

Monroe County Climate Action Plan Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Monroe County Fleet Center / Zoom
March 2, 2023 (3:30 – 5:00 p.m.)
Drafted: March 3, 2023
Approved: May 4, 2023

Members: Matthew O'Connor, Sue Hughes-Smith, Michael Yudelson, John Botelho, Kate Walker, Sean Delehanty, Anna Yatteau

Absent: Mike Garland, Rick Milne

Staff: Clement Chung, Tina Stevens

Guests: Loretta Morrell, Molly Gaudioso

Attending via Zoom: Alden Smith, Jordan Vogler, Andre Primus

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

Meeting called to order at 3:33 P.M. by Co-Chair O'Connor. Matt welcomed those participating via zoom.

Approval of Minutes (Co-Chair Yudelson):

Minutes from the February 2, 2022 meeting unanimously approved. Motion by Matt O'Connor; seconded by Sean Delehanty.

Legislative Update (Legislators Hughes-Smith, Yudelson, Delehanty and Milne):

No report.

Climate Action Plan Phase 2 (All):

1. Molly Gaudioso updated the committee on next steps:

- Website www.monroecountyclimateaction.com – the existing Climate page on the County website will be incorporated and each page will be accessible from the other. The current page as seen as the “administrative” page. New page is available to public.
- Community Engagement Strategy: baseline materials for public-facing events under development. These items include press releases, social media, email invitations, etc. Materials will be forwarded to committee members and they are asked to share with their networks.
- Clem Chung and Pat Gooch are interfacing with County Communications to integrate websites, materials, communications, etc. Climate and workshops will be added to the “banner” at the top of the County website.
- Print materials will be distributed to local libraries.
- This strategy is similar to other county initiatives, including the Comprehensive and Active Transportation Plans.
- Contact list remains evolving and under construction.
- Sue Hughes-Smith asked about social media: Clem is working with County Communications on that and a press release.
- First public workshops scheduled for March 15 at noon and 6 p.m., virtually via zoom. Registration is required and available at www.monroecountyclimateaction.com.
- Agenda includes: Introductions, Climate Change/Action overview, Phase 1 Recap and Phase II Overview, Topic Area Brainstorming.
- Working with Communications to record County Executive Bello with a kickoff message that will be used during the event.
- Bergmann plans to use interactive elements, including a live polling tool, brainstorming tool and breakout groups.
- These tools will be used to continue important conversations after the meeting.
- Sue Hughes-Smith asked about including personal actions to get people thinking and sharing ideas, and that actions at every level should be included, as these issues cannot be solved simply by individual actions. Residents want to know what they can do – and we can provide them with resources.
- Information will be collated and sent out after both workshops.
- Mike Yudelson said that this ties back to serving as a clearinghouse for information.
- Topic areas include: buildings and housing, transportation, land and water resources, waste and recycling, energy use / consumption and community partnerships, education and economy.
- The Online Engagement Tool will be launched during the workshop. The tool will be structured by topic area (limited to six topics), and asks for feedback on issues, opportunities and priorities. All comments will be viewable in real time to allow for interaction with others and have guidelines for interaction applied. Tool has filter for inappropriate comments and comments are moderated as received. Options are provided for name, email, etc. A list of emails will be generated that can be used for other communications. There is also a direct upload section to send documents.
- This tool will be open for 2-3 weeks and will be pushed at the pop-up events and accessible through a QR code.
- Clem Chung said it was also important to capture the community's sentiments regarding topics like environmental justice and health.

- Bergmann continues to work to evaluate and refine the stakeholder communication list.
- Climate Solutions Accelerator Outreach and Collaboration events:
 - Regenerative Economy Career and Opportunities – April 22
 - Collective Impact Steering Committee – April 5 – Matt, Mike, Molly and Sue to attend
 - Collaboration Team Meeting – March 16
 - Color Your Community Green Groups Joint Meeting – TBD
- Outreach support items include: Preliminary Interest Survey (due 3/10) to ascertain level of interest and desired involvement; current priorities and actions; organization data and information upload and contact information.
- Advisory Committee Resources (due 3/17) include: overview presentation template and a facilitation guide.
- Next steps / Immediate Actions: Committee – send bios and headshots, share workshop invite with contact and continue to fill in stakeholder contacts; Consultant Team – public workshop presentation and ideas wall; stakeholder survey, presentation and guide.

New Business:

1. Discussion about an email soliciting GHG evaluation services that has been received by all committee members. Matt O'Connor will reply.
2. Clem Chung state that approval had been received from NYSERDA and the County has now been designated a Clean Energy Community. This entitles the County for \$5,000 in funding for electric vehicle charging infrastructure installation.
3. County is moving forward with hiring for the Sustainability Coordinator position and hopes to have someone on board soon.
4. Sue Hughes-Smith asked about next steps for the \$1 million granted by the County Executive for Phase 1 projects. Clem replied that the County is deciding internally where to place these funds including a budget line item specifically for Climate Initiatives. This procedure continues to move forward.
5. Sue also asked about progress concerning composting. Clem replied that the County will be undertaking the development of an Organics Management Plan, which will be a component of the plan already in place for managing the County's Solid Waste (LSWMP). A grant to fund this work was obtained through the Climate Smart Communities program and a referral accepting this grant will be introduced to the County Legislature for its consideration in March. The consultant has been selected, scope is underway, with an inventory and evaluation schedule for calendar year of 2024 with a report issued close to the end of that year.
6. Kate Walker said the EPA released a Planning grant earlier in the week that would allow municipalities to receive up to \$3 million. The top 67 cities will receive \$1 million. Groups can combine for regional planning and a letter of intent is due on March 31. Total opportunity is \$276 million from the recently approved infrastructure package.
7. Anna Yatteau and Sue Hughes-Smith will be participating in this year's Envirothon teaching day on March 28, and again in May as a judge for projects. Anna is coordinating with the other Student Members.

Public Forum:

No comments or requests to speak were received.

Next meeting is Thursday, April 6, 2023 at 3:30 **in-person** at the Monroe County Fleet Center Building 1 Conference Room. Changes or updates to the meeting venue will be communicated to the committee via email.

Motion to adjourn by Matt O'Connor; second by Sean Delehanty. Meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM.