

TOMPKINS COUNTY ENERGY TASK FORCE
Friday, March 15, 2019
Cornell Cooperative Extension - TC, 615 Willow Ave., Ithaca, NY 14850
Final Minutes

Attendance

Member		Member		Staff	
Sharon Anderson	P	Bob Howarth	P	Darby Kiley	P
Martha Armstrong	E	Tim Mount	P	Kristin McCarthy	P
Cliff Babson	A	Martha Robertson	P	Katie Borgella	P
Fernando de Aragón	E	Brice Smith	A		
Brian Eden	P	Jennifer Tavares	A		
Todd Fox	P	Irene Weiser	E		
Nick Goldsmith	P	Gordon Woodcock	P		
Curt Gooch	A	Sarah Zemanick	P		

Guests – Terry Carroll, Joe Wilson, Sara Hess, Guillermo Metz, Aislyn Cogan

Welcome – Chair Sharon Anderson called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

Comments from the Public: Round 1 – None

Agenda Review/Changes – None

Approval of Feb. 15, 2019 minutes – **Action:** Martha Robertson moved approval of the February meeting minutes. Nick Goldsmith seconded. Motion carried.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Accounting – Eli Yewdall, ICLEI USA

In his role as senior program officer with ICLEI USA, Eli Yewdall provides direct support to members and works to manage and update ICLEI’s U.S. Community and Global greenhouse gas emissions inventory protocols, which enable communities to account for carbon pollution accurately. He joined the ETF via Zoom to talk about the protocols and to demonstrate the ClearPath web application for energy and emissions management. Within ClearPath users can view the “Government” track (buildings/fleets) or community-scale (residences/businesses) and select from various tools, such as a calculator that computes emissions from the electricity grid. Emissions can be calculated using a 100-year time frame or a 20-year time frame, but there is no way to mix the two. The protocols focus on capturing positive emissions and do not factor in carbon sequestration/negative emissions. However, ICLEI is working with the World Resources Institute to include data on carbon uptake in forestry. Proposed changes to protocols must be vetted by ICLEI’s advisory committee, which meets a few times a year. Changes to the ClearPath tool, however, do not need to go through that process.

Energy Strategy Update/Policy Committee Report – Darby Kiley

Given that the last Policy Committee meeting served as a focus group for the Energy Strategy Update, Darby combined both agenda items into one. She is digesting the output from that meeting, which yielded ideas for action items. Once she has compiled everything, the list will be shared with the

Planning and Sustainability Department's consultants for analysis. Focus groups for solar energy and building energy efficiency will be meeting in the coming weeks. At today's meeting, there was some discussion on the applicability of the thresholds assigned to the action items.

If the County redevelops the 408-412 N. Tioga Street property, Brian would like the Policy Committee to have input on the choice of building energy standards. Darby pointed out that the County's Green Building Policy may need to be updated and included as an action item in the new Energy Strategy.

Member Announcements

- New York State (NYSERDA/NYPA) announced a \$250 million Westchester County Clean Energy Action Plan to provide local investment in renewable energy alternatives, like heat pumps.
- The New York Power Authority has approved a 20-year power purchase agreement for the 290 MW Canisteo wind farm project in Steuben County. Construction is slated to begin in 2020.
- Bob Howarth was the local host for a video presentation at Cornell by climate activist Bill McKibben on fossil fuel divestment.
- On Mon, March 18th, there is a free seminar at Cornell on "Property Taxes, Fiscal Policy, and Climate Change: Why We're Doomed to Keep Building Where We Shouldn't and What to do About It." Remote participation is also possible. A video of the presentation should be available for viewing in a few weeks: <http://www.atkinson.cornell.edu/events/ClimateChangeSem.php>
- Cornell has partnered with over 20 other SUNY and private colleges and universities in New York State to form a renewable energy purchasing consortium for new construction. An RfP will be released shortly.

Comments from Public Round 2 – A free conference on climate-wise gardening will be held April 27th, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, at Boynton Middle School.

Adjournment – Chair Sharon Anderson adjourned the meeting at 10:32 am.