

## CLIMATE SMART , ACTION TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES, 1/28 /20

Committee Members Present- Tara, Karla, Abi, Kevin, Angus, Bob, Debra, Melissa  
non-committee members attending- John Cooley, ?, Kerstin Kup, Donal Collins, Vance Pitkin

We have two potential avenues to bring solar power to the Town. The first is a Solarize campaign, the second is developing a Solar Map identifying the best sites for solar farms.

### SOLARIZE CAMPAIGN

is an effort to get individuals using solar power as the energy source for their homes. NYSERDA has an action item for clean energy that would give us points for this if we get a specific number of residents signed up. There are two versions, and we can do one or both.

#### Community Solar-

We publicly promote an opt-in program and get residents signed up to receive their energy from a solar provider.

#### Solar For All-

We publicly promote an opt-in program that gets low income homes signed up to receive their energy from solar power.

These two options can be promoted as part of the same campaign. To do Community Solar, we need to fill out a NYSERDA Scoping Document. Tara can provide it and a template. Debra volunteered to work on this. We also need to list a minimum of 3 area solar energy providers, or else we need to do a formal RFP.

Solar For All doesn't need an RFP, since it's sponsored by the state. But we'd need to form a sub-committee specifically to complete the tasks and promote the program.

### SCENIC HUDSON SOLAR MAPPING TOOL

Scenic Hudson received a grant to help municipalities determine optimal siting locations for potential solar farms. Kevin presented this to the Town Board at the last meeting, and all are in favor of participating. He contacted Scenic Hudson, and we are now one of two beta test communities. They will help us develop an overlay map identifying the most logical locations for solar farms in Chatham. This will also help us best write the zoning laws for proper siting of solar farms. Tara fully endorses this as a great opportunity to get our laws in place before developers come calling wanting to build solar farms in town. Abi suggested the Town Board pass a resolution in this regard (though not required by law).

Our group needs to create a sub-committee to work on the project. It should include a Town Board member, a member from our group, a member of the CAP, a member of the Zoning Board, and possibly a member of the Comp Plan committee.

### ZERO WASTE

Debra and Tara attended the first of three presentations offered by the state on the subject. It seems to be a program designed for dealing with waste at the county or large municipality level. The only subject applicable to small towns is composting. Karla knows a person in New Paltz who can teach us how to build a town-sized digester for reasonable cost. She will contact her and look into getting a presentation.

As to actual recycling in Columbia County, Abi suggested a field trip to Hudson to get a walk-through of the current state of recycling from Jolene, head of the department. That way we can best inform the public about which types of plastic are the hardest to recycle.

Abi wants to start a program to petition manufacturers to only make products using recyclable or compostable materials. Tara says the DEC has grants that pay communities to hire an outreach coordinator to educate the public on recycling.

There was talk of other novel ways to get the attention of manufacturers and retailers, such as flash-mobs unpacking their purchases in the store and leaving the store to deal with the unnecessary packaging.

#### STREET LIGHTS

Kevin thinks that since we have a new town board, it's worth updating and re-presenting the NYPA bid for LED upgrades. He will contact Jessica at NYPA. Tara says it's possible that in the 18 months since we last considered it, the costs may have improved.

#### HIGHWAY GARAGE HEAT SYSTEM

Kevin reports that the new boiler is not operating up to expectations. There are no hot coals in the morning, and the propane backup has to fill in the blanks. Terry from Radiant Store has been out making adjustments. There will be a meeting Feb 11 at the Highway garage to assess whether the tweaks have helped. Tara will inquire as to if the EPA has certified any larger boiler boxes since our application was approved.

Bob submitted the reimbursement paperwork to the appropriate party, and hasn't gotten a response or a check in 2 months. Tara said she will follow up.

#### AIR/HEAT EXCHANGERS & GEOTHERMAL HEATING

Tara says the state is looking to schedule open house events to promote both types energy delivery. She asked us to come up with suggestions on times/places that might be good. She asked us if anyone knows of homes or businesses using the technology for heating/cooling that would be willing to show it off during an open house.

Next Committee Meeting is Scheduled for Tuesday, February 25, @ 6PM at Chatham Town Hall.