



Draft Scoping Plan Comments
NYSERDA
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203
RE: CLCPA Draft Scoping Plan Comments

July 1, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a member of the Woodstock Town Board. The Woodstock Environmental Commission (WEC), the Tree Committee, and other advisory boards to the Woodstock Town Board are charged with advising the Town Board on environmental issues within the town, including planning for climate resiliency, protecting open space, and aligning the town's operations with the goals of the CLCPA.

I submit this comment on the following section from Chapter 19, which specifically calls for funding for Conservation Advisory Commissions (CACs) and Environmental Management Councils (EMCs).

LU5. Mapping, Research, Planning and Assistance

Page 288 Assist local governments to create land-use policies:

I, speaking for myself as a Town Board member and not others, support the recommendation that Conservation Advisory Commissions and Environmental Management Councils such as the WEC and Tree Committee be funded. Although these public bodies play a large role in determining land use planning and other vital environmental policy, without financial support, their budgets have been reduced, and our community is left with far fewer tools than needed to meet the challenges we face and will be facing into the future.

Funding from the state would allow these commissions and committees to take on larger projects in line with the CLCPA's goals and increase their ability to reach out to our community with educational programs and materials. It would allow investments in needed software, training for commission and committee members, hiring consultants and other experts as needed, and more.

Bennet Ratcliff
Town of Woodstock
Board Member