

**TOMPKINS COUNTY Climate and Sustainable Energy Advisory Board**  
**Tuesday, March 24, 2026, 4:00-6:00PM (Via Zoom)**  
**Meeting Facilitator: Ethan Bodnaruk**  
**Final Minutes**

**Attendance**

Member		Member		Staff	
Andrea Aguirre	P	Guillermo Metz	P	Terry Carroll	E
Ethan Bodnaruk	P	Candice Reeves	P	Hailley Delisle	P
Louise Bruce	P	Martha Robertson	P	Kristin McCarthy	E
Rebecca Evans	P	Janet Smith	P		
Susan Holland	E	Chris Wirth	P		
John King	P	<i>*Irene Weiser</i>	P		

\*Non-voting member

**Guests:** Peter Bardaglio, Brian Wendel

**1. Call to Order/Agenda Review/Minutes Approval** – Facilitator Ethan Bodnaruk called the meeting to order at 4:00pm. No changes to agenda. Martha Robertson made a motion, seconded by Andrea Aguirre, to approve the December 2025, January 2026, and February 2026 minutes. Motion carried.

**2. Public Comment** – None

**3. Welcome to New Members and Round of Introductions** – Group conducted a round of introductions, sharing a bit about their backgrounds.

**4. Update: Strategic Planning Working Group** – Ethan updated the group on the strategic planning working group, which aims to establish clearer objectives, annual priorities, and better alignment with the County Legislature. They're planning an in-person half-day session to develop a framework for a broader retreat-style process, and new members are welcome. Irene noted that the Environmental Management Council (EMC) had completed a successful strategic planning process and invited EMC member Brian Wendel to share his experience. Discussion touched on benchmarking against other statewide environmental councils, subcommittee structures, and coordinating across County advisory boards to reduce duplication.

**5. Member Updates** – Rebecca shared information about Public Power Tompkins, a local organizing effort with an Instagram presence and a website at [PublicPowerTompkins.org](http://PublicPowerTompkins.org), encouraging the group to engage with the subject given a current rate case wrapping up and another on the horizon. Members then provided updates on multiple topics, which segued into a broader discussion about Governor Hochul's proposed rollback of the state's 2019 methane accounting decision, with concern raised that she is attempting to fold the issue into budget negotiations. Members also touched on the complexities of New York's clean energy transition, including rising transmission costs, growing electricity demand from AI data centers, and pointed to Texas as an example of a state achieving both high renewable energy deployment and relative energy affordability.

**6. Discussion/Action: Review and Authorize Submission of Draft Comments – PSC Case No. 15-E 0302 (Petition to Suspend or Modify CLCPA Goals) – Martha Robertson**

Martha led a review of the draft comments document circulated in the agenda packet, which was prepared in response to a petition by groups opposed to the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act seeking to suspend or modify its goals. The group discussed several topics, including the role of the board's role in advising the County Legislature, the potential for turning the draft into an op-ed or engaging legislators to amplify the message, concerns about the limitations of local versus state-level climate action, and the importance of Tompkins County positioning itself as a leader given gaps in state-level leadership.

**Motion:** Martha Robertson made a motion, seconded by Rebecca Evans, to review and authorize the submission of comments directly to the Public Service Commission. Guillermo Metz abstained.

**7. County Legislature Report** – Irene updated the group that two energy resolutions passed the County Legislature unanimously and have been sent to various state legislators and the governor. Topics covered also included ongoing County energy initiatives and potential pushback on green building decisions. In response to how the board might more effectively work with the PEEQ Committee, Irene encouraged members to attend committee and County Legislature meetings and submit written comments to help educate legislators and advocate for clean energy priorities.

**8. Staff Report** – Hailley and Terry are working on an initial brief for the NYSEG rate case, commenting on the evidentiary hearing process and highlighting previously submitted testimony. A decision from the administrative law judges is expected in May, at which point rates for the coming year will be determined. Additional updates touched on ongoing greenhouse gas inventory work and EV fast chargers at the airport.

**9. Chair's Report** – Rebecca shared that the City of Ithaca recently put out a press release about the Municipal Investment Fund, a collaborative effort between the city and county, featuring quotes from Irene, city partners, and the Ithaca mayor. She commented that the press release provides helpful context for work that has been discussed in previous meetings and may help clarify some of the complexity around that initiative.

**10. 2026 Meeting Time** – Members discussed the ongoing effort to establish a new recurring meeting time for 2026. Hailley has created a scheduling poll for all members to complete, with the goal of confirming a new day and time in the near future.

**11. Meeting Wrap-Up** – Andrea tentatively agreed to facilitate the April meeting and will confirm her availability once the date and time are finalized.

**12. Adjournment** – Meeting was adjourned at 5:53pm.