

**Overview:**

The City of Beacon has made great strides in sustainability. Over the past few years, we have seen installation of LED lights, the implementation of a solar farm and Community Choice Aggregation program, appointment of a Climate Smart Community Coordinator (CSCC), appointed the Conservation Advisory Committee as the Climate Smart Communities Task Force, completion of a Natural Resources Inventory, completion of a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emission inventory and we are on track to earn Climate Smart Community Certification in 2020. Our community is eager to further our impact and, in the face of a looming climate crisis and inaction at multiple levels of government, we recognize the need to establish an initiative moving Beacon towards leadership in our area as the “greenest” community in the Hudson Valley.

**Program Objective:**

This initiative will establish working groups and partnerships among our boards, city employees and community. The program will consist of a series of specific goals/projects, to be determined by participants and prioritized for development. Initiatives that may be evaluated include, but are not limited to:

- Effective recycling and evaluation of single vs dual stream systems
- Community composting programs
- Encouraging green energy installation/usage
- Seeking zero carbon footprint for municipal buildings
- Water source protection
- Resiliency studies/impact assessment
- Open space identifications and protection; public use plans/recommendations
- Street tree maintenance and planting

**Participant Roles and Responsibilities**

We propose that the Conservation Advisory Committee (CAC) as the Cities Climate Smart Communities Task Force, lead the initiative. Council resources will be provided, as well as support from the Climate Smart Community Coordinator. Additionally, participation and advice from Planning Board, Zoning Board, and the Tree Committee may be required, as well city departments such as the Recreation, Highway and the Building Department.

The City Council shall provide guidance, receive periodic updates, determine appropriate support (e.g., legislation, funding, communications) and approve needed actions.

**Next Steps:**

- Meetings with key partners to confirm goals, priorities, timing and working relationships
  - Introduced to council (1/27 workshop); met with CAC (2/4) and Green Beacon Coalition (2/12)
- Refine projects and priorities
  - Initial prioritization of waste, compost and trees validated via straw poll
  - Community input into additional priorities/ideas will be solicited via survey
  - Determine best fit for public transit/walking/biking improvements (Sustainable Beacon Initiative or Main St Access initiative)
- Leverage Earth Day celebration as a community launch point
- Define and align necessary resources
- Establish checkpoints for reporting and progress updates

We look forward to working together to ensure Beacon leads the area in sustainability and serves as a model to other communities.