

7/1/26 Climate Action Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

- Garrett Marino, Steve Halasz, Diane Strablow, Tim Caramore, Adam Lyons, Maura McGuire, David Trudeau, Bayle Reichert

Agenda:

- Old business
- Introductions (10 mins)
 - Icebreaker
 - What energizes you to take climate action?
 - Relevant experience
 - Areas of expertise and skills
- Overview of ongoing projects (10 mins)
 - CAP and CVA
 - Silver Certification
- Silver Certification Scoping (15 mins)
 - Overview of current state of CSC program
 - Review Roadmap to Silver
 - Identify focus areas of work
 - Identify 5 high priority actions to work on
 - Create working groups
- Budget line discussion (15 mins)
 - \$2,000
 - Does not role over
 - Tabling and general education
 - What we've done
 - What we want to do
 - Education
 - Battery storage education
 - Induction burners (5 or 6) for \$250
 - Induction vs propane
 - Travel
 - Hosting events
 - Tabling
 - Network Membership Fees
- National networks
 - Networks around the country that offer resources and benefits to resources and cities
 - Could have a multiplier effect
- Meeting date and time discussion
- Action Item Review
 - Garrett to check in about TEN with Nancy
 - Bayle to get feasibility study for TEN

- Garrett to send out CSC portal and Roadmap to silver for scoping for next meeting
- Garrett to send out a poll for general availability.

Old Business:

Garrett:

- Following up with village staff on tabling logistics for the June 20th car show
- Drafting the July meeting agenda at least one week out and circulating for co-creation

Diana:

- Organize meeting for the battery storage sub-committee and developing the public info session plan
- Researching the Healthy Homes gas stove labeling act to fold into our outreach materials
- Exploring the induction burner demo kit (~\$250 for 6 burners via Sierra Club contact)
- Following up on the INCA climate vulnerability assessment RFP (deadline: Friday, June 6)

Village Staff:

- Checking with Brandy on the CAAB webpage — some content appears to have been removed; confirming what resources can be linked or posted

Bike Rack:

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Action Items:

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Minutes:

- **\$90,000 DEC Climate Vulnerability Assessment + Adaptation Plan Grant**
 - Grant was written by Garrett, Bayle, and Sunita. The project runs two phases: (1) CVA, which will identify hazards, community assets, infrastructure, socioeconomic systems, natural/working lands, and vulnerable/marginalized populations; (2) climate adaptation plan, which will include a place narrative, community future scenarios tied to UN greenhouse gas projections, actionable recommendations, and a monitoring/evaluation framework. The goal is for outputs to integrate into existing municipal plans rather than sit on a shelf. Garrett

emphasized community listening sessions — talking to business owners and general residents — as core to the methodology, alongside hard data. He also noted the CVA should open funding pathways for future implementation projects.

- Timeline: CVA ~2027, adaptation plan by end of 2028. RFQ responses due July 31. Garrett noted that the community character and economic vibrancy framing was central to how the grant was written, aligned with DEC's CSC program priorities.
- **Climate Smart Communities — Silver Certification Roadmap**
 - Silver requires 300 points; bronze was 120. The group has a documented roadmap totaling 352 points across completed items needing re-documentation, items in progress, and new priority ("purple") items to pursue. Key purple items: interior lighting upgrades (DPW grant #275 planned), green power procurement policy (up to 4 pts), climate-related public events, local climate action website, climate change education/engagement, and reducing GHGs from government vehicles. In-progress items include the annual progress report, CVA, adaptation plan, and EV charging stations. Garrett noted that a major administrative burden is re-documenting expired credits — much of this will fall to Bayle and Katrina. Carolyn Dodd (ANCA interim CSC Coordinator) has confirmed the silver pathway is achievable.
- **\$2,000 Outreach Budget**
 - Village has designated \$2,000 for community outreach/communications/education. Group discussion surfaced: tabling at farmers markets and community events, a battery storage education event (possibly bring in a speaker or provide food to draw attendance), induction cooktop demonstrations (Diana knows a Sierra Club contact who can loan induction burners; Steve suggested side-by-side comparison with propane to show speed), travel to relevant conferences, and membership fees for national or regional climate equity networks (Tim raised this; Garrett noted he is already part of NYSAC). Garrett will draft a budget with Bayle and circulate for group approval before submitting.
- **Thermal Energy Network**
 - Nancy Bernstein provided a written update during the meeting: the initial feasibility study is complete, and a NYSERDA grant with 50% cost share was awarded for phase 1 engineering and design — but the project has been on hold for several years. Steve Halasz explained the infrastructure requirements: geothermal networks require large anchor off-takers, many deep wells (e.g., three 500-foot wells just for the police station), and careful spacing to avoid wells "robbing" each other of ground temperature (~47–48°F in the Adirondacks). Directional drilling can help. The DEC defines a thermal energy network as a pipe network connecting multiple buildings using geothermal, surface water, waste heat, or air as thermal sources. Garrett flagged reviewing the feasibility study as an action item to understand why it stalled.
- **GHG Reductions and Village Standing with DEC**

- Garrett shared that the Village of Saranac Lake has achieved approximately 37% GHG reduction from its 2017 baseline (36% this year, with some accounting variance). This puts the village close to its 40% by 2030 target. Total CSC program awards to date exceed \$1 million, largely directed to energy and building efficiency. Garrett noted that nationally, only a single-digit number of communities have achieved comparable reductions since 2017, and that DEC views Saranac Lake as a model for small, capacity-constrained communities effectively accessing climate funds.