

Warren County Fish Hatchery

Courtesy of Warrensburg Heritage Trail

Climate Task Force Meeting Summary

Attendees:

Task Force Members:

Matthew Smith - Warren County Planning

Lisa Adamson - Town of Queensbury and
Warren County Climate Smart Task Force

Kathy Bozony - Climate Smart Coordinator
for Queensbury CSC

Jim Lieberum - Warren County Soil and
Water Conservation District

Other attendees:

Alanah Cohen-Tigor - Capital Region Clean
Energy Hub

Dan Durkee - Warren County Public Health

Steven Flint - Citizen

Ethan Gaddy - Warren County Planning

Chris Hoy - North Country Earth
Action/Third Act Upstate

Elliot Lear - Lake Champlain Lake George
Regional Planning Board

Don Lehman - Warren County Public
Affairs

Ann Marie Mason - Warren County Office of
Emergency Services

Ben St. Andrews - Citizen

The meeting began at 10:00 a.m. with introductions.

Follow Up from Last Meeting

Matthew Smith briefly read through the last meeting summary to demonstrate the progress made on the follow up actions from last meeting. The next steps were to:

- Attend the LULA Training Program through PACE University
- Promote the CDRPC Climate Action Webinar Series
- Work with Don Lehman to promote environmental and climate-related events in Warren County
- Reach out to Warren County's three other Climate Smart Task Forces and gauge interest in a collaborative project that would get all task forces points

- Gather more information about energy audits and a possible energy literacy workshop

LULA Program Summary

Matthew Smith talked about the experience at the LULA regarding the education they provided through various speakers and data sources. Representatives from NYSERDA and ORES as well as private developers and attorneys all gave presentations over 3 days. The event allowed various connections and help to set up a network of support when discussing clean energy and renewable energy. It provided a lot of information to help assist the task force moving forward by being aware of educational and data resources and representatives at NYSERDA, ORES, and PACE Law. Matthew stated to the group that he would send out the slides to anyone who would like them.

Energy Literacy Workshop

Matthew Smith gave context that Josh Dranoff from Capital District Regional Planning Commission organized a meeting with Matthew Smith, Kathy Bozony, Alanah Cohen-Tigor who were present at the meeting and her coworker from the Capital Region Clean Energy Hub. The meeting focused on understanding what the energy literacy event could look like, successful approaches in the past from the Capital Region Clean Energy Hub and a date and a time with possible locations.

The group then discussed in more detail what the outreach and the event could look like. It was noted that education is still a huge component of energy literacy and weatherization and energy efficiency are also ways to improve energy costs. The group wanted to make sure that people who are eligible for the programs are in attendance but also reaching out to everyone that wishes to be in attendance to better understand their bills or ways they can save on energy bills. It was decided that education would be ongoing and that Matthew Smith and Don Lehman would draft an outreach plan for the event with the suggestions of schools, town board meetings, committee meetings, and social media. The group then discussed the event itself which would include application assistance, program assistance and on-site contractors. The group outlined an event where people could be able to show up, get help with filling out the application, provide documentation to see what programs, if any, they qualify for, and then talk with contractors who could carry out energy audits and additional work from there all in one night. Alanah Cohen-Tigor talked a bit about the past events that the Capital Region Clean Energy Hub has done and mentioned that National Grid may be able to have their consumer advocate at the workshop to help people understand their energy bills.

Climate Smart Communities Grant

The group discussed the possible projects for the Climate Smart Grant opportunity. Matthew Smith explained the two possible projects that he had which were Colling center HVAC

upgrades and a package of climate smart actions which would boost the County in points. Ethan Gaddy explained the possibility as well of Glens Falls and Queensbury partnering on a municipal application for the Glens Falls Sewer Treatment Plant. After conversations about cost effectiveness and feasibility, the group generally decided that the package of actions would be the best fit. Matthew Smith then stated he would gather a package of actions and provide it to the group to look over.

Update on Climate Smart Actions

The group looked at handouts of the “expired” and “must revise” actions on the Warren County application for Climate Smart Communities. Matthew Smith stated the list should help provide the group with clarity as to the actions for the County that need attention. Matthew Smith indicated that he would work with Josh Dranoff from Capital District Regional Planning Commission to evaluate the opportunities to work on the actions.

The meeting ended at 11:45 a.m.

Next Steps:

- Continue organizing Energy Literacy Workshop
 - Outreach and engagement strategy
 - Organization of workshop elements and set up
- Gather package of actions to send to the group to look over ahead of Climate Smart Communities Grant
- Send out the LULA slides to anyone who would like them
- Evaluate expired or must revise actions at the end of 2026 to begin two-year rolling cycle of evaluating actions that need work

Next tentative meeting date: 9/30/2026