

CSG Monthly Update for TB Workshop Meeting- February, 2021

- 1) 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. A new "Leadership Round" of grants recently opened up. We are currently uploading requisite actions and are moving to grant-ready status, which will provide \$5000 for a green project, as well as increased grant access/grant size once we complete some of our in-progress actions, including CCA, LED Streetlight Conversion, and CSC Certification. We may need to consider a Town resolution to annually assess municipal GHG emissions or update the Town Unified Solar Permit to be eligible for this grant.
- 2) Our streetlight audit is complete and we are considering next steps. We have been consulting with James Brigagliano to discuss ways to include Dark Skies concepts in our LED streetlight conversion.
- 3) We helped to promote a virtual showcase of experts on energy efficiency and green energy options, as well as applicable grants and incentives, coordinated by New Paltz Climate Action Coalition, called "Warm Up to Winter: An Energy Showcase" on 1/14/21.
- 4) At our 2/3/21 CSG Taskforce Meeting, Gardiner Parks & Rec and our Taskforce will discuss the co-existence of Bike Trails and Solar Array on town land by Transfer Station. We are working on constructing a solar array at the landfill and have connected with potential developers to assess its feasibility.
- 5) We are discussing an NRI local law, which would include the environmental findings of the NRI as a basis for sustainable development in Gardiner.
- 6) We are outreaching other municipalities to facilitate participation in the CSC program. Rochester recently took the CSC pledge and we assisted an individual in Claverack with their GHG Inventory.
- 7) We are collaborating with the Cornell Cooperative Extension to complete a Climate Smart Resiliency Tool, designed to help Gardiner adapt to climate change.
- 8) We have joined ICLEI, a network of governments focused on sustainability and thank the Town Board for providing the funds for this membership; they will provide us tools to complete our Community GHG Emissions Inventory, and we are building a sub-committee to complete this inventory.
- 9) We are working with Joule on the next steps in the CCA process, since we now have an MOU with them. Some next steps will include at least 2 outreach events, publicizing the CCA process, and considering a community solar offering as part of our CCA program.
- 10) We are tabulating completed Climate Smart Communities actions in order to apply for Climate Smart Communities Bronze Certification and increased access to grant opportunities.
- 11) We will be collaborating with UCRRA on their Zero Waste Seminar Project, to raise awareness of the environmental impacts of single use plastics, and how waste reduction and reuse can be practical strategies for pollution prevention.
- 12) We created an annual summary for 2020, according to Climate Smart Communities criteria. This summary has been made available to the Town Board and public.
- 13) We are considering formal CSG bylaws, orientation process for Taskforce members, and ethics code.
- 14) Due to Coronavirus, many community projects, such as Trees for Tribes and Go Green Expo, are postponed; we are having our monthly CSG Taskforce meetings via teleconference for the time being. 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/>