

Warren County Fish Hatchery

Courtesy of Warrensburg Heritage Trail

This meeting is scheduled for May 14th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Warren County Municipal Complex, 3rd Floor of the Human Resources Building. Same room as last time.

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Follow up from last meeting
3. Warren County 2040 Comprehensive Plan
4. 2025 Activities
 - CSC Bronze recertification submitted, will hear back in June
 - CSC composting pilot program MWRR education grant
 - Grant applications
5. Partnership List and Public Outreach
6. Open discussion
7. Next meeting date: TBD

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Climate Smart Task Force Meeting Summary

May 14th, 2025

Attendees:

Task Force members: Matthew Smith, Lisa Adamson, Chris Belden, Allison Gaddy, Scott Royael

Other attendees: Olivia Cohen, Josh Dranoff, Dan Durkee, Mike Erickson, Steven Flint, Sara Frankenfeld, Ann Marie Mason, Ben St. Andrews, Nancy Turner, William Welch, Ethan Gaddy

The meeting began at 9:00 a.m. with introductions to welcome several new participants.

The Climate Smart Coordinator reviewed follow-up items from the previous meeting:

- **CDRPC Presentation and Feedback**
The Capital District Regional Planning Commission (CDRPC) presented their Capital Region Climate Action Plan to the task force on March 5th on Zoom and requested feedback on the draft plan. CDRPC are working on a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan which will include Greenhouse Gas Inventories and the plan will be a model for local municipalities and organizations to use and adapt to their communities. The group discussed the purpose of the Capital Region Climate Action Plan, the content within the plan, and the timeframe for the plans' release, estimated to be September of 2025, and other resources that CDRPC could provide as a result of their planning efforts such as local plan templates and data. A key part of CDRPC's efforts include community level Greenhouse Gas Inventories which will provide useful data for Warren County municipalities seeking to develop localized plans. Josh Dranoff, Sustainability Planner from CDRPC, was present and provided information about the efforts.
- **Updates to Environmental Concerns Committee**

During previous meetings, Climate Task Force participants suggested establishing a line of communication between elected officials and the Climate Task Force. As a way of increasing communication, Climate Smart Coordinator Matthew Smith presented updates to the Environmental Concerns Committee at the February and April committee meetings. These meetings can be viewed on the [County YouTube channel](#). Supervisor Nancy Turner, Chair of the Environmental Concerns Committee, indicated that she would like to continue these updates to the committee when available. The next meeting is anticipated to occur in June.

- Partnership list and Outreach

This topic was briefly discussed and would have a larger dedicated discussion later in the meeting.

Warren County 2040 Discussion

The group moved on to discussing the [Warren County 2040 Comprehensive Plan](#) and the relevant environmental and climate language within the plan. The group began by talking about the purpose of a Comprehensive Plan and what the contents of the plan are. A handout was provided that had the relevant Goals and Priority Actions pulled directly from the County Comprehensive Plan. The group read through them and discussed each goal and action and the progress and efforts that have already been made. Scott Royael, Solid Waste & Recycling Compliance Coordinator for Warren County, provided an update on the Composting Pilot Project saying that he is evaluating the budget and project, and working with the New York State Department of Conservation to finalize the grant contract and begin the project. The Composting Pilot will test the feasibility of a municipal scale composting facility in order to reduce organic waste within the County.

Budget Considerations

The issue of potential federal and state budget cuts and uncertainty around reliable funding was discussed. Many task force actions can be progressed without funding such as education and information sharing, but the uncertainty presents a possible challenge to working on climate change related issues and the adaptation and mitigation actions necessary to address the changes.

Task Force's Leadership Role and Municipal Support Role

There was a discussion about if and how the County Climate Smart Task Force could position itself as a leader supporting the work on adaptation, mitigation and education about the effects of climate change. A participant stated that the local communities could follow the County if the County Climate Smart Task Force was able to be a leader with its more expansive staff and resources.

An opportunity non-governmental participants that was discussed would be to evaluate the relevant policy documents of local municipalities as there are numerous Warren County towns that just finished, are in the process of, or will shortly begin updating their Comprehensive Plans. Reviewing local policy documents to identify projects and priorities relevant to climate related issues may present opportunities to work with the towns to achieve common goals and provide them with additional resources.

It was suggested that there be dedicated tasks so that task force participants can support ongoing efforts outside of regularly scheduled meetings.

Education and Outreach

The group then had a lengthy conversation about education and outreach. There were many ideas shared about how to increase public engagement with the group and the topic of climate change, and also how to improve educational resources and materials for people who are interested. The group briefly discussed how our status as a Bronze-Certified Climate Smart Community and our known natural resources like clean air, clean water, outdoor recreation opportunities, and environmental health can all be tourist draws. The group brought up ideas to engage with the local business community, hunting and fishing clubs, and hiking clubs, our social media approach, effects of climate change in regards to public health concerns, partnering with local schools including SUNY Adirondack.

There was a brief open discussion about the Queensbury Tree City event, and an [example planning effort from the Town of Philipstown](#) working with ICLEI known as Local Governments for Sustainability.

Matthew Smith then proposed some next steps to the group and there was general consensus that the next steps were to be pursued (see following).

The meeting concluded at 10:45 a.m.

Next Steps:

- Compile a Partnership List and an Event Schedule to increase visibility of the Climate Task Force and propose to the Environmental Concerns Committee
- Research and work with Communications Director Don Lehman to explore methods for increased public participation with the Climate Smart Task Force
- Work with County Departments to compile climate related concerns to include in future updates to the Environmental Concerns Committee

- Any ideas or feedback, please email them to Matthew Smith, Climate Smart Coordinator at smithmatthew@warrencountyny.gov.

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