

AGENDA/MINUTES

PHILMONT CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE

Wednesday, June 8, 2022, 5:00pm

Attendees: Tom Paino, Debra Gitterman,

1. Greetings and Introductions
2. Presentation by Haley Balconoff, Sustainability Planner w/Capitol District Regional Planning Commission to include discussion on both Clean Energy and Climate Smart Communities' programs as they relate to Philmont circumstances. Q&A to follow
 - a. Philmont is at 2200 points, close to the 3,000 points that would qualify us for a \$10k grant that we can use toward clean energy activities.
 - b. All credits for CEC also count for Climate Smart Communities. Some Climate Smart actions will get us CEC points (e.g., Bronze Climate Smart certification will get us 600 CEC points.)
 - c. Haley will provide us with a Planning Tool: A spreadsheet to gauge what the village has done and what actions we hope to pursue. (Haley will send the spreadsheet by email.) and a Google Drive.
 - d. Resources/Documents
 - i. CROSSWALK DOC (shows how CEC and Climate smart programs interact). [https://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/109181.html#CSCimate Smart overlap](https://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/109181.html#CSCimate%20Smart%20overlap)
https://climatesmart.ny.gov/fileadmin/csc/documents/CEC_CSC_Crosswalk/CEC-CSC-Crosswalk-Dec2021.pdf
 - ii. CHECK PHILMONT'S SCORECARD HERE:
<https://www.nyserra.ny.gov/All-Programs/Clean-Energy-Communities/Tracking-Progress/Scorecard>
 - e. Grants \$5k or less are paid by check and we submit a paragraph saying we intend to use this for composting, for example...i.e., sustainability projects.
 - f. \$10k grants or larger must meet pre-approved project types; they can be custom projects but it takes longer.
 - g. CEC grants require no-matching funds
 - h. Climate Smart grants typically require a 50-50 match (the match can be done through municipal employee hours)
 - i. Grant Writers: PON 4000 (program opportunity notice)... a clean energy internship program. NYSERDA will pay 90% as long as you call it a sustainability coordinator so it's clear to NYSERDA that the position will be used for clean energy and sustainability programs. GO HERE TO HIRE A SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR:
https://portal.nyserra.ny.gov/CORE_Solicitation_Detail_Page?SolicitationId=a0rt00000MdhViAAJ
 - j. ACCESS Climate Smart Community Grant Info:
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/109181.html#CSC>
 - k. \$5k grants from CEC can be used to pay grant writers.

AGENDA/MINUTES

PHILMONT CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE

- l. To get points for the upgrade to the water treatment facility, we need to show a 10% reduction in buildings over 1000 sq ft that the municipality owns.
- m. **Haley will send a link to info about getting assistance for grant writing**
- n. Climate Smart has an Innovative Ideas grant; and CEC provides money for original projects.
- o. ADDITIONAL NOTES FROM HALEY

Philmont Google Drive

I've created a [Philmont Google Drive folder](#), which includes the [Climate Smart Communities Action Checklist](#). I started filling out the checklist with CEC action items the Village has completed. I'd be happy to walk you through this spreadsheet to assess which additional actions the Village can earn points for, if you'd like.

Clean Energy Communities

- As I mentioned yesterday, the Village currently has [2,200 points](#) in the CEC program and is 800 points away from a points-based grant of \$10,000.
- Below are additional actions the Village has completed but still needs to submit to NYSERDA for action approval (perhaps one person from the group can work with me to submit for these?):
 - LED Streetlights (700 points for Cobra Head, 200 points for Decorative streetlights)
 - EV Charging Stations (200 points)
- While the \$5,000 grants can be used for sustainability-related projects, NYSERDA requires grants above that amount be used for clean energy projects with a clear reduction in GHG emissions. I recommend that the group begin thinking about how to use the \$10,000 in preparation for this grant award. Pre-approved project types include: solar installation, purchase of electric vehicles, additional EV charging stations, energy studies or building upgrades. Custom projects may also be proposed.

Grants/Funding

- The question was raised whether matched funds for the [CSC grant](#) opportunity could come from other funding sources. According to the attached CSC grants fact sheet, "A local match equal to 50 percent of total eligible project costs is required. Other state grants and federal funds are NOT eligible as match for a CSC grant award. Land acquisition may be included AS MATCH ONLY for implementation projects." I recommend watching the 20 min [webinar](#) on this grant.
- [PON 4000 NYSERDA's Clean Energy Internship](#) opportunity could potentially help fund a sustainability coordinator position, as long as you let NYSERDA know the position will focus on sustainability and clean

AGENDA/MINUTES

PHILMONT CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE

energy initiatives within the Village. NYSERDA will fund 90% of intern wages – a maximum of 480 hours at \$17.00 = \$8,160 within a 12 month period.

- Partners for Climate Action are expected to launch their Catalyst Grant opportunity at the end of this month. Grant awards are between \$1,000-\$100,000. The Inquiry Form deadline will be September 30th. Grants under 10k will be announced in mid-October. More application materials will be requested from those applying for larger grants. Larger grant awards will be announced by January. To receive the announcement of this grant opportunity, I encourage you to sign up for their mailing list (at the bottom of their [website](#)).
 - Proposal writing training and resources can be found [here](#).
 - For a list of other funding opportunities, please visit the [Funding Guide Database](#) provided by Syracuse University's Environmental Finance Center, and the [Climate and Environmental Grants](#) list provided by Partners for Climate Action.
3. Discussion on Lightbulb Exchange program. Lightbulbs have arrived and dissemination strategies need to be finalized – on-going distribution? Event distribution? Other?
 - a. Lowe's will recycle compressed bulbs will be
 4. Discussion on participation in Columbia County Climate Carnival, July 16, 2022. Request for a table for Philmont CSC has been made.
 - a. Susan will create one-sheets with branding for Philmont Climate Smart
 - b. Who will attend: Tom Paino, Allison Hoppe, Susan Michie (m), Andrew (m)
 5. Update on Local Champions possibility. We made it to the final round to participate in a two-semester course sponsored by Partners for Climate Action concentrating on Climate Smart Community Bronze Certification.
 - a. Andrew Personette will be an additional stakeholder for Philmont.
 6. Update on Micro-Hydro and new Claverack Town Hall proposal initiated by Claverack CSC.
 - a. Met with John Bradley from Claverack Climate Smart Committee. Spoke about the feasibility study that had been done for the BOA and about what John and his team are visioning and trying to create at the Claverack Town Hall and garage.
 - b. Feasibility Study: if Philmont could use the energy to offset its municipal electric that the project would likely be cash-flow positive. If Philmont could go further and create more energy and sell it, it would be more cash-flow positive and if we could get grants, it could be cash-flow positive from the start. More research is needed. Need to get greenhouse gas inventory/energy audit.
 - c. Claverack Town Hall Ideas: include a bridge into High Falls, micro-hydro from the damn.
 - d. Where can we collaborate? Share a grant writer or a sustainability coordinator to help with the paper work related to getting points.

AGENDA/MINUTES

PHILMONT CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE

- e. There's a guy who does hydro-power installations in NYS. This model assumes private ownership of the dam. Andrew prefers a municipally-owned plant.
 - f. Cost for a plant might be: \$300k. A \$100k grant could pay for a third.
 - g. Best plant placement scenario is a quick drop from the sluices. There's not a lot to be gained from extending the micro-hydro to the Mill. Plus, it's more complicated to get grants for projects that cross private land (the Mill)
7. Other new initiatives.
- a. A green laundromat?
 - b. Can we promote NYSERDA insulation programs through the water bill?
 - c. A Challenge: How can we reach renters?
8. **TO DO**
- a. **Susan will make one-sheets for the July 16 event**
 - b. **Allison will send monthly email reminders**
 - c. **Arthur and Sarah will research programs for the elderly**