

## **Climate Smart Task Force- Putnam Valley**

Task Force: Allison Hague, Abigail Arrunategui, Jean McGee,

Members of the public: Judy Allen

The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm.

### **(PE2) GHG inventory/energy audits:**

Allison reviewed the new developments toward completing a Greenhouse Gas Inventory for government properties. Using initial bills acquired by Christian, Allison compiled a test inventory to see what the process was like. Based on that experience, the Town requested a full history of electricity bills from NYSEG for January 2025 through March 2026. Allison also received the full 2025 Transportation fleet fuel data from the Highway department. 2025 will serve as the baseline year of the Town's emissions inventory, and future improvements will be measured against these datasets.

One of the preliminary takeaways was that the Highway Garage is extremely energy inefficient. Jean inquired about the plan for the Fire Department building, recommending that it might be helpful as a supplementary building for the Highway Department, should upgrades need to be made.

### **(PE5) Food scraps/organic materials management:**

The food scrap recycling (FSR) committee has made significant progress. Besides applying for a [NYS Pollution Prevention Institute's \(NYSP2I\) Community Grant](#), the group will again be partnering with Cucumber Hill Farm and Tompkins Corners Cultural Center to collect food scraps. The first collection of 2026 will take place at Community Day on 5/17, and will continue throughout the summer at the weekly Farmers Markets.

This program in the grant proposal will involve a significant amount of education to roll out successfully. Other potential partners for both increasing participation and outreach are the PV Library, PV Grange, the Senior Center, Tompkins Corners, and through the schools. Upon implementation of the pilot composting program at Putnam Valley Elementary School, the Town will be able to collaborate with the schools to connect what the students learn with what families do at home.

### **PE7 "Community Resilience":**

At a prior meeting, CJ made a recommendation to collaborate with the Neighborhood Business Committee and the CCE to conduct some of the focus groups required for this category. In order to better understand residents' perspectives and priorities, significant outreach will be required. The task force spent some time brainstorming how to do this effectively, without overtaxing the audience. The group agreed to think about a larger survey covering multiple categories, and pair that with in person and online interactions to reach the most people. Ideas included in person and online surveys, farmers markets, library, food pantries, in person events/focus

groups, Meals on Main, and the senior center. They decided that Fall would be a tentative deadline to begin outreach and engagement for PE7. In the meantime, the task force would continue to research which actions have been achieved, and plan for policy recommendations.

**Action Items:**

- Investigate whether the Town can update the old Benchmarking resolution  
[Resolution-Benchmarking-pdf -Small-Communities.pdf - Google Drive](#)
- Abby will Reach for quotes and guidance for automating the input and benchmarking process and funding requirements
- Evaluate whether [Energy Star Portfolio Manager](#) can be automatically entered by using NYSERDA meters, and create an account for the Town
- Look into Farmers Market Actions and figure out next steps
- CJ/Christian: [Climate Smart Resiliency Planning V 2.0.pdf - Google Drive](#)
  - Look at p25 and inventory what we've done
- Allison: Follow up on collecting materials from Culverts and Dams projects

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, June 3rd (in person, Pacho's and Gringos)

The meeting adjourned at 7:25pm  
Allison Hague, Climate Smart Coordinator