

October 8, 2025

Minutes

NORTH TONAWANDA CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE

Date: Wednesday, October 8, 2025, 4:30 pm City Hall, North Tonawanda

Attendees, In person @ City Hall: Deb Gondek, Erin Robinson, Austin Tylec, Tim Pieper, Justine Stevens, Mike Tuzzo, Elliot Lear, Josh McClain (University at Buffalo Regional Institute)

Not Present: Jim Berry

Meeting called to order at 4:37 pm

AGENDA TOPICS:

1) Approval of September minutes

Mike motion to accept; Austin 2nd. Carried

2) Discussion of CSC Status Updates

- a. Workshop/Brainstorm ideas for LWRP and Comprehensive Plan engagement
 - i. Municipal building renovations
 - ii. Municipal demonstration for Net Zero energy usage
 1. Points available for achieving full electric building, which can be used as an opportunity to educate residents.
 2. Points awarded are dependent on the size of the building.
 - iii. Waste reduction (all list items would need to be formalized in writing to receive points)
 1. Waste reduction campaign
 2. Organic waste for government buildings
 3. Recycling program for public places and events (recycling bins at farmers market)
 - iv. Source water protection plan + extra points for implementing plan recommendations
 - v. Zoning
 1. Affordable housing
 2. Green parking lot policies
 3. Zoning for protection of natural areas
 - vi. Planning for biking and walking infrastructure (this is currently happening on Sweeny St, which would be eligible for points).
 - vii. NT community center has received many recent upgrades that may be eligible for points.
 1. Interior lighting upgrades
 2. HVAC upgrades
 3. Water efficient fixtures
 4. Heat Pump upgrades
 - viii. Energy code enforcement training has already been completed and would just need to be documented to receive points.
 - ix. Cooling centers have already been implemented, would just need to submit documentation to receive points.
 - x. Climate Vulnerability Assessment, would just need to pull and submit documentation.
 - xi. Community Solar campaign is eligible to receive points as NT reached the third tier.

- xii. Promote programs and initiatives on social media for resident education.

3) Campaign and Research Area Updates

- a. DigiPower X Updates- extension of 2 year moratorium? Court date Sept 9.
 - i. The outside attorney is still working on code updates for the noise ordinance, city council will vote on the 21st to implement changes.
- b. Workshop/Brainstorm Campaign areas to investigate
 - i. Updates from Justine
 - 1. Will set up a meeting with Farmer Pirates to explore options for citywide service.
 - a. Will also inquire about the existing location within NT to get more info.
 - 2. Will reach out to Erie County to get NT added to the existing list for composting and rain barrels.
 - 3. NT DPW gives away free wood chips, Taskforce will look for more ways to promote this to residents.
 - 4. Justine sends out a sanitation mailer that promotes info on recycling opportunities and best practices, Taskforce will look for more ways to promote this to residents.
 - ii. Look for ways to host hazardous waste drop-off events.
 - 1. These events are often scarce and are extremely busy when they are available.
 - iii. Promote rethinkyourwaste.com on social media to residents. This is a great information source for recycling and local programs.
 - 1. Erie county also has a great website for information about environmental initiatives and local programs.
 - iv. Look to host a table during the spring farmers market to promote these programs and services to residents.
 - v. Look for ways to create and promote a seed swap/sprout swap event.
 - 1. Plant sales at the botanical gardens may also be eligible for CSC points.
 - vi. Work with the Parks department to label native trees during tree sale events to promote their use over non-native species.
 - vii. Create informational habitat signs to promote environmental education about local species.

4) Community Connections

- a. Ideas for further discussion?

Motion to change meeting time to 5:00

Motion by Austin, Deb 2nd

5) New Business?

- a. Next meeting, November 12th, 5:00.

Meeting adjourned 5:31: Motion by Austin, Deb 2nd.