

MONROE COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

February 19th, 2025

In Attendance:

EMC

At Large - Tom Dooley; EMC Chair
At Large- Haines Lockhart
At Large- Deb Muratore
Town of Brighton- David Briden
Town of Chili - Larry Lazenby
Town of Clarkson- Jake Straub
Town of Gates - Charles Johnson
Town of Irondequoit – Alexandra Ferrente
Town of Mendon- Margaret Bailey
Town of Ogden – Bill Parkhurst
Town of Hamlin- Steve Rutherford
Town of Henrietta- Bill Santos
Village of Honeoye Falls – Andy Less

Town of Webster - Chuck Zlotkus
Town of Penfield – Cynette Cavaliere
Town of Perinton - Mark Gaul
Ex Officio Alternate- Clement Chung; MCDES
Ex Officio Alternate – Steve Olufsen; Planning & Dvpt
Recording Secretary – Liz Kaptein

Guests

Mark McDermott – E. Rochester Parks Commission
Madison Quinn- MCDES Sustainability Coordinator
Nate Jones- MCDES
Dana McCarthy – Churchville Chili Highschool
Zachary Utech – Taylor Heating and Cooling

Meeting location:

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

Call to Order:

- Meeting was called to order at 4:01pm by Chairman Tom Dooley.

Introductions:

- Introductions were made from all present.

Review of Minutes:





- Motion to approve January minutes and December minutes by Cynette Cavaliere; seconded by Tom Dooley. All in favor; approved contingent on addition of Jake Straub (Clarkson) to December minutes.

Meeting Topic(s): *Environmentally Friendly Heating Options/Making sense of Sustainability in HVAC-Zachary Utech, Taylor Heating and Cooling.*
Direct contact: zachary.utech@taylorheating.com

There many new technologies being developed in HVAC to expand sustainability efforts, local sustainability efforts have been increased by the NYS Climate Plan – [New York's Climate Leadership & Community Protection Act](#) – The act leads the nation in climate policy and builds on NYS investments in order to ramp up clean energy production, including \$33 billion towards 102 large-scale renewable transmission projects across the state, committing upwards of \$ 6.8 billion to reduce buildings emissions. This includes the [NYS Clean Heat](#) initiative.

NYSDERDA offers a [free Home energy assessment](#) to determine eligibility– winter is the best time of year to get an assessment, but audits can be done year-round. NYS offers [a tool to help find state rebates](#) for switching to clean heat.

Heating, Cooling, and Water Heating

Eligible Clean Energy Technology	Federal IRA Tax Credit 2023-2032	New York State Incentives and Tax Credits
Cold-climate Air Source Heat Pumps*	30% of cost, up to \$2,000 per year	Incentives: Partial home solutions \$100-\$400 on average  Whole home solutions \$2,000 - \$3,000 on average 
Heat Pump Water Heaters	30% of cost, up to \$2,000 per year	Incentives: \$700 - \$1,000 on average 
Biomass Stoves	30% of cost, up to \$2,000 per year	
Ground Source (Geothermal) Heat Pumps*	30% of cost	Incentives: \$7,000 - \$9,000 on average  Tax Credit: 25% up to \$5,000
Solar (Water Heating)	30% of cost	
Efficient Air Conditioners	30% of cost, up to \$600*	
Efficient Heating Equipment	30% of cost, up to \$600*	
Efficient Water Heating Equipment	30% of cost, up to \$600*	

[Tax credits available through Inflation Reduction Act](#) – NYSEDA and [EMPOWER](#) offer [income-based](#) rebate of up to \$4,000 towards replacing old systems.

HVAC can account for 40-50% of your monthly utility usage (not the bill!)- making it the single largest energy expense in the home. The second highest portion of the usage is the water heater, third highest is washers and dryers.

There are 3 types of HVAC systems-

High Efficiency Furnaces- HEFs are most often powered by Natural Gas, Propane or Oil. They burn fuel to create heat inside the home.

Heat pumps/Mini-Splits- A Heat pump is a unit that is two components, an inside and outside component and it also can help cool the home, not just heat it. Heat pumps can use duct systems or boiler systems. Electric heat pump system can handle heating the house, the boiler system can handle heating actual hot water.

High Efficiency Boiler Systems- Boiler systems heat water and conduct it through radiators, radiant floor systems or a coil and are also often heated by Natural Gas or Fossil Fuels.

There are different styles of water heaters available - Tank style, which can be natural gas (which is most common in homes) or electric, or tankless style that can be electric (not recommended for homes) and

natural gas.

Heat pump water heater- eliminate the need for natural gas but introduces refrigerant into the home (in a closed system, entirely safe) using a compressor system with four modes of operation. Similar to a sponge, it makes heat transfer easier by drawing air from the basement and redistributes it throughout the home. [Guide to heat pumps through NYS Clean Heat.](#)

Heat pump vs Water heater- A Heat pump eliminates the need for natural gas to heat the water and is more efficient compared to traditional systems. Traditional systems use ambient air to draw heat and heat the water with. New Heat pump systems have multiple modes of operation and Wi-Fi compatibility and they are heavily [incentivized](#).

Current events in HVAC:

[AIM Act of 2020](#)- Federal EPA receives authorization to reduce Hydrofluorocarbons (HFC's)- HFCs are Dangerous to Ozone and efforts being made to limit sale and use of HFCs.

[IRA of 2022](#), funding became available at state level in 2024.

Recent Challenges in Sustainability:

- There is a high administrative burden on contractors, due to lower and lower workforce numbers while annual demand for labor increases.
- Refrigerant is not environmentally friendly if not installed properly and there is no licensure in NYS for HVAC to ensure consistency and safety standards during installation.

Committee Reports:

- **Program and Presentations**
 - March Presentation- Residential Stream Bank Erosion- Caroline Kilmer
 - Potluck in May 21st – Reserved Community Center at Ontario Beach Park
- **Nominating and Community Liaison**
 - Meeting Rescheduled for first week of March- Plans to send out update on when people are available.
 - Nominations for the 25-26 Term have been submitted to the legislature.
- **Natural Resources**
 - GIS updates scheduled for March 12th.

Monroe County Staff Reports:

- Steve Olufsen, Planning & Dvpt – No Updates
- Madison Quinn, DES Sustainability – In Contracting phase for CAP plan, and implementation of plan. More updates to come- there will be plenty of engagement opportunities.
- Clement Chung, MCDES- There has been an update to Van Laire wastewater treatment facility that was ordered by the state in 2018, the project is now complete and the final component is FEMA emergency Generators. There will be three, 2.5megawatt generators to invest in long term reliable treatment (only for catastrophic outage events).

- Starr O'Neil DPH – Absent- EMC has submitted to be a member of NYSACC, a finalized version of the 2024 Annual Report and Workplan will be sent out soon.

Other Business/Announcements

- No Upcoming trainings at this time.
- Town of Penfield is now a Tree City! The town is updating their EPOD. They now have a woodland replacement policy – [Is on the town of Penfield website](#)- minimum size for disturbing woodland is ½ acre including residential.
- In Brighton there will be tree plantings in Buckland Park, there will be a [Micro Miyawaki demonstration upcoming](#).
- Regarding Composting and City of Rochester Program- there is local concern over transport of compost that is bike accessible in Cobbs Hill.

Adjourn:

- Meeting was adjourned at 5:18 by Tom Dooley.

Monroe County Environmental Management Council (EMC)

February 19th, 2025 Meeting

Sign In

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Cynette Cavaliere	Town of Penfield EECC
Steven Rutherford	Town of Hamlin
MARK GRAD	" " Perinton
Tom Dooley	At Large
Haines Lockhart	At Large
DEB MURATORE	AT LARGE
Dana McCarthy	At large
BILL PARKHURST	Town of GORDON CB
ANDY LESS	Village of Honey Falls CB
CHARLES ZOTKIN	Water Conservation Board
Charles Johnson	Gates Conservation
Nate Jones	Monroe County DES/Civilian
MARK McDERMOTT	EAST ROCHESTER PARKS
Jahe Straub	Town of Clarkson CB
Alexandra Ferrante	Town of Irondequoit
Larry Hazenby	Town of Chili
DAVID BRIDGES	Brighton Conservation Board
Steve Olufsen	Monroe County Planning
Margaret Bailey	Township of Mendon