

TOMPKINS COUNTY Climate and Sustainable Energy Advisory Board
Wednesday, June 14, 2023, 4:00-6:00PM
Final Minutes
Meeting Facilitator: Guillermo Metz

Attendance

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

*Non-voting member

Guests: Peter Bardaglio, Stella Frank, Anne Koreman, Leigh Miller, Hillary Swarhout

1. Call to Order/Agenda Review – Moderator Guillermo Metz called the meeting to order at 4:13pm and provided an overview of the agenda. Sara called out that Brian wants to discuss Case and municipal planning, per his email. Group introduced themselves.

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

3. Public Comment – CCE-TC staffer Leigh Miller, point person for Tompkins County for the Southern Tier Clean Energy Hub, introduced herself and explained more about the state’s 12 Regional Clean Energy Hubs. She offered to give a longer presentation at another meeting. Danielle invited her to attend a meeting of the manufactured housing working group.

4. Member Updates – Members reported on NYSEG rate case, packaging reduction legislation, spring economic conference of NY Independent System Operators, City of Ithaca’s community choice aggregation implementation plan, building energy codes, board recruitment, and more. Terry provided brief update on revisions to County advisory board policy.

5. Discussion: What is the mandate of this group, how can we be most effective, how can we support the legislature?

Guillermo facilitated group discussion on vision for the board, both in terms of its “on paper’ mission and “subtext” mission. Conversation covered multiple topics, including collaboration between board members, County staff, legislators, NYSERDA and Public Service Commission; acting as group versus individuals to provide subject matter expertise and shine awareness on pressing energy issues; support for municipalities, including investments in training for code enforcement officers and helping to secure municipal grants; and more. Specific topics shared as possible areas of focus include County Center of Government, geothermal district heating, EV fast-charging stations, quarterly board updates to legislative committee; and more. Manufactured housing working group was highlighted as successful example of coalescing around a topic.

6. Discussion: Possible areas to focus on (form subgroups?):

Notes from meeting will be shared afterward so group can further contemplate next steps. Members discussed forming standing working groups around certain topics to facilitate shorter response times for addressing issues that arise between meetings.

7. Staff Report (as needed)

Staff commented briefly on NYSEG rate case, Climate Smart Communities recertification, heat pump training at Tompkins County Public Library, scheduled updates to legislative committees (Caswell Solar array at Planning, Energy, and Environmental Quality and Green Building Policy at Facilities & Infrastructure), and more.

8. Meeting Wrap-up

Sarah asked if a complete list of County advisory boards was available. Peter Bardaglio complimented group on a fruitful discussion.

9. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 6:03pm.