

### **May 11, 2022 ECC meeting**

#### **Attending:**

Tom Konrad, ECC chair  
Alan Newman, ECC member  
Lisa Giannco, ECC member  
Melissa Evert, SHV  
Olivia Fleming, ECC member  
Henry Rich, ECC member  
Siddhartha Lama, ECC member

#### **April minutes approved**

#### **Board members voted unanimously to recommend that the Board sign the NY State Climate Action Council Scoping Plan Resolution**

#### **Key points**

**RESOLVED**, the Town of Marbletown affirms the critical importance of meeting the emissions and equity goals of the Climate Act, which will help mitigate dangerous warming while delivering the additional benefits of improving public health, economic opportunities, agricultural land open space protection, and quality of life for the people of Ulster County; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, Town of Marbletown declares its support for prohibiting an expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure, which contradicts the goals of the Climate Act, and for transitioning to efficient electricity-based solutions for buildings and transportation; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, Town of Marbletown supports a planning process for a managed transition of the utility gas system that maintains affordable, safe, and reliable utility service and protects low- and moderate-income households from an undue burden in the transition; and be it further

#### **Pledge Campaign**

Few new sign ups. The challenge is that people think that the pledge is a promise and avoid it. Worry that it will cost money right away. Change the pitch to a list of ideas or goals? Possibly a check-off list? Tom, Ben, and Lisa will have a separate working group to re-imagine the pledge.

#### **Heat pump resolution**

Tom is drafting a resolution to encourage residents to install heat pumps rather than air conditioners. The resolution is to go to the Town Board. The key point is:

RESOLVED, the building permit fee for any permit including one or more air conditioning units shall include a \$200 surcharge for each such unit. This new surcharge will apply to any building permit issued on or after July 1st, 2022.

Air conditioners which are also heat pumps qualifying for the local electric utility's air source or geothermal heat pump rebates, or which are included in the Northeast Energy Efficiency Program's list of cold climate air source heat pumps (the NEEP List, found here:

<https://ashp.neep.org/#/>) are not subject to this surcharge.

With a couple additions to the WHEREAS's, the ECC voted unanimously to recommend that the Town board pass this resolution.

### **Ulster Green Business Challenge**

Ulster Co. has given SHV the responsibility to set up the Green Business Challenge, SHV will be able to hire an intern to help with the campaign. Henry, who owns Accord Market, volunteered to participate on behalf of his business.

### **May 21st community day in the parking lot behind Ridgewell (9-4pm)**

The ECC has been offered a table to present information and meet residents.

### **Third Thursday**

Alan reported that he met with Rochester ECC (John Messerschmidt) to begin a series of Third Thursday events online. The virtual event would be offered to the mailing lists of the ECC's.

The first is tentatively scheduled for June. They hope to add other ECC's to the roster.

Tom suggested that they also help advertise other events (not 3rd Thursday), including the upcoming Coaching Webinar including Tom and two other Home Energy Coaches from New Yorkers For Clean Power and Bedford 2030. Alan said he would put that idea forward at the next meeting.

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### **Trial for Justice**

Siddhartha invited everyone to "trial for justice" on May 15, sponsored by the Rondout Valley High School social justice committee.

