



Sullivan County Agriculture and Sustainability Policy Committee

February 14, 2017 AGENDA
3:00 PM

Committee Members:

Catherine Owens, Chair, Nadia Rasjz, Vice-Chair, Mark McCarthy, Terri Ward, Scott Samuelson

Call to Order

Attendance

Comments: Committee Chair

Presentation: None

Reports:

1. Agricultural Report- Melinda Meddaugh
2. Office of Sustainable Energy – Heather Brown

Discussion:

1. Green Fleet Policy
2. Facilities Benchmarking

Resolutions: None

Public Comment

Adjourn

Sullivan County Office of Sustainable Energy Monthly Report for January 2017

The Sullivan County Office of Sustainable Energy (OSE) was staffed with two part time Sustainability Analysts (1/17/17) and a Sustainability Coordinator (2/6/17). Activity has focused on analysis of County accomplishments to date, where we stand with regard to our certification as a Cleaner Greener Community and a Climate Smart Community, and the most effective path forward toward achieving the various goals established either through the Climate Action Plan or via resolution (429-07, "Green Vision Statement," 53-10, "Climate Smart Communities Pledge")

A Fleet Efficiency Policy has been drafted with a goal of reducing operational costs and emissions of our county feet, as well as a Benchmarking Policy drafted to track building performance for efficiency and reduction of emissions. It is our hope to have both of these policies on the agenda for adoption during the legislative meetings in March 2017.

Discussions are ongoing with regard to establishment of a network of electric vehicle charging stations throughout the County, and an appropriate role for the County to play in the development of this infrastructure.

The Sustainability Coordinator met with the County Manager to discuss the role of OSE moving forward, including the pursuit of various grant opportunities (Clean Vehicles and Infrastructure, County Resiliency Planning), potential partnerships with our municipalities, not for profits, and economic development agencies, and various county projects that would benefit from the integration of sustainable practices and technology.

The Sustainability Coordinator attended a quarterly meeting of the Municipal Electric and Gas Alliance (MEGA) and received updates with regard to several ongoing initiatives including build-out of renewables and Community Choice Aggregation. NYSAC provided us with an update about the pending vacancies on the Public Service Commission as well as potential legislation to ease the existing backlog of renewable generation in the queue awaiting interconnection. Sullivan County's solar project estimated interconnect date is February 17, 2017. An update on the hydro project will be provided upon its availability.