

**TOMPKINS COUNTY Climate and Sustainable Energy Advisory Board**  
**Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2023, 4:00-6:00PM**  
**Final Minutes**  
**Meeting Facilitator: Irene Weiser**

**Attendance**

Member		Member		Staff	
Andrea Aguirre	P	Tony Ingraffea (associate)*	E	Terry Carroll	P
Sara Culotta	P	Stefan Jirka	E	Hailley Delisle	P
Anne Koreman*	P	Guillermo Metz	P	Kristin McCarthy	P
Brian Eden	P	Gavin Mosley			
Danielle Eiseman	P	Alex Rakow (associate)*	P		
Rebecca Evans	P	Sarah Schnabel	E		
Evan Hallas	E	Irene Weiser	P		
Robert Howarth (ex officio)*	P				

\*Non-voting member

**Guests:** Peter Bardaglio, Chuck Geisler, Sara Hess, Gay Nicholson, Veronica Pillar, Martha Robertson, Brad Will

**1. Call to Order/Agenda Review** – Moderator Irene Weiser called the meeting to order at 4:05pm. No changes to agenda. Everyone welcomed legislator Veronica Pillar and introduced themselves via the chat function.

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

**3. Public Comment** – Martha Robertson shared news regarding outreach around public hearings related to NYSEG billing issues as well as hearings related to building electrification.

**4. Member Updates** – Members reported on various items of interest. These included an ordinance passed by the City of Eugene, Oregon, to require all new residential housing to be constructed all-electric, developments with NYS Climate Action Scoping Plan and Bob Howarth’s efforts to educate national and international leadership and conduct media outreach related to blue hydrogen and other matters, progress related to City of Ithaca fleet electrification and benchmarking building performance systems, a green hydrogen pilot at Southworks development site, as well as a climate risk assessment for city infrastructure, indoor air quality training, and more.

**5. Chair’s Report: Board Activity Updates (as needed)**

Sara reported on her recent appearance at a County Legislature meeting and the celebration held in honor of Brian. She talked about CaSE’s efforts to think outside the box in terms of enhancing connections with the County Legislature, such as through the one-on-one listening campaign where CaSE members meet individually with legislators.

**6. Presentation/Discussion: NYS 2023 Budget and Building Electrification Legislation – Irene Weiser**

Irene presented on energy transition priorities for the 2023 NYS legislative budget. She highlighted bills related to energy affordability, jobs, equity, and building electrification along with ways CaSE and the County Legislature could support their success. Her talk and the Q&A covered the state budget process and timeline, executive budget details, building electrification, cap and invest for greenhouse gas emissions, legislative priorities such as ways to increase enrollment in Energy Affordability Program and

simplify applying for the Home Energy Assistance Program, and more. Among the specific bills shared were the All-Electric Buildings Act, NY Home Energy Equitable Transition Act, and the Energy Efficiency, Equity, and Jobs Act. Other ideas discussed as worth prioritizing included strengthening regional clean energy hubs, supporting zero-interest loans for heat pumps and weatherization through a NYS Green Hub, exploring a Green Affordable Pre-Electrification (GAP) fund, and more. Irene said she'd email everyone her slide deck and a link to Renewable Heat Now's legislative package.

**7. Report/Discussion: County Green Building Policy** – Terry Carroll

Terry reported on his plans to update the County Green Building Policy, which dates back to 2013 and was last modified in 2019. He hopes to have a draft policy in place soon for review. His presentation and the subsequent discussion covered issues with current policy (e.g., it doesn't address what do with buildings at end of life, aka "deconstruction", LEED Silver certification was okay in 2013 but not so much today), goals (e.g., enhance building performance, address embodied carbon), exploring alternative certification standards, minimum equipment performance standards, commissioning requirements, and whether to use existing baseline energy efficiency standards or set prescriptive ones, design/build construction, municipal ordinances, and more. Other topics included possible role for interns, perusing policies from Ulster County, City of Portland, Oregon, and other places, build in mechanism to ensure policy is reviewed every few years, and more. Andrea, Brian, Evan, Brad, Guillermo, and Peter expressed interest in diving into the topic in more detail, and Terry agreed to set up a time for all of them to meet.

**8. Report/Discussion: Manufactured Housing Working Group (as needed)** – Danielle Eiseman

No report

**9. Staff Report (as needed)**

Terry thanked Brian for serving as a mentor over the years. He then briefly updated group on Caswell solar farm and renewable energy certificates discussion at PEEQ. Hailley reported on Climate Smart Communities Task Force resolution and Business Energy Advisors program.

**10. Meeting Wrap-up**

Brian will facilitate March meeting. Irene, Brian, and Martha will follow up with Veronica and Annie to discuss next steps for NYS legislative priorities and possible PEEQ support. Members talked about DEC funding, 2023 NYS Association of Counties Legislative Conference, NYSEG Lansing Non-Pipe Alternatives and natural gas moratorium area, and more.

**11. Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.