



VILLAGE HALL & OFFICES
Old Havana Court-House

VILLAGE OF MONTOUR FALLS

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2024 Annual Progress review of the Montour Falls' Government Operations Climate Action Plan

Completed by Amanda Demaria - March 12, 2024

Reviewed by the Sustainability Committee on March 14, 2024

Presented to the Village Board on March 21, 2024

The Government Operations Climate Action Plan was adopted in April 2021 and will be implemented between 2021 - 2026. Below is a summary of projects undertaken in 2023 by the Village of Montour Falls, the Sustainability Committee and Partner Agencies.

The Government Operations Climate Action Plan can be found here.

https://www.villageofmontourfalls.com/uploads/8/6/7/9/86796416/updated_government_operation_climate_action_plan.pdf

Plan Review

1. Facilities and Grounds

1.1.1 The Village replaced all facility lighting with LED Lighting in the newly purchased Administrative Office. A report on the cost and energy savings for all village facilities will be completed in Summer 2024.

1.3.3 The Village replaced 10 major water valves for the first time in over 30 years. This will greatly decrease wasted water from leaking valves.

1.4.1 Because of the strain of COVID and the increased remote meetings being held locally and across the state and federal government, American Rescue Plan funding was utilized to install technology in the Boardroom to meet the telecommunications needs.

2. Transportation

2.1.1 The Village completed the annual fleet inventory and reviewed the findings.

2.2.1 The Village purchased and deployed two electronic vehicles in 2023. Both vehicles are Ford Lightnings and will be utilized in public works and community safety.

2.3.1 The Village developed and enacted a Village-wide Complete Streets Plan in June 2022. Additional funding has been secured to begin implementation of the projects in the Plan. Main Street Projects will begin in Summer 2025.

2.3.3 The Village received a \$571,000.00 stormwater grant from DOT to begin in 2024 leading us to 2025 and the final phase of reconstructing Owego Street. This will greatly decrease the amount of stormwater entering the sewer system as well as decrease flooding risks in the Village. This was a project identified in the Complete Streets Plan.

2.3.4 In cooperation with the Schuyler County Highway Department., the Village paved Belle Cornell Drive, East Main Street, and Genesee Street. Schuyler County Soil & Water Dept. worked with our Public Works Dept. to replace a storm drain pipe on North L’Hommedieu Street and Belle Cornell Drive. These were identified as high priority roadways in the Complete Streets Plan.

2.3.5 The Village paved, replaced curbs, and reconstructed sidewalks on E. South Street and will continue this plan on W. South Street in 2024, continuing to address pedestrian access and safety in our Village. Improved pedestrian access is an identified project in the Complete Streets Plan.

2.3.6 Through the use of grants focused on the installation of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations, the Village received funding for \$100,000.00 to add additional stations increasing capacity to serve residents and visitors. Engineering for the stations began in 2023. Construction will be completed for both stations in 2024. The Project is identified in the Complete Streets Plan

2.3.7 Cornell University students conducted two projects that support our Complete Streets Plan in a program known as Design Connect. The results of this effort saved our Village approximately \$30,000.00 in engineering dollars.

3. Purchasing

3.1.1 The Village continued implementing all purchasing policies related to the Climate Action Plan.

4. Sustainable Materials Management

4.1.1 The Village will determine the best method and process for full implementation of a permanent Village Resident and Commercial Food Waste Reduction Program, pending results of the pilot program. The Pilot program was completed in December 2022. Additional funding for an extension of the program has been secured. Seventeen tons of organic waste was diverted from the waste-stream in 2023.

4.1.2 The Village has continued to provide funding for the community-wide compost collection bins.

4.1.3 The Village’s Food Waste Reduction Program was awarded the 2023 Better Practice Award Winner for Solid Waste Reduction and Diversion Strategies in April 2023. The program has removed approximately 42 tons of organic waste from the waste stream since its inception in January 2021.

5. Protection of Natural Resources

5.4.1 The Village is developing a Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan that will protect the canal as well as expand its public use.

5.4.2 The Village applied for and was awarded a grant to complete a tree inventory and management plan.

6. Public and Employee Engagement

6.3.1 The Village installed recycle and compost bins in all government owned facilities.

6.4.1 The village conducted public outreach through in-person, public events located within Montour Falls (Montour Falls Harvest Festival, Montour Falls Farmers Market, etc.) throughout 2023.

6.5.1 The Village maintained and updated the Sustainable Montour Falls webpages as needed throughout 2023

6.6.1 The Village sustained a social media presence for the purposes of public outreach and communication about sustainability actions throughout 2023. Nancy Doniger is the new sustainability coordinator on the sustainability committee.

7. Mentoring by Example

7.2.1 The Village began conversations with the Town of Hector on partner activities and events. The first joint event will be held in Spring 2024.

7.2.2 The Village mayor represented the Village on boards and organizations sharing the Village's Climate Smart Expertise. The Mayor met with the Governor and her staff, the Village's Congressman, and U.S. Senators Gillibrand and Schumer's staff, state Senator and Assemblyman, and other county leaders, neighboring town and Village government officials. The Mayor was appointed to the Southern Tier Regional Planning and Development Board, and was selected by the Council of Governments to be on the Schuyler County Partnership for Economic Development. All of these interactions are beneficial to working together for the betterment of the Village and promotion of climate smart actions.

7.2.3 In conjunction with the B.C. Cate School, the Village funded and participated in Arbor Day Tree Plantings with students.

7.3.1 With a grant from NYSERDA, the Village is able to fund a summer intern. The College students focus their efforts on Energy and Climate action items that have resulted in, to date, over \$100,000.00 in funding for projects benefiting our community. In 2023, the intern was able to recertify the Village's Bronze Climate Smart Status.

7.3.2 With a grant from NYSERDA, the Village received funding for a Climate Justice Fellow, a full-time employee who is developing future goals, fulfilling present state requirements, and completing public engagement to gather data and inform the public about various programs and opportunities.

8. Promotion of Green Economic Development

8.3.1 The Village applied for and secured a \$4,500,000.00 award from the New York Forward program. This new program released by the state is well underway and under review for qualified projects to be awarded, projects that will continue to provide growth and economic development.

8.3.2 Utilizing America Rescue funding, the Village supported a pilot plan of creating outdoor seating along Main Street. Early data supports this need to continue and become a more permanent part of the Main Street landscape.

8.4.2 The Village received funding through the Appalachian Regional Commission to provide low interest loans to businesses to assist in the implementation of Climate Smart Actions.

2024 Goals:

1. Installation of the Level 2 and Level 3 Electric Vehicle Charges
2. Partnering with DEC on of the Drinking Water Protection Act Projects
3. Submit for Silver Climate Smart Communities Certification.
4. Purchase Electric Lawn and Public Works Equipment to replace gas powered equipment.
5. Complete Tree Inventory
6. Secure up to \$250,000 in Clean Energy Point based funds.
7. Issue at least three ARC loans for Climate Smart Actions.
8. Re-baseline GHG Inventories to include all municipal buildings.
9. Start the NYSERDA Build Ready Site Program.