

MONROE COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

December 17, 2025

In Attendance:

EMC

At Large - Tom Dooley; EMC Chair
At Large – Haines Lockhart
At Large – Deb Muratore
At Large – Mark McDermott
Town of Chili - Larry Lazenby
Town of Henrietta – Bill Santos
Town of Irondequoit – Alex Ferrente
Town of Mendon – Margaret Bailey
Town of Ogden – Bill Parkhurst
Town of Penfield – Cynette Cavaliere
Town of Perinton - Mark Gaul
City of Rochester – Rosemary Jonientz
Ex Officio Alternate – Madison Quinn; MCDES
Ex Officio Alternate - Steve Olufsen; MC
Planning & Development
Ex Officio Alternate – Starr O’Neil; MCDPH
MC Legislature Majority – Sue Hughes-Smith
MC Legislature Minority – Virginia McIntyre
Recording Secretary – Liz Kaptein

Guests

Sally Howard – FMCE
Nate Jones - MCDES
Grace Sherburne – MC Planning
Septimus Scott

Meeting location:

- Monroe County Fleet Center, Building 1 Conference Room
145 Paul Road, Rochester 14624

Call to Order:

- Meeting was called to order at 4:03pm by Chairman Tom Dooley.

Introductions:

- Introductions were made from all present

Review of Minutes:

- Motion to approve November minutes by Bill Santos; second by Mark Gaul. All in favor; approved.

Meeting Topic(s):

Monroe County Climate Action Plan & Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Plan
Madison Quinn, Sustainability Coordinator, Monroe County DES

- Climate Action Plan overview:
 - The CAP has 2 phases addressing climate change – focusing on adaptation, building and infrastructure, flood protection, disaster management, mitigation, active transportation, and renewable energy.
 - Phase 1 of the CAP was operations focused on greenhouse gasses (GHG) and includes goals and actions that the county has control over. Phase 2 was the community wide climate action plan, its focus is broadened to GHG emissions throughout the county from housing, private industry, transportation, etc. Community collaboration is essential to phase 2 success.
 - Phase 1 framework’s main goal was to reduce GHG emissions, had to be broken down in order to begin the process of analyzing the categories; building and facilities, pure waters, solid waste, transportation fleets, expressway lighting and assigned actions within each of these categories.
 - Phase 2 was similar but from a community aspect and is entirely voluntary, it focused on building and housing, transportation, land and water resources, partnership and education/economy, energy use and consumption, sustainable materials management, and supporting the green economy.
 - The role of the community wide CAP was to tie into existing climate action plans like the one from the City of Rochester, Town of Brighton and the Genesee Finger Lakes Climate Strategy in order to establish Monroe County’s supporting role.
 - There are things that the county doesn’t cover such as land use. There are things business can do that public entities can’t do. The CAP also acts to serve as a resource and get community buy-in to implement actions in collaboration with businesses, community orgs, municipalities, and residents. The intent is to compliment communities that utilize the NYSERDA + NYSDEC programs, such as CEC, CAPs, Climate Smart Communities.
 - Phase 1 GHG inventory – The plan utilized 2019 data to get better idea of normal use. In phase 2, the largest sections of GHG use were transportation and energy use.

- The aim of the CAP (Phase 1 and 2) is to position Monroe County well ahead of the NYS Climate Act requirements, as we don’t want to be behind when regulations come out- we want to be proactive and ahead of the curve. NYS goal per the Climate Act is an 85% reduction from 1990 levels.
 - Phase 1 actions include priority rankings based on impact and investment because Monroe County can implement these recommendations directly. Climate actions can be built into capital improvement planning, county policies and new or existing programs and initiatives.
 - Phase 2 depends on collaboration with community stakeholders with priority based on community input and partnership opportunities and includes checkboxes for Monroe County municipalities community orgs and businesses.
the co benefits of climate action for all sectors: Energy and water efficiency and cost saving, economic development for clean energy jobs and business opportunities. Public health improvements including lowering GHG emissions, pollutants and improving air quality. Active transportation improves health.
 - Implementation: Capital improvement plan, county budgets., term contracts and ordinary mechanisms. The communitywide plan depends on collaboration with municipalities, schools, residents, and community organizations - we want everyone to participate!

- Focus areas: Transitioning to Zero emission vehicles. Implementing sustainable materials management, such as the MC organics management plan. One implemented sustainable practice has been the MC school food waste diversion pilot program. Brighton, Pittsford, Penfield, Fairport, West Irondequoit are participating.

On the developing Climate Adaptation & Resiliency Plan:

- The plan will exist as a complementary plan to the CAP – exploring what vulnerabilities exist in our communities, how can we strategically reflect the climate priorities of the community to create a more resilient Monroe County.
 - [Survey- Bit.ly/CARP-Survey](https://bit.ly/CARP-Survey)
 - Accounts for a range of climate impacts – Air pollution and increasing allergens, Extreme heat, Severe weather, Environmental degradation, degraded living conditions and social inequities, changes in vector ecology, water and food supply impacts, water quality impacts.
 - Explores how we define vulnerability. The definition the CARP will be using is: The degree to which a system or community is susceptible to harm from a hazard. Exposure is the likelihood and intensity of a hazard occurring. Sensitivity is the degree that one would be impacted if they experience the hazard. Adaptive capacity is the degree to which measures are in place to minimize the climate change related impact.
 - Map out existing resources - without the knowledge being broadly available to the public, it can't be helpful for those it's intended for.
 - The plan is beginning with the end in mind: Engaging everyone, taking a community wide approach for collective action and engagement in achieving a more resilient future centering equity for all residents.

Questions:

Public transportation- Where does that play into the plan?

The County doesn't control public transportation but we are working as a community partner with RTS.

EV vehicles – What is the Cost/Benefit?

The County is making its best efforts to be careful stewards of taxpayer money.

Parks investments on electric machinery – How's it working?

MC Parks are reporting positively about lawn equipment that has been provided. There is also an EV rebate for municipalities and the SFS state funding portal.

Are there resources for residents how to make changes for climate related changes?

That is included in our CAP resources!

Committee Reports:

- **Program and Presentations**
 - Next meeting January 21, 2026. Joint meeting with recycling advisory committee- Presenter is Tim Henry- Deputy Director of Public Safety and Emergency Management at the OEM Center in the Public Safety Training Facility at 1190 Scottsville Road at 4pm.
 - February Meeting – Hundred Acre Nature Park – presented by Beth Hoak.
 - March Meeting – RMSC Stormwater management – presented by the RIT capstone team.

- April Meeting – April 15, 2026 presentation will be on the town of Pittsford code update, presented by the Town of Pittsford
- May Meeting – End of year Potluck on May 21st, 2026.
- **Nominating and Community Liaison**
 - Committee has not met in a few months; the last meeting was Youth EMC. January meeting to be announced.
- **Natural Resources**
 - Madison Quinn is now the chair of the natural resources committee.
 - Committee is meeting frequently to investigate GIS resources to identify several layers that could be included in the natural resources inventory. Steve Olufsen taught about class codes and property information that could be useful for municipalities.
 - Next meeting will be in January, date TBA- the end goal is to have a brief “show and tell” of the inventory at the may potluck.
- **Youth EMC Committee**
 - Students met at Brighton high school for Madison’s CAP/CARP presentation.
 - Several students wanted to be a part of the election process for chair/vice chair/secretary. There will be a vote at the January meeting.

Monroe County Staff Reports:

- Steve Olufsen (Planning & Dvpt) – land use training will be announced sometime before spring – will likely be on land use law in April or May.
- Starr O’Neil (Public Health)
 - Renewal season for permitting, we are currently slammed with permits and staff outages.

Other Business/Announcements

- Bill Santos Appointment on Planning board – Virginia Nom, Bill P Second, all approve.

Privilege of the Floor

- Deb Muratore- Noticing excessive fragmites along roadways - could write to state representatives for suggestions on how to handle.
- Sally Howard – Data Centers – Tonawanda Seneca – the small data center associated with the STAMP project didn’t pass, however, Batavia/Genesee County are considering an application for a larger data center that would require utilizing water resources from Monroe County.
- Penfield has a CAP Consultant! They are currently waiting for town board approval 60% grant funded
- Gates sat in on CARP vulnerability meeting and get feedback on concerns.
- Food Drives – Tis the season - Donate funds & to toy drives – there is one taking place through Uniting and Healing through hope of Monroe County.

Adjourn:

Meeting was adjourned at 5:33pm by Bill Santos, Second by Starr O’Neil, all in favor.