



Climate Smart Kingston

(Formerly Climate Action Task Force)

((Very Formerly Climate Smart and Green Jobs Community Task Force))

Meeting Notes October 31, 2013

City Hall Conference Room 1

Members Present: Julie Noble (facilitator), Kevin McEvoy, Jennifer Schwartz-Berky, Arthur Zaczekiewicz, Sarina Pepper, Kristen Wilson, Emilie Hauser, Gregg Swanzey, Melissa Everett

Arthur and Emilie suggested adding Weatherization to the agenda as an outreach initiative.

A. Marketing and Outreach

1. Arthur and Gregg have met with Kale Kaposhilin, Raleigh Green, the Mayor and others to discuss the broader concept of moving Kingston forward with a consistent, concise **branding/marketing** effort. Through this and in the works is a Wifi network along the Broadway corridor; a city tagline; logos. There was a discussion about how to brand the Climate Action Plan and work of this committee. Gregg offered to, with Kristen, bring together local logos of initiatives underway and juxtaposition them for comparison and for how we can integrate a logo of our own that fits. Kristen offered to setup a Google Drive with the logos she has amassed for Live Well Kingston. Ultimately, it was decided that we should take advantage, for consistency among communities and with the state, to use the Climate Smart Communities Logo (see top of page) and write Kingston around it (or something to make it our own). Based on the State's initiative and the establishment of the Facebook name under the same, the group decided to move forward under the Branding and name: Climate Smart Kingston. This is a better reflection of the purpose of the group (task force implies a short term assignment); this aligns the work with the state Climate Smart Communities program and other communities doing the same thing; this is a recognizable and established brand to latch on to; and this is short and easy to convey.
2. A **Facebook** Group has been established under "Climate Smart Kingston", by Sarina. She will be updating this site at least 1-2 times per week. Scope of our postings will include: related to Climate Action Plan actions and recommendations; Kingston area focused unless regionally or federally relevant; innovative ideas/initiatives; relevant workshop/meeting/seminar announcements and follow ups. We discussed having only 1-2 administrators for consistency and efficiency and that any members should send Sarina info to post as it comes across your desk. Kristen suggested using HootSuite, a web tool for multi-media feed posting if it is applicable.
3. Kevin, Jennifer, Sarina and Karen had done some work on adapting the C.A.P. language for **integration into the Comprehensive Plan**. They will continue that, focusing on the newly available Final Visioning Report put out by the consultants and integrating CAP recommendations with the goals stated within that report. There was some question as to the status of the Comp Plan process. Emilie/Julie/Gregg will speak with Sue about how best the CAP (and Flooding Task Force Report, Open Space Plan, Urban Ag work, etc.) will best be integrated into the Comp Plan and how to help facilitate that.
4. Arthur mentioned that several stores/entities within Kingston Plaza may be looking into conducting energy audits as a group and that this could be a model for the rest of the city as well as a great outreach tool for Climate Smart Kingston. Emilie seconded the idea in that she spoke of the

importance of energy efficiency upgrades and weatherization to a home or business as the “Hidden Comfort” and as integrally important as a first step towards sustainability. She mentioned the *Low Carbon Diet*, by David Gershon as a model guide. There was discussion about Climate Smart Kingston initiating a **Weatherize Kingston** program/initiative. This could include:

- a. Work with RUPCO/Michael Courtney to promote NYSERDA programs/incentives, energy audits
- b. Arthur could do a ½ day training for 20 high school students or others to teach them how to go out into the community and assist homeowners in simple, low cost solutions to weatherize their homes
- c. Take a neighborhood/ward approach to increasing energy efficiency in homes
 - i. Promote homeowners use *Low Carbon Diet* or give it away? as a neighborhood
 - ii. Start a competition among homes/wards/neighborhoods
 - iii. Start with one or two success stories to really get the word out
 - iv. Role out program after Jan. 1 with the new Common Council
 - v. Conduct an inventory of who has had audits done
- d. Arthur offered to create a handbook for how to save \$2,000 with home energy improvements
- e. Promote painting roofs white for efficiency (Urban Ag has flat roof data available)
- f. Work with realtors to have new homes on the market having audits done before resale

{Post meeting, Julie also spoke with Melissa Everett about melding these ideas with an Energize program, which is an established framework on energy efficiency improvements. See EnergizeNY.org. }
The next meeting will discuss this in greater detail, including setting up an action plan.

B. Tidal Waterfront Flooding Task Force transition

There was discussion on the transition of the Flooding Task Force, now that the Final Report is done and passed through committee (passed Public Safety on October 30, 2013, 4-1, to then go to the full Common Council on November 12, 2013). This effort will now be shepherded by the Kingston CAC/Climate Smart Kingston with support from City Economic Development, Planning, the Waterfront Advisory Council, Engineering. We will keep this as a standing agenda item each month for report backs. Emilie, Gregg and Julie will co-coordinate this moving forward.

C. Climate Smart Communities Certification Pilot Program

The City of Kingston was a pilot community for this program, which is in the draft stages. It is a points based system to certify municipalities on their sustainability efforts. This pilot, designed similarly to Sustainable Jersey and LEED, will be launched around the end of 2013, with the announcements of the pilots’ results at the same time.

Melissa announced that she, at the direction of Mark Lowery of the DEC Climate Change Office, will be submitting a proposal to NYSERDA for discretionary funding for climate efforts. More to come.

Julie will send out a poll for scheduling meetings for the next few months.