



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

WHAT IS CLIMATE SMART GARDINER?

Climate Smart Gardiner (CSG) is a member of the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Climate Smart Communities Program, designed to help local municipalities reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote a green economy, and adapt to climate change. Over 1/3 of New York State is participating in this program. The Town Board passed a resolution on 1/9/18 to make us a Climate Smart Community and we formed an official Taskforce. We meet every first Wednesday of the month from 7-9PM at the Gardiner Town Hall.

WHAT IS OUR MISSION?

Through education, community-building, and measurable actions, Climate Smart Gardiner seeks to empower our town to reduce greenhouse gases, adapt to a changing climate, conserve energy, support a local green economy, preserve natural resources, and promote renewable energy sources, so we can be environmentally sustainable for future generations.

WHAT DID WE DO IN 2018?

- We submitted and obtained a Solarize Campaign grant for \$5000 through the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to promote community solar in Gardiner, which would offer the public access to discounted electricity produced on local solar farms.
- We submitted and obtained a grant of over \$15,000 through the NYS DEC to install an electric vehicle charging station in the Gardiner Library parking lot.
- We coordinated a recycling process for Majestic Park, where town residents donated garbage cans for the park, a local artist painted these cans, and a town resident picks up the bottles and cans; the proceeds are donated to help children in need.
- We had a community potluck at the library to build support for our climate smart initiatives.
- We participated in the Climate Action Plan Institute, offered through NYSERDA, where we learned how to inventory Gardiner's greenhouse gas emissions, set targets for greenhouse gas emission reductions, and plan actions to meet these targets.

- We partnered with the Riverkeeper to clean up the Walkkill River. Over 40 people helped clean up in Gardiner and recycled garbage, including many children who were being engaged to form a Climate Smart Youth Taskforce, designed to educate children about climate change and climate smart actions.
- We offered a seminar at the Gardiner library to help residents identify invasive species that endanger trees.
- We offered a joint seminar at the library with Gardiner's Environmental Conservation Commission to explain the consequences of climate change and identify ways local residents can be climate smart in their lives.
- We participated in two Earth Day fairs to educate the public about Climate Smart Gardiner and ways to be climate smart.
- We created a Facebook page to inform the public about our events, activities, and ways to be climate smart in their lives.
- We presented the Town Board options to convert Gardiner's streetlights to LEDs, which would save the town money and conserve energy.
- We promoted the Gardiner Repair Café, where local residents bring their broken items to the library to be mended.
- We gave presentations to the Shawangunk Environmental Management Council and Shawangunk Town Board about the Climate Smart Communities Program, and they became a Climate Smart Community.
- We had two tables representing Climate Smart Gardiner at Gardiner Day. One table was to generally educate the public about ways to be more climate smart in their lives and the other table was to promote EVs, as it was National Drive Electric Week.
- We coordinated recycling for Gardiner Day, including bottle and can proceeds to be donated to children in need, as well as mixed recycling.
- We promoted and participated in a training on an invasive species, the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, at Minnewaska State Park.
- We promoted and participated in a Trees for Tribes planting at the Hoot Owl Restaurant.
- We had a Climate Smart Gardiner table at the Walkkill River Festival to educate the public on ways to be climate smart in their lives.

WHAT'S NEXT IN 2019?

- Work to install an electric vehicle charging station in the Gardiner Library parking lot
- Inventory Gardiner's municipal greenhouse gas emissions, set targets for greenhouse gas emission reductions, and create a climate action plan meet these targets
- Partner with the Riverkeeper to clean up the Walkkill River
- Consider ways to convert Gardiner's streetlights to LEDs
- Promote the Gardiner Repair Café



