

TOWN OF CLINTON CSC TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES – JULY 28, 2026

The July 28, 2026 meeting of the Town of Clinton Climate Smart Communities Task Force was called to order at 7:01 pm. Committee members in attendance were as follows:

Joe Phelan, CSC Task Force Chair
Stan Orser CSC Task Force Member (via Zoom)
Richard Marshall, CSC Task Force Member
Jim Metcalfe, CSC Task Force Members

Introduction

Joe Phelan introduced the evening's agenda. He then asked members if there were any questions, additions, and/or changes to the draft minutes of the previous meeting of June 23, 2026. With no changes suggested or objections raised, the minutes of the June 23, 2026 meeting were accepted by the acclamation of the Task Force members in attendance.

NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Grant Funding Update

Joe provided an update on the Highway Garage grant process, announcing that NYSERDA had approved the first payment of 1/3 of the balance of the \$10,000 grant funds following payment for the required Highway Garage Energy Audit in Fall 2025. However, the Building Airflow Reduction work at the Highway Garage now should be able to be scheduled in coordination with the Highway Department and Mark Long, Town engineer. As soon as the Building Airflow Reduction work has been completed, and for which Mark will be asked to provide confirmation, we'll need to submit the necessary documentation to NYSERDA, at which time NYSERDA will forward us a check for the balance of funds from the \$10,000 Clean Energy Communities grant

In order to begin work under the \$50,000 NYSERDA CEC grant, we are awaiting confirmation from our Highway Department regarding the choice of LED lighting fixtures, which must be Energy Star rated fixtures, per the requirement of the required Energy Audit conducted in Fall 2025. Brandon Toye, from Hudson Valley Regional Council, has done some research and provided information that could be helpful in sourcing the appropriate Energy Star LED fixtures.

Once we have the documentation and choice of fixtures identified Todd Martin, with assistance from Brandon Toye of Hudson Valley Regional Council, the Town can submit the required documents to NYSERDA for their review and approval, at which point NYSERDA will forward the Town 1/3 of the \$50,000 grant funds, after which the Town can schedule and complete that work, provide documentation of satisfactory completion, and submit a request for the remaining 2/3 of the \$50,000 grant for energy-efficient windows, insulated garage doors, and LED lighting.

The team also briefly discussed a potential new regional \$4 million grant opportunity from The Understory's Hudson Estuary Resilience Initiative, though timing would be challenging given the comprehensive plan process currently underway in the Town. However, some interest has been expressed

to the CAC from the Town of Clinton Library, which has yet to be discussed in any detail by the CSC Task Force or the CAC.

Upcoming CSC Task Force Initiatives

Joe Phelan informed the Committee that Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County's application for an RIT community grant to address pollution prevention efforts in up to four Dutchess County municipalities will NOT be awarded to Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County to support helping the Town of Clinton and four other Dutchess County municipalities to complete three Climate Smart Communities actions: PE2: Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report; PE5: Organics Management Plan; and PE9: Climate Change Education and Engagement.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County Resiliency Planning Grant

Joe Phelan also reviewed the status of the climate smart resiliency planning initiative with Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County, for which survey data collected by Richard Marshall, Ken Pickett, and Judy Malstrom from the CSC Task Force was collected during Clinton Community Day. The collected data has been successfully submitted for inclusion in the resiliency process, along with data collected thus far through a survey of area residents. A meeting of interested elected officials and community members from the communities that are participating in this grant initiative, including the Town of Clinton, will be scheduled and held by CCEDC in mid-late September 2026 for the discussion and development of resiliency planning purposes in each participating community.

Update: Government Operations Climate Action Plan (GOCAP) Report

There was additional discussion on the status of the GOCAP currently under development for the Town of Clinton. GOCAP Chair Richard Marshall and other CSC Task Force members continue to be supportive of asking Hudson Valley Regional Council (HVRC) staff to review the draft GOCAP and share any relevant suggestions to include with updated information to the CSC Task Force members regarding ongoing efforts to present a draft Government Organization Climate Action Plan (GOCAP) to the Town Board for future consideration and adoption in order to plan for future Town municipal operations in the areas of Transportation; Municipal Facilities and Renewable Energy; Natural Resources (Water and Land Use); and Waste and Recycling. Joe Phelan will coordinate a meeting with HVRC's Brandon Toye, Richard Marshall, and himself for the purpose of this ongoing discussion.

The conversation ended with a discussion of focusing on the need to establish accurate baselines for greenhouse gas emissions and average miles per gallon for the Highway fleet, with concerns raised about the current electricity data baseline being potentially flawed due to COVID years and renewable energy usage at the Victoria Center.

Stan Orser raised important issues with greenhouse gas inventory numbers, particularly concerns about using COVID-impacted data as a baseline. Richard and the group addressed concerns about the greenhouse gas emissions baseline data, noting issues with using COVID-impacted years and renewable energy periods that may skew the baseline of 200 metric tons. They explored potential solutions including comparing their

data to other communities' pre-COVID numbers and using a comparative approach to isolate differences between renewable and non-renewable periods.

The group discussed several other topics related to climate action and data collection. They agreed that Central Hudson's data has been unhelpful in the past and decided to pursue their own calculations using vehicle mileage and fuel purchase records. The team planned to meet with Brandon Toye within the next several weeks to review their progress. They also reviewed a draft letter regarding the incinerator and discussed a potential \$4 million grant opportunity from The Understory's Hudson Estuary Resilience Initiative, though they noted timing challenges with the Town's Comprehensive Plan currently under development.

The group agreed to have Joe set up a Zoom meeting with Brandon to discuss these GOCAP issues further and determine appropriate adjustments for their data.

Additional Discussion Items

The meeting discussion also covered interest in recent bulk disposal and e-waste collection events at the Town of Clinton that were raised at the June 2026 meeting. The group also discussed the letter to the County legislature regarding the incinerator closure, drafted by Judy Malstrom, as requested by the CSC Task Force last month. It was suggested that, upon review of a draft letter to the County Legislature, additional specifics be included in that draft letter, for review at the August 25th CSC Task Force meeting.

Related to opposition to the County incinerator, the group had previously discussed community compost bins and mentioned that while individual composting is common, a community compost system could be beneficial. A recent bulk disposal event, whereupon a 40-yard dumpster was used for general waste, at a cost \$500, while an electronics disposal event handled by Welch collected several boxes of old computers, printers, and other devices for e-waste recycling, had been discussed at the July CSC Task Force meeting.

The group also discussed a transfer station initiative for ongoing weekly operations, with positive community response to the proper disposal of items rather than roadside dumping. The conversation also suggested an interest in drafting a document for the Town Board regarding municipal emissions and environmental initiatives, including potential idling reduction measures and signs in parking lots.

Community Vulnerability Assessment Planning

The discussion concluded with Joe bringing up the Community Emergency Response (CERT) program, upon Jim Metcalfe's recommendation, noting that while the Town of Clinton has more homes than ever, its population is shrinking due to the increasing weekend resident population, and sharing a personal experience from a recent windstorm.

The group also discussed the need to identify population vulnerabilities in the community, particularly regarding emergency situations like snowstorms, power outages, and climate change impacts. Jim raised interest in exploring the CERT program, which he reported is still an active federal program, and creating a formal system to support vulnerable residents, potentially using existing community resources like churches and food pantries to gather information about those who may need assistance. The group agreed

to continue discussing this as a potential addition to resilience planning, with suggestions to reach out to organizations like the Assessor's Office and Town Clerk Carol Mackin, who might be able to assist in establishing such a network.

There being no further business, and with the next CSC Task Force meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 25, 2026, the meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Phelan, CSC Task Force Chair