



## Sullivan County Agriculture and Sustainability Policy Committee

June 8, 2017 AGENDA

12:30 PM

Committee Members:

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

### **Call to Order**

### **Attendance**

**Comments:** Committee Chair

### **Reports:**

1. Office of Sustainable Energy – Heather Brown
2. Parks and Recreation- Brian Scardefield
3. Agricultural Report- Melinda Meddaugh

### **Presentation:**

1. Climate Smart Communities Program Overview

**Discussion:** None

**Resolutions:** None

**Public Comment**

**Adjourn**



**Sullivan County Office of Sustainable Energy**  
**SULLIVAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER**  
100 NORTH STREET  
PO BOX 5012  
MONTICELLO, NY 12701-5192

Sullivan County Office of Sustainable Energy Monthly Report for May 2017

*Climate Smart Communities*

- OSE has identified and compiled documentation for 129 points in the DEC Climate Smart Communities program, including 9 points for the interconnection and energization of the solar array in Liberty. First level certification requires 120 points, so we are anticipating notification of certification in the coming weeks.
- The Sullivan County internal Green Committee has been formed to coordinate the efforts of key departments and identify areas where the County can implement sustainable strategies to the benefit of the environment, community health, and budget.

*Electric Vehicles*

- The first round of applications for the County's EV Charging Infrastructure Reimbursement was due on May 25. The Town of Thompson submitted an application for a station located at the Town of Thompson Town Hall. We anticipate more applications in the second round, due August 3<sup>rd</sup>, as the turnaround was quick for the first round from the time the program was adopted. We have several inquiries and receive more each week.
- OSE is working with Sustainable Hudson Valley's Drive Electric Hudson Valley program and EV Connects to gain access to low cost EV Charging stations, as well as to organize events during the summer season to provide information about electric vehicles as well as to offer an opportunity to test drive electric and plug in hybrid vehicles.
- The County has received quotes and is planning to move forward with the lease of a plug in hybrid vehicle to add to our County fleet.

*Solarize Sullivan*

- The 2017 Solarize Sullivan campaign launched on May 31, 2017. The County will continue to support this initiative through the end of the campaign.

### *Benchmarking*

- Data is being compiled and entered into Portfolio Manager to monitor the County's progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, energy usage and costs. Staff from DPW have participated in meetings with OSE in order to ensure everyone is familiar with the data and comfortable using the program.
- Data will be ready for reporting by the end of the third quarter as required by the County's Benchmarking Policy.

### *Outreach*

- OSE has now been contacted by 8 municipalities who have either requested information (3) or indicated a desire to work with the County on achieving their sustainability goals (5).
- OSE staff was contacted by a residential community in the Town of Liberty that has an interest in becoming more energy efficient and would like to utilize solar power. This is a unique situation in that rather than an individual or business, an entire community is looking into what they can do to reduce their carbon footprint and save energy/costs. Staff has visited the location to do a preliminary assessment in order to determine the best path forward, and OSE will now work to make the connections between this community and the organizations/programs that best suit the needs and opportunities.
- OSE is in the process of developing a website to better disseminate information and opportunities to the public.

### *Meetings/Events*

- Mid-Hudson Regional Council Sustainability Working Group retreat
- Solarize Sullivan Launch
- Low Income Forum on Energy (LIFE) Hudson Valley Regional Meeting



**COUNTY OF SULLIVAN**  
**Parks and Recreation**  
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Monthly Report  
Agriculture & Sustainability Committee Meeting – June 8, 2017

Lake Superior Beach, Fort Delaware and the D&H Interpretive Center are all set to start opening on weekends beginning Memorial Day weekend. Staff orientation has been held at all of the locations and everyone is very excited for the season to start. The staff is currently in the process of getting everything cleaned and prepped for the season.

I spoke with Public Health Director Nancy McGraw in regards to getting the trails fixed up around the Adult Care Center and Community Complex. I would like to incorporate the Clean Team that I have in the summer to possibly help with this.

My office has been extremely busy with phone calls, group picnic permits, season passes and everyday tasks. I met with a representative from Work Force for Development to see about the possibility of getting a person to help out with some of the secretarial tasks.

I attended the County's Trail Committee monthly meeting. Our next meeting will be held at Lake Superior State Park on June 20<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm. We will be looking over the potential possibilities of a trail system along the lake. I would like to invite the legislatures and anyone else who may be interested in hiking around the area to join us.

The local Towns and Villages that I spoke with were very appreciative that the Legislators extended the litter pluck due to the inclement weather we were experiencing.

One of the part-time Museum Attendants at the Sullivan County Museum is unable work on Sundays. I am looking to create another position in the budget so I can have the Museum open on Sundays and to fill in if someone needs off. There would be no increase in the budget. I submitted a Request for Consideration of a Resolution regarding this matter.

I am working on assessing the signage for the parks now that they are open for the season and all of the signs are up. Many of the parks could use new updated signs and also more directional signs. I am looking to start replacing some throughout the season.

# MAY 2017 AGRICULTURE REPORT



Cornell University  
Cooperative Extension  
Sullivan County



## RIGHT TO FARM PROJECT

In cooperation with CCE, SC Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board, County Planning and local municipalities, we have created "Right to Farm" signs. These signs will be located along Town Roads as part of a public educational campaign regarding farming.

## APRIL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS:

### INTRODUCTION TO FARMING May 2nd

8 new farmers participated in this introductory session that covered the rules and regulations, marketing, and business planning associated with farming.

### INTRODUCTION TO RAISING POULTRY May 16th

13 participants attended. This class covered breed selection, egg hatching, raising chicks and adult birds, feed and nutrition, equipment, healthcare, and the regulations for selling eggs and meat.

### SOCIAL MEDIA CLASSES May 11th and May 18th

Part of the 'Grow Your Farm and Food Business' Series, over 20 participants in total learned how and why to use social media marketing for their business. Sponsored by SCORE.

### LIVESTOCK REPRODUCTION WORKSHOP May 22nd

Participants learned about anatomy and physiology of the livestock reproductive system. Topics discussed included synching protocols, hormones, and reproductive conditions.



## UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

### BEGINNER FARMER CLASS (Intro to Swine) June 6th

CCESC Educator Michelle Lipari will cover breed selection, breeding and farrowing, feed and nutrition, equipment, healthcare, and the regulations for selling meat.

### BEGINNER FARMER CLASS (Intro to Vegetable Farming) June 20th

CCESC educators will discuss the basics of starting up a vegetable farm in the Sullivan Catskills.

### THE LAWS OF FOOD LABELING June 27th

This workshop will help you navigate the different labeling regulations. Jason Foscolo from the Food Law Firm will discuss food labeling as mandated by the Federal Drug Administration.

## FARMERS MARKET PROMOTION PROJECT

We are officially kicking off our 1st educational campaign "Catskills Chill and Grill". This campaign emphasizes the variety of local meats available at the market, along with grilling tips and cooking demos.



## MAY AGRICULTURE REPORT 2017 (continued)

### VALUE - ADDED DAIRY PROCESSING PROJECT

The equipment for the Bethel Creamery project was delivered and installed. The new facility is currently producing yogurt. We anticipate a ribbon cutting within the next few months and we are currently working through completing the paperwork for the USDA. The NYS CDBG grant reporting does not have to be completed until November.

### SC AGRICULTURE & FARMLAND PROTECTION BOARD:

The Board officially has a logo as part of our Right to Farm educational project.

**AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT 30 DAY WINDOW:** A public hearing has been set for June 15th. Landowners, adjoining property and municipalities were notified regarding the hearing. Only 2 parcels were recommended to be included into an agricultural district this year.



### CATSKILLS KITCHEN FOOD INCUBATOR PROGRAM

The kitchen continues to gain interest and new users. Potential users have toured the kitchen and 2 new food businesses were recently approved to use the kitchen for their products, one of which is a farm looking to turn their farm products into value added food products.



Upcoming programs include:

- The Laws of Food Labeling: June 27th
- Farmers Market Demos: June 16th and August 11th
- Labor Laws and Regulations: July 12th

### FARM TO SCHOOL

As previously mentioned, we are working with schools to stock salad bars with local farm products such as tomatoes and lettuce. In addition, we are trying to develop educational signage about farms.

### Agri-Business Retention & Expansion Program:

We recently hired a new Agriculture Coordinator, through support from the County Legislature. The coordinator started on May 23rd and will start to work with farms on farm business management and business planning. In addition, the Coordinator will assist existing Ag staff on the activities below:

- **Farm Assistance:** Assisted 35 farms through phone, email and field visits. Assistance includes business planning, value added, hay and soil testing, best management practices and production practices
- **Programming:** Currently developing ag business programming for 2017. Programs include social media marketing, farm labor, agri-tourism, quickbooks and business planning. We recently developed a brochure highlighting all of our Ag Business programs.
- **Farmer Resource Manual:** We are in the process of developing a 'Guide to Farming in Sullivan County' manual. We anticipate printing and distributing the manual by June. The manual is intended for both existing and new farmers.
- **Wholesale Training:** CCE staff, along with staff from the IDA and Sullivan Renaissance were accepted and attended Cornell University's USDA Marketing Toolbox training. The all day training provided tools regarding assessing the economic impact of agriculture.

# The Climate Smart Communities Program



Sullivan County Office of Sustainable Energy (OSE)

# **Key Sullivan County Actions 2007-Present**

**429-2007: Green Vision Statement**

**343-2008: Created Office of Sustainable Energy (OSE)**

**53-2010: Joined Climate Smart Communities Program**

**140-2012: Created the CAP Advisory Board**

**158-2014: Adopted the SC Climate Action Plan**

**2017 Adopted Budget: Formally staffed OSE**



# Climate Smart Communities Program

- **Sponsored by NYSERDA, NYS Department of State, NYS DEC, NYS Department of Health, NYS DOT, and the Public Service Commission.**
- **Municipalities commit to 10 Pledge Elements relating to climate change and sustainable operations.**

# CSC Certification Process

- **Counties, Towns and Cities can qualify for certification.**
- **Four Levels: Basic, Bronze, Silver, Gold.**
- **Point system – points awarded for 138 specific actions relating to the 10 pledge elements  
Certification is tied to grant eligibility.**
- **County actions are documented as required and submitted for evaluation to the DEC's CSC staff.**

# CSC Pledge Elements

## 1. Pledge to Combat Climate Change by Becoming a Climate Smart Community

Resolution, task force, Sustainability Coordinator, Green Team, join ICLEI.

## 2. Set Goals, Inventory Emissions, Move to Action

Government operations GHG emissions inventory, set targets, action plan

## 3. Decrease Community Energy Use

Buildings, vehicles, lighting, waste, energy management, staff behavior, financing strategies.

- Benchmarking Policy
- Fleet Efficiency Policy
- Anti-idling Policy
- Upgrades to Government Center (through NYPA)
- Environmentally preferable purchasing policy

## **4. Increase Community Use of Renewable Energy**

Goals, policies and implementation.

- **Gravity Renewables Small Hydro**
- **Solar Installations**
- **County feasibility study for wind resources**

## **5. Realize Benefits of Recycling and Other Climate**

### **Smart Solid Waste Management Practices**

Promote reuse, comprehensive recycling, Green purchasing.

- **Pay as You Throw**
- **Single Stream Recycling**
- **Household Hazardous Waste Collection days**
- **Educational Outreach in the Community**

**6. Reduce GHG Emissions through Climate Smart Land Use Tools**

Encourage smart growth, fuel efficient transportation, low-carbon development, preservation of open space.

**7. Enhance Community Resiliency and Prepare for the Effects of Climate Change**

Identify risks, develop strategies re heat, flooding, drought.

**8. Support a Green Innovation Economy**

Workforce development, green economic development, green procurement, incentives for green and local businesses.

**9. Inform and Inspire the Public**

Education, outreach, seminars, GHG reduction campaigns, web sites and social media.

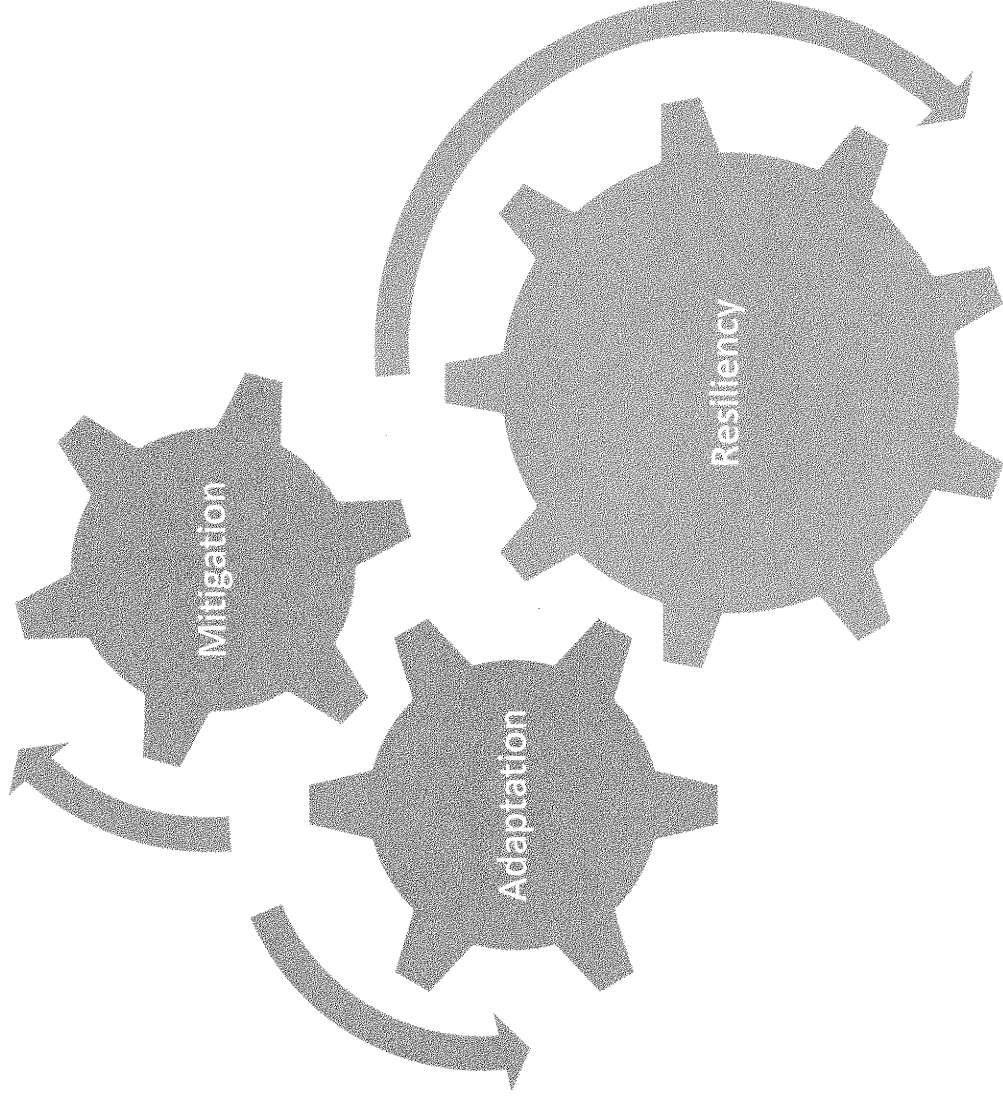
**10. Commit to an Evolving Process**

Report on progress, update strategies and plans, cooperate with neighboring communities and partner agencies.

# CSC Extra Credit

- **Innovation**  
Extra points for a new innovative action or strategy
- **Performance Bonus**  
Extra points for actual GHG reduction, increased use of renewables, waste reduction, reduction of GHG from transportation

# Three Key Concepts



# Climate Impacts for the Catskill Region

- Increased flooding alternating with periods of drought.
- More catastrophic events like hurricanes and ice storms
- Disruption of communications and travel.
- Increased asthma, heat stroke, heart attack and vector-borne diseases like West Nile virus and Lyme disease.
- Agricultural stresses such as more spring frosts, reduced summer precipitation and heat stresses on farm animals, especially dairy cows.
- Loss of iconic apple varieties such as Empire and Macintosh.
- Widespread damage to forests and waterways due to invasive pests like the hemlock wooly adelgid, emerald ash borer, Asian water chestnut

Source: Responding to Climate Change in New York State/NYSERDA



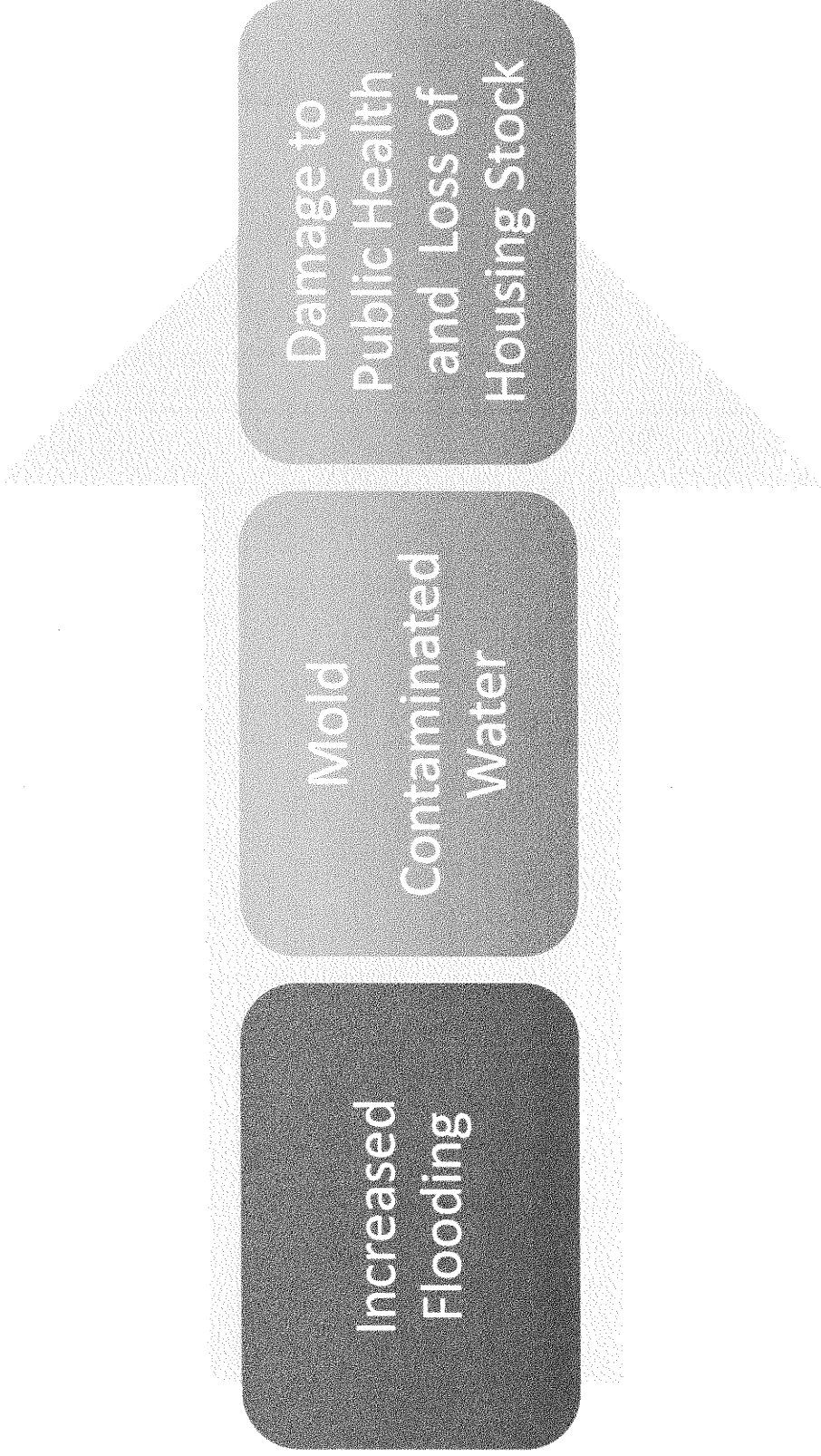
# Cascading Effects - Economic

Loss of hemlocks  
causes warming of  
lakes and streams

Brook trout  
stressed by loss of  
cold water refuges

Loss of significant  
assets of NYS \$3.5  
billion hunting and  
fishing industry in  
upstate NY

# Cascading Effects - Health



Increased  
Flooding

Mold  
Contaminated  
Water

Damage to  
Public Health  
and Loss of  
Housing Stock

# SC Internal Green Team

The Green Team will coordinate efforts across departments, including:

- County Manager's Office
- Office of Sustainable Energy
- Division of Public Works
- Department of Planning
- Department of Public Health
- Department of Purchasing
- Department of Parks, Recreation and Beautification

## **We Are On Our Way**

**Sullivan County has submitted to the DEC documentation of 21 specific CSC actions.**

**We should qualify for 133 points, 13 more than required to qualify for basic certification.**

**We would be only the 3<sup>rd</sup> county in NYS to qualify for certification.**

**We are eyeing gold level certification.**

# **Sullivan County Office of Sustainable Energy**

**For more information, contact:**

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