

## **Summary of Claverack Climate Smart Meeting on 11/17/20**

John Bradley, CSC Coordinator

### **Distributed to Committee - Dec 14**

#### **Welcome**

Meeting started on Zoom at 6:35 PM. Attending: Jeff Kiplinger, Kathleen Proper, Katy Cashen, Imre Vargas and John Bradley; Not present: Richard Weinenger

#### **Brief self-Intros:**

The group briefly introduced themselves and noted their interests and goals for the Climate Smart program. With over half the committee as long term or lifelong residents of the area, broadening Claverack residents' awareness of and engagement in climate smart activities was a high priority. The other major interest is in supporting the Town to address climate change by reducing GHG emissions and increasing resilience.

#### **Discussion of CSC Program, Certification Framework and the Role of the Committee**

The Committee discussed several formal requirements for the Climate Smart program:

- A resolution to formalize the Committee (Task Force) will need to be passed by the Town Council. John will review other towns' experience and share information with the Committee at a future meeting. We can do this in the new year.
- The primary role is to advise the Town Council on Climate Smart activities and provide leadership for implementation as appropriate. on and lead implementation. Typically a CSC committee pursues multiple actions to reduce GHG emissions, achieve energy efficiencies, protect and enhance local ecosystems, which benefit the community. Local volunteer resources is a determining factor in a committee's agenda.
- The Certification Framework provides guidance with multiple options for action within the ten Pledge Elements. An important aspect of the program is the grant fund incentives to support actions. Upon achieving the first Certification level , Bronze by attaining 120 points, a town becomes more competitive for grants.

#### **Discussion of CSC Action Priorities**

A new committee such as ours typically assesses what actions it can claim prior to joining Climate Smart (see Table below). For example, it is estimated that Claverack would already claim 56 points. The NYS CSC recommends undertaking a Green House Gas Inventory for local government operations. This Inventory facilitates a discussion of opportunities for reducing emissions and realizing energy efficiencies.

Meeting Summary - Claverack Climate Smart Committee  
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In considering which actions to focus on, the group discussed the balance between a short term focus with quick payback for Town operations savings and more complex longer term action .

The Table of Actions with Certification Points was discussed. It is estimated that Claverack qualifies for about 56 points based on accomplishments to date under Climate Smart and the Clean Energy program. The first Certification level, Bronze is 120 points

Two projects were discussed in some detail and will be evaluated further for discussion with the Town Council. The Greenhouse Gas Inventory for Government Operations would help identify opportunities for increasing energy efficiencies. NYS considers this a 'Recommended Priority' and is frequently a first project for a new CSC committee to undertake. The second project was a preliminary review for a Renewable Energy Feasibility study for Hydro Power. The inclusion of renewable hydropower energy in the planning for the new Town building might be a consideration.

Community education and opportunities for collaboration with other towns CSCs and environmental organizations was mentioned as a topic for future discussion.

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Program Elements	Legacy Action	Actions Completed in past few years	Points	Type
PE 1	1.2	Create CSC Task Force	20	Mandatory
PE 1	1.3	Appoint CSC Coordinator	10	Mandatory
PE 3	3.32	Energy Benchmarking Gov Bldgs	2-5	CEC
PE 6	6.3	Unified Solar Permit	5	CEC
PE 3	NA	Energy Code Enforcement Training	5	CEC
PE	6.11	Cleen Fleets - Install EV Charging Station	4-18	CEC
PE 6	6.17	Develop Natural Resource Inventory	8-10	Priority
PE 5	5.13	Waste Reduction Education - Nov 17	2	
		Subtotal	56 (min)	
		<b>Actions mentioned Possibly to be undertaken</b>		
PE 2	2.1	Gov Operations GHG Inventory	16	Priority
PE 3	3.16	LED Street Lights	5-10	
PE 4	4.3	Renewable Energy - Solarize	3-5	
PE 4	4.3	Renewable Energy Feasibility- Hydro	3-5	
PE 3	3.7	Green Energy Standards Gov Bldgs	2-4	
PE 8		Solarize, Solar for All Campaign	5	
		Bronze Certifications Target	120	

**References:**

- Which Pledge Element for focus? - [Certification Framework](#)
  - More/All Actions at: [Certification Overview](#)
- More detail on GHG Emissions Inventory (PE2 Action) -Recommended Priority  
<https://climatesmart.ny.gov/actions-certification/actions/#open/action/6>
- Renewable Energy Feasibility Study (PE4 Action) (Hydropower for Agawamuck- <https://microhydrony.org/>)  
<https://climatesmart.ny.gov/actions-certification/actions/#open/action/46>