

Town of Gates 2023

Climate Smart Communities Annual Report

A. Background Information

The Conservation Advisory Board, who in 2023 became the Climate Smart Communities Taskforce, was established in 1976 as a five (5) member volunteer board and is appointed by the Gates Town Board. The Gates Conservation Advisory Board is entrusted with providing an environmental perspective and giving advice on land use proposals, comprehensive plans, stewardship of natural areas, and other issues regarding the environment in the Town.

To date, the Town has completed the following actions to reduce GHG emissions:

- PE1 Action: CSC Task Force- Completed
- PE1 Action: CSC Coordinator- Completed
- PE1 Action: National/Regional Climate Program- Completed
- PE1 Action: Partnerships with Other Entities- Completed
- PE3 Action: Interior Lighting Upgrades- Completed
- PE3 Action: Benchmarking- Municipal Buildings- Completed
- PE3 Action: LED Street Lights- Completed
- PE3 Action: Energy Code Enforcement Training- Completed
- PE5 Action: Waste Reduction Education Campaign- Completed
- PE6 Action: Unified Solar Permit- Completed
- PE6 Action: Complete Streets Policy- Completed
- PE6 Action: Planning for Biking and Walking- Completed
- PE6 Action: Comprehensive Plan with Sustainability Elements- Completed
- PE6 Action: Traffic Calming- Completed
- PE7 Action: Climate-resilient Hazard Mitigation Plan- Completed
- PE9 Action: Local Climate Action Website- Completed
- PE9 Action: Social Media- Completed

List of Taskforce Members

Name	Role
Virginia McIntyre	CSC Taskforce Coordinator and Conservation Advisory Board Chair
Charles Johnson	Professional Landscaper and Conservation Advisory Board Member
Mary Clare Scheg	Librarian and Conservation Advisory Board Member
Dan Switzer	Professional Landscaper, Keep Gates Clean Founder
Lisa Loughlin	Climate Smart Communities and Conservation Advisory Board Secretary
Steve Tucciarello	Town Board Member and Conservation Advisory Board Liaison
Kurt Rappazzo	Director of Public Works/ Highway Superintendent

B. Mission

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The Gates CSC task force serves as a central body of leadership that promotes and supports climate mitigation and adaptation in the community advising how to accomplish plans, programs, and activities that are focused on education and engagement as part of the CSC Certification program.

C. Accomplishments By Action

- Establishment of the Conservation Advisory Board as the Climate Smart Communities Taskforce
- Earth Day Event-
- Integration of the CSC and CAB with Keep Gates Clean
- Summer celebration
- Participation in management council
- Establishment of social media presence

D. Challenges

The most important aspect of “community building” is getting people motivated to work together and to spread the word when events are happening. We’ve been very fortunate to have a high level of interaction so far but clearly, we will need to continue recruiting residents and creating new ways to generate enthusiasm for the various events of the group. Some specific challenges we faced this past year and anticipate continuing to face in the upcoming year is:

- Building awareness for the Social Media and in person events to increase participation
- Getting more community members active as volunteers for community events
- Getting younger residents more involved in the various initiatives proposed by the board

E. Goals for Upcoming Year(s)

1. NYSERDA Community Campaign for Heating and Cooling
2. Earth Day Event
3. Eco-Fair along the Erie Canal
4. Continue to engage in Keep Gates Clean events
5. Seminar on Invasive Species
6. Establishment of a Public Market
7. Movement in Clean Energy Communities Program
 - a. Opportunities for new Pon 3.0 update
8. Encourage biking along the Erie Canal in Gates
9. Collaborate with library on Keep Gates Clean initiative
10. Continuation of social media presence

F. Funding Opportunities

1. Pollution Prevention Institute – Community Outreach Funding
 - a. Public Market
 - b. Eco-Fair

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2. Clean Energy Communities Grant through other CEC actions
3. Bike/Ped funding
 - a. Genesee Transportation Council
 - b. Climate Smart Communities Grant