

Marbletown Environmental Conservation Commission (ECC) and Climate Smart Task Force
Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2020

Attending Members:

Tom Konrad, Chair

Melissa Evert

Alan Newman

Iris Marie Bloom

Amy Moses

Doug Adams

Eric Stewart, Town Board Liaison

March 18 meeting minutes approved unanimously

Webinars

- Tom listed upcoming Webinars.. Planning a 20-minute Webinar on proper woodstoves and wood stove fuels with John Ackerly of For Green Heat. Topics include pellet stoves, especially in light of the new rules.
- May 13 at 7 pm is the date and time for the Helping Pollinators: Native Plants & Habitats Webinar, sponsored by Interfaith Earth Action, New Paltz Climate Action Coalition, Protecting Our Waters. Main speaker is master gardener Cecily Frazier giving practical information on creating pollinator-friendly gardens and habitat, then Iris and others offer a panel on community engagement and political action. Iris and the webinar team will circulate the "Pollinator Friendly Marbletown Resolution" to all those who sign up for the webinar, as a model.

The "Pollinator Friendly Resolution" we've drafted needs to include information on what Marbletown is already doing to be pollinator friendly. "Make highway department happy with us." -- Let them know we appreciate what they're already doing.

While the highway department is already taking action, some aspects of the Resolution are needed; it encourages individual gardeners, businesses and schools to plant more habitat and we could work with hardware stores, farmers to not use toxic pesticides.

ECC formally voted to cosponsor this Helping Pollinators: Native Plants & Habitats Webinar.

Update on NY budget and actions

- Polystyrene ban by 2022 has been approved for New York State!
- New York State also made the fracking ban into law -- bill sponsored by Sen. Jen Metzger.

- \$300 billion in bonds for environmental improvement, \$500 million for clean water, full funding of environmental protection fund.
- For future renewable energy projects the state authorized NYSEERDA do initial siting for renewable energy projects and then find developers, which would get things started (mostly solar projects, but other types as well).

Croton 100 and their CarbonTracker tool.

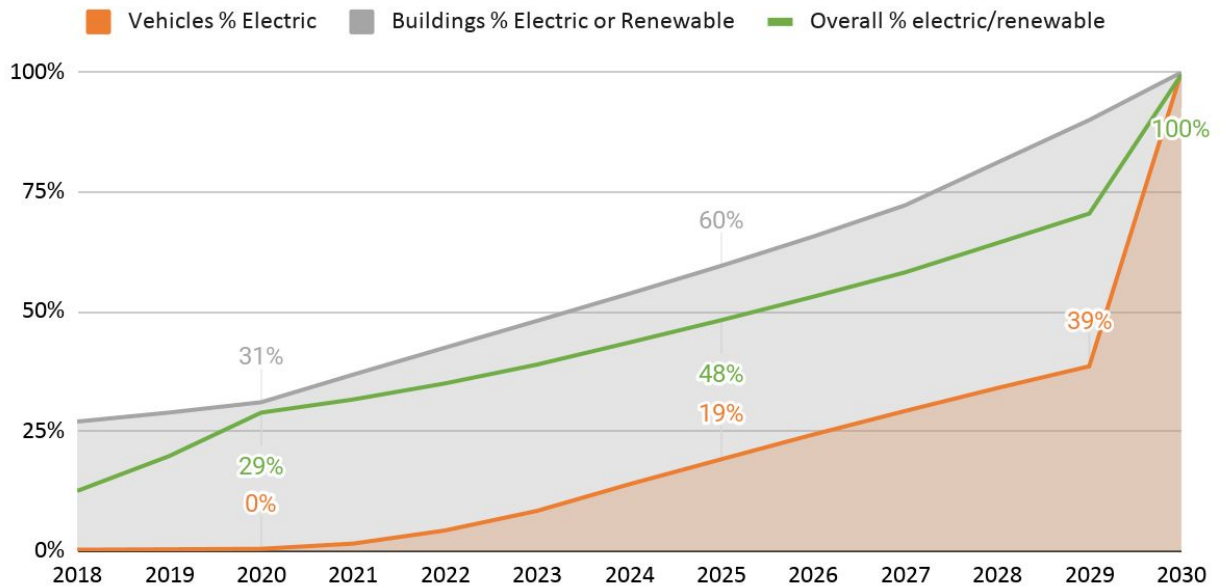
- The “Croton100” initiative is similar to Marbletown’s 100% renewable project, focusing on 100% reduction on greenhouse gases (GHGs).
- Doug, Tom, Eric and Iris like the Croton100 tool.
- Alan is intrigued by what Croton100 is doing. Could we shift to 100% reduction in GHG?
- Iris: yes, that would be good because it includes airplane flights, refrigerants, materials.
- Melissa: The Croton100 Website is very conversational.
- Amy, Iris, Melissa: YES, link to Croton100 in our work.
- The first 30-35 families to use their CarbonTracker tool focused on how to reduce CO₂ footprint. These families reduced their output of CO₂ by 300 metric tons, which included changing food consumption and reducing airline flights; the tool also addresses heating, cooling, transportation.
- The project includes lots of committees and strong outreach into the community. Well-thought through approach. 30 to 40 volunteers
- A key element is a fairly effective web-based tool (Croton100.org) for estimating GHG output, which they are willing to license for free. Compelling visual interface. Could be a good supplement to Marbletown’s 100% renewable effort. How hard would it be to technically modify the tool for Marbletown? Melissa, Doug and Tom to follow up.

100% Renewable Report.

- Melissa has been looking at how much detail to include. The current report is good through Chapter 5. Reads more smoothly. New names for scenarios: business as usual, community mobilization, and least cost (in a financially conservative way). Appendix 9 was dropped.
- Tom produced new graphs on reaching 100% renewable in 2030 and 2040. Achieving 100% renewable transportation required not only that all new vehicles be electric starting in 2024, but also that significant portions of the vehicle fleet be replaced before the end of their useful lives. Reaching 100% renewable transportation by 2030 target requires 65% of Marbletown vehicles be retired “early”; For 2040 this number is 45%.
- The 100% by 2040 targets: Tom explained that if we mandate no fossil fuels in building replacement by 2024, and scrap 4% of fossil fuel building systems in last few years and replace with electric, 100% Renewable buildings could be achievable by 2040.
- ECC was not completely satisfied with the scenarios depicted in the charts; wanted to see what could be achievable with voluntary early replacement as well as mandates. Tom agrees to try to model such a scenario.

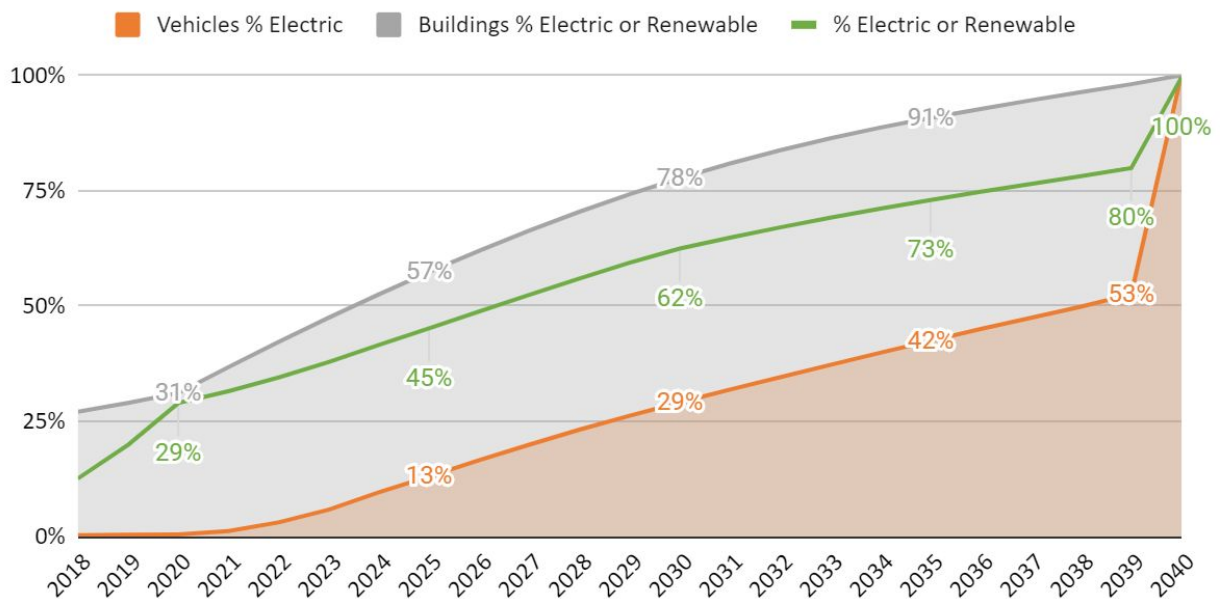
2030 Target

All new vehicles & building systems electric by 2024; early replacement of remaining in 2029



2040 Target

All new vehicles & building systems electric/renewable by 2024, early replacement of rest 2039



- Decided not to submit the report to the Board, which is already busy with Covid. Eric will inform the Board

Progress of group purchase.

- Melissa reported that there is a draft form for vendors; 1-page application. Vendors to be reached will be concentric around Marbletown; going out into Ulster County. Sent only to clean power people.
- Asking for group discount of 10, but smaller number may work. Application is straight forward and favors established Hudson Valley suppliers.
- Eric suggested that we have an event (possibly online) to showcase these vendors.
- Doug: add geothermal into the mix.
- Finger Lakes Climate fund (<http://www.fingerlakesclimatefund.org/>) in Ithaca defrays energy upgrade costs for low income households.
- Uphousestate.com has good human interest stories on installing energy-efficient equipment.
- Community solar group purchase fund ended in March; new vendor has signed on:

Other reports

- Iris mentioned the webinar on getting TIAA to divest from its investments in fossil fuels and deforestation is coming up on April 15th. Marbletown ECC is a co-sponsor.
- May 5 Zoom investment seminar on how to divest from fossil fuels featuring Doug and Tom. Collaboration with New Paltz Climate Smart.
- Should ECC do something for covid-19? Discussion focused around gardening and growing food. Iris suggested we promote the fundraiser for SEEDSONG Farm, which is feeding 100 families if enough funds are raised, on Marbletown ECC facebook. ECC agreed this is OK because this is part of our broader community.
- Eric said that the Town was looking for recommendations of outdoor lighting for Grady Park. Could EV chargers be added or at least run conduit for them in future? Tom said he would help
- Because so much is going on, Iris will draft and Amy will send out a newsletter style email to our list!

Meeting adjourned at 8:44