

To: Claverack Town Council  
From: John Bradley, Coordinator for Claverack Climate Smart Task Force  
Re: Brief Report marking 9 months of Claverack Climate Smart  
Date: May 13, 2021

#### What have we done?

- Established a Committee (Task Force) of 7 volunteers, including Katy and myself. The other volunteers are Jeff Kiplinger, Josh Nislich, Kathleen Proper, Imre Varga, and Richard Weninger. All have donated their time, expertise and enthusiasm to getting us started.
- Initiated a Greenhouse Gas Inventory of Town Buildings which should be completed by the Capital District Regional Planning Commission staff soon.
- Investigated the feasibility of utilizing hydropower for the new Town building and have identified potential partners and investors to implement the project.
- Initiated an investigation of the cost of converting Town Streetlights to LED, as a project for the \$5,000 received from the Clean Energy program the town has participated in.
- Cosponsored two Climate Smart community education programs working with the Claverack Library and Zero Waste Columbia. There were about 80 attendees.
- Explored Climate Smart actions undertaken by neighboring Climate Smart Committees with the intent of identifying reasonable next steps for Claverack'.
- I am serving on the CLC's Taghkanic Headwaters Planning Committee; although most of the watershed is not in Claverack, the planning to protect the watershed and the NorthEast Wildlife Corridor should be useful in updating Claverack's comprehensive plan.

#### Climate Smart in Columbia County:

- Claverack is one of 15 CSC Committees in the County, including the recently established County Committee. Three or four are in the process of being certified at the Bronze level;
- These are some of the Actions other towns' Climate Smart have undertaken:
  - Literally all have gained Certification (grant) points from having completed the Clean Energy program;
  - Streetlight conversion to LEDs;
  - Greenhouse Gas Inventory and energy reduction actions, like what we are doing;
  - Renewable energy, including Community Solarize campaigns, Community Choice Aggregations, Solar panels on town garages, etc.
  - Hydropower where historical mills once used water power (interest in several communities);
  - Several towns are considering adopting the Stretch building codes which will go into effect automatically in 2 years and which will generate savings for homeowners and certification points for the towns;
  - Community Composting and other food scrap and yard waste composting;
  - Repair cafes and other reuse programs;
  - Several towns are initiating Comprehensive Plan updates, including conservation and Open space planning.

- Over the coming months, the Climate Smart Committee will be reviewing these and other Pledge Element actions to identify opportunities to recommend to the Town Board for consideration.