Business of the Village Board
Village of Saranac Lake

BILL #56-2026

SUBJECT: Climate Smart Action Plan

FOR AGENDA: 3/23/2026

DEPT OF ORIGIN: Village Manager

DATE SUBMITTED: 2/24//2026

Resolution to adopt the Climate Smart Action Plan

MOVED BY: Scollin SECONDED BY: Ryan

VOTE ON ROLL CALL:

MAYOR WILLIAMS	yes
TRUSTEE BRUNETTE	yes
TRUSTEE RYAN	yes
TRUSTEE SCOLLIN	yes
TRUSTEE WHITE	yes

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (CAP)

WHEREAS, the Village of Saranac Lake is dedicated to achieving a Climate Smart Communities (CSC) silver certification; and

WHEREAS, the Village has established a Climate Action Advisory Board (CAAB) to facilitate silver certification as a Climate Smart Community; and

WHEREAS, the role of CAAB is to assess the status and/or feasibility of action items in the Climate Action Plan, and

WHEREAS, The Climate Action Plan has been presented to the Village Board and the Village residents for public input; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees hereby approves and adopts the Climate Action Plan.

DRA

NEW YORK STATE | Climate Smart Communities
Certified Bronze

Saranac Lake's Climate Action Plan: Government Operations

Prepared by the Saranac Lake Climate Smart Communities Task Force

Acknowledgements

Thank you to the community members who were instrumental in implementing climate resiliency strategies in the Village of Saranac Lake. Without a supportive community, none of the successes found in the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Climate Smart Community program would have been possible. Thank you to the members of the Saranac Lake community who attend our events, support our initiatives, offer partnerships, and volunteer their time to work on the Saranac Lake Climate Smart Communities Task Force.

Saranac Lake 2024 Climate Smart Communities Task Force

Garrett Marino- Coordinator
Tom Collins- Coordinator
Becca Halter- Member
Harry Gordon- Member
Jenna Adulin- Member
Diana Strablow- Member
Emmett Smith- Member
Carolyn Koestner- Member

Community Contributors

Erin Griffin- Adirondack North Country Association
Carlie Leary- Adirondack North Country Association
Jill Henck- Adirondack North Country Association
Nancy Bernstein- Adirondack North Country Association
Cedar Barg- The Wild Center
Dazzle Ekblad- NYS DEC Office of Climate Change
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Cassandra Van Cott- Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board
Katrina Glynn- Community Development Director, Village of Saranac Lake
Kate Glenn- Northern Power & Light

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Executive Summary

Saranac Lake Climate Action Plan: Government Operations outlines practical solutions for the Village of Saranac Lake to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from government operations and decrease reliance on aging fossil fuel-based infrastructure. This plan outlines and makes recommendations based on the history of climate action in the Village; analysis of the Village's use of fossil fuels for its government operations; and sets goals/targets to reduce contributions to climate change and bolster our mitigation efforts.

Saranac Lake's Climate Action Plan: Governmental Operations serves as a roadmap for building a sustainable, climate-responsive municipality. This Climate Action Plan only focuses on government operations, and is not an all-encompassing plan for Saranac Lake's climate resiliency, mitigation, and adaptation efforts. It aligns with three key state initiatives: the NYS DEC's Climate Smart Communities Program, the NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities program, and the NYS Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. Based on these initiatives, the plan outlines three goals:

- Improve energy efficiency;
- Reduce reliance on fossil fuel
- Ensure all electricity use is 100% renewable.

The task force has set ambitious greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for the Village, mirroring the Climate Leadership Community Protection Act's targets of reducing GHG emissions by 40% by 2030 and 85% by 2050, based on the Village's 2017 emissions inventory. To date, we have made significant progress towards these goals, achieving a 37% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions as compared to our 2017 baseline.

By analyzing our energy use across sectors and buildings we have created an Implementation Plan. Included is a set of recommendations on how to improve government operations, including building and lighting updates, transportation upgrades, and renewable energy opportunities. Progress towards reaching these targets will be measured by tracking the Village's energy use for government operations on a monthly basis, reporting greenhouse gas emissions to the public via the Village of Saranac Lake's website annually. In addition to this report, the task force will measure Saranac Lake's progress towards our greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets to reach a 40% reduction by 2030 and 85% reduction by 2050 and make recommendations as necessary.

Background

The Village of Saranac Lake, with just under 5,000 residents, is located in the Adirondack Park in northern New York, spanning Franklin and Essex Counties as well as the townships of St. Armand, Harrietstown, and North Elba. Governed by a Village Board, the community in the heart of the Adirondacks is surrounded by abundant natural beauty, nestled among mountains and waterways. The Climate Action Plan: Government Operations (CAP) is a crucial step for the Village to address threats to our natural resources, which are essential to Saranac Lake's way of life and economy. By acting proactively, the Village can reduce its contribution to climate change, and build resilience to the changing climate which will present unprecedented challenges to the Village. The CAP serves as a guiding document for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and will be updated every five years to reflect progress, challenges, and changes to internal Village operations and external state and federal policy.

Figure 1: Map showing the boundary of the Village of Saranac Lake.

The History of Climate Action in the Village

Figure 2. The history of Climate Action in the Village of Saranac Lake from 2017 - 2024

The Village of Saranac Lake has been committed to sustainability and climate initiatives since 2017 when the village became a designated New York State Energy Research and Development Authority's (NYSERDA) Clean Energy Community (CEC) after completing four high-impact actions to reduce energy use.

In May 2018, the Board of Trustees adopted the New York State Climate Smart Communities (CSC) pledge. The Village pledged to, among other things:

- Inventory its emissions
- Set goals and make a plan for climate action
- Decrease energy use
- Shift to clean, renewable energy
- Implement climate-smart land use and support a green innovation economy.

Trustees voted unanimously to adopt the pledge that read, in part: “We believe that even if emissions were drastically reduced today, communities would still be required to adapt to the effects of climate change for decades to come.”

On September 24, 2020, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced that the Village of Saranac Lake is now a Bronze Level Certified Climate Smart Community. As the first Adirondack community to achieve this designation, the Village garnered positive publicity, and reflects the commitment that the community has made towards decreasing Saranac Lake’s impact on climate change while increasing our resiliency. The Village has been incredibly supportive of the CSC Program, and other state-funded, climate resilience programs such as the CEC program. Through the Village's active participation in these programs, the Village of Saranac Lake has been able to secure $426,288 in state funds since 2017.

To date, the Village has received these grants and funding opportunities through the Climate Smart Communities and Clean Energy Communities Programs:

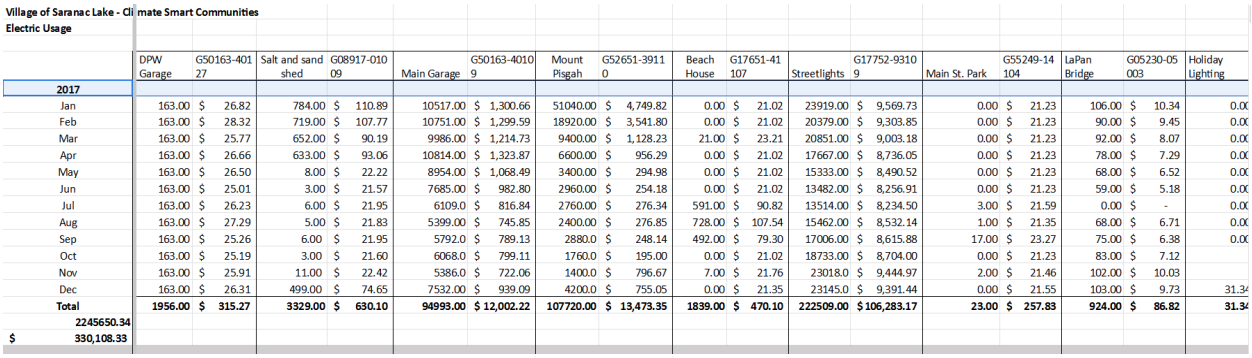
May 2018 $50,000: *CEC Round 1 grant - LED street lights & plug-in hybrid EV*
October 2021 $24,405: *National Grid LED street light rebate - Energy Master Plan*
May 2022 $16,883: *NYSERDA FlexTech grant - Energy Master Plan*
May 2022 $10,000: *CEC 3,000 points-based grant - Mt. Pisgah heat pumps*
June 2023 $5,000: *CEC action grant - Building energy upgrades*
October 2023 $5,000: *CEC action grant - Building energy upgrades*
February 2024 $20,000: *CEC 4,000 points-based grant - Pisgah heat pumps*
September 2024 $100,000: *CEC 3-star (5,000 pts) grant - Building energy upgrades*
October 2024 $10,000: *CEC action grant - DPW garage heat pumps*
November 2024 $10,000: *CEC action grant - Central garage heat pumps*
November 2024 $175,000: *CEC 4-star (7,000 pts) grant - Building energy upgrades*
April 2025 $482,164*: DEC ZEV infrastructure grant - EV charging stations*

The Village and CSC Task Force are currently working towards earning Silver Certification in the CSC Program, to access new and productive opportunities for the municipality. While earning the Bronze Recertification is a tremendous accomplishment, it is only the beginning of the Village’s work towards reducing GHG emissions and reaching additional levels of certification. This CAP details a roadmap for the Village to meet GHG emission reduction goals stated below. This plan only covers the government operations of the Village, and there are many initiatives to bolster our climate resiliency, mitigation, and adaptation efforts which should continue to be explored, and implemented.

Government Operations Greenhouse Gas Inventory

The CSC Task Force conducted a baseline assessment by collating billing records of all energy use and costs for each fuel type and then converting fuel types to metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2e) using Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standard methodology. This includes incorporating specific regional factors such as our energy grid's GHGs based on the contributing fuel types.

This inventory will continue to be updated annually by Saranac Lake's Department of Community Development with the assistance of the CSC Task Force to track progress towards our GHG emissions reduction targets.



Village of Saranac Lake - Climate Smart Communities
Electric Usage

	DPW Garage	G50163-40127	Salt and sand shed	G08917-01009	Main Garage	G50163-40109	Mount Pisgah	G52651-39110	Beach House	G17651-41107	Streetlights	G17752-93109	Main St. Park	G55249-14104	LaPan Bridge	G05230-05003	Holiday Lighting
2017																	
Jan	163.00	$ 26.82	784.00	$ 110.89	10517.00	$ 1,300.66	51040.00	$ 4,749.82	0.00	$ 21.02	23919.00	$ 9,569.73	0.00	$ 21.23	106.00	$ 10.34	0.00
Feb	163.00	$ 28.32	719.00	$ 107.77	10751.00	$ 1,299.59	18920.00	$ 3,541.80	0.00	$ 21.02	20379.00	$ 9,303.85	0.00	$ 21.23	90.00	$ 9.45	0.00
Mar	163.00	$ 25.77	652.00	$ 90.19	9986.00	$ 1,214.73	9400.00	$ 1,128.23	21.00	$ 23.21	20851.00	$ 9,003.18	0.00	$ 21.23	92.00	$ 8.07	0.00
Apr	163.00	$ 26.66	633.00	$ 93.06	10814.00	$ 1,323.87	6600.00	$ 956.29	0.00	$ 21.02	17667.00	$ 8,736.05	0.00	$ 21.23	78.00	$ 7.29	0.00
May	163.00	$ 26.50	8.00	$ 22.22	8954.00	$ 1,068.49	3400.00	$ 294.98	0.00	$ 21.02	15333.00	$ 8,490.52	0.00	$ 21.23	68.00	$ 6.52	0.00
Jun	163.00	$ 25.01	3.00	$ 21.57	7685.00	$ 982.80	2960.00	$ 254.18	0.00	$ 21.02	13482.00	$ 8,256.91	0.00	$ 21.23	59.00	$ 5.18	0.00
Jul	163.00	$ 26.23	6.00	$ 21.95	6109.0	$ 816.84	2760.00	$ 276.34	591.00	$ 90.82	13514.00	$ 8,234.50	3.00	$ 21.59	0.00	$ -	0.00
Aug	163.00	$ 27.29	5.00	$ 21.83	5399.00	$ 745.85	2400.00	$ 276.85	728.00	$ 107.54	15462.00	$ 8,532.14	1.00	$ 21.35	68.00	$ 6.71	0.00
Sep	163.00	$ 25.26	6.00	$ 21.95	5792.0	$ 789.13	2880.0	$ 248.14	492.00	$ 79.30	17006.00	$ 8,615.88	17.00	$ 23.27	75.00	$ 6.38	0.00
Oct	163.00	$ 25.19	3.00	$ 21.60	6068.0	$ 799.11	1760.0	$ 195.00	0.00	$ 21.02	18733.00	$ 8,704.00	0.00	$ 21.23	83.00	$ 7.12	
Nov	163.00	$ 25.91	11.00	$ 22.42	5386.0	$ 722.06	1400.0	$ 796.67	7.00	$ 21.76	23018.0	$ 9,444.97	2.00	$ 21.46	102.00	$ 10.03	
Dec	163.00	$ 26.31	499.00	$ 74.65	7532.00	$ 939.09	4200.0	$ 755.05	0.00	$ 21.35	23145.0	$ 9,391.44	0.00	$ 21.55	103.00	$ 9.73	31.34
Total	1956.00	$ 315.27	3329.00	$ 630.10	94993.00	$ 12,002.22	107720.00	$ 13,473.35	1839.00	$ 470.10	222509.00	$ 106,283.17	23.00	$ 257.83	924.00	$ 86.82	31.34
2245650.34																	
$ 330,108.33																	

Figure 3. Snapshot of a small section of the billing data collected in the spreadsheet used to determine the Village's energy use for the greenhouse gas inventory.

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Baseline Calculations for Local Government Operations			
	2017		
Fuel Source	**Quantity**	**Units**	**CO_2e**
Electric	2245650	kWh	301
Diesel	24332	gallons	248
Gas	17110	gallons	152
Fuel Oil	41092	gallons	418
GHG Emissions - metric tons:		**Total =**	**1120**

Figure 4. Table of 2017 GHG baseline emissions.

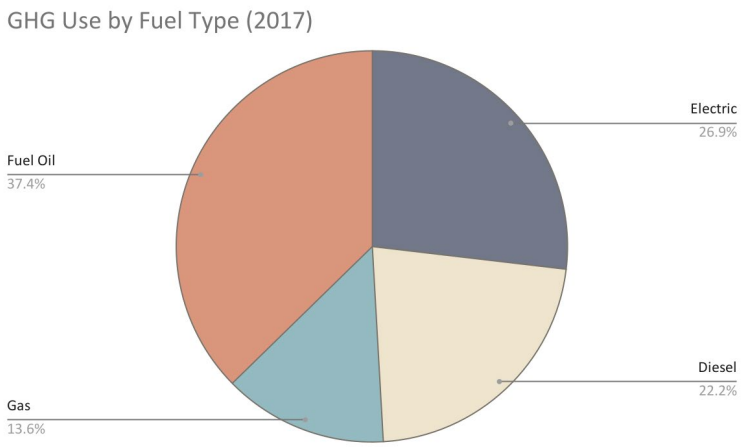


Figure 5. Greenhouse Gas usage in the Village of Saranac Lake in 2017 baseline by sector.

In 2017, the Village emitted about 1120 CO_2e. ~37.4% of the GHGs came from fuel oil and ~26.6% came from electricity. Diesel and gas were the other two fuel sources used, together contributing the remaining ~35.8% of emissions.

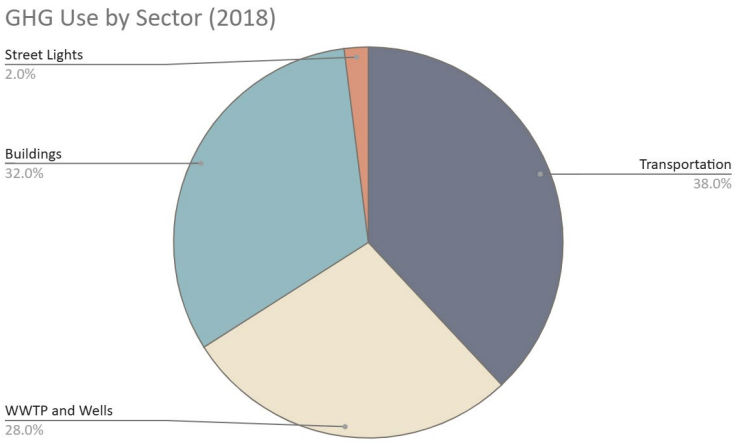


Figure 6. Greenhouse gasses emitted by the Village of Saranac Lake by sector in 2018.

Three sectors contribute about a third of the greenhouse gasses: transportation (cars, trucks, snowplows, etc.) at ~38%; buildings (heating, cooling, and lighting) at ~32%; waste water treatment and wells (pumps to move water across the Village) at ~28%; and street lights account for ~2% of GHG.

The full GHG baseline inventory for the Village of Saranac Lake can be found here. By using this data and analyzing the climate impact, cost, and sector energy use, we developed a set of actions for the Village to achieve the Climate Goals detailed below.

Emission Reduction Targets and Strategies

Saranac Lake's Emission Reductions: Targets

The New York State CLCPA set statewide reductions goals for GHG emissions of 40% by 2030 and 85% by 2050, as compared to 1990 GHG emissions levels. The CAP mirrors these targets, aiming to reduce our GHG emissions by 40% by 2030 and 85% by 2050. However, data from 1990 is unavailable and our baseline was set by the earliest available GHG inventory which was in 2017. Data of our progress towards these reductions from 2017 to 2024 are visualized below.

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2030	2050
Emissions ($MTCO_2e$)	1120	1062	977	930	876	852	711	705	672	168
Reduction from 2017 ($MTCO_2e$)	-	58	143	190	244	268	409	415	448 (target)	952 (target)
Reduction from 2017 (%)	-	5.2	12.8	17.0	21.8	24.0	36.5	37	40 (target)	85 (target)

Figure 7. Table of Saranac Lake Government Operations GHG Emissions, Reductions 2017-2024, and Reduction Targets.

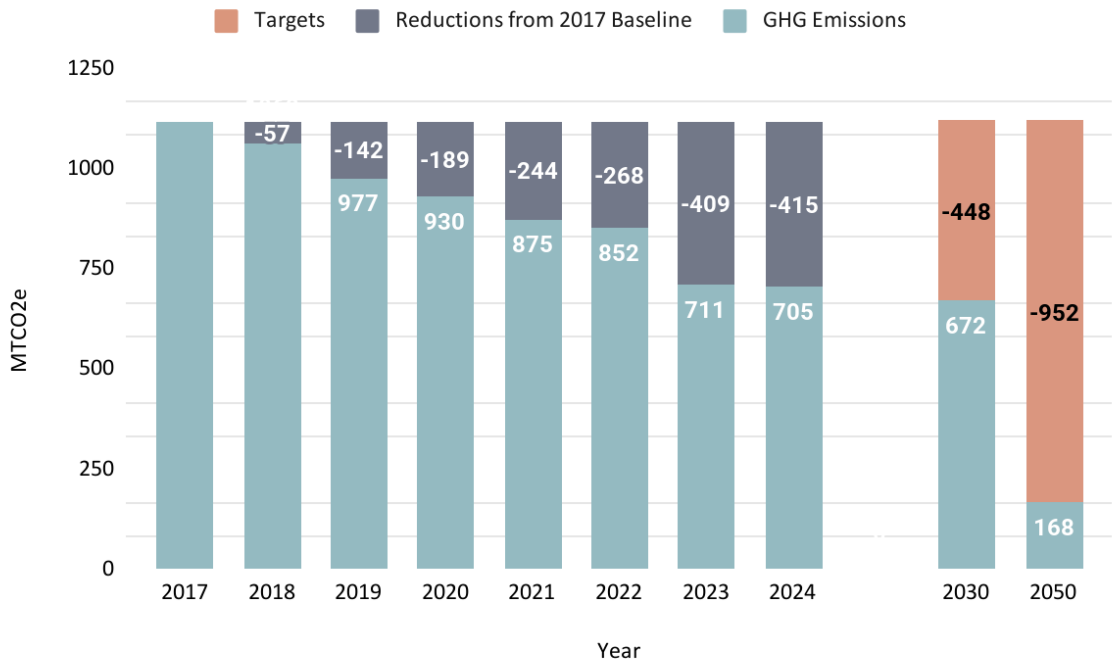


Figure 8. Bar chart of Saranac Lake Government Operations GHG Emissions, Reductions 2017-2024, and Reduction Targets.

Saranac Lake's Emission Reductions: 2017-2024

Between 2017 to 2024, the Village of Saranac Lake has significantly reduced its GHG emissions by ~37%. This is nearly at this CAPs recommended goal and the CLCPA mandate of a 40% reduction of GHG emissions by 2040. It is important to note that while we are seeing significant progress towards our goal of reducing our GHG emissions, these reductions will become more difficult to achieve as the most impactful actions are completed. This is not to say that our goals are unachievable, rather that when strategizing around the 2050 goal of 85% GHG emissions reduction, progress will become more difficult.

One of the largest reductions in fossil fuel use was a ~47% reduction in fuel oil consumption. As the largest source of GHG emissions it significantly contributed to the vilage's reduction efforts. A large portion of these reductions are believed to come from HVAC upgrades at the 3 Main St. building. Reducing fuel oil usage remains a focus area for the Village to improve on significantly, as fuel oil is primarily used to heat buildings.

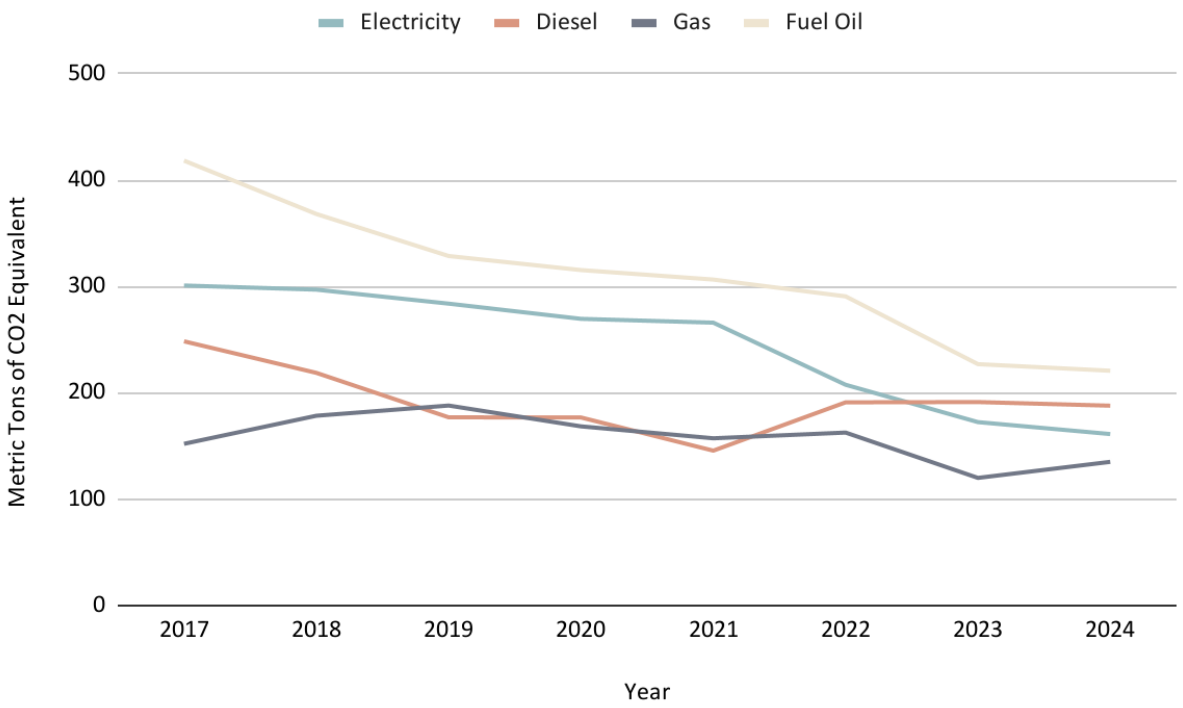


Figure 9. Village operation GHG emissions by fuel type from 2017 - 2024

Electricity use has been reduced by nearly 50% since 2017. This is likely due to installing LED lights in 2021 to 2022. Some lighting upgrades occurred in 2017, and are not reflected in this data. However, it was estimated that this reduced the Village's electricity costs by nearly 50%. Electricity is a notable example, because in 2023 it was 56% of the Village's energy costs, but only 24% of the Village's GHG emissions. This means reducing energy usage will reduce the Village costs more than it will reduce its GHG emissions, although, these are both great benefits.

The hydroelectric dam on Main Street previously drew a small amount of energy, however starting in 2021 net metering was correctly applied to the Village's accounts, effectively recording the dam as a negative energy use. This decreased electricity costs from $237,000 to $68,000. The hydroelectric dam will continue to provide a significant portion of carbon-free energy (37% in 2024) and cost savings for the Village.

Lastly, the two fuels used primarily in transportation, diesel and gasoline, saw substantial decreases in use. Diesel usage saw a 24% drop and gasoline a 12% drop from 2017 to 2024. However, overall trends were inconsistent year to year. In the transportation sector, diesel will likely remain difficult to reduce GHG emissions as electric vehicles are still expensive, or non-existent. For certain types of vehicles such as snow plows, police patrol cars, street sweepers and other maintenance and construction vehicles as they will continue to need to use these vehicles to provide necessary services.

A full list of completed projects that received Climate Smart Communities action points and that have played a role in the Village's GHG emission reductions can be seen above in the section *The History of Climate Action* and *Appendix B*.

Saranac Lake's Emission Reductions: 2025 and Beyond

Looking forward, we will achieve our reduction targets by taking actions detailed in the Implementation Plan, found below. This aligns with the Village goals we have created: improving Village operation energy efficiency; reducing reliance on fossil fuels; and ensuring all electricity comes from renewable energy.

GHG Emissions Reduction Targets:

- 2030: 40% reduction
- 2050: 85% reduction

Here are several considerations which will affect our emissions reduction progress:

- Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP):
    - The WWTP is required to implement a new UV lighting system to sterilize the water. This will increase the already high energy use and GHG emissions from the WWTP. Overall in 2024 the WWTP made up 47% of the Village's electricity usage. Wells and water pumps made up another 25%. These are expected to remain substantial contributors to the Village's overall electricity consumption and are areas where large efficiencies can be achieved.
- Population Growth:
    - The Village's population has remained relatively stable, but with more remote work options more people could be living in the area for longer (i.e. not just as a second summer home) which could increase the water and sewer system demands increasing energy usage.

- Advancements in Electric Vehicles (EV):
    - We expect technological developments in the EV market to reduce costs and increase the availability of suitable light-duty vehicles that the Village can incorporate into their fleet. Additionally, development of more specific and heavy duty EV are in development, although it will take time before high impact vehicles like plow trucks can be converted to EV's.

- Electric Heating and Cooling:
    - As building improvements are implemented, we expect energy use to shift from fuel oil to electricity which, especially given the area's grid's energy sources, will decrease the Village's GHG emissions. Besides switching heating to electric sources, there are several other factors that may increase the Village's electricity usage. As average temperatures rise the needs for building cooling in the summers will likely increase. As winter temperatures also rise, the electricity

used for snow making at the Village owned and operated ski hill Mt. Pisgah is also expected to increase.

- New Buildings:
    - There is, and will continue to be, a community need for new and upgraded facilities for our police departments and fire departments. A new building is currently proposed, which should be built in an energy efficient manner with GHG emissions reductions in mind.

- Siemens Energy Service Company (ESCO):
    - The Village is also pursuing working with Siemens, an ESCO. This company would help the Village select projects, manage their implementation or construction, and follow through with maintenance projects. This service will be in direct communication with the CSC Task Force which will serve an advisory role in the proposed projects from Siemens.

Village Climate Goals

In addition to our emissions reduction targets, this plan recommends three overarching goals to prepare Saranac Lake for the changing climate. Each goal has strategies and specific actions that the Village can take to reduce emissions. These are located in the Implementation Plan.

Village Climate Goals:

- Improve energy efficiency
- Reduce reliance on fossil fuels
- Ensure all electricity use is 100% renewable

The CSC Task Force will present an annual update to the Village Board to review its progress towards achieving these climate goals. This progress report will include one calendar year's energy use; progress towards these goals; and scoping for the next year. The Village will work with the CSC Task Force and use this CAP to inform the Village's budget and strategy based on which actions will help achieve CAP goals, and benefit the Village.

Improve Energy Efficiency

Improving energy efficiency is a critical first step towards reducing emissions. Using energy more efficiently means optimizing how systems function and upgrading existing systems with more efficient alternatives. Generally, you are working to use less energy, which decreases costs and produces fewer emissions. Energy efficiency looks different across sectors. In buildings it could be insulating walls, upgrading lights to LEDs, or installing heat pumps. With larger more expensive systems like HVAC, these upgrades are most cost effective to implement when the previous system reaches the end of its life-span.

Reduce Reliance on Fossil Fuels

Once the Village has reduced its energy usage it should focus on replacing fossil fuel dependent systems with electric alternatives. This would involve electrifying systems, as most

other fuel sources such as natural gas, propane, fuel oil, gasoline, are all derived from fossil fuels. This can be especially difficult in areas with heavy machinery, such as snow plows, where electric alternatives have not fully been developed. However, there are also areas with readily accessible technology such as cars, lighting, and heating (heat pumps), which can reduce fossil fuel consumption and are more efficient. This increases the overall impact they can have on reducing the Village's GHG emissions and saves on costs in the long term.

Ensure All Electricity Use is 100% Renewable

As the Village starts to remove fossil fuel combustion sources from its energy supplies and transition to electric sources it becomes critical to ensure that the electricity comes from 100% renewable sources. In our region, we get energy from Zone E of the electric grid which is over 80% renewables due to the high proportion of hydropower from Quebec. In addition the energy generated from our hydroelectric dam produces and offsets a significant portion of the Village's energy (37% in 2024). However, to go from 80% to 100% renewable energy, the Village will have to purchase Renewable Energy Credits (REC) or reach an agreement with a Community Choice Aggregation Program (CCA).

While Saranac Lake has signed a contract with Northern Power and Light to purchase all of the electricity for the Village's accounts, except for the street lights, from this locally operated community hydro company in 2024, the RECs from this agreement are not credited to the Village in our GHG inventory. To meet the 100% target, the Village must purchase the RECs on the market or participate in a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program which would allow the Village to purchase a 100% renewable plan.

Implementation Plan

The chart below outlines specific actions to implement to achieve the three Village Climate Goals. They are categorized by goal and strategies, and include a timeline, anticipated cost, if it is part of the CSC or CEC program, what department(s) or building(s) it involves and the expected impact on GHG emissions. If these actions are implemented we expect to meet the Village's goals laid out in this plan, including our emission reduction targets.

Timeline:	*Short is 1-2 years*	*Mid is 3-5 years*	*Long is 5+ years*
Cost:	*$ - $10,000 or less*	*$$ - $10,000-$50,000*	*$$$ - $50,000 and higher*

Goal 1:	**Improve Energy Efficiency**					
Strategy 1.0	**Ensure equipment is operating at optimal capacity**	**Timeline**	**Cost**	**CSC/CEC**	**Department/ Building**	**GHG reduction (low, med., high)**
Action	Optimize performance of (commission) existing mechanical equipment	Short	$	-	DPW Central Garage	Medium
Action	HVAC upgrades as needed with efficiency and electrification prioritized	Medium	$$	CSC	Contract	Medium
Strategy 1.1	**Improve building envelope, insulation, windows**					
Action	Implement Energy Master Plan Recommendations (see appendix)					
Strategy 1.2	**Optimize energy use in buildings**					
Action	Install Building Energy Management System	Mid	$$	CSC	Contract	Low
Action	Install Lighting Controls	Short	$	-	Contract	Low
Action	Establish Green Building Standard for Government Buildings	Short	$	CSC	Task Force	Low
Action	Install LED lighting in WWTP	Short/Mid	$$	-	Contract	Low
Strategy 1.3	**Reduce energy use in water transportation and treatment**					
Action	Conduct Energy Assessment for Water & WWTP	Short	$	-	WWTP	Low
Action	Install variable frequency drive (VFD) pumps on wells	Mid	$$	-	WWTP	Low
Action	Change water billing to reflect	Mid	$	-	Admin	Low

	exact usage					

Goal 2:	Reduce Reliance on Fossil Fuels					
Strategy 2.0	**Reduce reliance on fuel oil for heating**	**Timeline**	**Cost**	**CSC/CEC**	**Department/ Building**	**GHG reduction (low, medium, high)**
Action	Heating System Replacement Plan	Short	$	-	All	Low
Action	Install Heat Pumps	Building specific	$$$	CSC/CEC	All	High
Action	Implement Energy Master Plan Recommendations (see appendix)					
Strategy 2.1	**Reduce gasoline and diesel use**					
Action	Implement Fleet Rightsizing	Short	$	CSC	All	Low
Action	Establish Fleet Efficiency Policy	Short	$	CSC	Task Force	Low
Action	Install alternative transportation fuel infrastructure on government property (EV charging stations)	Mid	$$	CSC/CEC	All	Medium
Action	Anti-idling Policy	Short	$	CSC	Task Force	Low
Action	Purchase electric, hybrid, or fuel efficient vehicles	Short-Long	$$$	CSC/CEC	All	High
Action	Research and establish optimal routes for snowplows	Mid	$	-	DPW	Low
Action	Purchase electric lawn care equipment	Short	$	CEC	DPW	Low

Goal 3:	Ensure All Electricity Use is 100% Renewable					
Strategy 3.0	**Research renewable feasibility in Saranac Lake**	**Timeline**	**Cost**	**CSC/CEC**	**Department/ Building**	**GHG reduction (low, med., high)**
Action	Renewable Energy Feasibility Study	Short	$	CSC	Admin	Low
Action	Cogeneration at WWTP Feasibility Study	Mid	$	CSC?	WWTP	Low
Action	Follow up on recommendations from feasibility studies	Mid-Long	$$$	CEC/CSC	All	High
Strategy 3.1	**Make Saranac Lake ready for renewable energy projects**					
Action	Financing Mechanism for Government Energy Projects	Mid	$	CSC	Admin	Low
Strategy 3.3	**Take steps to purchase electricity from renewable sources**					
Action	Green Power Procurement Policy	Mid	$	CSC	Admin	Low
Action	Power Purchase Agreement for Renewables	Mid	$$	CSC/CEC	Admin	Medium
Action	Community Choice Aggregation	Unknown	$	CSC/CEC	Admin	Medium
Action	Solar Energy Installations	Mid	$$$	CSC/CEC	All	Medium/High

Figure 10. Climate Goal Implementation Chart

Plan Development and Public Input

Plan Development

This plan began in development as the CSC Task Force desired to support the Village in preparing for the changing climate. The task force created three Village Climate Goals and a roadmap of potential actions to achieve these goals. It was primarily written and developed by the task force members in consultation with Saranac Lake's Community Development Department and ANCA.

In 2022, The Village of Saranac Lake utilized the FlexTech Program through NYSERDA to create an Energy Master Plan for 7 municipal buildings (see Appendix B). The implementation plan, detailed below, was guided by the Energy Master Plan; actions from the CSC and CEC programs; and input from the CSC Task Force. These lists were then brought to each Village department for review and input. Department feedback shaped which items are included in the plan and what actions were determined to be realistic or not.

The CSC Task Force will assist the Village with ensuring these actions are actionable and remain a priority. With projects requiring a higher investment but yielding greater benefit, the CSC Task Force will present, inform, and advocate for the implementation of these strategic actions. Additionally, funds received from the CEC and CSC programs will be used to support actions in the Implementation Plan or that otherwise address the goals within this plan.

Climate Action Plan's Relation to Other Village Initiatives

Most suggestions included in this plan align with future projects and plans of the Village. The Village's numerous climate mitigation, energy efficiency, and municipal building upgrade plans and completed efforts such as the Comprehensive Plan, Parks Vision Plan, Urban Forestry Inventory, Downtown Revitalization Grant and Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan synergize with these recommendations. Here are some areas of overlap between the CAP and the Village's existing goals:

- Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy:
    - Upgrading municipal buildings with energy-efficient systems; encouraging residential and commercial solar installations; and supporting community energy-efficient projects.
- Sustainable Transportation:
    - Expanding pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and encouraging electric vehicle use through installation of EV charging stations.
- Community Engagement and Education:
    - Partner with local organizations to educate the community on sustainability practices through workshops and educational programs.
- Natural Resource Conservation:
    - Protecting local water bodies; promoting green spaces; enhancing urban forestry; and developing and expanding efforts towards eco-tourism

Public Input Process

The CSC Task Force completed the Draft Climate Action Plan in MONTH XXXX. A draft of the Plan was shared with the public on XX/XX/XXXX.

Input from the public was used to confirm and prioritize the plan's Recommended Strategies and Actions; the public was also invited to identify any mitigation-related issues not addressed in the draft. XXX Village residents were surveyed during the months of [INSERT MONTHS].

The online survey was created through Google Forms, consists of a series of questions that are designed to prompt candid feedback from Village residents. Feedback has been collated below and integrated into the Recommended Strategies and Actions section of the Saranac Lake Climate Action Plan: Government Operations.

The Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Task Force issued a press release announcing the online feedback survey, which will be reviewed, edited, and approved by the Village of Saranac Lake before finalization. This press release was distributed to local news organizations, including the Daily Enterprise, NCPR, Sun Community, and Adirondack Explorer. Additionally, the Saranac Lake Climate Action Plan: Government Operations Feedback was publicized through posters around the Village; social media; and direct outreach to prominent organizations.

A high level summary of the feedback collected is detailed below:
INSERT COLLATED FEEDBACK

Conclusion

The Saranac Lake Climate Action Plan: Government Operations provides a baseline understanding of the Village of Saranac Lake's current reliance on fossil fuels; sets three ambitious Village Climate Goals to strive towards; and offers a comprehensive Implementation Plan. This plan outlines steps towards achieving the three goals of: improving energy efficiency; decreasing the Village's reliance on fossil fuels; and ensuring all energy use is 100% renewable. If these goals are met, the Village will position itself optimally to face the unprecedented challenges that climate change presents.

As the impacts of climate change become more evident, the commitment of local governments, like the Village of Saranac Lake, play a vital role in reducing GHG emissions. The Village's leadership is essential in modeling climate action for its residents and in fulfilling its responsibility to provide key services in a cost-effective and environmentally sustainable way.

Additionally, this plan outlines GHG emissions reduction targets informed by the CLCPA GHG emissions reduction targets for 2030 (40% GHG emissions reductions) and 2050 (85% GHG emissions reductions). These reduction targets for 2030 and 2050 are ambitious. The Village has already made significant progress, cutting GHG emissions by 37% in just six years. However, further reductions will become more challenging as initial, easier projects are completed. Achieving the Village's goals will require dedicated effort from the resilient community of Saranac Lake.

State and federal climate policy are not always aligned, and the landscape for climate change initiatives is rapidly changing. However, the proposed actions outlined in this plan will benefit the Village, and its' residents, regardless of policy incentives or mandates. By implementing these actions the Village will save money by making its buildings more energy efficient, improve and upgrade municipal buildings, and improve the quality of life of residents.

As the most populous community in the Adirondacks, Saranac Lake holds a unique responsibility to protect, conserve, and enhance the environment that is integral to our community. For the first time, sustainable choices are also economically viable choices. By investing in our community, we can position ourselves ahead of the curve of climate change, and lean into the values and natural resources which are integral to our Village. With strategic decision making, effort from all parties involved, and a responsive approach towards reducing our GHG emissions, the Village of Saranac Lake can sustain our natural environment; prepare for the impacts of climate change; and create a better community for all of our residents. With the success we have already found in the CSC, CEC, and other state initiatives, Saranac Lake can prosper in the face of a changing climate.

Appendix A: List of Acronyms Referenced

CAP: Climate Action Plan
CCA: Community Choice Aggregation
CEC: Clean Energy Community - a NYSERDA program
CLCPA: Climate Leadership and Communities Protection Act
CSC: Climate Smart Communities - a NYS DEC program
DEC: Department of Environmental Conservation
EV: Electric vehicle(s)
GHG: Greenhouse gas
HVAC: Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning
LED: Light emitting diode
NY or NYS: New York or New York State
NYSERDA: New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
REC: Renewable energy credit
WWTP: Wastewater treatment plant

Appendix B: Energy Master Plan Recommendations

In 2022, The Village of Saranac Lake utilized the FlexTech Program through NYSERDA to create an Energy Master Plan for 7 municipal buildings. The plan can be found *here.*
The CSC Task Force created a short list of recommendations for the board based on this plan. There recommendations are as follows:

1-3 and 17 Main (Pg 6) - This building has an uncertain future for Village use. A new emergency management building is currently proposed. If this new construction moves forward, its design should be consistent with this plan's goals.

Short Term

ECM 2 Pipe Insulation
ECM 3 Domestic Hot Water Upgrades
ECM 6 Interior Lighting Upgrades
ECM 7 Exterior Lighting Upgrades
ECM 9 Add Wall Insulation

Med Term

Long Term

Garages (Pg 7)

Short Term

ECM 3 Domestic Hot Water
ECM 6 - Interior Lighting Upgrades
ECM 8 Wall Insulation

Long Term

Heat Pump - Ground or Air Source
ECM 9- Add Roof Insulation (When roof is repaired/replaced)

Pisgah Recreation Center (pg 23)

Short Term

Interior Lighting Upgrades
Weatherstripping and Caulking
Outdoor Lighting (Already in progress and budgeted)

Med Term

Split Energy Meters (Reduce Cost) *Andy Recommendations

Long Term (100k / Grant?)

VFD on Water Pumps for Snowmaking *Andy Recommendations
Heat Pump in Lower Room
EV Charging Station - GRANT

WWTP (pg 25)

Short Term

Thermostat Upgrade
Interior Lighting
Exterior Lighting *Review if it was done as part of NG upgrade)

Mid-Term

ECM 1 Hot Water Boiler Upgrades : VFDs for Pumps

Appendix C: Climate Action Taken by the Village

1.) **PE1: Build a climate-smart community**
    a.) CSC Task Force (Completed)
    b.) CSC Coordinator (Completed)
    c.) National/Regional Climate Program (Completed)
    d.) Partnerships with Other Entities (Completed)
2.) **PE2: Inventory emissions, set goals, and plan for climate action**
    a.) Government Operations GHG Inventory (Approved)
3.) **PE3: Decrease energy use:**
    a.) Government Building Energy Audits (Completed)
    b.) Interior Lighting Upgrades (Approved)
    c.) HVAC Upgrades (Completed)
    d.) Benchmarking– Municipal Buildings (Completed)
    e.) Clean Energy Upgrades (Completed)
    f.) Fleet Inventory (Completed)
    g.) Advanced Vehicles (Completed)
    h.) LED Street Lights (Completed)`
    i.) Energy Code Enforcement Training (Completed)
4.) **PE4: Shift to clean, renewable energy**
    a.) Heat Pumps (Completed)
5.) **PE5: Use climate-smart materials management**
    a.) Residential Organic Waste Program (Completed)
6.) **PE6: Implement climate-smart land use**
    a.) Smart Growth Policies (Approved)
    b.) Unified Solar Permit (Approved)
    c.) Complete Streets Policy (Completed)
    d.) Infrastructure for Biking and Walking (Approved)
    e.) Alternative-fuel Infrastructure (Completed)
    f.) Local Forestry Program (Approved)
7.) **PE8: Support a green innovation economy**
    a.) Farmer's Markets (Approved)
    b.) Rooftop Solarize Campaign (Approved)
    c.) Community Campaigns (Completed)
8.) **PE9: Inform and inspire the public**
    a.) Social Media (Approved)