

Monroe County Climate Action Plan Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Monroe County Fleet Center / Zoom
January 5, 2024 (3:30 – 5:00 p.m.)
Drafted: January 8, 2024
Approved: February 4, 2024

Members: Matthew O'Connor, Michael Yudelson, John Botelho, Sue Hughes-Smith, Rick Milne, Kate Walker, Mike Garland, Anna Yatteau, Lola DeAscentiis

Absent: Akilah Skerrette-Banister

Staff: Clement Chung, Madison Quinn, Joe Vankerkhove, MCDES

Guests: Charles Johnson, MC Environmental Management Council

Attending via Zoom: Alden Smith; Molly Gaudioso, Colliers Engineering & Design; Jenny Loewenstein & Rachel Scudder, Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council; Loretta Morrell, Genesee Valley Audubon Society;

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

Meeting called to order at 3:31 P.M. by Co-Chair O'Connor.

Approval of Minutes (Co-Chair Yudelson):

Minutes from the November 13, 2023 meeting approval – motion by Matt O'Connor; seconded by Kathryn Walker. Motion unanimously approved.

Legislative Update (Legislators Yudelson, Milne, Sue Hughes Smith):

Welcome back Sue Hughes-Smith

Climate Action Plan Annual Report (Madison Quinn):

Draft presented. Highlights:

- Expressway & non-expressway lighting conversion to LED: over 50% complete, expect completion Summer 2025
- 10 new zero-turn electric mowers; DES will monitor functionality and how long a charge lasts in concert with Fleet Division and Parks Department staff; The 10 most in need of replacement were replaced first; The lessons learned will be shared with the public to help facilitate adoption of zero emission lawn equipment by other stakeholders and the public;
- EV Master Plan: will include all vehicles and equipment as well as how to strategically roll out charging infrastructure.
- Interior lighting upgrades in county buildings to LED lighting, all except the COB and Airport have been converted. COB will be converted during an upcoming renovation; Airport is TBD.
- Organics Management Plan: Feasibility study on organic waste landfill diversion will be included in OMP when released. Solid Waste Division is working on this with their term contractor.
- Food scraps pilot program: includes Monroe Community Hospital & Jail as well as a residential pilot with the Town of Pittsford. The Solid Waste Division is leading this effort and coordinating with the Town of Pittsford. All 500 buckets have been reserved, 424 individual users (QR codes scanned at drop-off). Total site uses 2,025. Added additional totes because of frequent use.
- EV Charging Stations: continued to add Level 2 stations; total of 28 ports available of public facing charging stations; MCC Downtown the latest to come online; Webster Park and MCC Brighton will be coming into service in Q1 2024. Discussing future rollout.

2024 priorities (not to all be completed in 2024, to advance in 2024:

- Finalizing CAP Phase II
- Beginning Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan (CARP) (including Climate Vulnerability Assessment)
- Continue to roll out EV charging for county and public use
- Quantifying and tracking VMT (to contribute to EV Master Plan): –working with Fleet Division and Engineering/Facilities Division
- Green Building Policy Update: working with Engineering Division
- Green Procurement: First meeting of Green Procurement Working Group in January. Madison can provide an update to Committee next month.
- Finalize Organics Management Plan (including diversion plan) – Solid Waste Division is working on this with CSC grant support.
- Advance natural resource inventory through MC Environmental Management Council (under the Natural Resources Subcommittee)
- Establish and sustain an interdepartmental committee to coordinate implementation of Phase I.
- Zoo entrance geothermal project – will be in Phase II after Phase I of the project is complete... Phase I is being rebid and reevaluated, so the Engineering Division will look at the feasibility of geothermal for the Tropics Building in Phase I. *Planning for this project will continue in 2024, but the Phase II Entrance Building will not be constructed*

in 2024.

- Sue suggested changing “green fleet” to “alternative fuel fleet” when including Biodiesel, E85, Propane, & CNG.

Climate Action Plan Phase 2 (All):

1. Molly gave overview of Phase II Stakeholder Engagement Workbook. Preliminary document will be shared with stakeholders. Instructions added along with probing questions for how to review and consider the actions – what organization is already working on, existing resources/funding that can support implementation, interest in partnering with the county, support needed, and are we missing any actions/strategies you’d like to see added. Actions in each of 6 focus areas are broken into 2 groups – “possible county actions” and “community-driven actions” – with “community” being any stakeholders that are not the county. Envision the County serving to connect/convene stakeholders, provide information/education, and provide information on potential funding resources

Items that are more related to CARP have been captured and separated out for inclusion in development of that plan.

Collecting stakeholder feedback: a Google Form would be helpful for community groups that want to provide feedback but don’t want to attend one of the stakeholder sessions. Feedback will be captured live at the stakeholder sessions (in Zoom and in person),.

Other committee commentary included:

- Add Waste & Recycling stakeholder meeting.
- Describe what “services” and “educational materials” will include – it’s very general. Separate these out from each other and provide examples of what a service could be/ what educational materials could be.
- Identifying leaders in the community – Anna has connection to a high school with a sustainability plan; Kate will provide information from a school that has done a waste audit; These could be included in a toolkit for schools. We’ll also be in touch with the Color Your School Green groups and Color Your Community Green groups; Part of stakeholder conversations will be to find out what other groups are already doing.
 - All committee members are encouraged to add stakeholders to the spreadsheet on the Google Drive.
 - Case studies will be highlighted to help other similar organizations adopt best practices and learn from others.
- Phasing actions – identifying short, medium, long-term actions will be helpful. Longer term items will have intermediate steps along the way. These phased actions will be refined in CAP Phase II report with potential impact, etc. (similar to Phase I). The plan will be updated every 5 years to revise to include updated GHG inventory, new technology, and current policies.
- Consider collaborating with the Climate Solutions Accelerator consolidated community calendar.
- The Transportation section needs more emphasis on public transportation; Some connections to Active Transportation Plan will be referenced in the Phase II Plan. Colliers will be providing a robust explanation of existing plans that intersect with the CAP Phase II beginning at the next meeting.
- Add a column to clarify potential stakeholder partners – “community” sounds like the general population. Could specify multiple groups – e.g. businesses and nonprofits; or local governments and educational institutions;
- If Committee members are aware of standing meetings in February with any stakeholder groups, please connect them with Madison.
- Committee members are encouraged to provide feedback by one week (use documents in Google Drive). Comments after that will still be welcome, but for the initial workbook to be sent out with stakeholder invitations, the edits through next week will be incorporated.

New Business: None.

Public Forum:

No comments or requests to speak were received.

Next meeting is Monday, February 5, 2023 at 3:30 in-person at the Monroe County Fleet Center Building 1 Conference Room. Changes or updates to the meeting venue will be communicated to the committee via email.

Motion to adjourn by Michael Yudelson; seconded by Matt O’Connor. Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.