

MEETING AGENDA

Town of Aurora Climate Smart Community Task Force

MEETING DETAILS

Town Board Trustee Liason: Ben Garvey

Date: 05/20/2026

Time: 6:00pm

Location: Town of Aurora Municipal Building, 575 Oakwood Ave. East Aurora, NY

ATTENDANCE

Present: Sharon Bachman, Erie County Cornell Cooperative Extension, Claudia Newton- ACES Representative & Town of Aurora resident; Susan Russell- ACES Representative & Village of East Aurora Zoning Board; Steve Bjella- Village resident; Annika Safford - Village resident & graduate of University of VT, Sustainability & Marketing Program

Present via Zoom: N/A

Absent: Ben Garvey, Town of Aurora Councilmember, Lori Borowiak- Village resident

Visitors: N/A

Old Business:

I) Scoot Around June Update: Steve- Yard signs will be available with QR code; promotion will be in the EA Advertiser & Bee next week; event will be more low key than previous years- no prizes from businesses, etc.; Villages Pedestrian Bike Board will take over leadership of this project next year but the goal is to still have the event collaborate with the Village/Town CSC Task Force(s). A press release for the EA Advertiser and Bee is being prepared; E-mail information being sent to previous "Scoot" participants as well as Bike Bus participants.

II) Dare to Repair Cafe Update: Sue- Event Date: August 27th, 5-8pm. (1) The Rotary will be setting up their bike donation truck in the Parking lot in conjunction with the Repair Cafe. bikes in any condition, and bike equipment/ accessories are welcome. The bikes are repaired by the Rotary and donated to Go Bike Buffalo. (2) Sue is asking for set up and take down volunteers on the day of the event: Set up begins at 3pm. Clean-up 8-9pm. Sue will also send request to ACES for help. (Steve and Sharon confirm they will be available to help. Claudia will be out of town.

III) Aurora Solar Savings Update: Sue- Aggregate totals from Power Market and Press Release attached below. Press Release awaiting permission from Town due to protocol concerns regarding committees sending press releases that represent the Town. Ben will inquire about status at the Town Work Session. (Same press release protocol concerns will impact Scoot Around June.)

IV) Task Force Vacancy: Sue- Town Councilmember Ray Wrazen created a committee posting for the vacancy and it was in the EA Advertiser and also ACES newsletter. See attached below. Ben will inquire as to status.

V) Natural Resource Inventory: (1) Ben has had preliminary discussions with Josh and has been in coordination with Rennie from the Open Space Committee. He reports that Rennie has done fantastic work so far on the NRI. We are in the process of formulating an action plan for continuing to build on

what has already been created. More information will be forthcoming. (2) As discussed at May 2026 meeting, Rennie from the Town's Open Space Committee would very much like to have a representative from the CSC Task Force to help guide them on the CSC Requirements. Asking for a volunteer. Sharon Bachman and Claudia Newton would like to volunteer for this project. Sue will forward their names and contact information to Ben.

VI) General Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee - As discussed at the Feb 2026 meeting, former Town Councilmember Luke Wochensky, asked for a volunteer to work on the GCP Implementation Committee to ensure Climate Smart elements as identified in the GCP are carried through. Ben echoes Ray's request to have representation from the CSC Task Force. Once we start building out this committee he will work with the Board to ensure measures are put in place to carry out the Climate Smart elements. Volunteer(s) requested.

New Business

*** Additions to Agenda:**

- Ben has invited Josh and Erin from UBRI to our meeting in June to help us lay out and discuss pathways for achieving silver star status. He's had preliminary discussions with Josh and will be prepared to lay out a menu of pathways for moving forward.
- Ben asked about collaboration with the village as well. There will be some items to consider but it is possible and we are not alone in an endeavour to merge town with village.
- Ben has also set up the infrastructure for storing documentation through Google Drive.

I) General Comprehensive Plan: Sue- Ben has reviewed the climate actions and taken note of the PE6: General Comprehensive Plan. He has reviewed the requirements and would like to be able to get this action completed relatively quickly.

He's compiled the supporting documentation required for submission of this action (the comprehensive plan itself, the board minutes where it was passed etc). **One additional requirement** is the creation of a memorandum that simply identifies where the aspects of the comprehensive plan align with CSC objectives, and provide a short description of the same. There are a series of required criteria, and each additional criteria identified in the plan can earn extra points (possible of 21 in total).

Attached is a copy of the requirements for this action, as well as an outline for the memorandum with the 13 criteria needed for identification. **Requested task for committee members:** We are tasked with identifying where the aspects of the comprehensive plan aligns with CSC objectives, and provide a short description of what's in the plan. Each person take 2 or 3 criteria out of the 13 and identify where they intersect with the comprehensive plan by: (1) identifying the page numbers; and (2) writing a short summary of the aspects of how the criteria is met. To be submitted asap but no later than the meeting on June 17th. **The following folks have volunteered to complete the requested information on the 13 items:** Steve #1-3; Annika #4-6; Sharon #7-8, Claudia #9-10, Michele #11-12, Sue #13. We will upload the completed information to Ben Garvey via a template Ben is setting up on Google Docs. **Additional note: #13 has been completed by Ben, so Sue can take other's points, particularly from volunteers who offered to do more than 2.**

II) Municipal Compost: Sue- Town Councilmember Ray Wrazen has organized a meeting to discuss a possible Town/Village municipal compost initiative. June 4th, 6-7pm Municipal Building. Please let Sue know if you would like to attend. Sue will also contact ACES. Sharon and Annika expressed interest in attending.

III) Public Outreach Flyer: Sue- Ben has created a public outreach flyer to spread awareness of our CSC Committee. See attached. Poster was met with enthusiastic approval by all present.

IV) Circle at the 400: Sue- There is interest in improving the garden at this location. Ben has had discussion with Masterson's Garden Center on this project. Masterson's was not aware of our Task Force and are very interested in collaborative efforts.. Ben would like to act on this fairly quickly. It would require a morning of digging and planting and would be a great public relations project. He is also working with the Boy Scouts, building bee nesting boxes that could be used on site. Sharon Bachman has a strong interest in helping with this project and said there could be coordination with the EC Cooperative Extension in terms of possible funding and volunteer labor support from: 4H Club and also Gow School Students.

V) Social Media Suggestions: Sue- Ben suggests that in addition to posting about our own activities, we engage collaboration with other groups with aligned purposes to cross promote their events. Examples: EA Garden Club, ACES, Friends of Sinking Ponds, Friends of Knox, Green Business initiatives, Rotary, Bike Bus, Home Beneath Our Feet, WNY Land Conservancy among other suggestions. This will offer the opportunity for more frequent posting and hopefully cross-promotion/ positive public relations. Annika (currently in charge of social media) agreed with the concept and will to initiate contact with the suggested organizations to begin the process.

V. ADJOURNMENT - Meeting adjourned at 7:03pm. **Next Meeting:** 6/17/2026 6pm-7pm.

Attachments:

Solar Saving Press Release

Committee Member Vacancy Posting

GCP 13 point criteria/Guidelines (2)

Promotional Task Force Poster

A memorandum explaining how the plan reflects the sustainability elements, including the specific page numbers where the relevant information can be found (The memorandum should provide details on all of the required sustainability elements and any elements for which points are being requested. It should also note the page number(s) in the plan where the required public outreach description can be found.)

- 1) Support alternative modes of transportation (including strategies for bicycles, pedestrians, public transit, and electric vehicles) (REQUIRED)
- 2) Promote smart growth principles in land-use policies (REQUIRED)
- 3) Conserve natural areas (including strategies to designate open space and protect it from development)(REQUIRED)
- 4) Promote a healthy and safe community(REQUIRED)
- 5) Foster equity (including strategies for housing, schools, transportation, recreation, food, and environmental exposures)(REQUIRED)
- 6) Foster green economic development
- 7) Decrease dependence on fossil fuels and support energy efficiency and renewable energy Production
- 8) Foster the efficient use of natural resources (e.g., water conservation)
- 9) Promote the development of (or the conservation of) local food systems
- 10) Minimize solid waste (including strategies to promote recycling and composting or anaerobic digestion of organic materials)
- 11)Protect drinking water sources from pollution
- 12) Promote adaptation to climate change (including strategies related to land use and public education and engagement)
- 13) Public outreach description

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F. What to submit

Submit the following documentation to apply for points for this action:

- A copy of the approved comprehensive plan with sustainability elements, adopted within ten years prior to the application date
- A copy of the meeting minutes where the plan was formally approved by the local governing body, or where the amendments were approved
- A memorandum explaining how the plan reflects the sustainability elements, including the specific page numbers where the relevant information can be found (The memorandum should provide details on all of the required sustainability elements and any elements for which points are being requested. It should also note the page number(s) in the plan where the required public outreach description can be found.)

Town of Aurora

Climate Smart Community Task Force



**Scan to See How You
Can Get Involved**

The Town of Aurora is committed to reducing the impacts of climate change through forward-thinking policies that will create a cleaner and healthier future for all.

***Clean
Green
Aurora***

Learn about the specific climate challenges in the Town of Aurora and our strategies to respond, adapt, and mitigate.

