

A dramatic sunset over a lake. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, with a bright, glowing light breaking through in the center, creating a vertical beam of light. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow across the water and the sky. In the foreground, a wooden dock extends into the water, with several boats moored at it. The water is calm, reflecting the light from the sky. The overall mood is serene and powerful.

Climate Summit

November 13, 2021

United Climate
Action Network
(UCAN)

Cazenovia New York

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Sponsored by the United Climate Action Network (UCAN)

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Cazenovia, New York

Advocacy Task Force

Members: Phil Rose, Lauren Lines, Maureen Zupan, and Kristi Andersen

Accomplishments

Senator May's office provided us with a long list of possible legislation in the Senate and/or Assembly that deals with climate change, sustainability, and renewable energy.

We circulated a petition for summit attendees to sign, supporting the CCIA (Climate and Community Investment Act) that raises \$15 billion a year to help support renewable energy sources and build a sustainable economy in New York. This includes funding for large-scale investments such as offshore wind, large-scale solar, electric vehicle infrastructure, and improvements to public housing and public transit. This will be accompanied by a letter and sent to Senator May and Assemblyman Salka.

Other legislation that seems promising includes:

- Clean Futures Act (S5939A) no new fossil fuel power generating facilities
- Three-year moratorium (S6486A) on permitting of cryptocurrency plants
- Act requiring companies contracting with the state to certify that they do not contribute to deforestation directly or through their supply chains (S5921 & A6872)
- Stop fossil fuel subsidies (S2721) over the next five years
- NYS Build Public Renewables Act (S6453) – enables the NY Power Authority to own and build new renewable energy generation, storage, and transmission.

Action Plan for 2022

- Work to educate ourselves and community members about NYS legislation dealing with climate change.
- Refine and distribute widely a proposal with above list of our key NYS legislations.
- In particular, research the impact of cryptocurrency such as Bitcoin on the environment, and share this with UCAN and the community
- Meet with our NYS representatives, Senator Rachel May and Assemblyman John Salka, to discuss their positions on climate-related legislation, especially but not only the Climate and Community Investment Act

Tree Task Force

Members: Laurie Feine-Dudley, Stephen Evans, Jason Grabosky, Julie Poplaski, Alexis Ellis, Neal Parker, and Eric Jerabek

The Tree Task Force's goal is to plant trees to help ameliorate the impact of climate change and to use them as an educational tool to teach about climate change, carbon sequestration and the overall benefits of trees to the environment.

The Tree Task force is proud of the near completion of the 220 Tree Project at Stone Quarry Hill Art Park. We have planted around 300 trees at SQHAP between the 220 Tree Project and the new hedge row project. UCAN, the community at large, Cazenovia College, SUNY ESF, the Oneida Nation and the Staff and visiting artists at SQHAP have all been involved. We have received a lot of publicity and feel we have made progress in getting the community to embrace the benefits of tree planting.

Accomplishments

In 2021 we finished the planting of the original design from the Landscape Design students at SUNY ESF. To finish the planting, Eric Jerabek cleared the slough to allow us to connect the two ends of the design. Jimmy Golub and Kevin Dudley built a water wagon and later we also purchased a Gorilla Cart to help with watering in the summer. In April we had many volunteers come out to help plant new and replace dead trees. Professor Jason Grabosky taught basic tree planting to all the volunteers. We put his class to immediate use and planted about 200 trees in under 2 hours. It was a great experience for all. In May, Chad Jaconski's class from Cazenovia College helped mulch all the new trees in the 220 Tree Project. It was a wet summer and we didn't need to water much but we had a group of volunteers to help us with that too. In the fall we replaced trees that did not survive.

Action Plan for 2022

- We would like to finish the 220 Project with signs and a QR code available at the site to allow people to access information on the project and to learn about climate change, carbon sequestration and the overall benefits of trees including the species planted. We will continue to water and maintain the installation.
- Our next larger project planned is reimagining and replanting a hedge row at SQHAP. The hedge rows at the park are mostly invasive species. We plan to replant with pollinator and animal friendly plants to encourage wildlife to return to the Art Park and serve as an effective hedge row with all its benefits. This project will also ultimately be an interactive educational installation.
- We have a smaller project of identifying interesting trees around the village of Cazenovia and labeling them with species and common names. We imagine including a

QR code that gives more information on each species so the public can learn more about trees. We hope that either the high school or Cazenovia College will like to participate in the project.

Renewable Energy Task Force

Members: Phil Hofmeyer, Dave Porter, Jimmy Golub, Laurie Dudley, and Kathy Hahn

Accomplishments

- Providing guidance to homeowners who were considering installing PV solar
- Prepared web pages on the UCAN website with information on the following:
 - Listing of local code requirements for residential solar
 - Descriptions of basic residential PV system components
 - Information on local PV solar permitting
 - Links to NYSERDA solar information and guidelines
 - Information on PV solar contractors.

Action Plan for 2022

- Work to increase community awareness of renewable energy projects
- We will remain focused on local renewable energy projects such as solar photovoltaic, wind power, and hydro-electric power. Our current focus is on solar photovoltaic systems.
- The group has decided to shift its focus from residential scale PV solar installations to larger community scale solar installations.
- We would like to assist local government planning boards in their process for formulating guidelines for siting large PV installations including:
 - Zoning and setback requirements and using GIS mapping to delineate acceptable locations for PV arrays
 - Assist with preparing local land use ordinances related to solar PV
- Morrisville College has an upcoming event in Summer 2022 that will provide guidance to municipal planning boards to assist them with the solar PV siting process – our group would like to support this program.
 - One of our group members, Phil Hofmeyer, chair of the Morrisville College Environmental and Renewable Resources Division, has already been quite active in assisting municipal planning boards in this area. We would like to work with Phil to see how our group can assist.

- We will sponsor an on-site field visit at a local PV installation to provide basic training for town boards and planners – possible Spring '22 timeframe.

Water Task Force

Members: Jim Cunningham, Bob Crichton, Jimmy Golub, Lauren Lines, Deanna McCay, Dave Miller, Liz Moran, Anne Saltman, Jen Wong, Jen Wong. Mat Webber, and Thad Yorks

The Water Task Force focuses on citizen participation, science, and education. Members work together to increase awareness of water resource issues, to identify local solutions, and to generate participation from the community. The Task Force studies all aspects of water resources, including surface water, groundwater, watershed land use and its impact on stormwater runoff, precipitation rates, storm events that contribute to flooding, and dry periods that may lead to droughts. Our meetings provide an excellent opportunity for collaboration among local groups with similar objectives. Meetings are called on an as-needed basis and are open to all.

Accomplishments

- Water Quality Monitoring Program

The Task Force launched a water quality monitoring program for community volunteers in the fall of 2021. The volunteers represent homeowners, college and high school students, local scouts from Troop 18, the Izaak Walton League, and the Cazenovia Lake Association. The Task Force provides the supplies and training and the volunteers test water from streams and drainage basins along Cazenovia Lake and Chittenango Creek. This program is helping our community evaluate water quality and provides an opportunity for volunteers to take ownership for local water resources. The test results will be reported to the town and village.

We provide two options for water quality testing in area streams and drainage waterways:

1. Volunteers test for chloride after storm events and/or snowmelt to check for elevated levels from winter road salt applications.
2. Volunteers test for additional parameters such as water temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, phosphates, and nitrates. Testing in this category is done four times per year.

- Local Climate Characteristics

Task Force members collect weather characteristics in order to document the impacts of a warming climate. Long-term trends have been established for the following: air temperature, water temperature in Cazenovia Lake, precipitation, snowfall, Cazenovia Lake ice in/ice out, periods of drought, and storm event frequency and intensity.

- Culvert Inventory

Task Force members are conducting an inventory of culverts throughout the Cazenovia area. Erosion at culvert outfalls can block the movement of aquatic organisms. Inventory findings will be reported to the town and village.

Action Plan for 2022

- Recruit, train (with in-person and video instruction,) and develop data storage capacity for the Task Force Volunteer Monitoring Program.
- Identify long-term trends for storm event frequency and intensity.
- Install and monitor the Town of Cazenovia's new weather station.
- Facilitate communication among local groups to discuss remediation of sediment and nutrient loading to Cazenovia Lake from Chittenango Creek.
- Advocate on water quality issues to our regional and state legislators.
- Investigate the proposed synthetic turf installation at the high school and the potential impacts of surface and groundwater runoff to Cazenovia Lake.

Plastics and Recycling Task Force

Members: Kyle Reger, Marlene Bissel, Hannora Race, Chary Griffin, Jack Stevens, and Nancy Paolozzi

Accomplishments

- Prior to the plastic bag ban, we distributed hundreds of re-usable shopping bags, (most of which were hand made by us) to the community at large. A description of the need for the ban was included in each bag.
- Several Trash Clean-ups
- A 'Recycle Pizza Box' campaign which included eye-catching posters which we displayed in area pizza shops.
- Educating the public on recycling by providing better signage at transfer stations and schools about how and what can be recycled.

- The high school students in our group have been providing education on recycling to their peers. For the first time they now have recycling bins in the high school.

Action Plan for 2021 and 2022

- **Fall Clean-Up**
November 20th at 10:00 AM on Stone Quarry Hill Road. During our fall clean-up, we will develop a checklist of items that we encounter to create an inventory of what the trash consists of. We are hoping Kristin Welch (Madison County Recycling Coordinator) can provide their inventory trash list as a guide to developing our own list. If garbage is found in abundance from a specific vendor (like McDonalds) we will go to the company to show them the data and suggest the need to move to more recyclable containers or money for cleanup.
- **Composting**
 - Our students want to start composting in the High School. The issues to address are:
 - How it is collected- (bins? Where placed?)
 - How much compost will there be in one week?
 - Who will collect it?
 - Who will transport it off-site?
 - Where will the off-site compost pile be located? At a local farm or smaller ones at the school?
 - Working toward getting community composting perhaps following Utica's "CNY Green Bucket" program where someone came around and collected compost (for a fee).
 - Adding information to our website on how to home compost
 - Talking with local vendors about carrying similar items that do not use plastic packaging.
 - Orchestrating an Open Municipal Day with tours of our county facilities (such as Buyea Rd Waste Management Plant, Waste Water Treatment facility, CAVAC, Fire Station, etc.
 - Developing a list of creative ways to re-purpose our garbage.
 - Developing an information sheet on what items are available that are made from recycled materials.
 - Educating the public about the environmental impact of the packaging of a variety of standard household goods and which products have a lower carbon footprint compared to others in the same category.

- Supporting the potential for using hemp fiber for packaging.

Agriculture Task Force

Members: Roger Saltman, Van Bartlett, Erik Smith, David Jones, Matt Robinson, Amanda Tess Southern, and Phil Rose

The Agriculture Task Force was formed in late 2020. In its first year, the Task Force focused on obtaining the materials to create a soil carbon sequestration testing kit and utilize the Northeast Organic Farmers Association protocol to test the soils of several farms in Madison County. Soil carbon sequestration is a process in which CO₂ is removed from the atmosphere and stored in the soil carbon pool. This process is primarily mediated by plants through photosynthesis, with carbon stored in the form of SOC (soil organic carbon).

Accomplishments

- We created a soil carbon sequestration kit for use in Madison County. The public is able to borrow the kit from the County Extension office.
- We trained ourselves how to use the kit using the “See One, Do One, Teach One” approach.

Action Plan for 2022

- During the late spring and summer of 2022, we will develop a list of conventional farms that we can train to utilize the soil carbon sequestration test kit.
- We will potentially create a video on how to utilize the test kit and post on YouTube.
- We will utilize the County Cooperative Extension mailings to help explain the importance of soil carbon sequestration as well as to help conventional farms employ practices that will increase the amount of carbon that is sequestered in their soils. The ultimate goals will be to make soils healthier, reduce tillage and improve long term crop stability.

Youth Task Force

Members: Phil Rose, Mary Bartlett, Julie Popoloski, Emma Steinberg, and Hannora Race

Accomplishments

- Have put recycling posters in every classroom
- Are spreading knowledge about the importance of recycling
- Held a recycling raffle and posted interesting facts
- Have added bins to a classroom
- Gave a presentation to school staff
- Have widespread faculty support
- Gave recycling raffle with good participation
- Worked with other clubs to spread awareness
- Made a free center video
- Began fundraising for bins

Action Plan for 2022

- Create additional projects to promote and enforce greater recycling habits and education for the students.
- Continue to educate students, teachers, janitors, and other faculty on how our school recycling system works to debunk misnomers.
- Keep providing resources to understand the detrimental environmental implications from the lack of action and the importance of recycling both in school and the community.
- Persist in the redesign of the recycling system through additional receptacles and working with the student body to enforce trash and recycling separation.
- Involve the student body in our “Student Volunteer System.”
- Create sustained action and continue to work with the school.
- Reaching out to underclassmen to follow in our footsteps as leaders in the UCAN Youth Task Force.
- Obtain large recycling bins for cafeteria.
- Achieve a greater level of club endorsement.