



**ONEIDA COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING**

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ANTHONY J. PICENTE, JR.
County Executive
James J. Genovese II
Commissioner

Climate Smart Communities Task Force Meeting #7 - Minutes

January 27, 2026 at 10:00 AM

Department of Water Quality and Water Pollution Control
772 Sewage Plant Road
Utica, NY 13501

Introductions and Attendance

Nicole Bourgeois	Senior Engineer, Oneida County Water Pollution Control
Dale Lockwood	Chief Operator, Oneida County Water Pollution Control
Daniel Sharfarz	Co-Director of Energy Environment team, Cornell Cooperative Extension
Kristin Campbell	Chief Planner, Oneida County Department of Planning
Amy Heiderich	Senior Planner, Oneida County Department of Planning
Grace Whiffen	Planning Specialist, Oneida County Department of Planning
Hanna Sauberan	Planner, Oneida County Department of Planning
JP Dillon	Planner, Oneida County Department of Planning

The meeting opened at 10:05 AM by Kristin Campbell, speaking on behalf of the Climate Smart Communities Task Force Coordinator, James Genovese. Everyone introduced themselves and the agency or department they represent.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory- Oneida County Government Oneida County Governmental Operations

- While giving this update J.P. Dillon showed the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory excel sheet where all the data has been input.
- J. Dillon has been creating categories so when all the GHG data is reported, they are organized into categories instead of being by facility, so the final product will not show usage for specific facilities. Almost all the data has been collected; including monthly utility bills. The last thing we are working on is the refrigerants.
 - He received an email from MVEDD two months ago saying the greenhouse gas emissions inventory should also now include refrigerant data along with the other emissions.
 - Water Pollution Control stated that they are working on an extensive refrigerant list, but it is taking a long time.
- J.Dillon has gathered information from three pools of data: The Airport, Department of Public Works, and Water Pollution Control.
- A commuter survey was created by J. Dillon, and it was sent to James Genovese for approval. Kristin Campbell will follow up with J.Genovese about it. The

commuter survey is meant to capture Scope 3, indirect emissions, by obtaining average emissions generated from Oneida County employees driving to and from work.

- J.Dillon, Hanna Sauberan, and Grace Whiffen have already begun formatting the Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report. After looking at reports from multiple counties they decided on an outline and framework. They split up the work for the report, G.Whiffen worked on the introduction to the report which included what the GHG Inventory is, why we are doing it and the background information of the County. H. Sauberan worked on different ways to display the data that is more digestible for the common reader and J. Dillon worked on the methodology.
 - We are waiting for the collection of all data, so the findings can be added into the report.

Discussion:

- Nicole Bourgeois asked once the Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report is done, will it be posted publicly?
 - K.Campbell responded that the report will be posted publicly to our website and it will be sent to the task force for the review period.

Open Forum

- N. Bourgeois let the task force know that Oneida County Water Pollution Control had a pre-construction meeting for the Barnes Ave. pump station so hopefully construction will start in the spring.
- Bid for UV station will go out on February 9th. They are transferring from sodium hydrochloride to UV for disinfection.
 - Dale Lockwood explained that transferring from sodium hydrochloride to UV will offset emissions because they will not be getting 10,000-gallon tankers every week from Albany. D. Lockwood also explained that he doesn't know if the incinerators will be factored in the GHG Inventory because when they had the incinerators, they received 1,000 gallons of fuel oil every week via tanker.
 - J. Dillon let them know in the next inventory, the change to UV disinfection will be shown, especially if it's a change over from how it's done previously. With the incinerators, they will not show because they have been down since 2019 and the inventory base year starts in 2022.

- N. Bourgeois asked J. Dillon if OCWPC accepting food waste from the Oneida Herkimer Solid Waste Authority facility will help them with offsetting carbon emissions?
 - J. Dillon responded that yes it will help offset emissions.
- Amy Heidrich asked if there was an additional turbine put in during 2022.
 - D.Lockwood responded that there were two additional turbines installed, but they don't run all the time. Those were from a GIGP grant.
 - K. Campbell has information about the grant because she helped write it if A. Heidrich or J. Dillon wants to look into it.
- Daniel Sharfarz said that CCE has some projects in the works for homeowners.
- D.Sharfarz asked D. Lockwood if the UV setup is coming from the grid.
 - D. Lockwood explained that yes, it comes from the grid. However, on the operation budget side, the Sodium Hydrochloride and the de-chlorination costs them \$500,000 a year while the UV will cost ~\$30,000 a year. Plus, they are offsetting the emissions that are coming from trucking the chemicals from Buffalo and Albany.

D.Lockwood then took the group on a tour of the Water Pollution Control Plant. Due to the inclement weather, the tour did not cover the entire facility, and the task force was invited to come again in the spring or summer for a more extensive tour.

Adjournment