

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS & REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICES  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS  
February 28, 2025

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: TURNER, Geraci, Bean, Diamond, Gilligan, Etu and Strainer

- I. Committee meeting called to order by Chair
- II. Approval of minutes of prior Committee Meeting
- III. Privilege of the floor and public comment
- IV. Action Agenda/New Business Items:
  1. Request:  
  
Rationale:
  2. Request:  
Rationale:
  3. Request:  
Rationale:
- V. Discussion Items:
  1. Jim Lieberum – Overview of Soil & Water Conservation District.
  2. Matthew Smith - Climate Smart Task Force update.
- VI. Referrals/Pending Items:
  - 1.
- VII. Privilege of the floor and public comment
- VIII. Motion to adjourn

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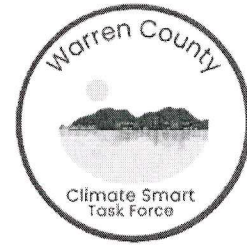
Attachments: 1. Climate Smart Task Force update

TO: Supervisor Nancy Turner, Chair of the  
Environmental Concerns and Real  
Property Tax Services Committee

FROM: Matthew Smith, Climate Smart  
Coordinator for Warren County

DATE: 2/3/2025

RE: Climate Smart Task Force Update



**Background Information:**

The Warren County Climate Smart Task Force was established in 2019 with an official Coordinator and Task Force being appointed by the Board of Supervisors. This program allows Warren County to be given preference when applying for certain grants through NYS. This preference is based on our level of certification, currently Warren County is a Bronze level Climate Smart Community, the Climate Smart Coordinator has just resubmitted the application to maintain Bronze certification. COVID-19 presented significant challenges to the Task Force and the group met as needed through the pandemic. In August of 2024, a new Climate Smart Coordinator and Task Force were officially appointed. Since then the Climate Smart Task Force have met once, and our next quarterly meeting is in February. The goals of the Climate Smart Task Force are to look for opportunities to support mitigation and adaptation projects that reduce costs for County taxpayers and to apply for funding in a collaborative role with other County Departments. The Climate Smart Coordinator has invited County departments to the Climate Smart Task Force Meetings for additional perspective and input as grant season approaches. It is the intent of the Climate Smart Coordinator to provide regular updates to the Environmental Concerns Committee.

**The update from the Climate Smart Task Force for January 2025 is:**

1. The Climate Smart Coordinator has submitted Warren County for bronze recertification as a climate smart community and will hear back on March 10<sup>th</sup> about our recertification status.
2. DPW has been awarded \$99,253 as a match through the NYS Climate Smart Communities Program to construct and operate a pilot municipal composting facility. The Climate Smart Coordinator worked with Scott Royael and the Recyclables Working Group to put together a grant application for this project. This project is a recommendation of the county's organics management plan, completed in 2023. Data collected from this pilot project will inform the feasibility of creating a permanent, centralized, regional composting facility in the County.
3. Our grant application for DEC MWRR is still pending review submitted in partnership with Scott Royael and DPW through DEC's Municipal Waste Reduction and Recycling Education Grant. The County applied for \$20,000 for Data Collection Enhancement, to produce an Interactive Web Platform, and for an Outreach and Education Program Study and integration with Warren County outreach initiatives. Hoping to hear back soon about this grant.
4. Paul Smith's Adirondack Watershed Institute is conducting Climate Listening Sessions as part of their new program called ACORN (Adirondack Climate Outreach and Resilience Network). The Upper Hudson Watershed meeting is open to Warren, Essex, Hamilton, and Saratoga County residents and officials. Participants will engage in a visioning session to identify solutions and shovel-ready projects with the goal of bringing federal, state, and private funding to the North Country. This meeting will take place on February 19<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Chester Town Hall. Everyone is welcome, please register online. Link to register below. <https://www.adkwatershed.org/events/upper-hudson-acorn-listening-session>.
5. The Capital District Regional Planning Commission (CDRPC) is leading the development of the first-ever climate action plan for the Capital Region. In March 2024, the creation of a Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) was completed. Now, they are developing a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP), which will be completed in September 2025. Part of this initiative includes the development of a regional Greenhouse Gas Inventory Dashboard and updated GHG community inventory. The Climate Smart Coordinator is currently organizing a day and time for someone from the Capital District Regional Planning Commission to come speak to the Climate Smart Task Force about this. When finalized, the meeting date and time will be posted on the Climate Smart Task Force page of the County Website. <https://warrencountyny.gov/planning/climate>
6. The next Climate Smart Task Force meeting will be February 26<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. All are welcome.