Climate Smart Community

Bronze Certification

The Climate Smart Task Force is pleased to announce that the Town of Copake has achieved Bronze Certification as a Climate Smart Community. The official announcement was made by Governor Hochul on April 25th. Copake is one of only 140 municipalities in the State of New York to have earned this recognition. Below is a list of actions that the Town has completed as part of this process. The Complete Climate Smart Application with supporting documentation is available on the New York State Climate Smart Website.

- Building a climate smart community:

    1. Taking the Climate Smart Pledge, creating a Climate Smart Task Force, and appointing a Task Force Coordinator, Dan Haas.
    2. Participating in the NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Program from which we have already received two grants in the amounts of $5,000 and $10,000, and we are very close to being eligible to receive a third grant in the amount of $50,000.
    3. Partnering with local organizations and neighboring communities including the Local Champions Program, the Taghkanic Headwaters Conservation Plan, the Roe Jan Punchbrook Watershed Characterization Plan, the Environmental Management Counsel, and the Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Plan (CARP) to address climate adaptation and resiliency.
- Inventory emissions- set goals, and plan for climate action:
    4. Completing a Green House Gas Inventory.
- Decrease Energy use:
    5. Completing an Energy Audit, and establishing a policy for benchmarking.
    6. Completion of a Fleet Inventory by Highway Superintendent.
    7. Upgrading the Street Lights to energy efficient and cost saving LEDs.
    8. Participation in Energy Code Enforcement Training seminars by the Code Enforcement Officer.
- Shift to clean renewable energy:
    9. Installation of Solar Panels on both the Town Hall and Recreation Building in 2011. (Since our application was filed in January, the EV Charging Stations have become fully operational. This action can be included in a next round of certification.)

- Implement climate-smart land use:
    10. Incorporating Smart Growth Policies in the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

- Enhance Community Resilience to Climate Change:
    11. Climate Vulnerability Assessment- The designation of the Bash Bish Brook, the Taghkanic Creek and the Roeliff Jansen Kill as inland waterways in 2016 and securing funds from

the New York Department of State to prepare a Waterfront and Community Revitalization Program. The Plan was published in March 2021.

12. Providing cooling / warming and charging centers in the event of a climate related emergency.
13. Building state of the art culverts, minimizing risk of flooding and allowing for the migration of wildlife.
14. Participating in the creation of the Taghkanic Headwaters Conservation Plan.

- Inform and Inspire the Public:
    15. Passing a resolution to establish a Climate Education and Engagement Program focused on climate change mitigation and adaptation. Programs have included a renewable energy open house, a Home Grown National Parks Event and most recently our Earth Day Planet vs Plastics Event last Month

The above list provides a clear record of the Town of Copake's long standing history of climate action, dedication to renewable energy, and continued conservation efforts.

The Climate Smart Task Force is very grateful to the Town Board for supporting our efforts and the Town's staff, including the Town Clerk, the Highway Superintendent, the Code Enforcement Officer and the Administrative Assistant. Without their efforts this undertaking would have been impossible.