

## Minutes

### NORTH TONAWANDA CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE

**Date:** Wednesday, November 12, 2025, 5:00 pm City Hall, North Tonawanda

**Attendees, In person @ City Hall:** Deb Gondek, Erin Robinson, Austin Tylec, Tim Pieper, Justine Stevens, Mike Tuzzo, Elliot Lear, Emily Root, Erin Hamburg (University at Buffalo Regional Institute), Josh Randall (Cornell Cooperative Extension)

**Not Present:** Jim Berry

Meeting called to order at 5:02 pm

#### AGENDA TOPICS:

##### 1) Approval of October minutes

Update 'electronics' to 'hazardous waste' in Section 3B.  
Austin motion to accept as amended; Deb 2<sup>nd</sup>. Carried.

##### 2) Discussion of CSC Status Updates

- a. Prioritize workplan based on last month's workshop/brainstorm of ideas (See detailed minutes Elliot recorded)
  - i. Net Zero building demonstration (211 Main St)- Erin will follow up to schedule a tour
  - ii. Source water protection- Emily will follow up to check on status.
  - iii. Zoning- new Committee created to start this process.
- b. Building Inventory- Jason was updating benchmarking report annually, Erin will take a look at the status of this.

##### 3) Campaign and Research Area Updates

- a. DigiPower X - General updates; Data Centers and Emissions
  - i. Finalizing noise ordinance. Public hearing TBD.
  - ii. DEC emissions permit was recently renewed.
  - iii. Clean Air Coalition is hosting a workshop on Nov 24 (6-8pm) to raise awareness about the environmental and other impacts of data centers. Free to attend (in-person or via zoom)  
Register using the link below:  
<https://actionnetwork.org/events/data-centers-and-environmental-justice-teach-in>
- b. Discussion of Public Works and the ideas Justine introduced
  - i. Recycling + Waste reduction: the more education we can do on this the better. Justine will ask Dawn Tim to join a future meeting to discuss recycling and waste management.
  - ii. Composting: Justine and Austin met with Farmers Pirates and ultimately makes more sense for people to do individual subscriptions. There are currently several bins throughout the City. We could look at the requirements for the City starting a composting program, or could do education around this. The MS4 Coalition has an annual sale where residents can purchase rain barrels and composters at a discounted rate. Cornell also runs a program that we could look at.

##### 4) Community Connections

- a. Consideration of grant money available for municipal infrastructure for EV charging stations (See NYSDEC email attachment)
- b. Solar Simplified Update- no updates.

##### 5) New Business

- a. Comprehensive Plan is being voted on in December.

- b. Buffalo Audubon Society- applying for a \$250k grant to apply to remove ash trees in Klydel wetlands.  
The City is looking at how they can help with match.
- c. Next meeting, December 12, 5:00pm

Meeting adjourned 5:55: Motion by Emily, Erin 2<sup>nd</sup>.