operations; 2002 – Monroe County/WMNY lease partnership; 2007 – 4.8 MW Renewable energy facility on line; 2008 – 2 engines added for total of 6.4 MW. Revenue from power plant to Monroe County > \$10 million.
- Many MC LEED certified buildings purchase green power (wind energy at crime lab powers 70% of building's energy use).

5. Recycling and Composting:
  - 80k tons of recyclables processed by Cascades (35,000 tons) MCRC (45,000 tons).
  - Total Monroe County MSW Generation in 2019: 514,577 tons disposed; 346,349 tons recycled.
  - Holding steady at 40% diversion rate.
  - 2014 transition to Mixed Recycling at MCRC, enabled City of Rochester transition to toters/every other week collection.
  - Composting: Leaf composting at Avion Drive started in 2008; Leaves are accepted from City of Rochester, Monroe County parks, and limited space for other towns; Community giveback at ecopark and in City.
  - Source separated organic waste registration for VanLare.
  - ecopark: 31% increase in weight of materials collected from opening to present.
  - 2019: 775 tons of materials collected; 30,000 residents used facility (286,000 households in county); 6,400 appointments for HHW at ecopark plus 1,400 appointments at mobile HHW collections; 2,600 residents brought 7,000 pounds of pharmaceuticals to ecopark plus additional 39,000 pounds from police stations and mobiles.
  
6. Water Resource Recovery:
  - 3.75 billion gallons of combined sewer overflow recovered through CSOAP tunnel for treatment annually.
  - 100,000 tons of biosolids directed to Mill Seat and High Acres for landfill gas to energy recovery annually.
  - Many diversion programs (pharm, HHW) began as pollution prevention programs for WRRFs.
  
7. Lighting:
  - County facility lighting LED transition:
    - Completed:** Civic Center and Public Safety Plaza Exterior (LED Lighting); Pure Waters LED Lighting Phase I (FEV, NWQ WWTPs and Pump Stations); Rochester Operations Center Improvements (LED Lighting); Frontier Field Stadium, Field and Interior (LED Lighting); County Correctional Facilities Exterior Lighting.
    - In Progress:** Pure Waters LED Lighting Phase II (Various Pure Waters Locations, Fleet Center, COB - Legislative Chambers and HOJ Rotunda).
  - 38 additional sites pending, including City Place, Westfall, St. Paul, PSB, Seneca Park Zoo and County parks
  - DOT Highway LED conversion: Finishing construction in coming months: I-490 from Howard Rd. to Churchville; I-390 North of Brooks Rd. to I-490; NY 390 from Lexington Ave. to NY-104; NY-104 from Goodman St. to Bay Bridge; NY-590 from Tryon Park to Sunrise Cres.
  - Starting this month: NY-590 from I-490 to NY-404; NY-104 from Bay Bridge to Basket.
  - Remaining areas in the North and Southeast parts of county on track for 2021/2022.
  
8. Education and Outreach:
  - County Environmental Educators facilitate communications on waste reduction, reuse, recycling, hazardous and pharmaceutical waste, water quality protection, water resource recovery, and pollution prevention.
  - 100,000+ users of ecopark website annually.
  - Presentations in schools and at community events reaching 65,000 people annually.
  - Recycle Right campaign and county facility signage adopted across community.
  - Community stakeholder engagement through Monroe County Stormwater Coalition, Recycling Advisory Committee.
  
9. Sustainability Future Focus Areas (also possible meeting topics):
  - *Climate Smart Communities*: NYS program that helps local governments to take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate.
    - Legislative Referral Tabled 4/14/2020
  - *Complete Streets Policy*: Transportation policy and design approach that encourages users of all modes of transportation to have accessible mobility in design projects.
  - *Energize NY Open C-PACE*: Private capital to make energy upgrades or utilize renewable energy to be included as part of a building's redevelopment or rehabilitation.
  - *NYSERDA Clean Energy Community*: NYSERDA program that helps local governments develop clean energy goals, access resources and funding opportunities to implement clean energy actions.
  
10. Mike updated the committee on the selection of a consultant to begin the process, and funding sources are being explored to obtain a consultant with expertise in this area. It was felt by the committee that the plan should align closely with both the City of Rochester and New York State plans. Mike explained that Phase 1 of the Committee's work will be in exploring County operations and creating best practices in the areas where the most control can be found. Phase 2 will be creating a Community Plan that will be available to the Towns and Villages, commercial and industrial businesses and take a broader look outside County government.

11. Next steps include bringing the Draft Scope of Work back to the Committee for review. When the Committee has finalized the Scope, it will go back to the County Legislature for review, final approval, and funding.

**Election of Officers (Jack Moffitt):**

1. The offices of Chair and Vice Chair will be held open until the September 3, 2020 meeting. Members are encouraged to volunteer.
2. Tina Stevens of Environmental Services, was nominated for the office of Secretary, a non-member position. Tina currently holds this role for the County's Recycling Advisory Committee. There were no other nominations. Motion made by Karla Boyce and seconded by Matthew O'Connor; vote was unanimous.

**New Business:**

1. The first Thursday of the month from 3:30-5:00 p.m. was designated as the Committee's meeting time. For the remainder of 2020, meeting dates will be September 3 (via zoom); October 1; November 5 and December 3.
2. If Public Meetings are permitted, members will be informed as to the location.
3. Legislator Boyce suggested meeting virtually to reduce carbon footprint. Jack Moffitt stated there may be questions regarding the Open Meetings law and meeting virtually when not required that the County Law department is investigating.
4. Matthew O'Connor suggested combining meetings with tours of County facilities where possible.
5. Susan Hughes-Smith asked about beginning work vs. waiting for a consultant to be selected. John Botelho asked if the RFP could be reviewed before consultants were selected.
6. Matthew O'Connor mentioned that the City of Rochester has knowledge and BMP's. Mike Garland suggested a speaker from the City as a meeting topic.
7. Kate McArdle talked about P2I and their work with other Cities and NYS, and benchmarking communities. Susan suggested that everyone read and become familiar with the City's plan, available on the City of Rochester website.
8. Next meeting is Thursday, September 3 at 3:30, via Zoom. Link will be sent out one week prior.

Motion to adjourn by Mike Yudelson; second by Matthew O'Connor. Meeting adjourned at 4:46 PM.