

CSG Monthly Update for TB Workshop Meeting- June, 2021

- 1) Regarding a solar array at TOG landfill, we are developing an RFP for developers and hope to present a plan to Town Board for review soon.
- 2) The 2021 Riverkeeper Sweep, where we help clean the Wallkill River and recycle trash, was a huge success! There were 9 project sites, 60 volunteers, 36 large bags of garbage, tons (literally) of oversized items= 7,200 lbs. total. Some interesting items collected include a potty seat, 2 picnic tables, picket fence, hunting platform, 2 shopping carts, farm equipment, wire, and large plastic toys.
- 3) We received a grant from NYSDEC for Trees for Tribs program and planted 300 trees and shrubs on the bank of the Wallkill River adjacent to the Gardiner landfill park. This program is designed to plant trees along stream corridors to prevent erosion, increase flood water retention and protect water quality. It was muddy, cold, and raining, but 51 volunteers came out. It was an awesome display of community effort!
- 4) We are meeting with David Church, who is consulting with Gardiner on the Comprehensive Plan, at our next CSG Taskforce Meeting, to discuss potential updates to the Plan.
- 5) We are considering ways to take advantage of DEC Climate Smart Communities grants, which recently opened and are due by the end of July. These are grants for actions to adapt to climate change or achieve CSC certification, where the municipality contributes 50% (money or in-kind labor) and the DEC chips in the other 50%.
- 6) We are collaborating with Cornell students to promote an education and engagement program regarding climate change in our community.
- 7) We are in discussions with Ulster county officials to showcase “green” vendors/education at the Ulster County Fair.
- 8) Franco Carucci completed the “Climate Reality Project” training, a global initiative to train individuals to raise awareness and activate others to fight the climate crisis and seek climate solutions. Congratulations, Franco!
- 9) 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.
- 10) We are outreaching other municipalities to facilitate participation in the CSC program.
- 11) The Cornell Cooperative Extension has completed a Climate Smart Resiliency Tool, designed to help Gardiner adapt to climate change. They presented their results and recommendations to the Town Board. We are reviewing the document and considering actions according to their assessment.
- 12) We are working to update Gardiner’s GHG Emissions Inventory to include 2020 data.
- 13) We continue to work on LED Streetlight conversion options. Central Hudson completed their audit, and we hope to present to the Town Board soon and get public comment on redesign.
- 14) 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 soon and run until November, 2021, when we hope to complete the inventory.
- 15) We are working on revisions to the CSG tab of the TOG website, to make it more comprehensive and meet criteria for CSC “points.”
- 16) Joule continues to provide education to the public regarding CCA and recently received favorable bids for renewable electricity. They presented to the Town Board on their plans and progress. We are hoping to add 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.

- 17) 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.
- 18) 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.
- 19) 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/>