

Climate Task Force Meeting Summary

September 24th, 2025

Attendees:

Task Force members: Matthew Smith, Lisa Adamson, Dan Barusch, Kathy Bozony, Allison Gaddy, Jack Mance, Scott Royael

Other attendees: Josh Dranoff, Ethan Gaddy, Theresa Hajos, Christopher Hoy, Don Lehman, Nancy Turner

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

Matthew Smith then shared with the group a list of things that he has worked on since the last Climate Smart Task Force meeting.

Climate Smart Coordinators Update:

- Bronze Recertification complete
- Call with Brendan Woodruff, Director of Sustainability, NYS Department of Conservation discussing the Green Purchasing Communities Program
- Call with Eva Hoskin – Clean Energy Siting to know more about Solar and Battery Energy Storage Laws within Warren County
- Call with Pollution Prevention Institute to better understand the work they do
- Talked to Finch about possible grant opportunities
- Listened to webinar on Climate Change and the effect on food systems
- Listened to webinar on Understanding and Countering Climate Change Misinformation and Disinformation
- Submitted application for Climate Smart Communities grant for municipal culvert inventories of high-risk culverts, inventory modeled after recently completed County culvert inventory
- Submitted application for site work at County-owned Water Access Site Improvements
- Continuing to work with Lake Associations on Schroon Lake to combat invasive species Eurasian Milfoil
- Attended Composting and Recyclables working group meeting
- Worked with Josh Dranoff to prepare inventory data for this CSC Task Force meeting

Draft Warren County 2022 Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory Summary Report

The group then began to look at the data from the Community level Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventory that CDRPC recently completed. Josh Dranoff talked through the Capital District Regional Planning Board's GHG Inventory data on their website to give an overview of how to use the tools. Then the group began looking at the Warren County GHG Inventory Summary Report document, and occasionally small discussions about data points in the document.

Some of the discussions were about:

- The categorization of Built Environment vs Industry and Refrigerants
- Finch was in the Built Environment Sector and not the Industry and Refrigerants sector
- Regional comparisons and Per Capita comparisons of GHG emissions
- Emissions change by sector data
- % energy use by fuel type
- Energy cost by fuel type
- Large point sources for GHG emissions

Within the summary report, Matthew Smith provided a list of currently certified Climate Smart Actions as well as a list of completed or nearly complete actions that Warren County intends on submitting to the Climate Smart Communities Program for additional points.

The municipal members of the group inquired whether or not they could utilize the data from the CDRPC GHG inventory for points in their communities which they can. This was beneficial to discuss as this regional effort can provide a significant number of points for local municipalities participating in the CSC program.

The group talked about a Climate Action Plan and how if the County were to pursue a Climate Action plan, there could be municipal specific appendices that individual municipalities in the County could utilize as their own Climate Action Plan eliminating the need for multiple Climate Action Plans being developed. This approach was done for the Hazard Mitigation Plan to have one plan at County level also serve as the municipal Hazard Mitigation Plans.

There was a discussion about the feasibility of a Municipal Operation Greenhouse Gas Inventory for the County.

A solar feasibility study completed for the Town and Village of Lake George was also discussed. The Warren County Municipal Center was included in the feasibility study.

The group discussed the existing efforts of Warren County including a heat pump installation in the County building, solar panels were installed at the County-owned airport, County composting facility, County fleet electrification and the installation of EV chargers at the County facility.

Open Discussion

After the report and data for Warren County GHG had been discussed and there were no further questions, the meeting was opened up for open discussion.

There was a request from the group to send out update list between meetings to maintain communication between meetings.

There was a discussion of grant opportunities to further complete any culvert assessments and inventorying.

There were extensive discussions about community solar, solar feasibility in Warren County, residential solar, plug in solar, and the future costs of solar and wind vs natural gas.

The group discussed the Warren County 2040 Comprehensive Plan and the sustainability elements included with the plan.

Lastly, Matthew Smith provided an outlook of the next meeting which will include looking at the Warren County 2040 Comprehensive Plan and the Capital District Regional Climate Action Plan and analyzing if there are strategies or policies within the Capital District Regional Climate Action Plan that can help achieve our local goals and strategies stated within our Comprehensive Plan.

The meeting ended at approximately 10:40 a.m.

Next Steps:

- Schedule Q4 meeting
- Send out update of CSC Coordinator actions to the group between now and the next meeting
- Prepare crosswalk document to analyze the overlap of Warren County 2040 and the CDRPC Climate Action Plan
- Talk with Warren County Buildings and Grounds about the findings of the solar feasibility study

Prepared by Matthew Smith 9/25/2025