

**TOMPKINS COUNTY Climate and Sustainable Energy Advisory Board**  
**Wednesday, April 12, 2023, 4:00-6:00PM**  
**Final Minutes**  
**Meeting Facilitator: Rebecca Evans**

**Attendance**

Member		Member		Staff	
Andrea Aguirre	P	Tony Ingraffea (associate)*	E	Terry Carroll	P
Sara Culotta	P	Guillermo Metz	P	Kristin McCarthy	P
Veronica Pillar*	E	Gavin Mosley	P		
Brian Eden	P	Alex Rakow (associate)*	P		
Danielle Eiseman	P	Sarah Schnabel	P		
Rebecca Evans	P	Irene Weiser	P		
Evan Hallas	E				

\*Non-voting member

**Guests:** Alice Green, Laura Huizinga, Anne Koreman, Marie McRae, Martha Robertson

**1. Call to Order/Agenda Review** – Moderator Rebecca Evans called the meeting to order at 4:03pm. No changes to the agenda.

**2. Approval of Minutes** – The draft March 2023 minutes were approved (motion by Sarah Schnabel, second by Sara Culotta) as submitted. Motion carried.

**3. Public Comment** – Marie McRae asked whether the meeting would be recorded. Sara explained it would not due to the number of County advisory boards and limited capacity to store video/audio files.

**4. Member Updates** – Group talked about spread of misinformation regarding CLCPA and grid capacity, hiring of Hillary Swartwood as Town of Ithaca’s new sustainability planner, and passing of long-time County legislator and environmentalist Dooley Kiefer.

**5. Presentation/Discussion: Community Choice Aggregation** – *Paul Fenn, Local Power*  
 After a quick round of introductions, Rebecca shared background context on City and Town of Ithaca’s efforts to launch a community choice aggregation (CCA) plan. She talked about bulk purchasing, contracts, issuing an request for proposals, and future next steps such as implementation. She then turned spot-light over to guest presenter Paul Fenn, whose firm Local Power would serve as the municipalities’ CCA administrator. Paul’s presentation and Q&A discussion covered CCA administration management, distributed energy resources, governance models, cost structure, retail electricity services, performance tracking, community outreach, customer engagement, usage history and rate data, aggregate data, expanding CCA to surrounding municipalities, and more.

**6. Report/Action: Final Review/Approval of Revised EPR Resolution** – *Brian Eden*  
 Brian reviewed developments with draft extended producer responsibility resolution since April CaSE meeting, which included subsequent conversations with Kat McCarthy and Barb Eckstrom from the County’s Recycling and Materials Management Department. The draft resolution is scheduled to go to the Planning, Energy, and Environmental Quality legislative committee on April 17 and full County Legislature on April 18.

**Action:** A motion by Sara Culotta, seconded by Gavin Mosley, was made to approve a resolution urging New York State to pass a strong packaging reduction and recycling infrastructure act and expand the state's bottle bill. Motion carried.

#### **7. Chair's Report: Board Activity Updates**

Sara reported on recent CaSE advocacy efforts. These included letter to NYS Senate Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins requesting the state legislature delay action on the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure and Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging acts until after state budget is passed, as well as comments submitted in support of NYSEG's proposed thermal energy network in downtown Ithaca. Discussion of latter touched on community engagement, lessons learned from past NYSEG pilots, possible timelines, choice overload for consumers, NYSEG rate case and billing issues, funding sources, open versus closed loop systems, hydrology, and more.

#### **8. Discussion/Action: Nominating Committee and Member Recruitment**

Members discussed outreach and recruitment strategies for filling vacant seats on the board (Stefan resigned recently, and Gavin is stepping down this month too). Sarah Schnabel, Irene Weiser, and Andrea Aguirre volunteered to serve on the nominating committee. Sarah will convene the first committee meeting, and time will be reserved on May agenda for report to full board followed by discussion.

#### **9. Report/Discussion: CLCPA (S.6030 Parker/A. 6039 Barrett)**

Members discussed fossil fuel industry's attempts to undermine CLCPA. Discussion covered ongoing NYS budget negotiations, political action committee donations, methane accounting, cap and invest programs, advocacy relay calls and other mobilization efforts, and more. The group also talked briefly about NYSEG rate case, and Gavin expressed his interest in finding ways NYSEG can collaborate constructively with community once rate case is over. Sara thanked Gavin for his service to the board.

#### **10. Staff Report**

Terry reported on Business Energy Advisors program, County's renewable energy certificates (Gravity Renewables), requests for 2024 County budget, and project ideas for a Clean Energy Communities grant.

#### **11. Meeting Wrap-up**

Danielle is on deck for facilitating May meeting. Guillermo is scheduled for June.

#### **12. Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.