

**TOMPKINS COUNTY Climate and Sustainable Energy Advisory Board**  
**Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025, 4:00-6:00PM**  
**Old Jail Conference Room/Via Zoom**  
**Final Minutes**

**Attendance**

Member		Member		Staff	
Andrea Aguirre	E	Rebecca Evans	P	Terry Carroll	E
Ethan Bodnaruk	P	Guillermo Metz	P	Hailley Delisle	P
Louise Bruce	P	Martha Robertson	P	Kristin McCarthy	P
Veronica Pillar*	P	Irene Weiser	P		
Brian Eden	P	Chris Wirth	P		
Danielle Eiseman	P				

\*Non-voting member

**Guests:** None

**1. Call to Order/Agenda Review/Draft Minutes Approval** – Chair Irene Weiser called the meeting to order at 4:15pm. No changes to the agenda. Attendees shared their professional backgrounds and areas of expertise, discussing topics including water and wastewater management, climate policy and equity, health and climate connections, Extended Producer Responsibility legislation, Cornell Cooperative Extension work with solar projects, electric vehicles, the wine industry's sustainability efforts, data centers, and home inspection work focused on environmental considerations.

**Action:** Martha Robertson made a motion, seconded by Irene Weiser, to approve the draft October 2025 minutes. Motion carried.

**2. Public Comment** – None

**3. Member Updates** – Brian shared information on data center developments and their implications for sustainability and energy use in the county, discussing the environmental and energy challenges these facilities present.

**4. Staff Report** – Hailley updated the group on the County’s participation in the NYSEG rate case. She explained that after rebuttal testimony is due, the case will likely proceed to an evidentiary hearing. Additionally, Hailley reported on the induction cooktop program through Healthy Neighborhoods and mentioned she is conducting a case study with a participant. Group also discussed the County fleet and budget considerations.

**5. Discussion: Strengthening the CaSE Board for 2026**

Irene opened a discussion about the future direction of the board, asking members to consider where the board should go next, how to get there, and who would take on the role of chairing, acknowledging that scheduling has been challenging and the board needs to keep engaged members involved while making participation work within their lives. Rebecca asked for clarity on whether the discussion was about developing a work plan for 2026, while another member clarified that the immediate need was deciding who would chair and vice chair the board, as the bylaws require official leadership even though the board uses revolving facilitators. Rebecca reflected that 2025 has been a reactive year, similar to

2020, but noted that despite a sense of drift, the board actually accomplished significant work and discussed topics never addressed before. She expressed appreciation for the rotating facilitator model and suggested potentially identifying thematic areas to focus on in specific months of the year, such as food systems in October, with rotating spots for urgent legislation. The group identified several topics that align with specific times of year, including educating new legislators in January, state issues in February, agriculture in March or April, and County budget work in August and September. Additionally, members discussed facilitating a strategic planning session in early 2026 that would likely require two to three months to complete properly. After extensive discussion, Rebecca offered to serve as chair for a six-month stint with vice chair support, suggesting a reassessment at month four, and Ethan agreed to serve as vice chair. The board also discussed the need to recruit new members.

**6. Action: Nominate 2026 Chair and Vice Chair**

Martha Robertson moved, with a second by Louise Bruce, to nominate Rebecca Evans as chair (for six months) and Ethan Bodnaruk for vice chair of the CaSE Board. Motion carried.

**6. County Legislature Report** – No report was provided.

**7. Chair's Report** – No report was provided.

**8. Meeting Wrap-up** – The group wrapped up their discussion and wished one another happy holidays.

**9. Adjournment** – Meeting was adjourned at 6:03pm.