

NYACK SUSTAINABILITY MEETING

May 20, 2019

Attending: Lorien Barlow, Marcy Denker, Alan Englander, Don Hammond, Kathy Schwarz, Gini Stollendorf, Dave Zornow

I. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Marcy presented an overview of the purpose and potential scope of the Climate Action Plan. The plan is to provide an aggressive and achievable road map for the next decade for Nyack as a community to lower greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to and prepare for impacts of climate change.

SCOPE

(Municipal, Commercial, Residential)

- Energy
- Transportation
- Waste Management
- Refrigerants
- Natural Resources
- Food? (Local food. Plant-based diet)
- Adaptation and Emergency Preparedness

STRATEGIES

- Policies
- Incentives
- Education
- Regulations

II. EXISTING ASSESSMENTS/Frameworks to use in developing the plan. Local plans still have lots of recommendations to be addressed.

- Mid-Hudson Region Sustainability Plan 2013
- Nyack Green Infrastructure Report 2014
- Nyack Sustainability Action Plan 2015-2016
- Nyack Comprehensive Master Plan 2016
- Nyack Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan Update 2017
- Climate Smart Communities Program (Nyack could possibly achieve Silver certification in a couple of years.)

IMPORTANT RESOURCES

- **Project Drawdown-** <https://www.drawdown.org/solutions>
- ICLEI As members of ICLEI we have access to a community forum, one-on-one coaching, and a greenhouse gas inventory tool that will allow us to project various scenarios for the future as we develop the Climate Action Plan.

TIMELINE

- May-June—Targeted outreach for steering committee.
- June-September: Meetings with individuals and small groups to develop strategies. Data gathering and entry for inventory. First Steering Committee meeting in September.
- October: First Public Workshop
- October through April: Continue with planning and one or two other workshops.
- May-June 2020 Finalize Plan.

VISIONING EXERCISE

Brief discussion of the sample vision from Binghamton that was distributed in the email before the meeting. It helped to show how our vision will be different (example—transportation) and how the type of language can be useful if combined with the specific objectives. Need other ways to engage people in this vision through actual visuals (posters, infographics).
Members to send their comments on the vision to the Google Drive Folder (See next.)

COMMUNICATION

Google Drive Folder for Climate Action Plan

Access the folder at this link. <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1dPSuq9N7IVbUjHpBe3LbozVCNx7VAaeD?usp=sharing> Upload vision statements in the appropriate folder. Folder for other materials is available. Marcy will create a structure for this.

Poster We discussed creating a poster and brand for the Climate Action Plan vision (Lorien will research graphic/artwork styles for reference). *NOTE: Doing more printing, mailings and other outreach that costs money could be part of a Climate Smart Communities grant proposal for the CAP.*

Newsletter Lorien, Dave and Marcy discussed how a community sustainability newsletter would work. Lorien is willing to work on this for news relevant to all of the Nyacks and nearby communities. Dave will help with distribution issues.

Nyack-only version? Needs to be discussed with Mayor, Jane and other committee members.

II. COMMITTEE PROTOCOLS

Membership Members from other villages can participate in Sustainability meetings.

Positions on Issues Sustainability Committee can advocate for policies. As an advisory group the Sustainability Committee should submit its positions to the Village Board for consideration before making statements public. The Committee can make its positions known, but there should be no confusion between the position of the committee and the position of the board.

III. UPDATES

Plastic Bag Campaign Student posters and counter tents are around town. Pam Moskowitz, the manager of the Farmers Market, is planning a crochet-your-own bag project. Student video will come out soon. Social media campaign come along with these components in the coming months.

Statewide Plastic-Bag Ban: into effect next March, and municipalities can opt in to a fee provision. This will likely need work in Nyack since merchants will probably be opposed. The fee will go to State environmental fund and some will come back to municipalities. Need more detail and a plan for outreach on this issue in the coming months, after we get going with CAP.

Shared Use Path: SUP: Sierra Club endorsed 2/4/7. SusCom will put its position on the Village website.

Refrigerants: Marcy has started working with a regional group on this issue. There may be a collaborative effort to apply for grants to address it various levels. We already see that in Nyack we are not following best practices to avoid leakage of these powerful greenhouse gasses.