

CSG Monthly Update for TB Workshop Meeting- May, 2021

- 1) Per solar array at TOG landfill, we are developing a potential RFP for developers and hope to present a plan to Town Board for review soon.
- 2) We will be participating in the annual Riverkeeper Sweep on 5/1, where we help clean the Wallkill River and recycle trash.
- 1) In collaboration with Parks & Rec, we had an Arbor Day celebration on 4/24 at Majestic Park. This event was funded through a \$1000 grant with the NYS Urban Forestry Council. It was attended by about 75 people and residents learned about the history and importance of Arbor Day at this event. We planted 6 trees!
- 3) We received a grant from NYSDEC for Trees for Tribes program to plant 300 trees and shrubs on the bank of the Wallkill River adjacent to the Gardiner landfill park on 5/8. This program is designed to plant trees along stream corridors to prevent erosion, increase flood water retention and protect water quality.
- 4) Anilla Cherian, Clean Energy Communities Coordinator with Hudson Valley Regional Council, along with Margo Thompson, presented to the Town Board on April 6th regarding the NY Stretch Energy Code and Unified Solar Permit. Our Taskforce is considering next steps regarding implementation of the NYS Stretch Code.
- 5) We are considering a collaboration with Cornell students to promote an education and engagement program regarding climate change in our community.
- 6) We are discussing ways to utilize low carbon concrete for the basketball court at Majestic Park with a low carbon concrete advocate, as well as participating in discussions with an assemblyman, Kevin Cahill, to incentivize low carbon concrete through legislation.
- 7) We are outreaching other municipalities to facilitate participation in the CSC program.
- 8) The Cornell Cooperative Extension has completed a Climate Smart Resiliency Tool, designed to help Gardiner adapt to climate change. They will be presenting their results and recommendations to the Town Board on 5/4.
- 9) We are working to update Gardiner's GHG Emissions Inventory to include 2020 data.
- 10) We continue to work on LED Streetlight conversion options. NYPA is working on a proposal for Gardiner, we hope to present to the Town Board soon and get public comment on redesign.
- 11) We have joined ICLEI, a network of governments focused on sustainability; they will provide us tools to complete our Community GHG Emissions Inventory and we have organized a sub-committee to complete this inventory. The GHG Inventory training will begin May, 2021 and run until November, 2021, when we hope to complete the inventory.
- 12) We are working on revisions to the CSG tab of the TOG website, to make it more comprehensive and meet criteria for CSC "points."
- 13) Joule continues to provide education to the public regarding CCA and we hope they will present to the Town Board soon on their plans and progress. We are considering adding a community solar opt-out option to our CCA program, where Gardiner residents would be able to take advantage of 10% off their electric bill through community solar, in addition to savings from our CCA project.
- 14) We registered with NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities Program. If we complete requisite climate smart actions through this program and attain "Clean Energy Community" status, we will be able to apply for grants through this program. We may need to update the Town Unified Solar Permit to be eligible for this grant.

- 15) We are tabulating completed Climate Smart Communities actions in order to apply for Climate Smart Communities Bronze Certification and increased access to grant opportunities. We plan to apply for Bronze certification in July, 2021.
- 16) Our monthly meetings use the ZOOM platform and links for the meeting be found on the Town of Gardiner website or our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/climatesmartgardiner/>