



Sullivan County Agriculture and Sustainability Policy Committee

June 5, 2014 AGENDA

2:00 PM

Committee Members:

Cindy Kurpil Gieger, Chair, Cora Edwards, Vice-Chair, Gene Benson, Alan Sorensen, Kitty Vetter

Call to Order

Attendance

Comments: Committee Chair

Reports:

1. Office of Sustainable Energy (OSE) Monthly Report- Carol Roig & Stephen Stuart
2. Agricultural Report- Melinda Meddaugh
3. Ag Advisory Board Update

Presentation: None

Discussion:

1. Beginning Farmers – Michelle Lupieri CCE
2. Cleaner Greener Grant Proposal – Space and Energy Utilization Study
3. PPA for Solar Installation

Resolutions: None

Public Comment

Adjourn

CCE REPORT:

Greenhouse/High Tunnel Project- In partnership with Sullivan BOCES and Sullivan Renaissance, CCE is working to construct an educational teaching greenhouse and high tunnel. The High Tunnel is in the process of being constructed by BOCES students. We will plan a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the project once the High Tunnel is up. We are in the processing of developing the educational programs for the Greenhouse/High Tunnel, specifically, bringing in the NYS Cornell Extension Specialist, who has a great deal of knowledge regarding High Tunnels and vegetable production. Melinda and Michelle, our Agricultural Community Educator are currently at a training upstate to learn about high tunnels and developing educational programs around them

EaT Kitchen (Commercial Kitchen)- partnership between CCE and Liberty CDC. A commercial kitchen and educational facility. The kitchen will be open to value added producers and for educational programming. We anticipate kitchen construction to be completed sometime in July. We have received a number of inquiries from potential users.

Dairy Processing- Currently working with the County to provide educational support for the dairy processing equipment project.

Training: CCE educators are attending training in June and August to learn about grain production in the Hudson valley.

Upcoming Classes

July 10th Intro to Greenhouses & High Tunnels, 530—800pm.

July 8th, 22nd and Aug. 5th Vet Science Series

August 26th Soil Health & Management for High Tunnels, 530—800pm.

Other High Tunnel Classes:

Sept TBD Business Planning & Marketing your High Tunnel Products, 500—730pm. Learn tips and tricks to market vegetables grown in a high tunnel. Also, how to begin planning for a season extension business.

Nov. TBD Winter Greens/Tomatoes For High Tunnels , 530—730pm. Vegetable Extension Specialist Jud Reid will cover topics about season extension of winter greens and growing tomatoes in a high tunnel environment

OSE Activities Report for May 2014
Reporting on April 2014 activities

I. ENERGY MANAGEMENT FOR SC FACILITIES

NYPA Potential for HVAC replacement at SC Government Center

Working to assess NYPA's proposal, including analysis of existing systems, cost analysis, proposed equipment and technologies, and estimated return on investment. Next steps include review of the plan by DPW staff and development of a list of questions and comments for further discussion with NYPA and their contractor, Preis. OSE is researching possible alternative measures and systems.

- Met with Ed McAndrew on April 22nd to discuss the NYPA proposal.

Power Purchase Agreements for County/Municipal Operations

We continue to explore all options for PV installations at County properties, including power purchase agreements (PPAs).

- OSE would like to arrange informational meetings with Heather Brown, Josh Potosek, Ed McAndrew, and Kathy Jones for two additional solar developers interested in working with Sullivan County.
- We are coordinating with Chris Knapp to expand mapping of potential solar resources at County-owned sites.

II. SC CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Launching development of Part 2 of the Climate Action Plan. Next steps include:

- Identify additional/replacement members for the CAP Advisory Board
- Develop a scope for Part 2, in collaboration with SC Division of Planning and the CAP Board
- Explore resources available through VHB Engineering, consultants to the CSC participating towns, to avoid duplication of effort.
- VHB consultants will meet with CSC towns and County representatives on May 6th. We have invited representatives from Bethel, Tusten, Highland, Lumberland, Cochection and Delaware. This will serve as an initial brainstorming event to collect ideas from each town regarding their informational needs and possible projects.

III. OUTREACH

- Collaborated with Hospitality Green to run the Green Tourism conference at Villa Roma on April 7th and 8th.
- Attended USDA informational event at SCCC to learn about opportunities for business development and USDA support and incentives.
- Met with Catskill Mountainkeeper on April 15th to discuss solar cooperative for homeowners.
- Solar presentation on PPAs and solar purchase for residential and commercial applications, at Homestead School, 9:00 to 11:00 AM on Saturday, May 3th.
- Researching DOE "Sun Shot" initiative to reduce costs of community solar installations.



SULLIVAN COUNTY
DIVISION OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Ag & Sustainability Committee Update

May 29, 2014

INITIATIVE	MAY ACTIVITY/STATUS	NEXT STEPS
<p>County Farmland Protection Plan Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultants have gathered and put together preliminary data for SC through the surveys to the public, farmers & municipalities, 4 focus groups and existing data. • The survey results have been compiled and are being reviewed by the committee • SWOT analysis has been conducted and draft property tax analysis has been created. Further review will take place at the next meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Committee meeting scheduled for June 16th to begin to review the 1st draft of the goals & strategies of the plan.
<p>Ag Districts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ag & Farmland Protection Board reviewed applications & made recommendations • Public Hearing set for June 19th Legislative Committee Meeting at 4:30 • 4 properties were recommended • Public notifications went out to the newspaper, Town Supervisors & Assessors, property owners & adjacent property owners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue with SEQRA process once Public Hearing conducted
<p>Dairy Processing Equipment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently organizing the review committee • Requesting additional information from the applicant • Working with the applicant to apply for a CDBG grant for additional equipment to support project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete CDBG funding application under CFA program • Follow up with Hudson Valley Agribusiness and other consultants assisting with project development • Set a date for the committee to review the application, after receipt of updated market plan from applicant
<p>Ag Revolving Loan Funds</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ag loans being promoted to potential applicants, and meetings scheduled with three prospects. • CCE is doing a funding workshop in the fall that will promote this program along with other County, State and Federal programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate log to track inquiries and follow-up, set benchmarks • Conduct farm visits to discuss potential projects and possible funding opportunities.

