

Monroe County Climate Action Plan Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

via zoom

February 3, 2022 (3:30 – 5:00 p.m.)

Drafted: February 4, 2022

Approved: March 3, 2022

Members: John Botelho, Matthew O'Connor, Michael Yudelson, Sue Hughes Smith, Kathryn Walker, Mike Garland, Leah Wirley, Helen Frank

Absent: Michael Yudelson

Staff: Clement Chung, Tina Stevens, Joe VanKerkhove, Yasmin Guevara, Rochelle Bell, Isobell Haddad, Pat Gooch

Guests: Molly Guadoso, John Steinmetz, Kiernan Playford

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

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

Approval of Minutes (Co-Chair Yudelson):

1. Minutes from the January 6, 2022 meeting were unanimously approved. Motion by Matt O'Connor; seconded by Sue Hughes-Smith.

Legislative Update (County Legislator Yudelson):

1. Legislator Yudelson has been in communication with the appropriate parties regarding three vacancies on the Climate Action Committee: appointments of the President of the Legislature, the Majority Leader, and a student appointment of the County Executive. No action has yet been taken.

Climate Action Plan Update (Joe VanKerkhove / Bergmann Associates):

1. Joe VanKerkhove and Molly Guadoso, John Steinmetz, and Kim Baptiste from Bergmann Associates gave an update on the Climate Action Plan:
 - Solid Waste now will include the Gloria Drive Landfill only, and other solid waste facilities will be addressed in Phase 2\
 - County and Transit Fleets will be combined
 - Five sectors; Buildings and Facilities, Water Resource Recovery, Solid Waste, Fleets and Expressway Lights and Signals
 - GHG Inventories from the following counties, similar in size, makeup and operations, were presented for comparison and review: Monroe County (2019), Whatcom County, WA (2017), Orange County, NC (2005), Ulster County, NY (2018) and City of Rochester (2008 – baseline, has been updated). Targets were reviewed for each.
 - Climate Concepts review:
 - **Resilience:** The ability to anticipate, prepare for and respond to hazardous events, trends or disturbances related to climate. This involves assessing how climate change will create new, or alter current climate-related risks and taking steps to better cope with these risks. Resiliency can also be specific to municipalities.
 - **Action:** Efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emission and strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-induced impacts. This involves establishing policies, strategies and plans for climate change mitigation and adaptations.
 - **Mitigation:** Reducing GHG emissions and lessening impact from additional warming of atmosphere- long-term strategies
 - **Adaptation:** Preparing for the unavoidable impacts of actual or expected climate conditions – immediate/near term Actions. Example – installing a green roof decreases energy consumption (mitigation) while absorbing stormwater runoff (adaptation)
 - **Mitigation is the globally responsible thing to do:** actions reduce the emissions that contribute to climate change. Mitigation includes sustainable transportation; energy conservation; building code changes to improve energy efficiency; renewable energy; expanding deep lake water cooling; improving vehicle fuel efficiency; and capture and use of landfill gasses.
 - **Adaptation is the locally responsible thing to do:** actions minimize or prevent the negative actions of climate change. Adaptation includes infrastructure upgrades to sewers and culverts; residential sewer backflow and downspout disconnection; Health programs for West Nile, Lyme, a Shade Policy, cooling centers, smog alerts and an air quality health index; emergency and business continuity planning and help for vulnerable populations.
 - Draft CAP update: Feedback is being gathered from County Fleet, Expressway Lighting, and Water Resource Recovery Facilities. Solid Waste and Buildings and Facilities (largest section). Directors of each department are being asked for feedback.
 - Results are being characterized as Clarifications and Applicability and New Ideas and Opportunities
 - Plan progress: Introduction, CAP Process, Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Guide and GHG Inventory are completed. The Goal Workbook (Implementation) and Next Steps are still being formulated.
 - Consultants are still continuing to refine the Goal Workbook with staff and update and complete the GHG Report.
 - The Committee will review the draft introduction and inventory as they are released.

- Goal is to have a progress document to the committee (less targets and in draft form) prior to the March 4 meeting, tentatively February 27 or 28
- Monroe County was awarded a 50% match grant of \$97,000 for phase 1 from New York State that will be applied to Phase 2
- Other County departments have to be consulted and included, such as Finance and Legal
- Sue Hughes-Smith asked about ARPA Funding. Clem said his understanding that ARPA funds would be applied for immediate needs but there may be other funding available for long-term needs, such as ideas identified in the CAP. Pat Gooch added that ARPA Funding conversations are taking place now and decisions will be made in the next few months. Clem said that wherever there were overlaps between allowable ARPA objectives and Climate Action needs, they would investigate the use of ARPA funding.
- The County is continuing to pursue certifications: at this point, it has enough to submit for Bronze. The thought is that Phase 1 will be submitted as a Priority Action Item, which is required. There were changes recently made by NYSERDA that will provide more opportunities for funding and points, and are being investigated.
- Clem emphasized that this is a living document that will constantly need to be reviewed and revised.

New Business:

1. Clem Chung, Yasmin Guevara, Kate Walker and Matt O'Connor reported on a January 29 trip to Tompkins County to visit the Finger Lakes Re-Use Center and meet with director Diane Cohen.
 - In 1995, Tompkins County made a commitment to develop a ReUse Center as part of their Solid Waste Management Plan.
 - Finger Lakes Reuse annually diverts hundreds of tons of material that may otherwise end up in the waste stream related to construction, computers, electronics, appliances, household goods, sporting equipment, textiles, furniture, books, media and other items.
 - In addition to providing goods at affordable prices, Finger Lake ReUse creates jobs and provides skills to move residents out of poverty and into living-wage employment.
 - The ReUse Skills and Employment Training program provides training through volunteer entry-level programs that can lead to an apprenticeship after completion; over 80 employment opportunities (1/4 of those were formerly receiving public assistance) have been created as of 2020
 - ReUse creatively partners with human service agencies, educational institutions, trade unions, local governments, and existing reuse programs to provide training opportunities
 - ReUse is a 501C3 non-profit that generates \$2 million a year in revenue, which is approximately 80% of their budget
 - How does ReUse differ from other not-for-profits? Business is completely local and profits stay in the local communities; it provides job training resources and partners extensively with local organizations.
 - Another business is the Repair Café, which provides job training.
 - Kate mentioned a date had been finalized for those who wish to attend a training for beginning a similar business: it is scheduled for June 16
 - Deconstruction of buildings is a new area that ReUse has become involved with; Clem Chung said that one area to investigate is incentivizing developers to do their own deconstruction. The deconstruction process requires space to store materials and infrastructure.

Public Forum:

No correspondence or requests to speak were received.

Next meeting is Thursday, March 4, 2022 at 3:30 via zoom.

Motion to adjourn by Sue Hughes-Smith; second by Matt O'Connor. Meeting adjourned at 4:40 PM.