

Town of Owasco Climate Smart Communities Task Force
Meeting Minutes: 11/16/21
(Compiled by Amanda Mazzoni, CNY RPDB)

Attendance:

- Ed Wagner, Town Supervisor
- Linda Vitale, retired teacher, Owasco Watershed Lake Association
- Walt Aikman, forestry consultant to the Town of Owasco
- Ally Berry, Owasco Lake Watershed Inspector
- Dave Eckhardt, retired water quality inspector, Owasco Lake Watershed Commission, Cayuga Climate Action
- Mickey Belosi, interested town resident
- Amanda Mazzoni, CNY Regional Planning and Development Board

Topics:

- Amanda Mazzoni provided an introduction to NYSEDA's Clean Energy Communities program and the Climate Smart Communities program, explaining how the Town of Owasco is already participating in each and is working with the CNY RPDB towards CSC Certification currently.
 - The Town is currently a registered Climate Smart Community, meaning they've adopted the 10-element CSC pledge. They've also compiled a greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory and climate action plan. The GHG inventory is currently being updated by Amanda and will likely be ready in time for the next meeting.
 - The Town is currently a Designated Clean Energy Community and has 1,100 points (will be 1,300 points after code officer submits for training he is attending today). Grants available at 3000, 4000, and 5000 points.
 - CSC Certification is an action in the Clean Energy Communities program which can earn 600-800 points.
 - CEC actions are also actions in the CSC Certification program. Amanda and CNY RPDB intern, Mike, are working with Ed and Tammy now to compile CSC Certification application.
- Group introductions
 - Walt explained that he assisted the Town in writing tree management plan and tree ordinance and becoming a Tree City USA, working on application for third consecutive year.
 - Linda explained she has an interest/concern about the amount of hemlocks being lost.
- The role of this committee
 - There was some discussion about the role of this committee. Amanda explained that typically, this committee would meet monthly or every other month to discuss priorities in actions for Town municipal operations to consider as well as more public-facing education and outreach actions related to climate change/adaptation.
 - Ed would like to learn more from the committee members about what their priorities are for the Town so that the Board can make things happen.
- Next steps
 - Task force members will send contact information to Ed to share with the group for ongoing communication.
 - Next meeting will be via Zoom on Tuesday, 12/14/21 at 11:00am. Ed will send around Zoom information, will be the same link as today's meeting.

- Group will need to designate a note-taker for meeting minutes moving forward, possibly Ally or Walt.
- Homework:
 - Read through existing [GHG inventory](#) and [CAP](#) as well as [CSC Certification actions](#) to get ideas for what the group would like to focus on.
 - Come up with 3 ideas of actions Owasco should try to implement.
 - Mickey and Dave will put together agenda ahead of next meeting to be released for public meeting requirements.
 - Amanda will work to get GHG inventory update completed in time to present findings at next meeting.