

Tompkins County Council of Governments
Energy Subcommittee Meeting Notes
March 26, 2020
Via Zoom Video Conferencing

Participating in the meeting: Joel Gagnon, Ronny Hardaway, Shawna Black, Donna Fleming, Heather McCarty, Terry Carroll and Rod Howe (Joanna James was not able to participate)

Focus is on Energy (and climate change). The goal is to identify energy initiatives that would benefit by intermunicipal cooperation and by discussion and implementation via TCCOG. Further we do not want to duplicate the efforts of any other committees.

Ideas (there seemed to be a great deal of interest in CCA – bolded below)

- Look at intermunicipal cooperation related to location of solar farms
 - Might NYSEERDA, municipalities and solar farm developers come together?
- Explore county taking over energy transmission/energy utility system
- **Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) – this had been explored in the past but enough has changed that the timing may be right to focus on this**
 - MEGA does this along with 3 or 4 other entities
 - We can go back and see where previous committees left off
 - Other counties are exploring this (Chemung, Tioga)
- Share information for how we are involving community members
 - This led to a discussion about Caroline’s Climate Vulnerability Assessment event (which is in the process of being rescheduled as a virtual event) - the goal is to extend this to other municipalities
- The Village of Lansing has developed action items under each of the Climate Smart Communities pledge elements (Ronny – might you share that with the group)?
- Address reducing energy consumption for existing buildings
- Focus development in nodal areas (that is a challenge to do at across municipalities)
- Create an energy knowledge hub for municipalities
- Share ideas of how each municipality is addressing their own government operations via an energy lens (several examples were shared)

- Coordinate efforts to help our constituents sort through the array of information they are getting regarding energy sources

Next TCCOG energy subcommittee meeting: May 28 at 3:00 p.m. (format TBD)

Sidenote: Shawn will ask Deb Dawson and Amanda Champion if one of them would like to join this committee

Check out: <https://southerntiercec.org/>