

Lodi Climate Smart Community Annual Report: 11/2021 – 11/2022

In 2021, the town of Lodi approved a resolution to adopt the New York State Climate Smart Community (CSC) Pledge. In November 2021, the town board appointed the CSC Task Force to assist the town in achieving Climate Smart Community certification. This report provides information about the Lodi Climate Smart Task Force, actions the Task Force has completed, and actions it is currently working to complete. The Task Force meets bi-monthly.

Task Force members

Seth Thomas – Lodi Town Board member and Task Force leader
Ave Bauder. Cornell Cooperative Extension
Jaclyn Eisman – Lodi Resident
Anisa Mendizabal – Lodi Resident
Karel Titus -Lodi Resident
Maura Toole -Lodi Resident
Laurie VanVleet -Lodi Resident

Mission

- Develop and implement actions that will reduce the town of Lodi’s carbon footprint while achieving cost savings in the process.
- Develop, promote, and implement climate resilient actions that improve the safety and quality of the Lodi community and its resources.
- Educate and engage the community and stakeholders on climate resilient actions.

Overview

2022 was a busy year for public outreach, engagement, and input. These are critical factors to help drive awareness of the impact of climate change, as well as what residents and community leaders can do to help mitigate and adapt to the changing climate.

Public Engagement and Education activities

May 7, 2022: Workshop - Home and garden practices to help protect our lake and land
May 21, 2022: Lodi Reuse-Swap Day
May – September 2022: Public input on local flood issues via mail survey
August 2022: Community “Table Talk” focused on climate resiliency actions by residents
October 2022: Lodi Compost Workshop
October 2022: Lodi Dumpster Day
Fall 2022 – Spring 2023 Public input on organic waste practices via questionnaire

Current Projects – For more information about each of these actions, please contact the designated task force member.

1. Flood survey and Climate Vulnerability Assessment – Identify most serious flooding hazards in the town of Lodi via community flood survey, assess potential impacts to assets and systems in Lodi community, and prioritize assets and systems based on their exposure and sensitivity to the effects of climate hazards and their adaptive capacity. (Laurie VanVleet: lvavleet2@gmail.com)
2. Electric vehicle charging stations – Two charging stations will be installed, one at the Lodi library and one at the new Lodi town fall. Actual installation date will be announced. (Karel Titus: karelt594@gmail.com)
3. Community solar campaign – The town of Lodi has partnered with Ampion Renewable Energy to offer discounted electricity through participation in solar farm energy credits. By signing up with Ampion, Lodi residents can get a 10% discount in their electricity supply charge. (Seth Thomas: stthomas@lodiny.com)
4. Community composting pilot – Landfills are large contributors to greenhouse gasses (GHG). Food waste creates GHG and 25% of landfill GHG comes from food waste, most of it from residential waste. Home and local composting can decrease the impact of food waste contribution to GHG. The task force is developing an organic waste management plan that focuses on educating the community about organic waste and building a compost program for residential food waste. We encourage the community to participate starting with completing a quick questionnaire via link on Lodi Town website. Please send completed questionnaire and any questions to Maura Toole: mtoole325@gmail.com.
5. Develop and implement an official Complete Streets Policy for the town of Lodi – Streets are the main arteries of a community, moving people, goods, and services from one place to another. A Complete Streets approach to designing our roads incorporates safety, livability, and a place for all users through the use of sidewalks, share-the-road signage, crosswalks, and traffic calming measures. (Jaclyn Eisman: jaclyneisman@gmail.com)
6. Municipal greenhouse admissions inventory – To best understand and act at the local level to reduce our local carbon footprint, the town of Lodi must first know its contribution to greenhouse gasses (GHG). Once inventoried, the town will be able to identify actions to decrease GHG. The new town hall that is currently under construction will offer several improvements which decrease the production of GHG. (Seth Thomas: stthomas@lodiny.com)