

## SUMMARY OF ACTIONS BY COPAKE CAC/CSC

Copake's Conservation Advisory Committee (CAC) and Climate Smart Task Force (CSC) officially started in 2022. Since then, we worked on numerous projects to combat climate change and foster an inclusive community education program about the environment and conservation.

In April 2024, Copake was certified as a bronze-level Climate Smart community by NY State after completing these key projects:

- Evaluated the Town Hall and Park Building solar panels for effectiveness
- Conducted a Greenhouse Gas Inventory for town facilities to be used as a benchmark for efforts to rein in carbon emissions
- Replaced streetlights with energy efficient LEDs
- Participated in the creation of a county-wide climate adaptation plan
- Installed EV charging stations in the Copake hamlet
- Organized several public events, including a renewable energy open house
- Funded an energy audit for Town Hall to serve as the basis for future upgrades.

The CAC/CSC applied for grants and Copake was awarded a total of \$90,000 in grant money from NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities (CEC) program (\$80K) (as noted above) and Partners for Climate Action (\$10K). The CAC & CSC have been diligently working on applying these funds towards the projects listed below, outlined in the energy studies of the Town Hall, Town Garage and Town Park Building.

- Replacement of Interior and Exterior Lighting Fixtures in the Highway Garage.
- Replacement of Interior Lighting Fixtures in the Park Building
- Replacement of 8 slider-type windows in the Highway Garage
- Replacement of 7 exterior entrance doors in the Highway Garage
- Replacement of the weatherstripping on 6 overhead doors at the highway Garage
- Started the process for developing a town Climate Action Plan, which will be based on the greenhouse gas emissions data collected several years ago. This plan would outline specific steps needed to fight, on a local level, the threat of climate change.

### **2025 Activities by Copake's CAC/CSC:**

- January 2025 - presented an educational program about "*Home Energy Efficiency*" at Copake Town Hall (see here for a recording of that presentation: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FvcleMSdLzXwUE6ESdCL\\_IHkwXRSLdHR/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FvcleMSdLzXwUE6ESdCL_IHkwXRSLdHR/view))
- March 2025 - presented an educational program about "*Planting and Caring for Trees to Protect Streams*" at the Copake Grange
- April 2025:

- a. Worked with the Town Board to pass the *Resolution to Support the New York State Assembly and Senate Passage of a Strong Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act (S.1464-B/A.1749-B)*
- b. Along with Friends of Taconic State Park, presented *“The Plastic Pollution Crisis and What to do About It”* at the Copake Grange.
- c. Planted 13 trees (9 Red Oak, 2 Shadbush and 2 Redbud) next to Town Hall along the walkway between Mountainview Road and Center Hill Road, **all entirely paid for with a \$6500 grant** from *Columbia County Soil and Water Conservation District* and planted by Bill Gregory, Bob Callahan and our terrific Highway Team.



COPAKE'S HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT PLANTING NATIVE TREES



THE 13 NATIVE TREES (9 Red Oak, 2 Shadbush and 2 Redbud)

- d. Worked with the Town Board and the Copake Lake Conservation Society on recommendations and plan for responsibly increasing public access to Copake Lake, supporting the lake health and improving/maintaining the public parking at Copake Lake.
- February, March, May and November 2025 – co-sponsored Taghkanic’s CAC/CSC series of presentations on forest stewardship called “*The Forest in Your Backyard,*” along with Gallatin’s CAC, Claverack’s CSC and the Columbia Land Conservancy.
- October 2025 – Completed the beautification project for the sidewalk from the hamlet parking lot to the Copake Grange, using all native plantings.



NATIVE PLANTINGS ALONG SIDEWALK FROM TOWN PARKING LOT (WITH EV CHARGERS) TO THE COPAKE GRANGE WITH EX OFFICIO CAC/CSC MEMBER GUS BOYLE-MENDE PROVIDING OVERSIGHT

In addition to the above specific action items, the CAC and its members have continued to support these CAC subcommittees:

- The Historic Preservation Committee ([https://cdn.townweb.com/townofcopakeny.gov/wpcontent/uploads/2024/25/Historic\\_Preservatrion\\_Committee.pdf](https://cdn.townweb.com/townofcopakeny.gov/wpcontent/uploads/2024/25/Historic_Preservatrion_Committee.pdf)); and
- The Mohican Allyship Committee (<https://townofcopakeny.gov/mohican-allyship-committee-2/>). This committee was created to further the cultural mission of the CAC by engaging in the below activities:
  - Working with the Town of Copake and area residents, in consultation with Stockbridge-Munsee Community representatives, to increase the visibility and understanding of contemporary, past, and future Mohicans, in order to honor them.

- Facilitating inter-government communications between the Town and the Stockbridge-Munsee Community about any and all Town activities related to the indigenous inhabitants of the greater Copake area and their descendants, including any references to Mohicans, past, present, and future.
- Providing recommendations for local policies, procedures, and resolutions related to the Town's relationship with the Stockbridge-Munsee Community, their ancestors, and their descendants.
- Collaborating with the Town Historian on Historian activities concerning the indigenous people of the Copake area.

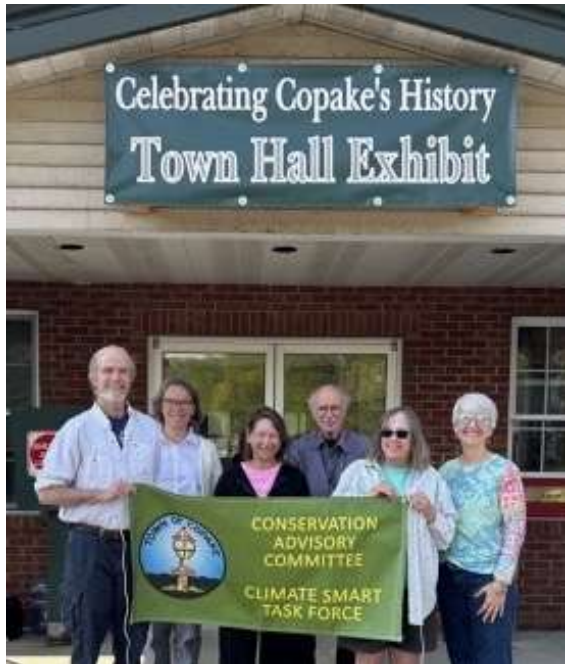
At least one of the CAC /CSC members is a also member of these other town committees:

- The Farmland Renewal Advisory Committee (<https://townofcopakeny.gov/broadband-committee/>)
- The Comprehensive Plan Review Committee (<https://townofcopakeny.gov/comprehensive-plan-review-committee/>); and
- The Planning Board (<https://townofcopakeny.gov/planning-board/>).

The CAC/CSC are also represented on these county committees:

- Columbia County Environmental Management Council (<https://sites.google.com/columbiacountyny.com/emc>); and
- Columbia County Climate Smart Communities Task Force (<https://climatesmart.columbiacountyny.com/home>).

The Copake CAC/CSC  
February 2026



*COPAKE'S CAC/CSC FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: DAN HAAS, MARY ANN CARRICK (CHAIR), CHRISTINE LEMA-FOLEY, BRIAN BOOM, MARCIA BECKER, CARA BOYLE (MISSING FROM PHOTO IS LINDA GABACCIA, TOWN BOARD LIASON)*