

CSG Monthly Update for TB Workshop Meeting- March, 2021

- 1) We will be giving a presentation on our LED Streetlight Audit and streetlight conversion options to the Town Board on 3/2.
- 2) At our last CSG Taskforce Meeting, Gardiner Parks & Rec and our Taskforce discussed the co-existence of Bike Trails and Solar Array on town land by Transfer Station. After the meeting, several members of Parks & Rec and CSG met at the Transfer Station to survey the land and possible options. We are considering what the acreage parameters would need to be for a potential RFP for developers.
- 3) We will be participating in the annual Riverkeeper Sweep on 5/1, where we help clean the Wallkill River and recycle trash.
- 4) We are working on a grant with the NYS Urban Forestry Council and collaborating with Parks & Rec for a potential Arbor Day celebration on 4/24.
- 5) Anilla Cherian, Clean Energy Communities Coordinator with Hudson Valley Regional Council, will present to the Town Board in April regarding the NY Stretch Energy Code and Unified Solar Permit.
- 6) We are outreaching other municipalities to facilitate participation in the CSC program.
- 7) We are collaborating with the Cornell Cooperative Extension to complete a Climate Smart Resiliency Tool, designed to help Gardiner adapt to climate change. They will be meeting with the Town Board and other municipal officials to complete their assessment.
- 8) We are working to update Gardiner's GHG Emissions Inventory to include 2019 data.
- 9) 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; we have organized a sub-committee to complete this inventory.
- 10) Joule offered the first of at least 3 CCA presentations for the public on 2/20/21. A recording of this presentation will be made available on the Town of Gardiner website. These presentations help educate the public about CCA and offer a Q&A period. Their next presentations will be on 3/16 and then 4/3. We are also 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.
- 11) 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.
- 12) We are tabulating completed Climate Smart Communities actions in order to apply for Climate Smart Communities Bronze Certification and increased access to grant opportunities.
- 13) We will be collaborating with UCRRRA 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.
- 14) We are considering formal CSG bylaws, orientation process for Taskforce members, and ethics code.
- 15) Due to Coronavirus, many community projects, such as the 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/>