



Office of the County Executive Monroe County Legislature

August 5, 2022

To The Honorable
Monroe County Legislature
407 County Office Building
Rochester, New York 14614

Additional Material on File
in the Clerk's Office

Subject: Adoption of the Monroe County Climate Action Plan Phase I

OFFICIAL FILE COPY
No. <u>220267</u>
Not to be removed from the Office of the Legislature Of Monroe County
Committee Assignment
ENV. & PUB. WORKS-L

Honorable Legislators:

We recommend that Your Honorable Body adopt the Monroe County Climate Action Plan Phase I.

As you are aware, Monroe County has been a leader in innovative sustainability policy that has been both environmentally friendly and cost effective. Protecting our environment is key to maintaining our quality of life and preserving our natural resources. In order to continue our leadership, we must strengthen our plans and further our objectives. Therefore, it is prudent to adapt a framework for actions to improve our sustainability, reduce emissions, strengthen our resiliency and ensure Monroe County continues to be a leader in protecting our environment for years to come.

On March 10, 2020, Your Honorable Body authorized the creation of a Climate Action Plan Advisory Committee for the express purpose of creating a Climate Action Plan for Monroe County (Resolution No. 76 of 2020). This was followed by further related actions taken by Your Honorable Body to appoint members of the Committee (Resolution No. 167 of 2020), authorizing the execution of a contract with Bergmann Associates, Architects, Engineers, Landscape Architects & Surveyors, D.P.C. for Professional Design Services for the Climate Action Plan (Resolution No. 425 of 2020), adoption of the New York State Climate Smart Communities Resolution (Resolution No. 260 of 2020), and acceptance of a grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation under the Climate Smart Communities program to support the development of the Climate Action Plan (Resolution No. 111 of 2022).

The Monroe County Climate Action Plan has been divided into two phases. Phase I relates to operations of the Monroe County government; the development of Phase I is complete. The Phase I Plan sets a goal of reducing government operation greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% by 2050 from the established 2019 baseline. Phase II relates to actions to be taken by the community as a whole and is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2023. While both phases constitute the entirety of the Climate Action Plan, we recommend that Your Honorable Body adopts the Monroe County Climate Action Plan Phase I at this time to allow government operations work to progress with urgency while the development of the community-wide plan is ongoing. This will allow Monroe County to demonstrate leadership in climate action by reducing the greenhouse gas emissions within its control.

The specific legislative action required is to adopt the Monroe County Climate Action Plan Phase I.

Adoption of the Monroe County Climate Action Plan Phase I will have no impact on the revenues or expenditures of the current Monroe County Budget.

This action is a Type II Action pursuant to 6 NYCRR § 617.5(c)(27) ("conducting concurrent environmental, engineering, economic, feasibility and other studies and preliminary planning and budgetary processes necessary to the formulation of the proposal for action, provided those activities do not commit the agency to commence, engage in or approve such action") and is not subject to further review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act.

We recommend that this matter be referred to the appropriate committee(s) for favorable action by Your Honorable Body.

Sincerely,



Adam J. Bello
Monroe County Executive



Richard B. Milne
Monroe County Legislator
District 5



Michael Yudelson
Monroe County Legislator
District 13



Sabrina LaMar
Monroe County Legislator
President



Sean M. Delehanty
Monroe County Legislator
District 11



Susan Hughes-Smith
Monroe County Legislator
District 14