

Village of Canton 2018 Sustainability Action Plan

Pillar 4 of the 2016-20 [Canton Community Action Plan](#) pledges to support and promote community resiliency and smart growth practices by continuing, among other things, to develop, maintain, and implement a Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) addressing food, energy, housing, transportation, waste, climate change and natural resources. The Village of Canton established the Sustainability Committee in 2014 to support and assist in the previous community action plan's goal of strengthening Canton's future through sustainable development. The Sustainability Action Plan provides a framework for this committee's work.

The role of the Sustainability Committee is to:

- Contribute information and expertise on issues of sustainability.
- Identify gaps and opportunities for sustainability projects and programming, and appropriate groups to fill the gaps.
- Offer assistance in project planning, implementation, and priority setting.
- Help build partnerships and make connections (networking).
- Provide education and awareness about issues related to sustainable development and environmental responsibility.

The committee's principal focus areas are food and agriculture, energy, and transportation. Other areas of focus could be housing, waste, climate change mitigation and adaptation, natural resources, open space, and land planning. In each of these areas, the committee supports and promotes smart sustainable practices that enhance Canton's human, natural and financial resources.

2016 Goals and Initiatives Completed

Food and Agriculture:

- Continued work of the Local Food, Local Places project, which encourages local food production and distribution and access to local, healthy food for all. One of the project accomplishments was the development of a commercial kitchen at the Cornell Extension Center, which is available to local food producers.
- Explored possibilities of removing all food waste from Canton's waste stream and putting it to productive use through community, household, institutional, and commercial composting.
- Improvements were made to the shared composting of leaves and brush by the Village and St. Lawrence University on the University's property. The Village purchased a screener to improve the composting process.

Energy:

- Successfully encouraged the Village Board to join MEGA for the purpose of accessing pre-negotiated, fixed-price contracts for energy such as natural gas and solar. The Village signed a 20-year power purchase agreement for solar electricity and Tesla is currently working to construct the solar array on Village property. It is expected to begin generating electricity in the summer of 2018

and the associated credits will be applied to the Village's bills from National Grid for municipal electricity.

- Successfully encouraged the Village Board to pass a resolution to become a "Climate Smart Community" and to adopt a unified solar permit. Also encouraged Village Superintendent and Code Enforcement Officer to receive training on inspecting PVC installations.
- Received designation as a "Clean Energy Community" based on these actions and the Solarize Canton project.
- Assisted the Village in completion and submission of a Clean Energy Community grant of \$100,000 to assist with the purchase and installation of an electric gas blower for its water sanitation facility. This will replace an old and inefficient blower fueled by natural gas thereby significantly reducing the village's emissions.

Transportation:

- Successfully encouraged the Village and Town to adopt the Complete Streets guidelines, which will be incorporated into future planning and code review/updates.
- Oversaw the installation of bike racks along Main Street and received funding to install bike repair unit in the park across from the Canton Free Library.
- Informed and advised the community and municipal leaders in discussions related to Route 11 changes and a Canton bypass.

Information and Education:

- Committee members participated in the process of updating the Canton Comprehensive Plan to ensure it incorporates sound practices pertaining to sustainability, environmental protections, and aesthetics.

2018 Goals and Initiatives

1. Work to achieve the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) "Climate Smart Community" designation for the Town and Village of Canton. This requires completion of several actions and documentation for submission to the DEC. Such actions include:
 - Complete the inventory and assessment of energy use and emissions.
 - Benchmark Village and Town emissions to other municipalities
 - Review inventory and benchmark data to determine how to best achieve emission reduction.
 - Draft a Village and Town Climate Action Plan (CAP) that contains goals and actions to achieve emission reduction and encourage adoption by Town and Village Boards.
 - Support Village and Town employees in implementation of recommended actions in CAP. Examples may include drafting a green purchasing policy, applying for grants to fund electric cars or recharging stations, etc.
2. Apply for Climate Smart Community grant in spring 2018. These are available to municipalities that have passed a Climate Smart Community resolution; proceeds may be used to fund initiatives to reduce

emissions, increase resilience, raise awareness in the community in regards to climate change.

3. Learn more about the Village's water filtration process, to include a tour of the facility adjacent to the municipal golf course. Review best practices and discuss long-term plans for processing the Village's wastewater in an environmentally sustainable manner.
4. Explore residential composting; learn about local hauler's plans for residential food waste collection.
5. Review how the Village, Town, and County store the materials used for treating roads in the winter and consider how this may be done in a more efficient, cost effective, and sustainable manner. Make recommendations to appropriate Village, Town, and County authorities.
6. Review how the County program to spray weeds alongside roadways in the Town and Village is developed and administered. Consider best practices and how this may be done in a more sustainable manner. Make recommendations to appropriate authorities.
7. Meet with the County's Environmental Management Council and discuss what issues the Canton Sustainability Committee may be able to assist in addressing and support.
8. Continue to be involved in the update of the Canton Comprehensive Plan to ensure it adequately addresses issues pertaining to building a more sustainable community.
9. Review village regulations on food trucks to determine if they should be modified to encourage such businesses in a manner that is good for the community and the environment.

Individuals are invited to serve on the committee based on their interest, background, expertise, and commitment to issues of sustainability. The committee meets monthly, on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 5 p.m. in the boardroom of Canton's municipal building. Participation on the committee – or its subcommittees – is welcomed.