



## **2019 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 2019?**

- After we 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 continued to work on the logistics of implementation with the Gardiner Library and Town Board.
- We maintained a recycling process for Majestic Park, where a town resident picks up the bottles and cans; the proceeds are donated to help children in need.
- We coordinated recycling for Gardiner Day.
- We had a free, kid-friendly "Go Green Expo" to showcase local green vendors and educators at the Gardiner Firehouse. Through raffle donations from local green businesses, we raised \$363 for the Fire Department.
- We submitted and obtained a grant for the NYS DEC Trees for Tribes program to plant trees along stream corridors to prevent erosion, increase flood water retention and protect water quality. We planted 70 trees and shrubs along the stream by Farmers Turnpike in Gardiner.

- We presented the Community Choice Aggregation Program (CCA) at Town Board Meetings. Through CCA, a municipality can source a clean energy supplier on behalf of their residents and aggregate their buying power, leading to discounted energy for residents. Residents can opt out anytime for free.
- We participated in the Climate Action Plan Institute, offered through NYSERDA, where we created an inventory of Gardiner's greenhouse gas emissions. We also participated in a NYSERDA webinar to share Gardiner's progress through this program.
- We completed our Gardiner Climate Action Plan, based on our municipal GHG emissions inventory. In this plan, we set targets for greenhouse gas emission reductions and planned actions to meet these targets. We hope to reduce municipal GHG emissions by 20% from the 2015-2017 baseline by 2022. Our GHG inventory guided us to work on the following actions to reduce municipal GHG emissions in Gardiner: pursue CCA, switch streetlights to LEDs, consider local community distributed generation at the landfill, and reduce fleet emissions by transitioning to more efficient vehicles. We presented these findings to the Town Board.
- We partnered with the Riverkeeper to clean up and recycle garbage from the Wallkill River. Many children participated and we considered forming a Climate Smart Youth Taskforce, designed to educate children about climate change and climate smart actions.
- We promoted the Gardiner Repair Café, where local residents bring their broken items to the library to be mended.
- We maintained a Facebook page to inform the public about our events and ways to be climate smart in their lives.
- We completed a municipal fleet inventory and will update this monthly to assess GHG emissions.
- We submitted a letter of support for an Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency grant concerning composting and food scraps.
- We promoted a composting presentation at the Gardiner Liquid Mercantile.
- We were accepted under the 501c3 umbrella of the Community Foundation of New Paltz, so we can fundraise.
- We worked with the Ulster County Climate Smart Communities group to disseminate Community Choice Aggregation to Ulster County municipalities.
- We disseminated the Climate Smart Communities model to residents of neighboring communities, including Plattekill and Lloyd.

## **WHAT'S NEXT IN 2020?**

- Install an electric vehicle charging station in the Gardiner Library parking lot.
- Coordinate our second "Go Green Expo" to showcase local green vendors and educators at the Gardiner Firehouse.

- Submit and obtain a grant for another tree and shrub planting with the NYS DEC Trees for Tribes program
- Pass a local law for CCA in Gardiner, then select an administrator for CCA and move toward implementing CCA in Gardiner, in accordance with our climate action plan
- Partner with the Riverkeeper to clean up and recycle garbage from the Wallkill River
- Promote the Gardiner Repair Café
- Work with the Ulster County Climate Smart Communities group to disseminate Community Choice Aggregation to Ulster County municipalities.
- Apply for Climate Smart Communities Bronze Certification when we have completed the required actions
- Recruit new members for the Climate Smart Gardiner Taskforce
- Create a local solar array at the Gardiner Transfer Station to facilitate local community distributed generation, in accordance with our climate action plan; the US EPA completed a feasibility study for a solar array at the transfer station in 2017
- Disseminate the Climate Smart Communities model to residents of neighboring communities
- Bring recycling to the New Paltz schools, possibly as part of a Climate Smart Youth Taskforce.
- Consider cost-effective ways to switch streetlights to LEDs using “Dark Skies” guidance, reducing light pollution and increasing energy efficiency, in accordance with our climate action plan; we presented options to the Town Board to convert Gardiner’s streetlights to LEDs in 2018
- Consider ways to complete a community GHG inventory
- Pursue grants to transition the town to a more efficient fleet, in accordance with our climate action plan



