

## MINUTES

### PHILMONT CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE

[Jan 2022](#)

February 10, 2022

- Attendees: John and Tomoko Gurbo, John Vitell, Susan Michie, Tom Paino, Elizabeth Angelo, Arthur King
- Task Force Coordinator Report:
  - Actions Philmont takes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions earns the village points in both the Climate Smart and Clean Energy Community Programs (the points count twice)
  - \$5k was received from NYSERDA for adopting NYStretch Code. Here's what we want to do with it:
    - We want to bring in the entire population of Philmont—renters and owners. In the past tenants have not been incentivized to reduce emissions even though they're the ones paying the utility bills. The LIGHT BULB EXCHANGE will target renters and owners. The Program: Residents bring in their old incandescent and fluorescent light bulbs, incandescent, prove Philmont residency (provide a utility bill), and we'll exchange their old bulbs for LED bulbs at no cost. Tom has approached a company that is interested in providing LED light bulbs to Philmont at cost. We'll need to think about how to get the word out, how to discard the old bulbs, where to do the exchange. (Note: compact fluorescent bulbs don't have to go to a toxic dump site but others fluorescents do.)
  - Get the information out through a series of programs explaining (1) how to go about making the changes, (2) the incentives for doing this (For example, through NYSERDA you can use 26% of the cost of changing out your heating system as a tax credit. And there's a program that will pay up to 80% of the cost if you meet the income restrictions.)
  - Other programs. The lightbulb exchange is only the very beginning of programs we want to implement. Later we'll want to consider programs for landlords and businesses such as programs to change out water and heating systems as well as these programs:
    - Community composting. States want to see compost taken out of the garbage to reduce the production of Methane Gas. (Methane gas emissions are 30 times worse than carbon emissions. It doesn't last as long as carbon (only a decade or two vs. 100 years for carbon) but it's much worse. Lots of Methane is being released in the arctic.) Could a free garbage sticker be incentive to residents for bringing their compost to a community composting site?
    - Recycling could be implemented in all municipal buildings (library, village office, dpw, etc.)
  - NYS Climate Plan/Act. [www.climate.ny.gov](http://www.climate.ny.gov). This site explains how NYS will get to Net Zero. The public comment period is open until May 1. NYS has moved up its date for getting to Net Zero.

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- The Climate Plan/Act says that no NYS entity's work can be in conflict with bringing down carbon emissions. Examples of regulations that will need to change: (1) the time frame for utilities to respond to requests from municipalities for new service; (2) Energy codes currently exempt all historical homes and homes within a historic district from complying with energy codes.
- Tom's meeting on Feb 18, 2022, with Marilyn Caplan, a Preservation Architecture out of Albany who is an expert on preservation + sustainability. He will report back next month.
- Task Force Member Activities:
  - Debra will get information from Dave Siter about where Philmont recycling goes and post that to the website.
  - Debra will send around a Doodle regarding the best day/time for the monthly meetings.
  - Elizabeth will help create posters and said the Philmont Co-op would be a good site for the light bulb exchanges because it is open 7 days a week and is going to be doing presentations, such as one for EBT that would dovetail well with the light bulb exchange program. This is possible as long as there's a clear process for disposing of the old light bulbs.
  - handout and flyers for dollar store, PO, Hawthorne Valley, family dollar, co-op, library. Question: If we put the logo of any participating partners on the flyer (e.g., light bulb supplier), will we need them to sign off on the flyer.
  - Everyone will submit a draft mission statement.