

January 2026



Climate Smart Communities Task Force (CSCTF)

Inaugural Meeting - January 12, 2026

Dr. Robert L. Yeager Health Center
50 Sanatorium Road, Building T
Pomona, New York 10970
Phone: (845) 364-3434 Fax: (845) 364-3435
Email: sustainability@co.rockland.ny.us

Today's Agenda

→ Welcome and Introductions

→ CSC Task Force Purpose

→ CSC Program

→ County's Sustainability Projects

→ Discussion of Priorities for Task Force

→ Scheduling Future Meetings

Welcome!


Remarks from John Lyon, Chief of Staff County Executive

Icebreaker

Partner up

Introduce yourself to your partner

Present your partner to the group




1. Name



2. Affiliation -
Job/Residency



3. Climate Interest



4. Favorite thing in
Rockland

- Spot, park, food, etc

Welcome and Introductions

Community Members

Jake Berdugo
Marcy Denker
Peggy Kurtz
Claudia Depkin
Colin Schmitt
Darwin Keung

Amogh Vaz
Patrick J. Donahue
Joanne Louis-Paul
Frankie Lede
Legislator Paul Cleary

County/Ex-Officio Members

Paul Brennan
Michael D'Angelo
Kathy Galione
Karey Lynch
Brianna Rosamilia
Kevin McGuinness

Nicole Laible
Nick Longo
Marty Dolphin
Al Carnevale
Paul Pietropaolo
John Lyon
Rich Schiafo



Today's agenda



Welcome and Introductions



CSC Task Force Purpose



CSC Program



County's Sustainability Projects

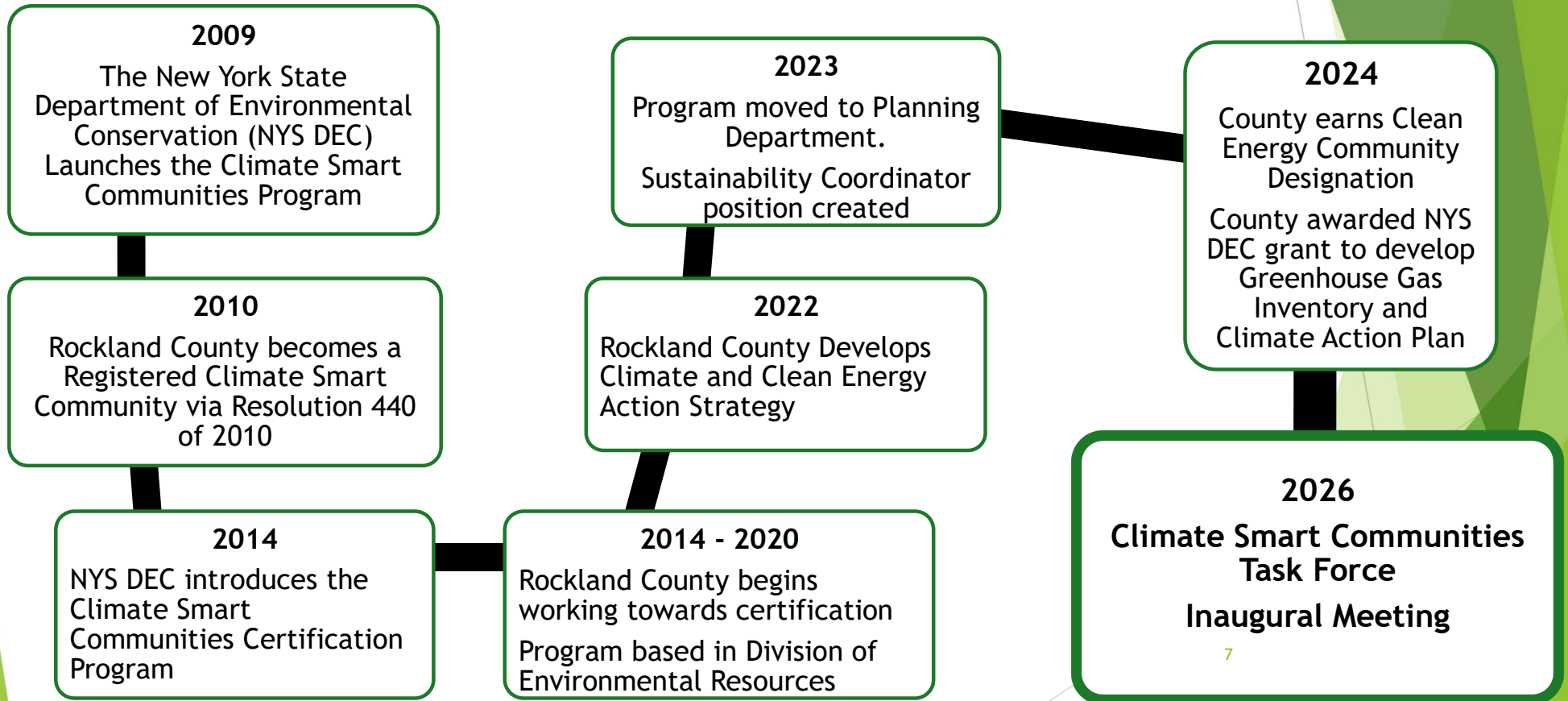


Discussion of Priorities for Task Force



Scheduling Future Meetings

Task Force Purpose: Context Sustainability Program History



Task Force Purpose: Founding Resolution

► Res 622 of 2024

RESOLVED, that the Climate Smart Communities Task Force is hereby created to promote and support climate mitigation and adaptation in the County by facilitating the completion and documentation of CSC actions and supporting efforts to achieve CSC certification; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the duties of the CSC Task Force are to advise the County Executive and County Legislature on issues concerning climate action and obtaining CSC Certification. The CSC Task Force serves as a central body of leadership that promotes and supports climate mitigation and adaptation. The CSC Task Force will be an advisory board that advises and collaborates with the County government to accomplish plans, programs, and activities that are part of the CSC Certification program, and be it further

RESOLVED, the Task Force must provide an annual report, each March 1, and interim, quarterly reports to the County Executive and County Legislature on its goals, efforts, progress, and recommendations, and be it further

- 1. Advise on Climate CSC Actions and Certification
- 2. Bridge Gaps & Collaboration of County and Community
- 3. Communicate via annual reports

Task Force Purpose (cont.)

- ▶ Through this Task Force, you will have the opportunity to collaborate with a diverse team of stakeholders to drive meaningful climate action and help position Rockland County as a leader in sustainability.
- ▶ **Role of Members (Public):** Members are responsible for proposing ideas, providing feedback, planning initiatives, and offering guidance on future actions.
- ▶ **Role of County Staff (Ex-Officio):** County staff assist in submitting necessary documentation for certification, as well as proposing, planning, and advising on future actions.
- ▶ Member roles may evolve over time as progress is made on certification, new initiatives emerge, and priorities shift.

Expectations: Member Roles & Responsibilities

Members (Public):

- ▶ Provide feedback on application status and submitted actions.
- ▶ Suggest new actions to pursue.
- ▶ Leverage their diverse backgrounds, experiences, and expertise to assess progress and contribute informed perspectives on Rockland County's sustainability efforts.
- ▶ Ensure that completed actions reflect the unique needs, values, and concerns of their communities, fostering inclusive, well-rounded, and participatory outcomes.
- ▶ Support outreach and engagement efforts to increase awareness of climate-smart initiatives and encourage community participation.
- ▶ Collaborate with local organizations, businesses, and residents to advance sustainability goals and identify opportunities for partnerships.
- ▶ Stay informed about climate policies, best practices, and emerging opportunities to help guide the Task Force's priorities.

County Staff (Ex-Officio):

- ▶ For completed actions, assist in locating and sending certification documents to the CSC coordinator for upload and documentation on the CSC portal.
- ▶ For actions that are still pending or not yet completed, provide guidance on timelines and feasibility, working closely with the CSC coordinator and CSC task force members to move these actions forward.
- ▶ Ask that you share information and keep the coordinator informed so we can organize and track our climate actions when necessary.

Task Force Purpose: Procedural and Organizational To-Dos

- ▶ Follow Robert's Rules of Order and NYS Open Meetings Law
- ▶ Develop formalized structure
 - ▶ Establish draft by-laws
 - ▶ Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary, committees etc.
 - ▶ Agree on roles and responsibilities
- ▶ Volunteer group to help develop organizational materials
- ▶ Use County Emails to communicate
 - ▶ Review and sign EO 2025-04 re: social media use and representing the County
 - ▶ Complete any mandatory annual trainings from the County (notifications sent to County email)

Today's agenda



Welcome and Introductions



CSC Task Force Purpose



CSC Program



County's Sustainability Projects



Discussion of Priorities for Task Force

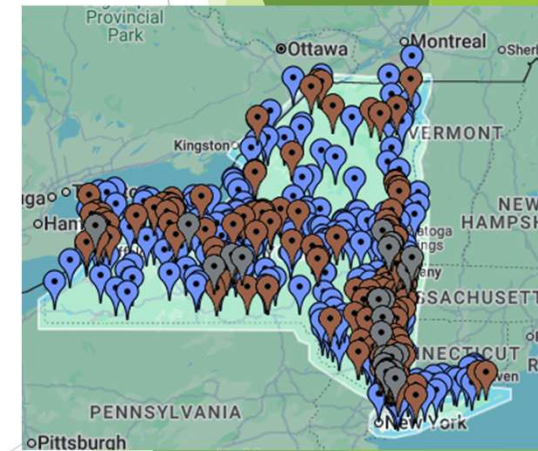


Scheduling Future Meetings

Climate Smart Communities Program

- ▶ Interagency NYS program administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC).
- ▶ Purpose: Help communities reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change by implementing selected actions from a list of **100+ certification actions**.
- ▶ Actions are organized into **12 categories**, called **Pledge Elements (PE)**

- ▶ Build a CSC - Forming teams and setting goals (PE1 & PE2)
- ▶ Energy use (PE3 & PE4)
- ▶ Solid waste management (PE5)
- ▶ Land-use policies (PE6)
- ▶ Enhancing community resilience (PE7)
- ▶ Supporting a green economy (PE8)
- ▶ Public engagement and commitment to an evolving process (PE9 & PE10)



- ▶ **Completing Actions → Points → Certification at Bronze and Silver levels**

CSC Actions - Overview

Pledge Elements

- ↑ BACK TO TOP
- 1. Build a climate-smart community. ▾
- 2. Inventory emissions, set goals, and plan for climate action. ▾
- 3. Decrease energy use. ▾
- 4. Shift to clean, renewable energy. ▾
- 5. Use climate-smart materials management. ▾
- 6. Implement climate-smart land use. ▾
- 7. Enhance community resilience to climate change. ▾
- 8. Support a green innovation economy. ▾
- 9. Inform and inspire the public. ▾
- 10. Engage in an evolving process of climate action. ▾
- 11. Innovation ▾
- 12. Performance ▾

Actions

● 9. Inform and inspire the public. ^

PE9 Action: Climate Change Education & Engagement

4 Points UNPLANNED ▾

Bronze Priority Silver Priority

* THIS ACTION HAS VARIABLE POINTS: 4, 8

PE9 Action: Energy Reduction Campaign

3 Points UNPLANNED ▾

PE9 Action: Climate-related Public Events

3 Points UNPLANNED ▾

Guidance

PE5 Action: Community Repair

4 Points

A. Why is this action important?

B. How to implement this action

C. Time frame, project costs, and resource needs

D. Which local governments implement this action? Which departments within the local government are most likely to have responsibility for this?

E. How to obtain points for this action

F. What to submit

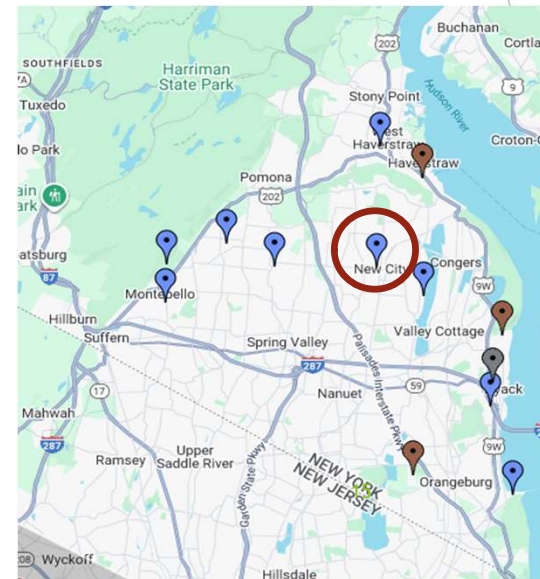
G. Links to additional resources or best practices

Does _____ get us points? → Search the CSC site or ask Darwin
<https://climatesmart.ny.gov/actions-certification/actions>
<https://climatesmart.ny.gov/actions-certification/participating-communities>

Certification: Starting with Bronze

- ▶ **Completing Actions → Application Points → Certification at Bronze and Silver levels**
- ▶ **Application Cycle (2026-2027)** May 22, 2026, Jan. 8, 2027, May 21, 2027
- ▶ Application is reviewed and points for each CSC Action are approved based on supporting materials.

BRONZE	
Description	The initial level of certification - for local governments that have acted their commitment to climate action and taken steps to implement climate-smart policies and projects.
Point Requirement	120 points
Minimum Pledge Elements	At least 1 action completed under 4 different PEs
Mandatory Actions	PE1 Action: CSC Task Force & PE1 Action: CSC Coordinator
Minimum Priority Actions	3 priority actions



Climate Smart Communities Program Update



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

- ▶ To become certified, the County must accumulate enough points and complete **priority** and **mandatory** actions.
- ▶ The two **mandatory actions** for both Bronze and Silver certification are:
 - ▶ Appointing a **Climate Smart Communities Coordinator** (complete)
 - ▶ Creating a **Climate Smart Communities Task Force** (complete)
- ▶ Prepare our application by compiling documentation for previously completed actions.
- ▶ We are also exploring additional actions that Rockland County can undertake in both the short and long term.

Road to Bronze (120 points + buffer) Prospective Actions for Application

- ▶ PE1 CSC Task Force (mandatory) (20 points)
- ▶ PE1 CSC Coordinator (mandatory) (10 points)
- ▶ PE1 National Regional Climate Program (3 points)
- ▶ PE2 Government Operations GHG Inventory (priority) (16 points)
- ▶ PE2 Government Operations Climate Action Plan (12-16 points)
- ▶ PE4 Electric Landscaping Equipment (3 points)
- ▶ PE4 Renewable Energy Feasibility Studies (3-5 points)
- ▶ PE4 Action: Thermal Energy Networks (8 - 18 points)
- ▶ PE5 Community Repair - Rockland County Repair Café- Youth Bureau (4 points)
- ▶ PE6 Comprehensive Plan with Sustainability Elements (6 points)
- ▶ PE6 Natural Resources Inventory (8-10 points)
- ▶ PE7 Climate Hazard Mitigation Plan (4 points)
- ▶ PE7 Climate Adaptation Plan (3-15 points)
- ▶ PE9 Climate Change Education and Engagement (priority) - RPLUS - (8 points)
- ▶ PE9 Social Media (3 points)

Certification Criteria		
	🏆	🏆
Mandatory	2	2
Priority	3	6
Points	120	300
Pledge Elements	4	7

Today's agenda



Welcome and Introductions



CSC Task Force Purpose



CSC Program



County's Sustainability Projects



Discussion of Priorities for Task Force



Scheduling Future Meetings

2026 Sustainability Projects/Programs

- ▶ GHG Emissions Inventory and Climate Action Plan
- ▶ Natural Resources Inventory
- ▶ Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Plan (CCARP)
- ▶ Comprehensive Plan
- ▶ Clean Energy Communities
- ▶ EV Infrastructure Feasibility Study
- ▶ Renewable Energy Feasibility Study
- ▶ Water Task Force

Today's agenda



Welcome and Introductions



CSC Task Force Purpose



CSC Program



County's Sustainability Projects



Discussion of Priorities for Task Force



Scheduling Future Meetings

Interest and Priorities for Task Force

- ▶ Draft a mission statement
 - ▶ Volunteers for a drafting working group
- ▶ Review CSC Action Matrix/Website
 - ▶ <https://climatesmart.ny.gov/actions-certification/actions>
 - ▶ Send out survey - Interest in climate topics/CSC Actions

Action Name	Points	Type	Status
PE1: Build a climate-smart community.			
PE1 Action: CSC Task Force	20	Mandatory	20
PE1 Action: CSC Coordinator	10	Mandatory	10
PE1 Action: National/Regional Climate Program	3		3
PE1 Action: Partnerships with Other Entities	3		3
PE2: Inventory emissions, set goals, and plan for climate action.			
PE2 Action: Government Operations GHG Inventory	16	Priority, CSC Grants	16
PE2 Action: Community GHG Inventory	16	Priority, CSC Grants	
PE2 Action: Government Operations Climate Action Plan	12 to 16	Priority, CSC Grants	16
PE2 Action: Community Climate Action Plan	16	Priority, CSC Grants	
PE3: Decrease energy use.			

Climate Smart Communities Task Force Drafting Mission Statement

- ▶ The Rockland County Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Task Force is a leadership body dedicated to advancing local sustainability efforts, climate mitigation, and adaptation strategies. Aligned with New York State's CSC Certification program, the task force will promote sustainability initiatives, including but not limited to:
 - ▶ Renewable energy adoption, fleet electrification, greenhouse gas emissions reduction, conservation and preservation of natural areas, enhancing community resilience
- ▶ As an advisory body, the task force will collaborate with local government officials, County staff, and stakeholders to implement climate-smart initiatives.

Today's agenda



Welcome and Introductions



CSC Task Force Purpose



CSC Program



County's Sustainability Projects



Discussion of Priorities for Task Force



Scheduling Future Meetings

Meetings Monthly

Second __day of the month?

Group of people to review mission statement

Review CSC Actions - Matrix/Webpage

Thank You!

Contact:

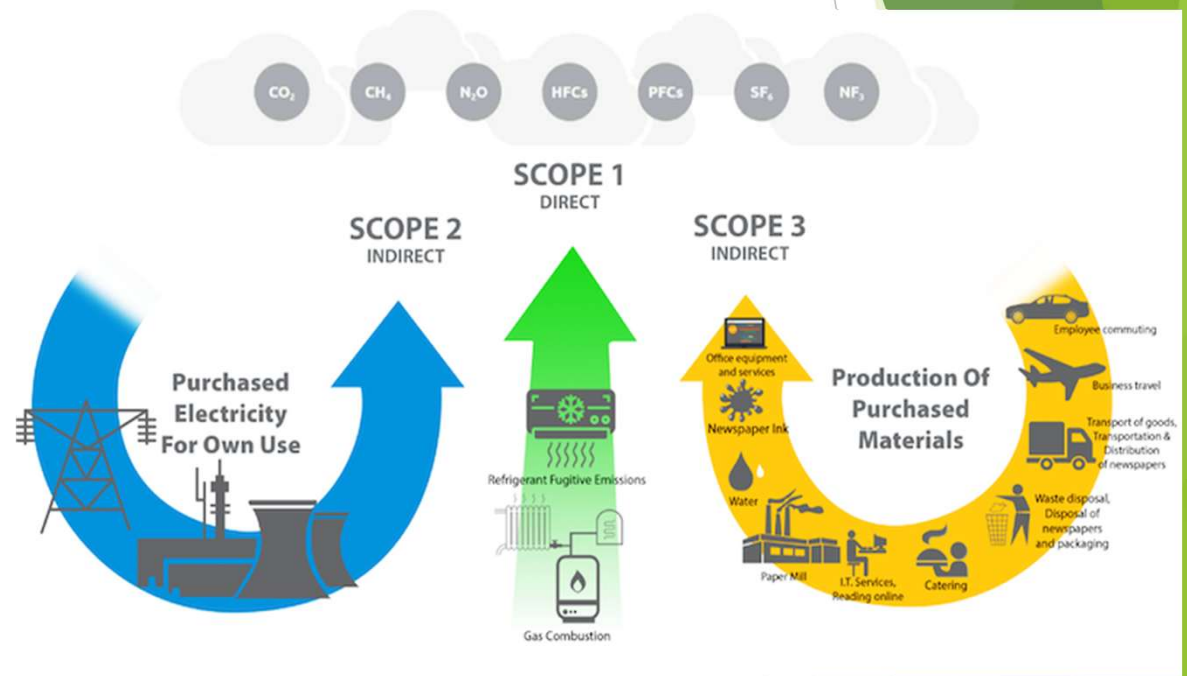
keungd@co.rockland.ny.us

sustainability@co.rockland.ny.us

Appendix

Government Operations Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory and Climate Action Plan (CAP)

- ▶ An important ongoing action that the County is working on is the development of a **Government Operations Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Climate Action Plan (CAP)**.
- ▶ In 2023, the County applied for and was awarded a **\$75,000 grant** from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Office of Climate Change to conduct this work.
- ▶ The funding will be used to measure and **inventory greenhouse gas emissions** generated by County government operations
- ▶ Additionally, we will develop a **Climate Action Plan** that sets goals for reducing GHG emissions and outlines strategies for achieving those targets.



Clean Energy Communities Progress



- ▶ **Rockland County has completed 7 Clean Energy Communities High Impact Actions:**
 - ▶ County Hosted Trainings- Model Battery Energy Storage Systems Law
 - ▶ County Hosted Trainings- Model Solar Energy Law
 - ▶ County Hosted Trainings- Clean Energy and Your Comprehensive Plan
 - ▶ Energy Code Enforcement Training
 - ▶ PACE Financing (Authorization)
 - ▶ Pace Financing (Project)
 - ▶ Electric Landscaping Equipment
- ▶ Rockland County applied for and was awarded two grants (\$5,000 and \$15,000) through the CEC program.



1,900

POINTS EARNED

Count	Points
1	300
3	900
2	500
1	200
7	1,900



Rockland County

TASK FORCE ON WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT



MISSION

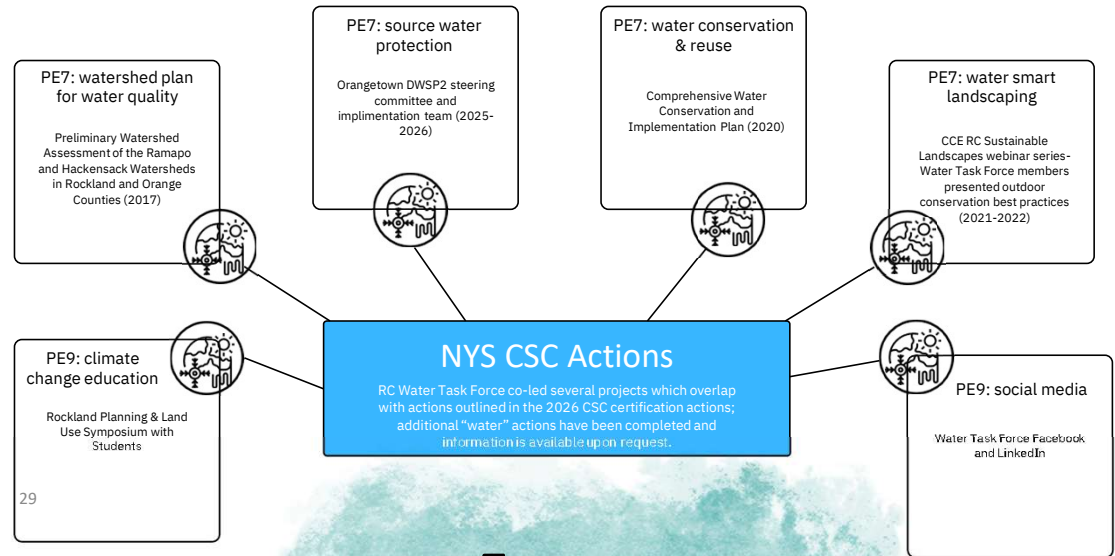
The Rockland County Task Force on Water Resources Management (the “Task Force”) strives to unite and empower a comprehensive network of stakeholders to collaborate in the development and implementation of a sustainable long-term water supply plan for Rockland County.

VISION

We envision a healthy and sustainable water supply for current and future Rocklanders, for our communities, visitors, businesses, and ecosystems to thrive. The goal is for residents and visitors to understand where Rockland’s drinking water comes from, our systems for water delivery, and how to conserve and protect our supply. Additionally, we strive for community leaders, business owners and professionals to understand the significance of Rockland’s watersheds and impacts of their decisions. The Task Force serves as a resource network to support source water protection, conservation, watershed health, and equitable access to drinking water.

OTHER SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS

- Comprehensive Plan outreach and content support
- Town, village and school collaborations on climate resiliency efforts (Orangetown DWSP2, Nyack Resiliency Team, RPLUS, FRN, and more)
- Education & Outreach
 - Lunch & Learn webinar series
 - Water conservation lessons and events
 - Tabling at community events, including street fairs, farmers market, YouthFest, Earth Day, and more
 - Social media
 - Developing trainings to educate municipal town, planning, and zoning boards on the importance of water conservation when approving developments and zoning variances
 - Drought alert messaging



Future Actions

The Water Task Force collaborates with its 19 members and several external stakeholders to address various work program priorities. With Rockland County Planning formally represented on the Water Task Force and the Water Task Force serving ex officio on the CSC Task Force, collaboration is embedded in the structure of both groups.

Priorities for the Water Task Force will be outlined and approved in the 2026 Annual Plan of Work. Pending that approval, we included potential future CSC actions the Water Task Force may take lead on and/or collaborate on:

- PE3: water efficient fixtures
- PE7: riparian buffers
- green infrastructure
- watershed based flood plan

Declaration of a Climate Smart Community Res No. 440 of 2010

Introduced by:

Hon. Connie L. Coker, Sponsor
Hon. Harriet D. Cornell, Co-Sponsor
Hon. Alden H. Wolfe, Co-Sponsor
Hon. Jacques O. D'I Michel, Co-Sponsor
Hon. Douglas J. Jobson, Co-Sponsor
Hon. Philip Soskin, Co-Sponsor

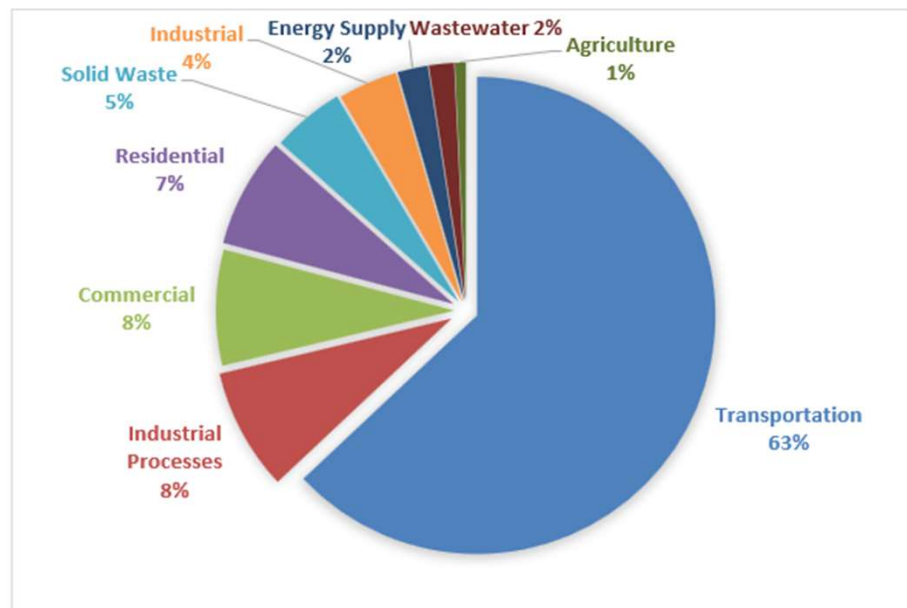
Referral No. 9301
August 3, 2010

**RESOLUTION NO. 440 OF 2010
DECLARING THE COUNTY OF ROCKLAND TO BE A NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION "CLIMATE SMART
COMMUNITY" TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGES AND TO DEVELOP AND
IMPLEMENT SUSTAINABLE ENERGY PLANS AND ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

COKER/WOLFE: UNAN.

Rockland County Community GHG Emissions by Sector (2021)

GHG EMISSION SECTORS	MTCO ₂ e*
Transportation	1,289,413
Industrial Processes	169,548
Commercial	160,360
Residential	152,657
Solid Waste	100,265
Industrial	82,485
Energy Supply	42,048
Wastewater	34,694
Agriculture	15,222
Total Emissions	2,046,692
Population	338,329
Per Capita Emissions	6



*Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent

Source: 2021 Mid-Hudson Regional greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory.