

Saranac Lake Climate Smart Community Task Force Progress Report

January 2023

2022 Accomplishments

- **North Country HeatSmart Campaign (Ongoing):** In partnership with St. Armand, Harriestown, and North Elba, we have set up a hub of information on cold-climate, air source heat pumps, to connect local heat pump contractors with interested Village residents and businesses. The Task Force organized Heat Pump Open House events at the Saranac Lake Youth Center and Melinda Little's home. They also tabled at the Farmers Market, prepared an informational flier, prepared website content, and presented to the local chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club. Planning for additional events is underway. Once 5 installations have taken place within the Village, the Village earns a \$5,000 grant.
- **Community Choice Aggregation (CCA):** Task Force members assisted with selecting a CCA administrator, and with preparing for the public outreach period which is currently underway. The Task Force is prepared to be heavily involved with CCA outreach and education in 2023.
- **Silver Certification Assessment:** The Task Force engaged in an interactive planning session to research, organize, and prioritize CSC actions that are feasible for Saranac Lake. These were crafted into the Silver Certification Assessment which outlines Saranac Lake's pathway to achieving Silver CSC Certification. The Village Board reviewed the assessment and passed resolution approving work on the plan.
- **Planning for Energy Efficiency in Village Buildings:** One of the high priority actions in the Silver Certification Assessment were government building energy audits. These were necessary to utilize NYSERDA funding for clean energy updates in Village buildings. The Task Force provided support and review assistance to L&S Energy Services, Inc to complete the Village of Saranac Lake Energy Master Plan. As a result of the plan, heat pumps are to be installed in the Mt. Pisgah lodge.
- **Greenhouse Gas Data Management:** Updated greenhouse gas inventory data and conducted analysis which revealed that greenhouse gas emissions from Village government operations decreased 17% from 2017-2020. Tracking these continued reductions will result in significant CSC points.
- **Task Force members:** Said farewell to high school student Ned Kanze when we left for college and welcomed high school sophomore Jenna Audlin to the Task Force. Engaged new community volunteers Almy Bartis, Diana Strablow and Julia Silberman.
- **Recognition:**
 - Jamie Konkoski and Erin Griffin were asked to present to the Common Ground Alliance to share Saranac Lake's CSC work as a model for the Park.
 - The Task Force was featured in an article published by the Adirondack Explorer <https://www.adirondackexplorer.org/stories/climate-smart-communities>

Progress Update: Roadmap to Silver CSC Certification

In total, 300 points need to be submitted and certified for the Village to earn silver certification through the NYS Climate Smart Communities Program. Since earning the Bronze certification in September 2020, the Village has completed the following actions:

- LED Streetlight Conversion - 12 points
- Buy local campaign - 2 points
- Purchase of a hybrid vehicle for the village fleet (RAV4) - 2 points
- Government Building Energy Audits – 12 points

Additional actions that are now in progress and will earn an additional 37 points once completed:

- Community Choice Aggregation - 15 points
- Government Operations Climate Action Plan - 16 points
- Traffic Calming from construction of DRI projects - 6 points
- Heat pump installation – 9 points

Next Steps

- **Complete Heat Smart Campaign:** The Task Force will continue education and outreach until 5 installations have been completed and the Village earns \$5,000.
- **Climate Action Plan:** The Task Force is utilizing support from the North Country CSC Coordinator to complete the Climate Action Plan
- **CCA:** The Task Force will continue to support outreach and education for the CCA process

Task Force Members

- Erin Griffin, Task Force Coordinator
- Steve DeHond, Community Stakeholder, Liaison to Tri-Lakes 350.org
- Katherine Glenn, Sustainability Coordinator for Paul Smith's College
- Harry Gordon, Community Stakeholder, Architect
- Kristel Guimara, Instructor for North Country Community College
- Cassandra Hopkins, Community Development Assistant for Village of Saranac Lake
- Jamie Konkoski, Community Development Director for Village of Saranac Lake
- Becca Halter, Community Stakeholder
- Carolyn Koestner, Community Stakeholder
- Jenna Audlin, Saranac Lake High School Student

More Information & Contact

See the [Climate Smart Communities project page](#) on the Village of Saranac Lake website.

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To kick-off the North Country HeatSmart Campaign, former Village Trustee, Melinda Little, hosted an open house where an air source heat pump has been installed in her newly constructed home. ADK Solar attended to answer questions about heat pumps. Over 20 residents attended.



A Heat Pump Coffee Hour in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce occurred at the Saranac Lake Youth Center. Hyde Fuel attended to answer questions and prompt discussion. Over 15 residents and small businesses attended.



Task Force members engage in a in person planning session to prioritize CSC actions for the Silver Certification Assessment