

VOK CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE REPORT TO THE BOARD

December 13, 2023- Meeting held on December 12, 2023

- Tara Donadio from CDRPC reported that NYSERDA is revamping the Clean Energy Communities program next year. The bad news is that it's dropped plug-in hybrids from the EV campaign. The good news is that the number of available awards and the amounts will be increased. We will be modifying our EV campaign materials to reflect the changes.
- Trustee Murphy reported on the \$5,000 award received in our Clean Heating and Cooling Campaign. He noted that potentially using the funds for the interior lighting conversion at the firehouse may not be necessary. Other possible uses for the funds were discussed including putting it toward a reserve fund to possibly solarize the pump house.
- A second community CARP survey has been prepared and distributed by Cornell Cooperative Extension. CCE would like to get as many residents to participate as possible by December 24. We have posted a link on Next Door and the Columbia Paper has agreed to publish a press release about it. I urge the Board to take part in it and share it with your neighbors.
- Ann Birckmayer and Sandra Telosa joined with a Stuyvesant Climate Smart member, Kathy Schneider to table during Candlelight Night at the Library. They repaired and collected for recycling holiday string lights along with providing information on the latest CARP survey and our ongoing Heating and Cooling Campaign.
- I reported on my meeting with the County's Solid Waste commissioner Jolene Race and her successor Wendy Madsen along with representatives from CSC task forces from Chatham, Ghent, Valatie, Austerlitz Philmont and New Lebanon. Jolene and Wendy shared information regarding the progress of the County's food scrap collection pilot program. They estimated that since April an average of 700 pounds are collected each week, and that food scrap receptacles are now available in all eight transfer stations in the County. They did not believe that the program will be extended beyond the transfer stations at this point due to limited resources, but they are considering placing a second digester/composter in the Chatham transfer station when additional grant opportunities from the DEC become available. Jolene also offered to assist municipalities with grants we may be considering. The CSC group offered to help promote the program.

Our next meeting is scheduled for February 13 at 7PM.