



Advisory Board

Climate and Sustainable Energy

ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR

Sara Culotta

ADVISORY BOARD VICE CHAIR

Irene Weiser

121 E. Court St, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850 | Phone: (607) 274-5560 | tompskinscountyny.gov/planning/caseboard

Climate Action Council
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-0001

Attn: Sarah Osgood
Basil Seggos
Doreen Harris

February 23, 2022

RE: Climate Plan Public Comment Period and Public Hearings

Dear Co-Chairs and Executive Director:

We, the Climate and Sustainable Energy Advisory Board (CaSE Board), appointed by the Tompkins County Legislature, are writing to request that the comment period for the Climate Plan be extended beyond May 1st to allow more time for an effective public information and feedback process. We believe this is essential to develop active support for the draft plan broadly, and to refine a myriad of plan specifics so that barriers to action and eventual success are identified and addressed by the final plan.

Tompkins County CaSE Board affirms wholehearted support for the plan generally. Climate Action Council member Robert Howarth has kept us apprised of the plan's development throughout 2020 and 2021. We believe it has been a thorough process informed by a wide range of stakeholder perspectives and subject matter experts. The result is a comprehensive document that integrates across all the sectors of our state, with feasible and detailed recommendations for policy and programs.

But the NYS Climate Plan documents available to date are not general-public friendly and no public hearing dates/locations have been announced. The 2 months left in the 4-month comment period are not enough time to effectively inform people, allow reflection and response by local organizations, municipal governing bodies, businesses and others. Public input is a crucial process for New Yorkers and the many entities which operate within the state's economy to develop understanding, ownership and motivation to execute the plan. Implementing the plan successfully will take more than policies, programs and market signals. It will require active support and cooperation, creativity and an "all hands on deck" attitude across sectors and individuals.

We encourage the Council to extend the time period and initiate a major public awareness campaign through a wide range of marketing and communication methods and channels.

In addition, Tompkins County would like to support the Climate Plan by hosting one of the public hearings in Ithaca. The CaSE Board and our Department of Planning and Sustainability will be happy to work with your team on logistics and getting the word out. We are part of a very active

The Climate and Sustainable Energy Advisory Board is a citizen board that advises the County Legislature on matters relating to the climate and sustainable energy and does not necessarily express the views of the Tompkins County Legislature.



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local and regional network and anticipate that Cornell University and the City of Ithaca would also support a hearing here. The Tier Energy Network, Cornell Cooperative Extension, the Green Jobs Corridor consortium, Heat Smart Tompkins, Clean Energy Communities are just a few of the many organizations we can mobilize for a strong turnout and a productive public input session.

Please be in touch with myself or Tompkins County Chief Sustainability Officer Terry Carroll if you would like to discuss possibilities.

Thank you for your hard work, dedication and strategy to mobilize all sectors of New York to effectively address climate change, transform our economy and support our natural environment.

Best regards,

Sara Culotta

Sara Culotta
CaSE Advisory Board Chair
sara.culotta@gmail.com

cc: Terry Carroll, tcarroll@tompskins-co.org