

Nyack Climate Smart Committee Meeting Notes January 13, 2026 Meeting and Follow-Up

ORGANIZATION–

[This committee organization chart](#) shows how the sustainability initiatives are organized. Andy and I keep the work of the committee and staff coordinated, Steve and I coordinate the committee work overall. A Steering Committee is organized according to four focus areas, and the leads for initiatives in these areas help define and execute projects with support from members. Of course, some members will lead projects within these focus areas as well. Steve's handling Energy, Maegan's got Transportation. Marcy is now just leading Natural Resources as Kelly and Glenn have taken on the lead for Waste Management efforts,

We will continue to have steering committee leaders take turns running the meetings and foregrounding their topics when it's their turn.

VISION FOR 2026 – New connections

We used [this document with lists of organizations](#) to prompt ideas about what members would like to focus on in the coming year. Marcy encouraged prioritizing taking time to **build new connections and strengthen existing ones in the community and beyond**, and **engaging young people** more. We'll keep that document on hand to remind ourselves to keep trying to do this.

Ian suggested that we try to find a **young person to serve on the committee**. We can send a letter to the Nyack Public Schools asking for applicants.

Natural Resources (Marcy)

Marcy has been talking to various people beyond Nyack about **ecological landscape projects** and envisioning how to build a team effort around making them happen. She shared [this doc](#) with two examples –a mini-forest somewhere in Rockland (which she and Sheean Haley from Lamont have started to plan) and an initiative related to pollinator-friendly landscapes that the Cooperative Extension, Rockland County and local schools could possibly partner with us on.

New Connections and/or Youth Engagement

Marcy asked that members let her know if they are interested in helping with these types of projects that can have a connection (or help make connections) in Nyack, even if they aren't located here. She is working with the Tree Committee to find out about Nyack School District plans for planting at the parking lot by the high school and developing a proposal for tree planting on the old high school property (southwest corner). Also has connected with the NHS Environmental Club on a project involving plant ID at the Nyack High School Memorial Garden.

Making a Rockland Landscape Fair — The group is asked to consider working this year with a variety of external groups, individuals and departments to create an event at year's end or in 2027 with the theme of our local landscape.

ENERGY (Steve)

Steve's top priorities for his own time on energy-related topics this year will be conducting a new **greenhouse gas inventory**, with Ian's assistance, and promoting the SmartCharge and FlexCharge programs.

We discussed the unfortunate loss of the Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program, and recognized the importance of helping community members get signed up for **green energy contracts** on their own, as well as continuing to promote community solar.

Kier agreed to look into examples for solar canopies and solar on roadside poles in the region by looking for communities that participate in the Climate Smart Communities Program, to see if there is relevance to Nyack.

New Connections and/or Youth Engagement

Peggy followed up on the discussion about energy contracts with the Upper Nyack Green Committee afterward and has begun outlining an outreach and education effort that can be collaborative and ongoing. The list of organizations can be a good reference for brainstorming partners for this outreach.

WASTE

Food Waste (Kelly)

Kelly has been working closely with Andy on the outreach for the food waste program and refinements to it and will continue to do that.

New Connections and/or Youth Engagement

Food waste in schools was a topic that came up at the meeting. Coordinated efforts with external groups such as Upper Nyack and Rockland Green should be planned to see what can be done locally to address food waste management, probably starting with Upper Nyack Elementary. The list of organizations can be a good reference for brainstorming partners for this outreach

Recycling (Glenn)

Glenn plans to

- Resume reporting diversion rates for the Village of Nyack. Compare with similar municipalities and make the data available to the public.
- Develop and make available materials that reinforce curbside recycling and inform residents on local options for take back items such as stretchable bags, textiles, rechargeable batteries, unused medications, and paint.
- Continue to collaborate with Rockland Green.

He would like to have comments on new content that is developed.

New Connections

- Partner with two multi-family dwellings to become best-in-class recyclers including food scraps.
- Identify and leverage best practices of other communities.

TRANSPORTATION (Maegan)

- Launch the Nyack Bike Borrow Program in Spring 2026, and collect program metrics to hear from the community on how the program was successful and how it can be improved.
- Bike-Bus promotion and potential program launch (County wide – not strictly Nyack, tbd).
- Promote the Guarantee Ride Home program offered by NYSDOT that offers \$400.00 emergency reimbursement for someone who commutes sustainably and can not take their sustainable mode home due to an emergency.
- Reevaluate Andrew's bike rack study.

- Potential community quick build- per Bike/Ped Master Plan: leverage Reconnect Rochester for guidance.
 - Bike road striping to Nyack Beach State Park, identify wayfinding opportunities
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NEW MEETING TIME First Tuesday of the month 6:30