



Tompkins County Legislature

Governor Daniel D. Tompkins Building
Ithaca, NY 14850

Meeting: 11/04/21 05:30 PM
Department: Planning and Sustainability Department
Category: Advisory Boards/Committees
Functional Category:

SCHEDULED

RESOLUTION NO. a DOC ID: 10424

1 **Continuing the Tompkins County Climate and Sustainable Energy**
2 **Advisory Board**

3 WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 2019-280 passed on December 3, 2019, the Tompkins County Legislature
4 created the Tompkins County Climate and Sustainable Energy Advisory Board to serve for a two-year period ending
5 December 31, 2021, with the option to extend, and
6

7 WHEREAS, the Climate and Sustainable Energy Advisory Board was tasked with providing input and
8 guidance to the Legislature with expertly curated information on legislative and regulatory initiatives, and successful
9 community programs, relating to energy and climate change, as well as emerging energy efficiency, renewables, and
10 climate adaptation technologies, and
11

12 WHEREAS, in the past two years the Climate and Sustainable Energy Advisory Board drafted a green jobs
13 report that catalyzed green workforce development, provided feedback on the County's Greenhouse Gas Emissions
14 Inventory, supported the creation of the County's chief sustainability officer position, supported Legislators' input on
15 the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act advisory panels, submitted to the state Climate Action Council
16 examples of barriers to implementing the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, and provided comments
17 on utility rate cases, state regulations on renewables, the state draft greenhouse gas annual report, and state methane
18 emissions accounting, and
19

20 WHEREAS, the pace of anthropogenic climate change is accelerating rapidly, and mitigating its effects
21 requires a paradigm shift to sustainable energy sources and greater energy efficiency, and
22

23 WHEREAS, the New York State Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act sets ambitious
24 greenhouse gas emission reduction standards for all state residents and communities, including Tompkins County, and
25

26 WHEREAS, the updated Tompkins County Energy Strategy commits the County to moving its facilities and
27 operations to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as is fiscally viable, and
28

29 WHEREAS, Tompkins County has benefitted from the Climate and Sustainable Energy Advisory Board's
30 enhanced capacity and specialized expertise in new energy technologies, and will need continued input and guidance
31 from experts on issues relating to climate change and sustainable energy, and
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33 WHEREAS, the Legislature, and particularly the Planning, Energy, and Environmental Quality Committee,
34 expects that Tompkins County will continue to need expertly curated information on legislative and regulatory
35 initiatives, and successful community programs, relating to energy and climate change, as well as emerging energy
36 efficiency, renewables, and climate adaptation technologies, and
37

38 WHEREAS, the Climate and Sustainable Energy Advisory Board would continue to provide that information,
39 as well as recommendations to assist the County in developing additional capacity and expertise to engage with state
40 policy makers and regulators, utility staff, municipal leaders, developers, businesses, and community groups to set
41 Tompkins County government and the wider Tompkins County community on a successful course to meeting the
42 greenhouse gas emission reduction goals of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act and the Tompkins
43 County Energy Strategy as quickly as is fiscally and economically feasible, now therefore be it
44

45 RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Energy, and Environmental Quality Committee, That the

1 existing Tompkins County Climate and Sustainable Energy Advisory Board be continued through December 31, 2024,
2 with a three-year term of operation with the option to extend, and be expanded to 11 members who will be appointed
3 by the Legislature,
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5 RESOLVED, further, That members will be appointed on the basis of their expertise and engagement in issues
6 related to climate change and sustainable energy, including emerging energy efficiency, renewables, and climate
7 adaptation technologies,
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9 RESOLVED, further, That the Climate and Sustainable Energy Advisory Board shall report to the Planning,
10 Energy, and Environmental Quality Committee of the Legislature, and that a Legislator who is a member of that
11 committee shall be a liaison to the Board.

12 **SEQR ACTION:** TYPE II-26