

Canaan Climate Smart Task Force Meeting

November 18th, 2025 – 7PM

In attendance

Task Force Members:

- Victoria Mills - Chair
- Tom Potter
- Becky Meier
- Mark Harbick
- Nick Adams

Outside Contributors:

- Brenda Adams (Town Supervisor)
- Tara Donadio (CDRPC)

Approval of October meeting minutes: Motion to approve from Becky, Tom seconds.

CSC Silver Certification: progress on planned actions (see [tracker](#))

- Next submission deadlines are January 9th and May 22nd, 2026. Planned actions add up to 309 points, clearing threshold for Silver of 300.
- Heat Emergency Plan to be developed in Spring 2026.

PE3 Action: Interior lighting upgrades (4 points)

- Brenda will bring to town board for approval at December 8th meeting.
- If approved, lighting must be ordered and installed before January 9th deadline.

PE5 Action: Green Purchasing Communities (5 points)

- Goal is to improve town's access to cost-competitive products that are better for public health and environment. New York State has a [website](#) listing such products.
- Need to understand which products we buy are affected, and how policy will impact day-to-day work of town staff. Victoria will call DEC to answer questions.
- New Lebanon is also willing to help advise on the rollout of the policy.

PE5 Waste Reduction Education Campaign (2 points)

- There will be an article and flyer in the November newsletter. Also post flyer on town's Facebook page.
- More activities to come after the new year.

PE6 Action: Comprehensive Plan with Sustainability Elements (3-21 points)

- [Draft Comprehensive Plan](#) is now posted on the town website.
- Tara has reviewed the comp plan and found it should qualify for all 21 points.
- Brenda to ask Comp Plan project manager to add table of Sustainability Elements as an appendix to final version.

PE6 Action: Electric Vehicle Charging Station (8 points)

- The two new EV chargers are up and running!
- Documentation needed includes invoice, proof of operation, hours of operation, and registration on sites like NYSERDA's EV station locator.
- Take photo of CSTF members charging their EVs.

PE7 Action: Climate-resilient Hazard Mitigation Plan (4 points)

- Ready to upload documentation, FEMA has approved plan.
- Upload link to entire document and refer to page number for Canaan's appendix.

PE7 Action: Shade Structures Policy (4 points)

- Goal is to ensure we consider adding shade structures (including trees) when further developing town properties.
- Brenda to submit for approval at December town board meeting. This is timely given new master plan for Stoddard Field.

PE7 Action: Culverts and Dams (4 points)

- Upload documentation as soon as we have the necessary data.

PE9 Action: Local Climate Action Website (3 points)

- Nick has revived the old website on Squarespace (www.canaanclimatesmart.org) and updated all the information.
- Must have on website (three minimum components required by CSC):
 - A description of the local government's efforts related to local climate change mitigation and adaptation,
 - How local residents and businesses can participate in those efforts led by the local government, and
 - A summary of actions that residents and businesses in the community can take to reduce their GHG emissions.
 - Examples to look at: Austerlitz, Taghkanic and Claverack.
- Additional ideas to include in future:
 - Guide for new and current residents answering questions related to waste and recycling, solar installations, green construction. Tom will send ideas to Nick.
 - Include information on other groups in Canaan that help sustainability in various ways, e.g., Canaan Conservation Club (deer population), Gardening Club (pollinator gardens), Canaan Volunteer Corps (emergency preparedness).
 - Section about smart metering with goal for community adoption.
 - Glossary of terms to improve climate, energy, and environmental literacy.
- Create a list of accomplishments to send to the County Climate Smart Task Force for their annual update on climate actions in the county.

Electricity costs

- Solar credits are now appearing on NYSEG bills, but should be applied to Town Hall, not Highway Garage. Victoria to follow up with NYSEG.
- Some in community are experiencing fluctuations in NYSEG electricity bills. Need to understand reasons in each case. Smart meters should also help keep billing accurate.

[NYS Grant for ZEV Infrastructure](#)

- This grant is for all ZEV Infrastructure installed between June 1, 2025, and May 31, 2028.
- We qualify for an 80% reimbursement for EV chargers installed in November.
- Application is due by 4PM on February 27th, 2026.

Meeting adjourned 8:25

Next Meeting: **Tuesday December 16th** at 7pm