



Climate Task Force Meeting Summary

December 17th, 2025

Attendees:

Task Force members: Matthew Smith, Chris Belden, Jeff Flagg, Jack Mance

Other attendees: Diane Collins, Dan Durkee, Steven Flint, Ethan Gaddy, Don Lehman, Chris Navitsky

The meeting began at 9:00 a.m. with introductions.

Year in Review

Matthew Smith talked through some highlights from the year including:

- Bronze recertification for the County
- The municipal culvert inventory submitted through the Climate Smart Communities Grant Program
- Presentations and updates made to the Environmental Concerns Committee
- Continued to assist and attend Composting and Recycling working group
- Attended the North Country Climate-Ready Workforce Conference
- Capital Regional Climate Action Plan was completed

There was brief conversation amongst the group about each of the topics.

Looking Ahead

Matthew Smith then talked about looking ahead to next year and the possible grant applications, updates to the Environmental Concerns Committee, and to submit documentation to begin annual updates to actions to avoid expiration of actions and a consistent certification level.

Warren County Climate Crosswalk

Matthew Smith then presented the Warren County Climate Crosswalk, a document which lines up Comprehensive Plan goals, Capital Region Climate Action plan goals, and State Climate Smart Communities goals to better align the groups efforts moving forward, show the work across multiple levels of government, and set up the County to pursue grant funding for implementation of County goals.

The group had extensive conversations about the uses for the Crosswalk including grants, understanding priorities for the County and for municipalities, our status in the Climate Smart Communities program and the overlap between County goals and actions we can get points for. The Crosswalk could be further developed by reviewing recently adopted local comprehensive plans to understand policy alignment at the municipal level. Participants noted that the Crosswalk could be further elaborated to include examples of how other municipalities have tackled these goals and to identify non-governmental community partners with shared goals.

The group then talked about grant programs available, and there was a lot of discussion around transportation and public health and how they relate to climate. Dan Durkee from Public Health noted that there have been many 'Complete Streets' assessments conducted throughout Warren County communities, but that implementation of recommendations is extremely limited. The group discussed potential strategies to raise awareness of the connections between public health, transportation infrastructure, and climate goals. Jack Mance (AGFTC) noted that his organization has and can develop transportation studies that align with goals associated with transportation in the Crosswalk. The CSC grant program specifically provides implementation funding for Complete Streets policies, Planning for Biking and Walking, and Infrastructure for Biking and Walking.

Jack Mance (AGFTC) also mentioned that his organization can complete infrastructure Resiliency Plans for municipalities which includes identifying and quantifying transportation infrastructure, including bridges and culverts, that may be vulnerable to severe weather events, flooding, or washouts, and to develop strategies to assist municipalities in pursuing related improvements. These projects are solicited through the annual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and are completed with no cash expense to municipalities. This will be an opportunity for municipalities to complete their culvert inventories if the County is awarded the Climate Smart Communities municipal culvert grant that was submitted in July.

We also discussed gaps in the document that may be overlooked and how we can better communicate and utilize local expertise and information to ensure that the gaps are covered to the best of the group's ability.

The group was asked for feedback on the crosswalk and there was general consensus that this document would assist with setting a direction for the group heading into 2026.

Next Steps:

- Schedule Q1 Meeting
- Send out update of CSC Coordinator actions to the group between now and the next meeting
- Send out information from Diane Collins about opportunities for education
- Engage with Queensbury CSC to see if there is a partnership opportunity to further County and Town goals

Prepared by Matthew Smith 12/17/2025