

# **VOL CSC Task Force**

## **MINUTES**

Thursday, May 20, 2021 - 6-8 PM

Attendees: Simon Moll, Lynn Leopold, Ronny Hardaway, Terry Carroll, Brian Toy, Rachel Zevin, Gretchen Worth.

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM.

Meeting minutes from 04/22/2020 meeting were approved.

### **Status of PE1 tasks**

National/Regional Climate Program: Hardaway reported that he needs to submit to NYSDERDA the trustee resolution to join the CEC program.

### **Status of PE2 tasks**

Government Operations GHG Inventory: Hardaway reported that the final draft of the GHG Inventory Document needs to be presented to and voted on by the trustees at their June 7 meeting.

Government Operations Climate Action Plan: The second workshop for the CAP will be discussed at this meeting.

### **Status of PE3 tasks**

Energy Benchmarking for Government Buildings: Hardaway reported that the Energy Star Portfolio Manager account has been created and populated with 2019-2020 data. The data needs to be verified and setup to show in the historical reports within the ESPM system. Hardaway will need to take online tutorials to ensure the data and setup is correct.

### **Status of PE4 tasks**

Green Power Procurement Policy: Moll reported that 10 accounts have been created with Solar Farms NY (six from the Village.) Moll will be working on media release for more public exposure about the Village's program launch. Hardaway to send Moll a template for the mediate release. First checks have been received from Solar Farms NY as the new accounts were signed up.

### **2nd Workshop to Develop VOL Climate Action Plan**

Rachel Zevin facilitated the second workshop, including:

- Summary of Workshop 1
- Climate Action Plan: Possible Actions and Tracking Mechanisms
- Climate Action Plan: Formatting and Timeline
- Next Steps

## **Summary of Climate Action Planning Workshop 2**

### **Village of Lansing, NY**

#### ***Reminder ~ Emissions Reduction Target Year and Goals***

- **Reduce emissions by 5% from 2019 levels by 2026.**
- **Reduce emissions by 15% from 2019 levels by 2031.**
- **Reduce emissions by 30% from 2019 levels by 2036.**

This means the Village will reduce emissions on average:

- 1% per year until 2026
- 2% per year from 2026 – 2031
- 3% per year from 2031 – 2036

#### ***Climate Action Plan – Actions and Major Category***

- Energy Supply
  1. Install renewable energy systems on municipal facilities.
    - Village of Lansing is interested in installing solar charging panels on park pavilions (3 possible parks) and/or on the municipal garage.
    - There is a great interest in participating in Net Metering 2.0 to receive monetary credits when producing more energy than needed (and thus, “selling it” to the energy grid).
    - There are CEC grants that could be used towards this action.
    - Village of Lansing could partner with a solar developer and lease/lease-to-own a solar array.
  2. Purchase and Retire Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs).
    - Ongoing
  3. Participate in a regional collaborative of governments, businesses, and utilities to drive clean energy transition.
    - Ongoing

- Municipal Buildings

1. Install heat pumps or geothermal heating.

- When it comes time to replace the current heating systems, the Village will replace with these types of heating sources.

2. Install water saving faucets and toilets.

- It was thought that the new village offices have new water saving faucets and toilets. We would need to check before listing this action as ongoing in the climate action plan.
- DPW building could be a prime target for these upgrades.

3. Indoor lighting retrofits for municipal buildings.

- Most municipal buildings have LED, but we need to check what locations are upgraded, vs those that need to be.
- New LEDs are not as harsh as old options and hopefully we can get full municipal compliance.
- Again, the DPW building was mentioned as it could be a prime target for lighting retrofits as well.

As representatives of the Village, you might want to decide on a few possible locations for motion sensor lights so we can include it in the climate action plan.

- Most of the Village's street lights have been converted, but we need to find out which remain the old style and make sure we have a plan in place for those final upgrades.

4. Use EnergyStar Portfolio Manager to establish baseline water and energy use in municipal buildings and facilities.

- Ongoing and will be updated yearly.

- Fleet Emissions

1. Create EV charging stations at municipal building parking lots (and allow municipal employees to charge for free)

2. Convert municipal fleet (or part of municipal fleet) to electric or hybrid vehicles.

- This could possibly be incorporated into the policy written for action item 4, "Implement a policy requiring minimum fuel efficiency of fleet vehicles."

3. Develop and implement a vehicle fleet management plan to track vehicle miles traveled and fuel usage.

- Tracking mileage and fuel is likely already done. It would just need to be stored in a central location with the other climate action plan tracking information and data.

4. Implement a policy requiring minimum fuel efficiency of fleet vehicles.

- This could be applied to currently owned vehicles (meaning you would get rid of vehicles that are not up to your standards) or you could make this apply only to new purchases. The second option is likely more easily implemented, although less effective in the short-term.

5. Adopt an anti-idling policy for municipal fleet non-emergency vehicles.

- There is interest in having the Village adopt a municipal anti-idling policy, with hopes that a community policy might follow (although community climate actions will not be covered in this plan)

6. Switch from gas lawn mowers to electric lawn mowers

- Extremely interested in the zero-turn motor options, especially in models where you can switch out battery packs.
- Hybrid vs fully electric options should be investigated.
- Possible use at Baldwin Point

- Waste Management

1. Develop a municipality government waste reduction policy.

- This can include information on how the municipality plans to use resources like the local reuse center.
- Can also include turning all printers to duplex. Need to double check all municipal printers (team and individual use) are set to duplex if possible.

- Miscellaneous

1. Plant trees on municipal properties for carbon storage
  - Money for trees in the town's right of way, likely not covered in a climate action plan because the village is not doing the maintenance.
  - Trees planted in parks or as memorial trees and are upkept by the village will count towards this action.
2. Implement environmentally preferable purchasing policy.
  - Currently reviewing Tompkins County's version to prepare to draft one for the Village.
3. Use rain barrel collection systems for landscape watering in select city facilities.
  - Potentially could be used to fill village water truck.

### ***Climate Action Plan – Tracking Mechanisms***

- Currently planning on creating a centralized location to store tracking data all actions within the climate action plan.
- Interested in building a central Climate Action photo archive.

### ***Climate Action Plan – Formatting***

- Climate Action Plan should be formatted for ease of use, both in a digital and printed format.
- The information should be clear and complete, with graphical aids when possible/helpful.
- Incorporate photos from the future archive.

### ***Climate Action Plan – Timeline***

- A draft timeline will be created once the Village of Lansing representatives agree on the actions that will be in the climate action plan (listed above).
- After receiving this summary document, it may be helpful for the village to meet again with CCE (Rachel) to set up the drafted timeline. This meeting would likely last 30min to an hour.

## ***Priority Items to be Confirmed via Return Email to CCE (Rachel)***

### **Approval of above summary and actions listed to be written into the plan.**

- If you have any additions, actions or changes, please let CCE (Rachel) know as soon as possible.
- Once approval is complete, we will need to set up our timeline. **Please email CCE (Rachel) if you would like to set up a meeting to get help drafting the timeline.**
- Please feel free to send an email (raz47@cornell.edu) if you have any questions or concerns.

***[END OF SUMMARY]*** \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Moll had to leave the meeting at 7:36 PM.

CSC Task Force members provided feedback to Rachel on the presentation.

Leopold recommended a survey to NYCOM members regarding climate plans actions & costs. There was a discussion about how NYCOM and its members might provide some valuable input for municipal climate action plans.

Terry Carroll will be leaving CCE to be the Tompkins County Chief Sustainability Officer. This was his last meeting.

Brian Toy will be starting a new job with Con Edison. This was his last meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM.