

Climate Smart Task Force Meeting Minutes - 12/08/20

Clean Energy Communities (CEC) Program

Presented to us by Anilla Cherian

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Anilla is a CEC (NYSERDA program) coordinator but has been in our position as a village volunteer on Dobbs Ferry's climate smart task force committee.

Climate Smart Communities don't have grant funding currently CECs do - NYSERDA is going to launch a new grant cycle but nobody knows when. The whole state will know at the same time.

Below are the meeting slides and important notes from the presentation. At the bottom of the document, please see the takeaways and next steps.

MEETING MINUTES AND SLIDES

What are Clean Energy Communities?

New York State Energy Research and Development (NYSERDA) Program

Purpose:

To encourage NYS communities to implement clean energy actions, save energy costs, create jobs, and improve the environment. In addition to providing tools, resources, and technical assistance, the program recognizes and rewards leadership for the completion of clean energy projects.

The program is designed for: Counties, Cities, Towns and Villages



Consultants are provided for free to guide municipalities through actions. Climate Smart Communities don't have this.

Clean Energy Coordinators - there are 2 in the mid-hudson region. Anilla would be ours.

**NEW YORK
STATE:
Climate
Leadership
and
Community
Protection Act
(CLCPA: 2019)**

TARGETS

- **85%** GHG EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS BY **2050**
- **100%** CARBON FREE ELECTRICITY BY **2040**
- **70%** RENEWABLE ENERGY BY **2030**
- 6,000 MW - SOLAR BY 2025
- 3,000 MW - ENERGY STORAGE BY 2030
- 9,000 mw – OFFSHORE WIND BY 2035



Putnam Valley is moving very aggressively toward this by the fact that we have a climate smart task force

Municipalities need to move toward the above goals by the designated years

BENEFITS OF NYSERDA'S CEC PROGRAM

Opportunity to obtain additional funding for clean energy projects via CEC Grants

As actions are completed, municipalities can save money

Technical assistance to help track and complete desired energy actions

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Municipalities will be recognized as leaders in Clean Energy

HOW TO EARN CEC DESIGN ATION

Local governments must complete **4** out of 10 **High Impact Actions** to earn a CEC designation and qualify to apply for grant funding.

At least two actions **must be completed** after August 1, 2016.



Portal for CEC is different than the CSC portal

Need to make sure you're current

CURRENT CEC HIGH IMPACT ACTIONS (HIAs)

BENCHMARKING- Adopt a policy to report the energy use of buildings

CLEAN ENERGY UPGRADES- Achieve 10% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from buildings

LED STREETLIGHTS- Convert street lights to energy efficient LED technology

CLEAN FLEETS- Clean Fleets - Install electric vehicle charging stations or deploy alternative fuel vehicles

SOLARIZE, CLEAN HEATING AND COOLING OR SOLAR FOR ALL CAMPAIGNS

UNIFIED SOLAR PERMIT

ENERGY CODE ENFORCEMENT TRAINING- Train compliance officers in energy code best practices

CLIMATE SMART CERTIFICATION (CSC) - Get certified by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION (CCA)- Put energy supply choices in your community's hands

ENERGIZE NEWYORK FINANCE- Offer energy upgrade financing to businesses and non-profits

The above are CEC high impact actions. They are community campaigns we can complete and document to get CEC recognition and use for CSC points as well

Energize New York Finance will be replaced. These actions might look different when we get the new grant cycle. It will still be an aggregate of about 10.

Some CSE portal actions get retired, so communities that completed actions can have those actions retire and no longer receive credit for them. (so like us, we adopted a climate pledge and created a CSTF. Those would eventually expire as points counted toward our community) They don't expire with CECs.

Some examples:

The screenshot shows a webpage with a navigation bar at the top containing 'SUBSCRIBE Pick a topic, get updates!', 'Find A Program', 'Find a Contractor', 'About', 'Contact', and a search box for 'Search NYSERDA'. The main content area is titled 'Clean Energy Communities Program High Impact Action Toolkits'. Below the title, a paragraph explains that local governments must complete four of the 10 High Impact Actions to be designated a Clean Energy Community. A bulleted list of these actions is provided: Benchmarking, Clean Energy Upgrades, LED Street Lights, Clean Fleets, Solarize Clean Heating and Cooling, or Solar for All Campaign, Unified Solar Permit, Energy Code Enforcement Training, Climate Smart Communities, Community Choice Aggregation, and Energize NY Finance. At the bottom, contact information for the Clean Energy Communities Coordinator is given as cec@nyserdera.ny.gov.

SUBSCRIBE
Pick a topic, get updates!

Find A Program Find a Contractor About Contact Search NYSERDA

Clean Energy Communities Program High Impact Action Toolkits

Local governments must complete four the [10 High Impact Actions](#) to be designated a Clean Energy Community. A toolkit is available for each High Impact Action. Toolkits include fact sheets, templates, model ordinances, and guidance to help local governments complete the High Impact Actions.

- [Benchmarking](#)
- [Clean Energy Upgrades](#)
- [LED Street Lights](#)
- [Clean Fleets](#)
- [Solarize Clean Heating and Cooling, or Solar for All Campaign](#)
- [Unified Solar Permit](#)
- [Energy Code Enforcement Training](#)
- [Climate Smart Communities](#)
- [Community Choice Aggregation](#)
- [Energize NY Finance](#)

Local government leaders and employees can also email a Clean Energy Communities Coordinator at cec@nyserdera.ny.gov for assistance navigating the program.

Clean Energy Communities Program

How to Become a Clean Energy Community

High Impact Action Items

High Impact Action Item Toolkits

Benchmarking

Clean Fleets

Climate Smart Communities

Certification

Community Choice Aggregation

Energy Improvement Corporation Open C-PACE program

Unified Solar Permit

Local governments can pass legislation to adopt the New York State Unified Solar Permit to reduce costs and delays for solar projects in the jurisdiction.

[Fact Sheet](#) [PDF]

This fact sheet provides a brief description of the Unified Solar Permit action along with the benefits communities can expect to achieve.

[Step-by-Step Guidance](#) [PDF]

The slide presentation provides an overview of the Clean Energy Communities Program as well as a detailed description and step-by-step guidance for implementing the Unified Solar Permit action.

[New York State Model Solar Energy Law](#) [PDF]

This document is designed to assist communities in New York State adopt zoning provisions that promote solar energy systems while protecting community character and the environment.

[New York State Unified Solar Permit](#)

This is a link to NYSERDA's Solar Guidebook for Local Governments which includes a wealth of resources for becoming a solar-friendly community including the New York State Unified Solar Permit Application and Field Inspection Checklist. The New York State Unified Solar Permit Application is what needs to be adopted by the applicant in order to meet the requirements of NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities Program. Please note that the Permit was updated in October 2016. After November 15, 2016, NYSERDA will no longer accept the old version of the Permit.

[NYSERDA's PV Trainers Network](#)

The PV Trainers Network provides a number of on-site training courses and one-on-one technical assistance to communities.

Anilla gave Ralph a list of the low hanging fruit that we could definitely adopt. One of them is the above, Unified Solar Permit.

Out of the 10 high impact action items, we can pick any 4. The really easy one is energy code enforcement training, which is training for energy code officials.

CLEAN ENERGY ACTIONS TO CONSIDER

- **NY STRETCH ENERGY CODE**
Locally-adoptable stretch energy code. 20% more efficient than the residential provisions of the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and roughly 7% more efficient than the commercial provisions of ASHRAE 90.1-2016 for an overall increased efficiency of 11% over the 2020 NYS Energy Code.
- **COMMUNITY CAMPAIGNS FOR CLEAN HEATING & COOLING AND/OR SOLAR ENERGY**

This has been adopted by the city of Beacon, by Hastings-on-Hudson, and by Dobbs Ferry so far. It's being presented to more towns. It's an energy code that allows towns to save money in the long run. Anilla is in direct contact with the team that provides code enforcement training so they will do a presentation that explains why adopting a stronger code is more efficient and cost saving. Anilla is happy to put us in touch with NYSERDA experts.

There are 43 designated CECs. Once we have completed 4 tasks we can receive this designation. 2 or less high impact action items gets your municipality a participating CEC title

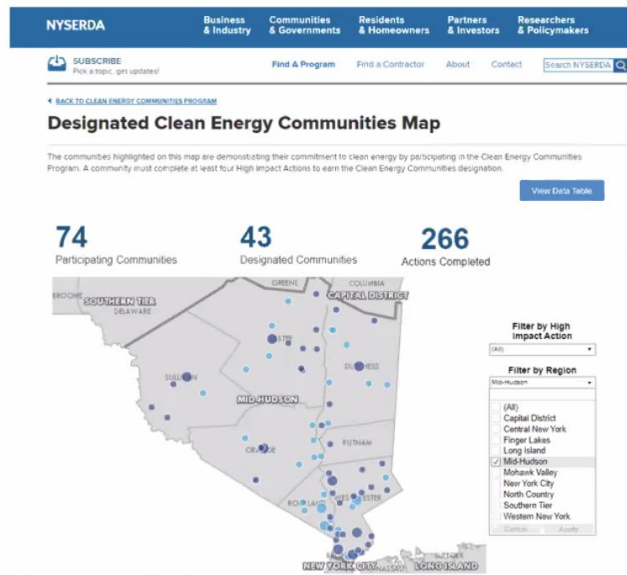
Snapshot of our county:

Putnam County

Town of Philipstown
 Population (2010): 9,662
 CEC Status: **Designated CEC**

5 High Impact Actions Have Been Completed, Including:

- Unified Solar Permit
- Energy Code Enforcement Training - Expired Version
- Community Choice Aggregation - Expired Version
- Community Choice Aggregation - 100% Renewable Default Supply
- Benchmarking - Municipal Buildings



Things to consider:

Benchmarking our buildings.

What kind of climate action plan have we adopted? Do we have a natural resource inventory?

What kind of benchmarking have we done?

When NYSERDA approves our documentation, we just need to upload the CEC email to the CSC portal. This is how some communities automatically get to Bronze in CSC. This is helpful information for us as we don't have to double up on work and documentation. **CEC and CSC work together well!** The benefit of CEC is that there will also be grant money in this.

CSC & CEC ARE LINKED PROGRAMS

CSC Certification (NYS DEC)

- Interagency initiative; launched in 2014
- Comprehensive climate action program
- 100+ unique actions
- Improve score on CSC grant applications

CEC Designation (NYSERDA)

- Launched 2016; focused on energy use
- 10 High Impact Actions (HIAs)
 - 1 of the 10 is becoming a Certified CSC
- **Complete 4** actions to **access CEC Grants**



EARN POINTS TOWARD CSC CERTIFICATION BY DOING 4 or more CEC HIAs **GET CSC & CEC DESIGNATIONS!**

once we are designated CEC, we can earn grant money. We can also get CSC points with CEC tasks.

This is really a documentation and portal related engagement. Someone needs to be organizing and uploading documentation.

Next Steps

Designate a main contact that will represent the municipality for Clean Energy Communities Coordinators

Discuss what actions have been accomplished and what actions the municipality has an interest in accomplishing

Set up follow up meetings to begin work on actions the municipality wants to accomplish

- Find/create/submit documentation of completed action

Begin thinking about projects that the municipality has an interest in using grant funding for

Step 1: 

Join the program by reaching out to your Clean Energy Community Coordinator

Step 2: 

Complete Action Items to earn points and become a designated Clean Energy Community

Step 3: 

Earn funding through designation, point-based, and action grants

- Automatic \$5,000 grant for becoming a designated CEC
- Point-based Grants: \$80,000
- Action Grants: \$175,000

Anilla's suggestion is engaging CEC because we can benefit from grant money when the next grant cycle is announced. Ralph will be our chair as he is for the CSC as well.

We need to discuss what actions have been completed, what our municipality has interest in completing, and get the documentation on it.

Further discussion and next steps:

- **Sustainable Putnam** - recently launched a clean heating and cooling campaign/initiative. It was launched a few weeks ago. Anilla will put us in touch with their point person so we can figure out how it would work in Putnam Valley.
 - The way it worked in Dobbs Ferry was that they did a community campaign with Sustainable Westchester. An informational and educational outreach campaign was run.
 - *Action item:* touch base with Sustainable Putnam to get this campaign in our town
- The town board is currently reviewing the community choice aggregation ordinance, we are also working on a solar ordinance draft
 - CCA status for PV - January 6th we are supposed to adopt the enabling law. There will be a public hearing, and then hopefully right after the board will adopt it. Then we can select an administrator as CCA for that time. We've been speaking with Jeff Domanski - think that we will continue with him and his program.
 - If we need technical guidance on the model solar law, Anilla can help us get in touch with contacts who can help with that
 - We are pretty far along on the draft of the model solar law
 - Energy Code Enforcement - our building supervisor (Rich Quaglietta) has likely done it so we just need to upload the certification that he has done it if this is the case. Ralph can get this certification record from him and we can submit it.
 - Action item: Bruce will talk to Rich about this tomorrow
- Action Item: Ralph will track down whether or not we have converted to LED streetlights
- Action Item: Trying to follow up with the library about the charging station and other clean energy

So ideally we have 4 high impact actions that we can provide documentation for shortly on the CEC portal. Let's work on these ASAP so we can be first in line for grant money when it's out.

- **Benchmarking** - Anilla recommends we try to accomplish this as well. It is also a template based resolution. Ralph has the resolution from a CEC leader so we can follow theirs.
 - Sherry might be able to get the utility bills and Ina can look at the spreadsheet so we can work toward this goal
- Here is the NYSERDA website:
 - <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/all-programs/programs/clean-energy-communities>
 - There is a 2 page certification form, Ralph just needs to track down who did it
 - <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/Clean-Energy-Communities/Action-Items> we can look at the Benchmarking information here

Our goal is to try and be a Designated Clean Energy Community by working at these “low hanging fruit” High Impact goals that we can easily achieve with things the town has already accomplished. We are competing with a lot of municipalities for grant money, but what puts us at a good position is that there is only one designated CEC in our community. You don’t need to be a CSC to get grant money, they are not codependent.

- New York State’s CLCPA Act is one of the most ambitious in the world. Taking action as a CSC and CEC will help us reach these target numbers easier with grant money, etc.

TARGETS

- **85% GHG EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS BY 2050**

- **100% CARBON FREE ELECTRICITY BY 2040**

I

- **70% RENEWABLE ENERGY BY 2030**

- 6,000 MW - SOLAR BY 2025

- 3,000 MW - ENERGY STORAGE BY 2030

- 9,000 mw – OFFSHORE WIND BY 2035

- The conversation in our community needs to happen on these issues. These goals above are going to be the lay of the land and the farther ahead we get now the easier, cheaper, and environmentally better it will be for our town
- There could be more grant money coming with a new administration in the pipeline for the country, but we know that NYSERDA has grant money coming down the line for new CSCs. This can help us tremendously as a town with a tight budget and conservative voters who want to stimulate the economy
- New York Stretch will have dedicated training for code officials as well.
- These are not high impact items but we should keep in mind that the more energy efficiency code we get the better it is, especially as we work toward the
- We can get grant money for energy updates in municipal buildings. There will be more small grants this grant cycle than last cycle which had fewer and larger grants

Action items:

- Ralph will send Bruce the model solar energy law to see if they intersect
- Find out if Rich did the energy code enforcement training and if so, if he has a certificate. If not, we will line him up to do the next one when it comes down.
 - Bruce has to see Rich Quaglietta at 9am tomorrow, so he will mention the Code Enforcement training as well as the LED lights and tell him to get in touch. In the meantime Ralph will call Sam to track down this info.
- Find out about clean heating and cooling campaign with Sustainable Putnam

- CCA January 6th board meeting - There will be a public hearing, and then hopefully right after the board will adopt it. Then we can select an administrator as CCA for that time. (Likely Jeff, who we have previously been in contact with)
- Benchmarking Resolution - Ralph will talk further with Anilla about this to see what we can do further on our own about this
 - Ask Sherry (or Maria in finance) about the utility bills, if they're easily accessible for her, and if it intersects with the Benchmarking goal
- Clean Fleets - think we need to somehow make contact with the library to see if they're going to go forward with a charging station or even a heating/energy revision there
- When Ralph receives Anilla's follow up email, he will send any additional action items
- Ralph will update us on any of these conversations

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Zadrima