

CSG Monthly Update for TB Workshop Meeting- August, 2020

- 1) We had our socially distant, but intimate, EV Charger ribbon cutting on 7/2, patriotically themed “Independence from Fossil Fuels.” Distinguished speakers included Supervisor Majestic, Jen Metzger, Tracey Bartels, and Holly Shader.
- 2) We have begun to promote the Green Group Purchase Program, designed by Sustainable Hudson Valley. The Program works to obtain group discounted rates on energy efficient heating and cooling systems, such as heat pumps, for the public.
- 3) We had an emergency vote to support opposition of the Danskammer power plant expansion in Newburgh. We wrote a letter to the Town Board, advocating for the Town Board to pass a resolution in opposition of Danskammer.
- 4) Andrea Frank, Gardiner resident and SUNY New Paltz professor, led a Climate Action Workshop for the Taskforce. During this interactive presentation, we learned effective ways to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions.
- 5) The annual Wallkill Riverkeeper Sweep, which CSG has participated in for the last two years, was postponed until 10/17/20.
- 6) We are hoping to create a community inventory of Gardiner’s GHG emissions.
- 7) As the CCA resolution was recently passed by the Town Board, we have begun interviewing potential CCA administrators. We have interviewed two administrators, Joule and Good Energy, and are considering the merits of each one.
- 8) We are working with the Ulster County CSC to disseminate CCA to Ulster County municipalities.
- 9) We are tabulating completed Climate Smart Communities actions in order to apply for Climate Smart Communities Bronze Certification and increased access to grant opportunities.
- 10) We are collaborating with the ECC and Open Space Commission on the Gardiner Natural Resource Inventory.
- 11) We are working on an annual reporting process for the public and Town Board on CSG’s activities for 2018 and 2019.
- 12) 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 Microsoft Teams platform and links for the meeting be found on the Town of Gardiner website or our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/climatesmartgardiner/>
- 13) We are considering implementing a solar array at the landfill, though this is on hold due to Coronavirus.
- 14) We have begun disseminating the CSC model to neighboring Ulster County towns, such as Plattekill and Lloyd, though this is on hold due to Coronavirus.
- 15) We are partnering with Ulster County to create a tent at the Ulster County Fair to showcase green vendors, though this is on hold due to Coronavirus.
- 16) We are speaking with high school students about ways to bring recycling to the new Paltz schools, possibly as part of a Climate Smart Youth Taskforce, though this is on hold due to Coronavirus.

