

**2019 Appendix to the
February 2012
Climate Action Plan
(addressing only
Croton-on-Hudson
community activities)
Revised June 17, 2020**

**Prepared by Croton's
Sustainability Committee**

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Documents referenced herein (submitted to DEC but not attached here) include:

- 2012 NWEAC Climate Action Plan performed by Ecology & Environment, Inc.
- 2012 Mid-Hudson Regional GHG Inventory performed by ICF International, Inc.
- March 16, 2020 Village Board of Trustees resolution on climate commitments

All of the above may be found at the Sustainability Committee's web page at <https://www.crotononhudson-ny.gov/sustainability-committee>

2019 Community Climate Action Plan (CAP) for Croton-on-Hudson

Introduction

In 2012, a Climate Action Plan (CAP) was produced by Ecology & Environment, Inc. (E&E) for six Westchester County towns or villages that covered both community and municipal climate actions. It was submitted to DEC with this document. This document focuses only on aspects of it that were related to Croton-on-Hudson. In the same year, ICF International produced a GHG inventory for the villages, towns, and counties in the mid-Hudson region based on 2010 data. With regard to climate action planning, this document updates the findings and recommendations in the E&E study as related to Croton. It shows how most of them were subsequently achieved, and supplements them with additional actions and opportunities.

With respect to our community GHG reduction commitment, this document references the 3/16/20 Village Board of Trustees (VB) resolution setting 2010 as our baseline for that purpose. All the documents mentioned above are submitted with this update to DEC, pursuant to CSC certification.

Community Measures Recommended and Completed

On its page B-6, the 2012 E&E CAP identified the following community actions for Croton. The italicized material was subsequently done, and bolded text indicates the next steps in our CAP.

1. “Implement recommended energy efficiency measures at municipal buildings and provide the community with information on results. Croton-on-Hudson has strong support from its leadership, staff, and community to continue to pursue energy efficiency projects. Support and knowledge from an experienced volunteer Sustainability Committee is a key asset of the village.

Specific energy efficiency projects have been listed by building in the Village of Croton-on-Hudson Energy and GHG Recommendations Report, Croton-on-Hudson Firehouse Energy Audit, and Croton-on-Hudson Water and Wastewater Energy Assessment.

Projects that already reduce energy costs and GHG emissions need to be publicized. More than half of the community survey responses identified reducing energy costs and municipal GHG building emissions as a high priority.

Croton-on-Hudson should also continue to pursue energy performance contract options, working with elected officials, staff, and contractors to devise a contract that is agreeable to all parties. The experience will inform future actions within Cortlandt and other NWEAC communities. “

- As detailed in Croton’s Governmental Operations Climate Action Plan (submitted to DEC for that CSC task), many of the municipal energy measures were subsequently implemented. The Sustainability Committee’s leadership and membership were improved by the addition of professionals involved in energy and climate action endeavors.



- *Proposed projects were publicized through community surveys (most recently in March 2019), educational events, Village Board meetings, and postings at the Sustainability Committee's web site.*
- *A contract to develop a 250 kWac community solar system on the rooftop of our DPW facility was signed in August 2019. It is serving as a template for others' use.*

2. "Contact Con Edison and conduct further investigation of the Grand Street Firehouse electricity use and billing to correct unaccountable electricity usage and cost identified in the energy audit."

- *As previously stated, this issue was fully resolved.*

No further action is required.

3. "Continue the municipal green fleet program and demonstrate progress to the community. Support is generally strong for this measure as about half of community survey respondents indicated that replacing the municipal fleet with hybrid, electric, or alternatively fueled vehicles was a high priority."



- *By way of the replacement of police and fire vehicles with EVs, and a November 2019 presentation on EVs and Croton's new EV chargers (posted at the Sustainability Committee's web page), we continue to inform and assist the community with replacing its gasoline-powered vehicles with EVs.*

In furtherance of the above, we will evaluate more chargers on public property. We have researched and will pursue installation of fast EV chargers at our local shopping center.

4. "Offer preferred parking to carpool and hybrid vehicles at train station parking lots. Although support for preferred parking at train stations is evenly split between high and low priority, the community may respond well to this measure if Croton-on-Hudson provides priority and / or reduced price parking spaces as an incentive to carpoolers, and those investing in hybrid vehicles."

- *Parking spots at the train station lot (which is municipal property) are now designated for EVs when using Village EV chargers. A parking ordinance was created to enforce that designation.*

As funding permits, we plan to add more EV chargers at municipal properties (e.g., parks, train station, DPW facility) and to encourage their installation at private parking lots.

5. "Encourage use of mass transit, and plan new or expanded walking and cycling routes that connect residential areas with business districts, downtown, and commercial areas. The Croton-on-Hudson community shows support for this measure. Over half of survey respondents marked it as a high priority. Croton-on-Hudson can refer to Peekskill's Complete Streets initiatives for experience and ideas to improve pedestrian and bicycle programs."

- Our Bike/Pedestrian Committee is revising its Master Plan. It plans to seek from the Village Board a Complete Streets resolution, and to incorporate the Complete Streets Policy into its Master Plan.

6. “Work with other NWEAC communities to strengthen their composting efforts. Croton-on-Hudson can encourage other NWEAC communities to get involved in the regional comprehensive approach to organic yard waste being developed in collaboration with Croton-on-Hudson and the Westchester County Department of Environmental Facilities. Recognizing this solution as a potential source of revenue may spur further interest in the exploring other regional waste management solutions.”

- Croton’s Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) has been a vanguard in the “love ‘em and leave ‘em” campaign toward yard leaf waste.

As detailed above, Croton will be initiating a pilot food scrap recycling program that will bring the scraps to a new commercial composting facility in Cortlandt that will be open by the spring of 2021.



7. “Expand the water savings educational program for residential and commercial users, and work with large users to reduce summer water use. Investigations of Croton-on-Hudson’s water facilities identified the need to reduce water use during the summer, which will consequently reduce energy use, costs, and GHG emissions.

Expanding and promoting existing programs, such as the rain barrel program could increase participation and water savings. Efforts should focus on the golf course as a major water user.”

- Both the Metro-North train maintenance facility and the local golf course have been responsive to efforts to minimize water consumption, as evidenced by a 20% drop in total annual consumption.

- Our web page now includes water saving measures and tips.

Other options for cutting water waste may be pursued as they become viable (e.g., dual flush toilet retrofit kits, pressure reduction in buildings).

8. “Continue to investigate and implement water and energy efficiency opportunities in the water distribution facilities, including review of energy demand usage and cost metrics identified in the energy assessment.”

See above for details on VSD pumping, interval pressure data analysis, and plans for analysis of individual pump station interval electric data to ferret out ways to cut water system power peak demand and consumption.

The following additional community-level GHG efforts (not mentioned in the 2012 E&E CAP) are now in process.

a) Helping residents and small businesses cut their energy use and cost:

- the EnergizeNY and SolarizeNY programs have each been sponsored twice by the Village, resulting in dozens of homes being made more efficient and/or having solar panels installed on their roofs.

- assistance was provided to residents seeking cleaner heating fuels; several dozen homes were converted from oil to gas heat, and another had a heat pump installed in a newly constructed home.

- Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) was adopted in 2017, and presently serves about 75% of homes and small businesses.

- power from the DPW community solar system will be first offered to low-to-middle income (LMI) homeowners, bringing them a ~10% discount on their electric bills.



We plan to pursue additional Energize/Solarize/Clean Heat programs in the future.

b) Investigate options for microgrid development for a portion of the community to enhance resilience and safety:

- in 2016, Croton won a \$100,000 grant that funded a study of a microgrid covering critical facilities.

c) Working with the local school district:

- Two members of the Sustainability Committee are now also members of the school district's Environmental Sustainability Committee (ESC), formed in 2018. Through that representation, we have successfully pressed for Portfolio Manager benchmarking of the schools' buildings. With our urging, the school district has also moved ahead on a new performance contract for its facilities. We have also met with the school district's Transportation Coordinator to review options for funding EV school buses, and possible installation of solar busports at the district's bus depot.

- We look forward to assisting with upgrading all school lighting to LED, and for installation of community solar on school rooftops. As electric school buses become economical and practical in our area, we will assist with securing grants and other financial support for them.

d) Working with other community institutions:

- We have approached the local free library (not part of the Village government) to upgrade its lighting to LED, and to use its rooftop for a community solar system. Working with the contractor on our DPW PV system, we helped develop design proposals.

We will assist further with implementing those options as templates for use with other local institutions in both Croton and nearby communities.

e) Working with large commercial energy users:

We look forward to working with large commercial facilities (especially our local shopping center and the Metro-North train maintenance facility) to consider rooftop-based community solar systems and, where appropriate, installation of carports and EV chargers. Both large facilities have already upgraded their outdoor lighting to LED.

In so doing, we plan to update our community GHG inventory with actual (not rule-of-thumb) GHG/energy data from those (and other commercial) facilities to ensure an accurate community assessment. Helping them understand that other climate-friendly options will improve their bottom lines is a challenge we believe to be worth pursuing.

Two of the largest GHG emitters in the Village are the Metro-North Harmon Yard train maintenance facility, and the Croton-Harmon Union Free School District). We are actively working with the New York Power Authority (NYPA) which supplies both of them (as well as all power to municipal electric loads) to persuade them to purchase renewable power that NYPA is planning to offer in the coming year. Doing so would significantly reduce our community's GHG inventory.

GHG Reduction Targets

While no specific targets for Croton were specified in the 2012 CAP, it recommended that “communities should seek to reduce GHG emissions by 20% between 2010 and 2020 and by 80% between 2010 and 2050.”

Community GHG Targets

By the March 16, 2020 resolution of the Village Board, a commitment was made to seek a reduction of 10% of community GHG between 2010 and 2030. The 2012 ICF GHG inventory, which used 2010 data, is used as the baseline. That inventory of 80,744 MT CO₂e is detailed in its Table 32 on page 51. Its methodology is detailed in its text. That document is posted at https://www.crotononhudson-ny.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf441/f/uploads/midhud_community_ghg_inventory2012.pdf

**Drive An Electric Vehicle (EV),
And Kiss Your Gas Goodbye!**



Learn how EVs and Croton's new EV chargers can help you save money while reducing greenhouse gases that cause climate change.

Saturday, Nov. 16, 11 AM to noon, in the basement Community Room of Croton's Municipal Building (1 Van Wyck Street).

Topics include:

- pros and cons of types of EVs, by two EV owners
- how to save almost \$10,000 when buying an EV
- hands-on demo for using Croton's EV chargers
- how to find EV chargers all across our area

 This is a free non-commercial presentation by Croton's Sustainability Committee. Questions? Email info@sustain-croton.org 

