



**Climate Smart
Communities**
Certified Bronze



**Town of Poughkeepsie
Climate Smart Communities Task Force
October 7, 2021 at 7 pm**

Meeting occurred on Zoom at:

<https://zoom.us/j/91995613444?pwd=d1dacndyNzI0VEF3ZXlicFJkb1JCQT09>

Task Force members present:

Susan Karnes Hecht, Chair
Stanley Merritt
Ann Shershin

Joan Freeman
Richard Levine

Please refer to table below for summary of CSC and CEC status.

Climate Smart Communities Bronze Certification and next steps:

Bronze (initial) Certification was awarded on 9/25/21. This is a huge milestone, and congratulations are due to all who made it happen. Susan followed up regarding press release, announcing on social media, etc. and will work on updates to our web page, where the “Certified Bronze” logo is now displayed prominently. The Town should ideally add it to the home page in accordance with NYS request. Susan updated and simplified our shared reference document to show CSC actions approved, in process, or planned. She also provided a synopsis of requirements for Bronze vs. Silver and what we would need to obtain for that next level. A number of robust actions are in process that will satisfy the requirements for priority actions, but we will need an extensive number of additional points beyond those actions. We reviewed each action that is in process and identified needed tasks with responsible parties. Highlights:

- PE2 CAPI Dutchess: communication on 10/4 indicated that the County has been in discussions with the DEC to understand and finalize requirements. Once finalized, the MOUs will be uploaded into Grants Gateway as the last step in the County’s documentation collection process needed to set in motion contract finalization with the DEC / NYS. There may also be a new opportunity to include a Climate Adaptation chapter as a deliverable; Susan is corresponding with them on this point.
 - PE3 Susan will contact Kristen Taylor regarding Fleet Inventory update policy that is needed.
 - PE3 Energy Code Enforcement Training: the town did not sign up any personnel for the fall trainings despite our highlighting this opportunity (no cost and required for maintaining professional credentials). There will be ECET again in the spring and we need to make sure this happens. Ann can support.
 - PE5 Susan will provide Ann with guidelines for recycling policy for municipal

offices, from the portal, so that Ann can support. Susan can also reach out to the county recycling coordinator for guidance.

- PE6 NRI/Open Space Plan - due to come to Board by end of year, there is a model law available.
- PE6 NYStretch Code: no movement.
- PE6 Comp Plan: was passed by the board 10/6, Susan needs to ask Michelle Gluck how to gauge number of points we will be able to request.
- PE6 Unified Solar Permit: was approved by CEC, to be submitted for CSC.
- PE6 EV infrastructure: We need to move forward and would like to plan a presentation to the board about placing a charger on municipal property. Joan will find out if our existing NYSERDA contact would be available and Ann can help schedule it.
- PE7 Conserve natural areas: Open Space Plan will go here. Eastdale Creekside Park) was in exchange for recreation fees on development, it had been disallowed as a gift but Ann feels should be revisited due to financial exchange.

Clean Energy Communities actions:

We also reviewed overlapping CEC actions and our status regarding actions/points completed for the Leadership Round. Susan will add a column to our document to reflect CEC completed/planned/submitted. Completion of the Solar for All Campaign is key to qualifying for an initial grant. We learned (immediately following the meeting) from Eleanor Peck, our NYSERDA liaison, that NYSERDA will allow us to count all Town sign-ups since the start date of the campaign, whether or not they came through Cornell. Due to this fortunate decision, we now have 21 customers along with several in the pipeline. Some work still needs to be done to confirm that these folks are all within Town limits, since there is some zip code overlap, but we are making great progress. But we still need to do more on this campaign, and need to focus on the food pantries now that they have reopened. We ask that those who were contacts go back to ask if we can now table (Ann, Joan, Katherine). Susan will also go back to the Board members to ask for assistance in reaching qualified residents. If each member could find a single customer, that could be enough to complete the campaign.

** If we complete a 4th action, we will qualify for a \$5000 designation grant.

Simultaneously, if we complete the community campaign, our size town will qualify for an additional \$15,000 action grant. That is: if we complete the solar campaign there is potentially \$20,000 for the town. This information needs to be stressed to the board members.

Task Force personnel: We are still down at least one member. Ann suggested a potential volunteer, an individual who is very active in the community and focused on environmental concerns, in her ward. Susan knows the individual in question and will reach out to gauge interest.

Next meeting: November 4, 2021 at 7:00 pm

(continued on next page)

AS OF 10/7/21

CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES STATUS

	MANDATORY ACTIONS	PRIORITY ACTIONS	PLEDGE ELEMENTS	POINTS
BRONZE	2	3	4	120
SILVER	2	6	7	300
ACHIEVED	2	4	8	144
NEEDED - SILVER	-	2	-	156

CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITIES STATUS

ACTION	POINTS	COMPLETED	IN PROCESS
Unified Solar Permit	200	x	
ECET	200		
Bronze CSC	600	x	
Solar Campaign	200		x
LED Streetlights	700	x	
NYStretch Code	1200		
CCA	2000		
Benchmarking	up to 1100		
100% Municipal Renewables	500		
Clean Fleets	up to 1000		
Clean Heating/Cooling Demo	500		
Clean Energy Upgrades	500		
PACE Financing	up to 500		