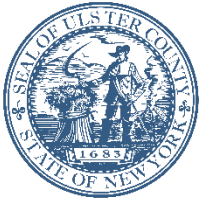


**ULSTER COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

Dave Haldeman, Chair
Vacant, Vice-Chair
Vacant, Secretary



Meeting Minutes

Regular Monthly Meeting ***March 29th, 6:30 PM***

Hybrid Meeting Via Zoom and in-person at the Ulster County Restorative Justice Center, 733 Broadway, Kingston NY

“The purpose of the Council shall be to review and advise the county and local governments on present and proposed methods of using, protecting and conserving the environment for the benefit of all the people.”

With a quorum present, the regular meeting of the Ulster County Environmental Council was convened at 6:35 p.m.

Municipal Members Present	David Haldeman, Chair (Shawangunk) Leslie Surprenant (Saugerties, T) Nikita Oarcea (Marbletown) Mark Ellison (Esopus) Rob Ferri (New Paltz, T) Ted Griesse (Kingston, C)
At-Large Members Present	None
Members Present via Videoconference	Neil Rindlaub (Gardiner)
Ulster County Staff	Nick Hvozda, Department of the Environment
Guests	Jim Easley Robert Cruickshank Janelle Kozarek Bill More Laura Hartmann Erin Moran Omari Washington Bruce Barry Adam Bosch, Pattern for Progress Yasmine Aziz, Pattern for Progress

A link to the meeting agenda can be found here: <https://ulstercountyny.gov/environmental-management-council/emc-meeting-dates-minutes>

Discussion/Approval of Minutes

Dave Haldeman made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 22, 2023. It was approved unanimously.

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Introduction of Speaker/Presentation

Adam Bosch is President of Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress. Mr. Bosch gave an in-depth summary of findings excerpted from HVPP's recent report on the challenges and opportunities posed by electric vehicle adoption in the Hudson Valley. [Here](#) is a link to the overview and full report. And here is a link to the full report: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/2bb942f932344cc882a5687150a21481>

Briefly:

At the end of 2022 there were 16,000 EV's registered in the Hudson Valley, and 50 to 80,000 projected to be registered here by 2030. New York State law now mandates an end to sales of gasoline powered vehicles in New York State in 2035. We will also need to charge the millions of vehicles that visit the parks and cultural attractions of the Hudson Valley each year, supporting our local economies and requiring fast charging along the highway corridors and at their destinations.

We currently have approximately 400 Public charging stations of which 349 are "Level 2" providing just 25 miles of driving for each hour of charging. Short-stay visitors will require "Level 3" direct current chargers (DCFC), which can charge a vehicle to 80% capacity in approximately 30 minutes. Each of these chargers draws as much electricity as a typical, 1,000 unit apartment building and requires substantial new infrastructure at a time when electrical equipment like transformers remain in short supply. Further, as we go to widespread electrification of our energy consumption, a household converting to one heat pump and two electric cars triples that household's load on the electric grid. Costs to install each Level 3 charger run \$250K to \$1 million and will require substantial subsidies.

Mr. Bosch outlined the various pools of Federal and State funds that will be devoted towards the EV roll-out, including \$700 million for utility infrastructure. Central Hudson has approximately 90% of their funds left unspent. Utility capacity maps can be found online. Bob Cruickshank offered the observation that diurnal variations in supply and demand need to be considered, and that the "internet of things" can help better match them.

Mr. Bosch also suggested priorities for where to install Level three chargers: 1) Highway corridors 2) hospitals 3) downtown main streets 4) multi-family housing, 5) municipal parking lots 6) sub stations and police stations 7) parks 8) large private parking lots 9) tourism and seasonal attractions

He went on to describe best practices: 1) analyze and create a business case for charging stations – they need to be strategic and "future proof" 2) get support from IDA's, as they've done in Westchester County 3) modify zoning ordinances to support EV charging 4) amend the federal code for highways 5) study patterns of use of current public chargers to plan for future deployment 6) standardize plugs and payment systems. 7) Plan for maintenance of chargers. Mr. Bosch stated that "places that have a plan are going to get the money"– can Ulster County develop a plan as to where charging should go? Inter-municipal cooperation will get bonus points for funding.

The next Pattern for Progress report will focus on child care needs, availability, and affordability in the Hudson Valley.

Announcements

None

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Department of the Environment Update

- Woodstock, Marlboro, Rochester Ulster, Rosendale and Shandaken are in the process of appointing new representatives to the UCEMC
- Communications are occurring through a GoogleGroup list and an Outlook group which accesses a Sharepoint document sharing group
- The DOE is working on its Climate Adaptation Plan which can be accessed from the Ulster County website which links to an interactive ARCGIS map with mapping of 1) climate hazards with critical facilities and their vulnerabilities 2) roadway stream crossings 3) transportation vulnerabilities 4) the UC Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan
- The Arbor Day Tree Planting Program is open for applications: [UC ArborDayApplication form.pdf \(ulstercountyny.gov\)](#)

Resource Recovery

Bob Cruickshank reported that the new Head of UCRRA, Greg Olivier is looking to better separate waste streams and extract resources, including from buildings that have been demolished.

Bill More reported that in Westchester, Orange, and Dutchess Counties small businesses and school systems can access “clean-up day” contractors before households get weekend access.

Planning Department Update

No update.

Energy, Environment, and Sustainability Committee News

- The committee is evaluating a resolution that sets a public hearing for proposed Local Law No. 12 Of 2022, A Local Law Providing For The Rights Of The Residents Of Ulster County To Clean Water, And For The Rights Of The Hudson River, Also Known As Mahicannituck. More information is available here: <https://legislature.ulstercountyny.gov/legislature/2023/resolution-no-5>

Old Business

None

New Business

- Bill More urged members to push for cancelation of ad campaigns that attract more visitors to the Catskill and Adirondack parks, saying that they are already suffering from overuse.

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Council Member Roundabout

Town of Shawangunk Dave Haldeman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Town is working on ways to extend the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail from Wallkill to Gardiner. The Open Space Institute is interested in connecting these trails to the Empire State trail. Representative Pat Ryan supports this and is hoping to help with funding.
City of Kingston Ted Griesse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kingston has approved controlled herbicide use along the Catskill Railroad corridor Working on zoning code re: parking space requirements
Town of Saugerties Leslie Surprenant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town is getting a grant from Partners for Climate Action to start a ¼ acre pollinator meadow at Cantine Field. The project will start in November.
Town of Esopus Mark Ellison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ECC sponsored its 4th Repair Café Saturday March 25 The Town is planning an Earth Day event for Sunday April 23rd.
Town of Marbletown Nikita Oarcea	
Town of Olive Simon Strauss	
Town of Gardiner Neil Rindlaub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gardiner is working on drinking water protection in our hamlet area with assistance from the new head of the NY Rural Water Association, Mary Theresa Julien.
Town of New Paltz Rob Ferri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Paltz will hold a Wallkill River “summit” on Wed. May 3rd from 5–7:30 on the SUNY New Paltz campus.
Town of Hurley Kristen Schara	
Town of Rochester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rochester is planning an Earth Day event and a pollinator initiative
Town of Marlboro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marlboro had a pollinator program and is recruiting new CAC members
Town of Ulster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ulster is working towards reestablishing its CAC and gaining Climate Smart Communities Certification. There has been substantial tree cutting for a new Central Hudson training facility and they are looking at requiring carbon offsets. Also working on reservoir flushing into the Esopus Creek

The next meeting is scheduled for April 26 at 6:30 PM and will have Eleanor Peck of the Hudson Valley Regional Council as guest speaker.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM

Respectfully submitted
Neil Rindlaub