

Monroe County Climate Action Plan Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

via zoom

January 6, 2022 (3:30 – 5:00 p.m.)

Drafted: January 7, 2022

Approved: February 3, 2022

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

Absent:

Staff: Clement Chung, Tina Stevens, Joe VanKerkhove, Yasmin Guevara, Rochelle Bell

Guests: Molly Guadoso, John Steinmetz, Kim Baptiste, Kiernan Playford

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

1. Meeting called to order at 3:35 P.M. by Co-Chair O'Connor.

Approval of Minutes (Co-Chair Yudelson):

1. Minutes from the December 2, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved. Motion by Matt O'Connor; seconded by John Botelho.

Legislative Update (County Legislator Yudelson):

1. Sue Hughes-Smith was sworn in as a member of the Monroe County Legislature, and Legislator Yudelson offered congratulations.
2. 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.

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

1. Joe Vankerkhove and Molly Guadoso, John Steinmetz, Kiernan Playford and Kim Baptiste from Bergmann Associates gave an update on the Climate Action Plan:
 - The decision has been made to address Solid Waste in Phase 2. This decision will be explained in the Phase 1 report.
 - Emissions are down, due to calibration changes at the inactive Gloria Drive landfill; Gloria Drive will be addressed in Phase 1
 - Work will continue with County partner Waste Management on the active Mill Seat and High Acres Landfills (note: the County has no oversight or jurisdiction at High Acres).
 - Benefits, including the Monroe County / Waste Management ecopark and the Monroe County Recycling Center, among others, will also be addressed in Phase 1
 - Solid Waste review and assessment inventory will continue
2. Proposed Climate Action plan formatting:
 - Executive Summary: overview of key plan elements
 - Part 1 - Introduction: Science of Climate Change, ClimAID Projections for Monroe County, What is a Government Operations GHG Inventory? What is a Government Operations Climate Action Plan?
 - Part 2 - CAP Process: Plan Focus, Plan Framework, Plan Development
 - Part 3 - Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Guide: County Climate Initiatives and Case Studies
 - Part 4 - GHG Inventory
 - Part 5 - Implementation: Draft Purpose Statement, GHG Emissions Operational Goals and Target, Focus Area or Sector, Implementation Plan
 - Part 6 - Next Steps: Introduction to County Level Mitigation, Adaptation and Resilience, Community GHG Inventory/CAP (Phase 2), Building on Other Plans and Initiatives
3. Questions were asked about the approximate number of pages for the report – at this time it is thought to be in the area of 100 pages, possibly presented in two PDF files.
4. A goal framework workbook will be developed by area that includes an introduction, purpose statement, and areas of focus for every sector. This is a working document. Workbooks will be emailed to Joe and Clem for distribution by sector.
5. The same approach will be used for Phase 2. Conservative, moderate and aggressive targets will be specified.
6. The County has the greatest opportunity to reduce GHG in the areas of this report – they are under County control. Each sector will have a goal target and an implementation plan. Actions can be grouped under objectives. The county can add or remove the starting point.

7. The County has previously done a great deal of work and baseline data cited is from 2019. NYS uses a 2010 baseline. This will be made clear and highlighted in the narrative in section 3 – that between 2010 and 2019 much mitigation work was completed. Projects such as solar at the NE Quadrant Treatment Plant and Gloria Drive Landfill, and VanLare Aeration will be highlighted.
8. Matt O'Connor said that Monroe County has a leadership role with the cutting edge work that they have already done – it is a great start. Mike Garland stated that the County already has an internal working group in place and this will lend itself to identifying opportunity.
9. Proposed schedule:
 - January, 2022:
 - 6th – Committee Meeting (report status, purpose, and goal workbook review)
 - 6th - 24th – Bergmann completes draft of initial sections of the report and provides it to County. County departments provide completed workbooks to Bergmann
 - February, 2022:
 - 3rd – Committee meeting (select preliminary report topics review/discussion)
 - Jan 24 – Feb 7- Bergmann Team completes a draft report and submits to County staff for review
 - Feb 7 – 14 – County staff complete review and provide comments to Bergmann
 - Feb 15 – 28 – Bergmann revises preliminary CAP and submits for review by additional County departments
 - March, 2022:
 - 3rd – Committee meeting (agenda TBD, pending status of departmental reviews)
 - 1st - 14th – County departments complete review
 - 15th – 25th – Bergmann completes revisions, publishes updated CAP document, and meets with Committee
 - April, 2022:
 - 7th – Committee meeting; present complete plan
10. Mike Garland stated that DES will take the lead to implement and manage other departments with support from the County Executive and the Legislature. Some items will require investments in resources and capital expenditures, others will require policy. The expectation is that this will be a living document with clear and distinct milestones. Also, Phase 1 learnings will apply to Phase 2.
11. Clem Chung said the challenge will be prioritizing investments, and when the community sees the County taking the lead, that can have an impact for Phase 2. Also, some adaptation plans should be considered such as hazard and flood mitigation, which will spark a larger conversation.
12. Matt O'Connor suggested periodic updates be published at regular intervals to keep the program in front of the public.
13. A glossary to explain terms, units and graphics will be included.

Public Forum:

No correspondence or requests to speak were received.

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

Motion to adjourn by Mike Yudelson; second by Matt O'Connor. Meeting adjourned at 4:20 PM.