

## **Kirkland/Clinton Climate Smart Community Task Force**

February 27, 2025

6:30 p.m.

Present: Alma Lowry, Coordinator; Sally Carman, Secretary; Alan Cole, Webmaster; Aaron Strong; Mona Perrotti; Kathy Collett; Liseli Haines; Shirley Knop; Austin Cipriano, guest.

The January minutes were approved.

### **Heat pump survey**

Austin reported on the preliminary analysis of his survey of heat pump use in the Village of Clinton. He sent 390 surveys of which 47 were returned undeliverable. There was a total of 94 responses for an incredible 27% response rate. All responders own their own homes with an average of 2308 square feet. Of responders, 83% do not have heat pumps.

The average age of responders was 67.73 years, 44% were female and 46% male. A total of 60.2% had either masters or doctoral degrees and 42% earned over \$130,000 in income.

Those concerned about the climate numbered 62.4% who were very concerned, with only 2.7% not concerned. Regarding heat pumps: 31% do not want one, 3 % do want one, 39% are unsure, and 61% have not heard about the incentives offered. The reasons offered for wanting to install a heat pump were: energy efficiency, replacing an old system, and financial savings.

The barriers to heat pump installation are: high cost, uncertainty about performance in our cold climate, incompatibility with current systems, lack of information and complex installation.

Of those who have heat pumps, 63% have air source and 38% used incentives. A total of 50% found the program to be unclear. There needs to be further analysis of the barriers to the use of heat pumps. Also a comparison of responders to census data is needed.

There are 47% of responders interested in another community event.

A final presentation of the survey findings will take place in May. Alan will file the report with the State.

### **Cooling centers**

Hopefully the Disaster Committee of the Kirkland Town Library is working on this

issue. **Repair café**

The meeting room of St. James Episcopal Church is available for a Repair Café. A small group of volunteer “experts” in various types of repair are being solicited. The areas include: electronics, sewing, woodworking, small appliance repair. The goal is to have two events. The first is tentatively scheduled for June 14 from 10 am - 1 p.m. We will ask for preregistration but walk-ins will be allowed. The Village Mayor is excited about this idea. There might be a possible grant for consumables. The Town will also be contacted (by phone is best).

### **Culvert work**

Samantha, our NYSERDA contact, will find out more about the culvert work completed on Norton Avenue.

### **Bluesky account**

Alan set up an account on Bluesky. He will include meeting notices, agendas and the heat pump report. We can add links to video, Facebook and posts. This is an alternative to the X streaming service. Alan is the Admin.

The address is:

[@climate-smart-kc.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/@climate-smart-kc.bsky.social)

**Action item:** Alan will set up a co-admin. for Bluesky

### **Climate action plan**

Aaron reported that the Greenhouse Gas Inventory has been completed for both the Village and the Town, assessing CO2 emissions. The next step is ways to reduce the emissions.

Also, we need an inventory of all emissions of the entire Village. This would be based on the number of homes, driving frequency, electrical usage. Colgate has worked on this in the Village of Hamilton using a statistical sampling. National Grid has aggregate, but not specific information. Hamilton College students can do the leg work, but a group is needed to decide on a way to proceed.

The first step is to gather information, than decide what to do with that information. A draft plan could be drafted, then presented to the public for input. It would be easier to work with the Village first.

A final target would be to commit to climate neutrality by a certain date. Included would be electricity usage, heating, vehicles, carbon offsets.

### **Announcements**

The Clinton Elementary School has a Green Team with 25 students in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

There will be an ACORN Climate Resilience Listening Session at MVCC on February 28 from 4 - 6:30 p.m.

Mona asked if there are signs about our community achieving Bronze Level?

**Action Item:** Mona will ask the Mayor about signs sent by the State Our next meeting will take place on Zoom on Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

Sally Carman  
Secretary