

CAC Agenda / Working Doc / 1.11.23

In attendance:

- CAC: Laurie, Mike, Leah, Frances, Denis, Steve, Lori
- Liaison: Jacob
- Invited Guests
- Meeting opened 7:07pm
- [Nov. minutes](#) approved by email
 - (Frances please submit (once approved) as pdfs to Deputy Clerk , deputyclerk@redhook.org)
 - Frances will send these by email as PDFs so all CAC members can review

Events/ Webinars/Training Opps

You name it there's a training for it.

Laurie gave a brief update on Governor's State of the State (*see info from DEC at bottom of this document*)

- Exciting for climate: both NYS and federal legislation and funding to take advantage of
- 2023 hopes & dreams to bring that \$ to Red Hook

Zero Waste Webinar (Leah attended)

- Zero Waste Westchester event was great
- [Urban Ore](#) (Berkeley)
- 20% of what's incinerated is food waste - & fined
- Westchester's compost also goes to UCRRA → shows there aren't enough organics facilities spread thru the state yet
- Language we use: steer away from "waste"

Repair Cafe 1/14/23

- Saturday, 10-1pm
- MLK Day of Engagement/Service at Bard
- Coaches for: electrical/electronics, furniture/woodworking, knife sharpening, jewelry, sewing
- Additionally, new stations: (1) home repair info from Clark Kimbal & Lara Hart from Village of Red Hook building department; (2) recycling information from Hannah Ring, Dutchess County Recycling Coordinator
 - There are some differences between the Village and Town, but there are a lot of similarities re: what requires a building permit.
 - Opportunity to talk with residents about energy upgrades for safety, efficiency, and rebates available. We can bring an energy coach to the next Repair Cafe.
 - Denis is up for hanging out there and gauging popularity of topic and whether a series of dedicated sessions would be a good idea.
 - There are 1-on-1 options, such as Cornell Cooperative Extension's [community energy advisors](#)
- Promotion: Laurie will reach out to leaders on Red Hook Together so that they tell their networks.
- Bard students will help with staffing. Set up at 9/9:30. Mike will arrive at 9 to help.
- Also: microgreens, sustainability flag sewing, seed bombs, clay bowls
- Leah can bake something to contribute.

Materials Management

- Compost - Lori (stickers)
 - Frances and Lori listened to 2 webinars for federal funding for compost/recycling
 - Minimum funding was \$250k, too big for Red Hook
 - Lori thinks a lot of funding rollout will require a lot of time - webinar listening, deciding what is appropriate to go for
 - Lori will be focusing on working towards an option for businesses for compost drop off
 - We have stickers now: Proud Composter - Laurie handed out a few at the Recycling Center
- E-waste
 - Is there funding (Red Hook budget) to collect e-waste year-round?
 - Issue of storage & collection.
 - Question for TJ & need a shipping container
 - Was there a DEC change?
 - Invoice from last year? Costs usually break even.
 - Is there a threshold for pickup? 12 pallets fill their truck. Split transportation with Bard? Bard has to have a pickup at least once per year. That might also apply to Red Hook if the Town became a collection site.
 - Facility in Rochester that takes the waste refurbishes as much as possible and recycles as a last resort - important to take care with equipment.
 - Lori: it would be useful to have easy access to a list of what is e-waste, hazardous waste, etc.
 - Use [A Red Hook Resident's Guide to Materials Management](#)
 - Push this out before e-waste events. At Repair Cafe?
 - Motor oil

Misc

- Planning Board
 - Garages, cottages
 - Bard's bridge & solar arrays are the big ones
 - Solar proposal on North Rd. - still on screening issue
 - A side note: Vassar using geothermal in new construction project.
- DEC camps
 - Connection point to schools
- Ruth Oja scholarship
 - Deborah Beam is Environmental Club advisor - offer any help
 - HS student as member of CAC
- School energy, solar, & building audit
 - Denis: need to engage with School Board to ensure understanding of the decisions made last year and implications for the town, and what the legal mandates on energy efficiency and fuel will be in coming years. What's the status of solar installation?
- Annual EMC roundtable
 -

Audubon Sustainable Community Program *(did not discuss at January CAC meeting)*

- [Link to document](#)
- Environment Action 1 (slide 13) - Work with Event Committees for sustainability checklists for future event planning
- Recreation Action 2 (slide 39) - use recreation spaces for sustainable action & education
- Resource Use Action 1 (slide 41) - Review resource use including (i) water & land, soil & plants (ii) material goods, both durable & consumable (iii) energy & climate.
- Resource Use Action 2 (slide 42) - Create list of suggested best practices, adopt codes to be better stewards, and create incentives to implement.

- Volunteerism & Civic Engagement Action 2 (slide 45) - build sustainability into official events and traditions e.g. Apple Blossom and Hardscrabble Days, develop practices & signage.
- Transportation Action 2 (slide 48) - develop access to low-carbon transportation by implementing [Energy & Climate Action Plan](#) initiatives, trails, bike shares, EV chargers

Land & Water

- Water / SKWC
 - Laurie has been in touch - Salamander crossing when the time comes
- NRI

Climate Smart Community/ Energy

- Electric Mower implementation
 - Still waiting
- Agrivoltaics
- CSC - EDC collaboration
 - EDC is wanting a way into local sustainability work
 - Also have contacted about Audubon
 - Food systems - [Buy Local/Buy Green CSC action](#)
- Refrigerant work w/ Energy Cte
- Heat Pump campaign with Energy cte?
- Biodigester at Bard - someone coming once a month

Transportation

- Charging stations going in. Grant out for new e-vans (Denis?)
 - resolution passed to go out to bid
 - Denis: there are incentives, but a few barriers to accessing them. roughly \$240,000 per vehicle, and you have to have a salvageable vehicle of the same class as you are trying to purchase. In this case, a transit van. Can the town acquire an old diesel van to then get those incentives?

Website/ Communications

Updates needed? [Link to CAC page.](#)

Budget: not spent

Next month: what outcomes do we want to see?

Motion to adjourn: Lori, seconded by Mike. Close 8:06pm.

Planning for 2023

Review of 2022

Projects/Work Completed or Ongoing in 2021:

- Ruth Oja Scholarship award marketing
- Bike/Pedestrian counts (supporting Dutchess County) x 2
- Hardscrabble Day Community Event tabling w/ Bard College students - celebrating apples and had our electric cart in the parade

- Outreach and data collection for DEC Program: Amphibian Migration & Road Crossing (local FB page) - SKWC lead this year for second year
- Energy: Town wide LED street lights installed
- Audubon Sustainability Community Certification Program support
- Water sampling with Saw Kill Watershed Community (Monthly water sampling on hold)
- Town Earth Day clean up event w/ other partners - RH Rotary, RH Library, RH Community Ctr. April 24 1-4pm
- Compost Pilot Program
- Refrigerant Recovery
- 150K Level 3 Vehicle Chargers
- DEC Camp Administration Program
- Highway Garage 75K Solar

Plans for work/projects in 2022

- Town Earth Day clean up, Repair Cafe and e-waste day w/ other partners - Bard CCE, RH Rotary, RH Library, RH Community Ctr. DATE TBD
- Apple Blossom Community day with Paper Shred, compost pilot tabling
- work with RHCSO to do climate planning on their next capital project - get a carbon commitment?
- implement electric mowing grant (if awarded)
- Compost Pilot
- Wildlife viewing station assessment
- Continuation of work to expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure
- Cool Refrigerant Collection and gas removal effort
- Audubon Sustainable Community Certification - continue process, implement actions, install up to four art boxes

Exercise: 1) What outcomes do you want to achieve by end of 2023 - people, process, deliverables

2) How might we achieve those outcomes?

(from DEC) Governor Hochul Announces Climate Programs and Initiatives in State of the State Address

On Tuesday, January 10th, Governor Hochul announced in the 2023 State of the State address that New York will continue to undertake an ambitious and economywide effort to address the threat of climate change.

It is truly encouraging to see New York's climate and clean energy work represented in the Governor's 2023 agenda, including important plans for a new Cap-and-Invest Program and significant investments in energy affordability, clean and efficient buildings, clean air, and clean water.

New York is once again leading the way with the following climate and clean energy proposals.

Cap-and-Invest Program: The Governor proposed advancing an ambitious Cap-and-Invest Program that will establish a declining cap on greenhouse gas emissions, invest proceeds in programs to reduce pollution, limit potential costs to New Yorkers, and maintain the competitiveness of New York industries. The Cap-and-Invest Program will be shaped by five core principles: affordability, climate leadership, creating jobs and preserving competitiveness, investing in Disadvantaged Communities, and funding a sustainable future. The Program will be developed in a public and transparent process to ensure stakeholders' voices are heard and it will prioritize Disadvantaged Communities that have suffered from environmental injustice with at least 35%, and a goal of 40%, of investments directly benefitting these communities and ensuring pollution burdens are reduced in frontline communities. For more information on the Program, please read the [press release](#) and New York's [Climate Act website](#).

Clean and Efficient Buildings: As part of the State's comprehensive efforts to decarbonize its building stock, Governor Hochul announced a package of policy initiatives including zero-emission new construction (with no on-site fossil fuel combustion by 2025 for smaller buildings, and by 2028 for larger buildings) and to prohibit the sale of new fossil fuel heating equipment (by 2030 for smaller buildings and 2035 for larger buildings). These will be advanced alongside a grading system for larger buildings statewide based on their energy usage to help building managers make informed choices to cut electricity bills and emissions. These proposals are significant as New York's building sector was responsible for 32% of emissions, the largest source of emissions in the state.

Energy Affordability: To address high energy prices, Governor Hochul is proposing investments to insulate our most vulnerable households from rising energy prices while advancing the transition to lower emissions. These actions:

- Providing \$200 million in relief for high electric bills. New York State will provide a credit to the more than 800,000 New York households that make under \$75,000 annually to help pay burdensome electric bills.
- Pairing affordability support with modernizing low-income homes through EmPower Plus. The creation of the Energy Affordability Guarantee, the first-in-the-nation pilot program will ensure low-income New Yorkers who participate in the EmPower Plus Program and fully electrify their homes will never pay more than six percent of their incomes on electricity.

Please read the [press release](#) for more on these proposals.

A [copy of the Governor's speech](#), as well as the [full State of the State book language](#) (PDF) with other details on initiatives for electric vehicle infrastructure, waste reduction, ensuring a just

transition, and many more energy and environmental highlights are available on the [Governor's website](#).

As you can see from these proposals, 2023 is off to a strong start! Our ongoing climate actions will include robust stakeholder and public outreach and we look forward to hearing from you and continuing our work together to achieve our shared climate and clean energy goals.