



**Climate Smart Canandaigua Task Force  
Annual Progress Report**

**2019**



**Climate Smart  
Communities**  
Certified Bronze

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## **Climate Smart Communities: An Introduction**

Climate Smart Communities is a New York State program that helps local governments take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate. In doing so, Climate Smart Communities can advance community goals for health & safety, economic vitality, energy independence, and quality of life.

The program has two designations—registered and certified. Thus far, 290 registered communities have made a commitment to act by passing the Climate Smart Communities pledge. Certified communities are the foremost leaders in the state; they have gone beyond the Climate Smart Communities pledge by completing and documenting a suite of actions that mitigate and adapt to climate change at the local level. On April 23, 2019, the City of Canandaigua became the 23<sup>rd</sup> Climate Smart Certified Community when it received its Bronze designation and the first to enter the program certified.

## **Climate Smart Canandaigua Task Force**

In addition to the work required to earn Climate Smart Community Certification, the Climate Smart Canandaigua (CSC) Task Force was formed to actively educate and engage the public with critical information and vital opportunities to mitigate climate change. CSC is comprised of community stakeholders, including two City Councilmembers, Staff, and citizens representing a variety of backgrounds and community organizations, and is committed to collaborating with City Council to accomplish plans, facilitate programs, and offer activities and events that align with the Climate Smart Communities Certification Program.

### **Our Mission**

- Provide ongoing implementation of actions related to climate change and increase efforts to reduce our carbon footprint and achieve cost savings in the process.
- Assess baseline conditions, establish goals and develop plans and suggest policies to achieve goals.
- Educate the community and stakeholders on the value of the goals and plans.

### **Members**

Chair: Suzi van der Sterre  
Coordinator: Rob Richardson  
Maria Bucci  
Erich Dittmar  
Lauren Dittmar  
Chris Glattly  
Laura Kenyon  
Thomas Lyon  
Ellen Polimeni  
Dave Poteet  
Karen White  
Ryan Wilmer

## **CSC Mission #1**

*Provide ongoing implementation of actions related to climate change and increase efforts to reduce our carbon footprint and achieve cost savings in the process.*

### **Action Item: Composting Program**

- **Results:** Completed/In Progress. Continued to promote the City of Canandaigua's Backyard Composting Program through social media and face-to-face events (such as festivals, farmers market), resulting in a total of 389 households participating.
- **Challenges:** Making sure the public is aware of the program, managing requests, and organizing delivery. We recognize the importance that participants are educated on the process of composting. To make sure the program was successful, CSC partnered with the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County and Wood Library to hold several "Composting 101" workshops.
- **Next Steps:** Continue to promote the program via social media and face-to-face events. Hold additional "Composting 101" workshops and/or Composter Gatherings, where participants can talk to each other about their successes and challenges.

### **Action Item: LED Streetlights**

- **Results:** Completed. The City of Canandaigua completed a Performance Contract with SmartWatt to purchase and convert all the street light fixtures in the City to LED lighting. In total, 1,089 fixtures were converted, 60 old street poles were replaced with new, decorative ones, and 9 additional fixtures were added to increase lighting downtown. Annually, the City expects to save 526,125 kWh, \$31,157 in utilities, and \$224,321 in total cost.
- **Challenges:** Now that the City has purchased the light fixtures, they are also responsible for the maintenance moving forward. This will add additional work and cost to DPW, but the annual savings and energy improvement benefits from the additional projects made possible through the Performance Contract more than outweigh these challenges.
- **Next Steps:** Maintaining the assets moving forward.

### **Action Item: C-PACE Financing**

- **Results:** Completed. On October 3, 2019, City Council passed Local Law 2019-002 enacting Commercial Property-Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) Financing in the City of Canandaigua.
- **Challenges:** There were no real challenges in completing the work necessary to enact C-PACE financing. City Council needed to pass a local law, but the Energy Improvement Corporation (EIC) will administer the program moving forward. The challenge will be in getting business owners to utilize the program now that the program is available.
- **Next Steps:** The CSC Task Force is working with the Canandaigua Downtown Business Improvement District (BID) as well as the City's Planning and Code Enforcement Offices to help educate those who might be able to utilize the program

### **Action Item: Zero-Waste Guidelines**

- **Results:** *In Progress.* In the process of drafting Zero/Low Waste Event Guidelines to provide event organizers in the community with information on how to reduce waste at their events.
- **Challenges:** Potential lack of will by individuals and organizations to make efforts towards Zero Waste events due to perceived added cost and inconveniences. Education and easy-to-adopt strategies needed to motivate event organizers.
- **Next Steps:** Complete guidelines, add to City website (as a link on 'Special Events' page), and spread the word through social media and community events to encourage individuals and organizations to make reducing waste at events more of a priority. Promote events in which organizers are making active efforts towards Zero/Low Waste.

### **Action Item: Residential Solar Program**

- **Results:** *In Progress.* At our June 2019 meeting, GreenSpark presented on the state of the solar power industry in New York State.
- **Challenges:** Solar energy for residential homes is being underutilized in the Canandaigua community. There are lots of opportunities for growth, but education is needed.
- **Next Steps:** Find opportunities to partner with GreenSpark in the future for community outreach/educational events.

### **Action Item: EV Charging Stations**

- **Results:** *In Progress.* 1) Identify locations for successful implementation of Level 2 and 3 EV charging stations (aka electric vehicle service equipment EVSE) in Rochester and Finger Lakes regions 2) Determine present usefulness of existing area EVSE for power level (experienced as charging times), reliability and location with real-world work and recreational experiences (three years ongoing data accumulation) 3) Making this information accessible and coherent to decision-makers.
- **Challenges:** Communication of EV charging needs and experiences to stakeholders in the EVSE build process, facilitate communications between grant providers, public and private property owners, current EV community. Promote infrastructure investment (primarily buried wire conduit) that will support higher current Level 3 charging stations in current public and private building projects.
- **Next Steps:** Determine a means to communicate and incentivize planning for EVSE needs to all stakeholders. Anticipate growing electric utility adoption of growing Vehicle to Grid (V2G) power transmission.

## **CSC Mission #2**

*Assess baseline conditions, establish goals and develop plans and suggest policies to achieve goals.*

### **Action Item: Municipal Solid Waste Audit**

- **Results:** Completed. The City partnered with Impact Earth to conduct a Municipal Solid Waste Audit on all seven municipal facilities; City Hall, Police Station, The Hurley Building, Fire Station #1, Fire Station #2, the Water Recovery Facility, and the Water Treatment Plant. The audit was conducted on August 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, and September 18<sup>th</sup>, and found that the City was achieving a 36% landfill diversion rate with the vast majority of waste accounted for was not created through Municipal Operations, but brought in by Staff in the form of styrofoam coffee cups, takeout containers, pizza boxes, single-use cutlery, etc.
- **Challenges:** There were no challenges during the completion of the Municipal Solid Waste Audit- the only issue the team encountered was that two buildings tossed their waste too quickly requiring Impact Earth to come back in September. The real challenge will be in setting up systems and educating Staff to increase of landfill diversion rate by helping them address their personal habits and practices while at work. Hopefully, these steps will change not only their waste reduction practices on the job but in their personal lives.
- **Next Steps:** The CSC will work with City Staff to identify and vet educational opportunities and policy changes that will help increase the City's landfill diversion rate. This will likely be an ongoing process to determine which approach is most sustainable.

### **Action Item: Sustainable Solutions in the Comprehensive Plan**

- **Results:** In Progress.
  - Public and alternative transit discussed in the transportation section
  - Natural resource protection included in Parks and environment sections
  - Green business discussed in the economy section
  - Local food system discussed under economy and downtown (farmers market, and buy local)
  - The committee was granted an extension until March 31, 2020, to complete the Plan.
- **Challenges:** few, general support of CSC goals by committee.
- **Next Steps:** Comp Plan expected to be adopted in 2020, unlikely to lose CSC goals.

### **Action Item: Community Choice Aggregation**

- **Results:** Complete/ In Progress. In November 2019, City Council passed a local law to establish a Community Choice Aggregation program in the City of Canandaigua. Now that the City has passed the enabling legislation, a 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Administrator must be chosen so a public outreach and information campaign can begin.
- **Challenges:** The real challenges with the program still lay ahead. Community Choice Aggregation is an "OPT-OUT" program, meaning that residents will need to actively

remove themselves should they choose not to participate. The community outreach and information campaign may also pose challenges, but the 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Administrator the City chooses will help with alleviating those concerns.

- **Next Steps:** The City is in the process of choosing a 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Administrator. Once that partner is chosen, CSC will work with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Party administrator to educate residents about Community Choice Aggregation.

#### **Action Item: Community Garden**

- **Result:** *On Hold.* After beginning to explore how successful community gardens in the area (such as Geneva Peeps) are organized and run, further reading of the Community Garden action item showed that it is currently as much about local municipal policies that prohibit/promote community agricultural projects as it is about actual gardens. This action item is also expected to change in 2020, so it was decided to wait for the new item changes before any more action or exploration is undertaken.
- **Challenges:** Figuring out how the Task Force can play a part in encouraging new City policy to promote targeted projects such as community gardens, garden stands, husbandry of poultry and livestock, beekeeping, creation of shared private or public spaces for mini-parks, composting, and other community projects that are climate smart.
- **Next Steps:** While waiting on the anticipated update to the Community Gardens action item, the City has promised a review of a local ordinance to check if it contains any roadblocks to community gardens or other useful community environmental and agricultural endeavors.

## **CSC Mission #3**

*Educate the community and stakeholders on the value of the goals and plans.*

### **Action Item: Earthapolooza (partnership with Wood Library)**

- **Results:** Completed. Wood Library and Climate Smart Canandaigua teamed up to present Earthapolooza on April 22, 2019. This event featured earth-friendly activities designed to help people learn, get inspired, and take action. Thirteen (13) community partners participated in the event which attracted close to 150 people of all ages to the library. People were able to get information about how to compost, what to recycle, and how things can be reused. They learned about rain barrels, lake-friendly lawn care practices, electric vehicles, and climate smart legislative initiatives.
- **Challenges:** Feedback from the event was positive. In the future, we recommend holding the event on a Saturday when working people and families can benefit from the program.
- **Next Steps:** Plans for 2020 include a Green Vendor Fair on Saturday, March 28, and participation in FLCC's Earth Week which will take place from April 20-24.

### **Action Item: Arts and Music Festival**

- **Results:** Completed. Hosted a booth at the Downtown Arts and Music Festival on July 20, 2019, with a good response from residents and the broader community. Composting bin sign-ups were collected and general CSC info was disseminated.
- **Challenges:** Some members of the public rejected the idea of climate change or any environmental action. There was also a limited number of volunteers for the booth.
- **Next Steps:** Discuss attending next year and/or other downtown events.

### **Action Item: Fourth of July Parade**

- **Results:** Completed. The Canandaigua CSC task force presented a float in the annual 4th of July parade and it was a big success; the response from the crowd was strong and we made a good impression for building local recognition of our group and mission. We also engaged the Tesla Club to join us so that we had 6 EVs in the parade.
- **Challenges:** Building a float with no budget that communicated our group and mission with only 10 seconds to make an impression. Contacting and organizing EV owners. Volunteer time and funding, however, accomplished a successful outcome.
- **Next Steps:** Plan for next year's float with a more direct message.

### **Action Item: Facebook Page**

- **Results:** Completed/In Progress. A Facebook page for Climate Smart Canandaigua was created to be a place to educate the community and stakeholders on the value of the goals and plans, share environmental information, and promote local green events. To date, the page has garnered 373 followers with one post with a reach of 71,000 people, almost 11,000 engagements, and 787 shares.
- **Challenges:** Keeping the Facebook page active through volunteer time.



- **Next Steps:** Create a social media calendar to plan out seasonal posts and fill in with more timely posts as needed.

**Action Item: Webpage**

- **Results:** Completed/In Progress. A webpage for Climate Smart Canandaigua was created on the City's Official website to be a place for information about meetings and meeting minutes and general Task Force information. As well as keep the public updated.
- **Challenges:** Keeping the webpage updated through volunteer time.
- **Next Steps:** Plot out a more cohesive way of keeping it more up to date.

## Looking Ahead to 2020

### Grants Awarded

On December 19, 2019, Climate Smart Canandaigua was awarded new NYS DEC grants to help fund Government Operations and Community Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventories, a Natural Resources Inventory, and a Climate Vulnerability Assessment! The City will be contracting with Impact Earth to complete these assessments.

### 2020 Planned Action Items

**Government Operations GHG Inventory:** This inventory is an accounting, analysis, and report of the GHG emissions resulting from the day-to-day operations of our city. It will summarize the GHG emissions from the consumption of energy and materials in government buildings, from wastewater and water treatment facilities, from municipal vehicle fleets, from government-owned outdoor lighting, and other sources. It is a foundational step toward effective climate action and will provide the data needed to set realistic goals and track the CSC's progress.

***Tentative Completion Date: October 2020***

**Community GHG Inventory:** Government operations typically account for less than three percent of a community's emissions. It is therefore important to understand how our industries, businesses, schools, homes, and vehicles in our entire community are contributing to climate change. A Community GHG inventory provides the data needed to set realistic goals and track progress toward reducing costs, energy use, and emissions, allowing us to identify and focus on the most important sectors.

***Tentative Completion Date: October 2020***

**Natural Resource Inventory:** Maintaining the integrity and ecological health of natural areas is a key part of preventing the release of GHG emissions that are associated with development. The Natural Resources Inventory will give us a catalog of our local natural resources (both physical and biological) and provide a foundation for municipal land-use and conservation planning.

***Tentative Completion Date: September 2020***

**Climate Vulnerability Assessment:** Climate change will not affect a community equally. Performing a Climate Vulnerability Assessment, a comprehensive assessment of local vulnerabilities and risks related to climate change, will allow us to understand where to focus our local government staff and funding resources effectively and efficiently.

***Tentative Completion Date: October 2020***

**Green Vendor Fair:** CSC will be hosting a Green Vendor Fair on March 28, 2020, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the Canandaigua Primary/Elementary School LINK Gym. Organizing and hosting a green vendor fair will provide a great opportunity for local green vendors to market themselves to our community, network with each other, and educate our community members about green products and services that are available locally. Supporting green vendors will support a shift to a local green economy.

***Scheduled Date: March 28, 2020***

**Finalize Community Choice Aggregation:** Select Third Party Administrator and begin the Community outreach process.

**Tentative Date: Fall 2020**

**Continued Recycling Education:** Using funds from Ontario County, the City has purchased refrigerator magnets that will be mailed out to every household in the City:



**Tentative Distribution Date: Spring 2020**