

ECC and CSCTF Meeting, January 8 2020.

7pm, room M-15 Rondout Municipal Center

Attending: Tom Konrad, Chair. Amy Moses, Doug Adams, Iris Bloom (Members). Jason Zimmerman, CSC Coordinator. Melinda Herzog (Cornell Cooperative Extension), Melissa Everett (Sustainable Hudson Valley). Alan Newman, Toni Brink, Rich LaSalvia (members of the public). Alex LaSalvia (BlueStone Press.)

Melinda Herzog, Cornell cooperative extension in partnership with NYC DEC Hudson River Estuary program, NY water resources institute. Presented the results and recommendations of the **Climate Smart Resiliency Planning Tool**.

Herzog and her team found that Marbletown has several areas of strength, including our active ECC and extensive natural resource inventories. They also identified several opportunities for improving the Town's climate resilience. They recommend that the town engage with Ulster County Emergency Services Department to enable Town to become eligible for a number of Federal grants through FEMA.

They also recommend updating the Town Comprehensive Plan to include natural resource protection and climate resiliency

- At the end of the presentation, a motion was put forward to recommend the presentation to the Town Board. Passed unanimously

I. 100% Renewable Energy Report

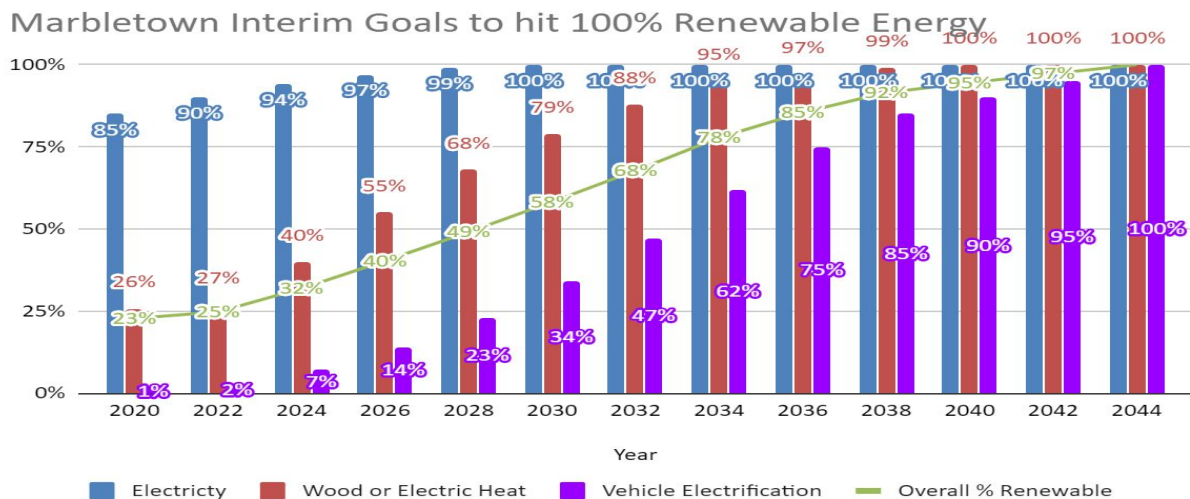
Timeline and goals being set for each year of the project was discussed at length. Marbletown's path to 100% renewable (figure 1, below) outlines a proposal from ECC Chair Konrad for achieving 100% of the goal out to 2044. Commission member Bloom advocated strongly for a goal of 100% by 2030, based on the best available science which concludes that the world as a whole needs to greatly reduce our carbon emissions by this date to avoid the worst effects of climate change.

Discussion around achieving 75% by 2030 likely unrealistic given the task of converting residents to EVs by that date without strong government support at all levels incentivizing the buy side through tax credits and subsidies while maintaining increasing pressure on the industry side of the equation via ever-increasing fleet gas mileage requirements and ever-lower emissions requirements. CAFÉ laws and regulatory priorities are currently moving in the opposite direction through at least 2020.

- Sentiment toward EVs among car buying public improving with 16% of the car buying public indicating a readiness to both consider and buy an EV, according to AAA survey data.

- Range angst is on the wane as technology continues to increase the power and range of lithium-ion batteries
- Profit margins remain slim on EVs, discouraging industry and dealership from pushing EVs over more lucrative SUV, pickup and crossover model gas-powered cars
- Barriers to rapid decarbonization also center around the long lived nature of vehicles and building HVAC systems. Most oil boilers which are being installed in buildings today will still be in use in 2030, and many of the new gas vehicles being purchased today will likely still be on the road at that time.

Figure 1



- Wood stoves, as part of the energy package, were also discussed at length. Efficiency levels, particulate, NOx, and VOC pollution from such stoves are key components of the equation.

The members differed in their opinions as to the benefit of including a section on the use of local, sustainably harvested wood as heating fuel and the likely economic development benefits of such a strategy. Konrad agreed to re-write the section to lessen the prominence of wood in the report as a whole, while continuing to acknowledge the significance of wood and other biomass heating in current and future Marbletown buildings.

a. Implementation strategies

Implementation includes building partnerships and influence centers in the community. The gathering of local expertise around contractors, financial aid providers, technical expertise to conduct ongoing workshops and informational forums are a critical component moving forward.

- Gauging the interests of people in the community around the project, meeting their concerns, issues, problems on an ongoing basis through monthly workshops
- Reinstating the group purchase program around heat pumps, building insulation and air sealing, solar, and wood stoves to lower upfront capital costs
 - Setting into place an insurance-type program for large appliances to finance the purchase through monthly payment plans
 - Looking for grant funding and local government help for financing via direct subsidies, placement of municipal debt for funding as well as local tax incentives to incent the purchases by households and businesses
- Involving local businesses in the program to carry electric, low emission equivalent power tools
- Incorporating renewable planning into the purchasing programs of local and county government
- Technical resource kits to answer FAQ concerns and offer advice

II. Other Business

The Community Center's grant has been awarded. Work to finish includes water remediation, mini-splits, benchmarking, hot water heat pumps. Organizing a tour of the work completed and in progress by the community a forward task

a. Upcoming Events

- Repair Café is happening on the 29th of February in the RMC gym
- James Hansen will speak at Kingston High School in an event sponsored by the Ashokan Center on 6 February at 7PM

b. Recruitment

The ECC voted to recommend that Amy Moses be appointed to a second three year term ending on December 31st, 2022, and will be reviewing the application of Alan Newman at the next meeting.

If both Moses and Newman are (re)appointed, the ECC will have 6 active members. The bylaws specify that the ECC shall be composed of 5 to 9 members, and the ECC is looking for volunteers for the empty seats.