

NYACK CLIMATE SMART COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 3, 2026

Attendance: Steve Cea, Harry Vetter, Andy Stewart, Marcy Denker, Glenn Sungela, Andrew Goodwillie, Paul Henjes, Abigail Abragan, Kathy Galione

Greenhouse Gas Inventory Update

The group agreed that Steve should proceed to use 2025 data for the new greenhouse gas inventory.

EV Charging Demand Response Programs

Steve presented information about two EV charging programs: Flex Charge and Smart Charge. He explained the incentives and discounts associated with each program, including a \$50 sign-up bonus and potential savings on kilowatt-hour rates. The group discussed promoting these programs and tailoring O&R's promotional materials for the local audience. Steve has contact info from EV charger users but noted that not all were Nyack residents. Andrew inquired about the flexibility of the programs, particularly regarding emergency charging and referral bonuses. Steve clarified that immediate charging was allowed and that the Smart Charge discount applied during overnight hours.

ACTIONS

Steve: Ask O&R if they have marketing materials for the two programs. Send promotional email about Smart Charge and Flex Charge programs to the list of EV charger users, and coordinate with interested team members on outreach/marketing materials.

CCA and Renewable Energy Contracts

The group discussed the decline in renewable energy participation following the end of the opt-out CCA program. Steve noted that only about 2% opted for third-party renewable energy contracts through an ESCO and suggested investigating how to support the return of the CCA program by contacting Mike at Joule, Dan at Sustainable Westchester, and Elijah from the Westchester County Executive's Office.

There was a discussion about educating residents via a presentation and or dissemination of guidance through our online newsletters. It was noted that Peggy has offered to provide coaching on this.

ACTIONS

Peggy & Steve: Reach out to Mike from Joule, Dan from Westchester Community Power, and Elijah at the Westchester County Executive Office to investigate the current landscape and feasibility of restarting CCA.

Recycling

Glenn presented a chart that showed a decline in recycling tonnage over the past decade in Nyack, and the group discussed possible explanations and the need to investigate why. Glenn also is assembling information about where to drop off various materials for recycling locally with the aim of producing an attractive, easily updated chart as well as organizing the information in a format for presentation in the Recycling section of the Village website. Marcy showed where more detailed information on sustainable waste management can be provided in the Public Works section of the site. Marcy briefly described [a short video](#) by New Yorkers for Cool Refrigerants Management that presents an overview of Kingston's refrigerant inventory and sheds light on some key sources of leaked refrigerants with high global warming potential that are relevant for Nyack

ACTIONS

Glenn: Continue investigation into the decline in recycling tonnage. Discuss with Koblins Pharmacy manager about their willingness to be publicly listed as a drop-off location for unused medications, and clarify if they want to be promoted for this service.

Glenn & Marcy: Review and update the Nyack website's recycling and public works sections to provide more detailed, localized information on drop-off locations and recycling best practices.

Glenn: Confirm with DPW if residents can drop off non-rechargeable batteries there.

Marcy: Share information about refrigerant management with interested committee members and Rockland Green.

Natural Resources Event Planning

The group discussed organizing a natural resources-focused event similar to the Climate Solutions Fair, which would attract individuals, groups, and agencies from the Nyacks and beyond for networking and showcasing projects related to protecting water, and open space, increasing biodiversity, building knowledge about what individuals can do to improve the local landscape, etc. Marcy proposed making it a larger event than the Nyack Center could accommodate. The group suggested possibly holding it outdoors. Abigail suggested involving the 4-H program and potentially collaborating with the Cornell Cooperative Extension. The group agreed to further discuss the event's format, potential partnerships, and how to communicate its purpose effectively to attract attendees.

Nyack Repair Cafe Venue Discussion

The group discussed plans for a Repair Cafe in Nyack, with Kathy proposing to explore venues other than Nyack Center due to the lack of adequate parking there. They considered the soup kitchen dining room at Simpson Memorial as a potential location, with Andy offering to provide

contact information. The group also touched on the possibility of combining the Repair Cafe with a plant sale.

ACTIONS

Kathy: Begin organizing the next Repair Cafe event in Nyack, including exploring potential venues

Meeting Time

Marcy explained that the new 6:30 meeting time on the second Tuesday doesn't work for some members, and she will send a poll to determine an alternative.