

Woodstock, NY

Community Climate Action Plan

Called by some “the most famous small town in the world,” throughout its history Woodstock has drawn both residents and visitors attracted by its natural beauty, its artistic and cultural liveliness, and its generous sense of community. This appeal has survived the many changes that each generation has experienced. Protecting the unique qualities and character of the town, while promoting the changes that help create a vibrant future, is the task to be embraced by each new generation. This includes how Woodstock addresses rising greenhouse gas emissions and climate change in order to preserve our beautiful community and natural environment.

Residents and businesses across Woodstock are experiencing both the impacts of climate change (hotter days, drought, high precipitation events, windstorms) and an energy affordability crisis. The following Community Climate Action Plan aims to address both issues with the goal of creating an equitable and just transition to green energy while reducing the overall greenhouse gas (GHG) footprint of our community.

The plan is organized into eight parts:

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GHG Inventory Summary

In 2020 Woodstock participated in an Ulster County Greenhouse Gas Inventory. The 2026 estimated emissions from the report serve as the basis for GHG reduction targets we have for Woodstock. All numbers are in MTCO2 Emissions.

Sector	2026 Annual Emission	2035 Annual Emission Target
Transportation	27,692	16,932
Residential	19,031	7,026
Commercial	5,489	0
Industrial Processes	3,275	0
Solid Waste	1,772	30
Energy Supply	460	0
Wastewater Treatment	322	0
Agriculture	31	0
Totals	58,072	23,988

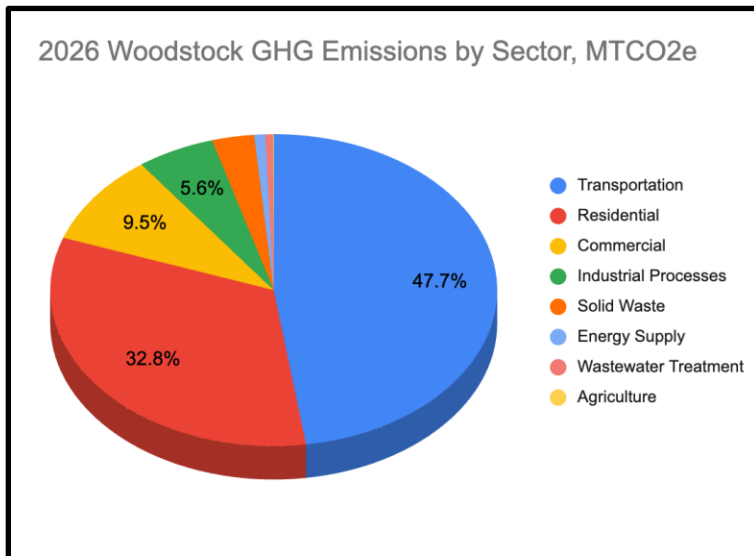
Woodstock's total **2026 annual emissions will total 58,072**. This represents 9.23 per resident (based on 2020 census of 6,287). **Our goal is to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 30% (to 23,988) by 2035**.

The primary drivers of emissions are transportation and residential, which our plan focuses on, and there are also opportunities across other sectors to reduce emissions.

Transportation is by far the largest source of emissions for Woodstock, with over half the annual emissions deriving from NY Thruway traffic. Local traffic makes up the other half. Our plan prioritizes work to reduce the reliance on personal vehicles while also increasing the adoption of electric cars by residents.

Residential emissions primarily come from heating oil. In our 2026 plan update, we also discovered that nearly 800 households have a propane generator each of which emits 0.816 MTCO2e annually over a 36 hour period. To address this, our plan not only focuses on

incentivizing residents to move away from fossil fuel usage but also looks towards a green-energy transition to secure a more energy-independent future for Woodstock.



Commercial emissions are primarily derived from retail and restaurants in the form of energy usage, and industrial processes emissions are generated by the handful of manufacturing plants based in Woodstock. For both of these sectors, we will do exploratory work to identify how we can partner and showcase businesses who have been able to incorporate practices to reduce their carbon footprint.

Solid waste derives from both municipal and commercial sources. Removal of organic waste from the landfill waste stream is a top priority that we will address with more effective composting strategies. This work will also help reduce the more potent methane gas (as compared to CO2).

A full copy of the [Woodstock's Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory](#).

Current Political, Economic, and Climate Challenges Faced by Woodstock Community

Globally, nationally and at the state-level, the Woodstock Community has experienced setbacks in addressing a changing climate.

In March of 2026, the US began an unprovoked war with Iran, resulting in millions of additional tons of CO₂e into the atmosphere. This also resulted in the closing of the Strait of Hormuz, disrupting the delivery of oil and liquid natural gas to the rest of the world and spiking oil prices. Nationally, Trump ended subsidies for the installation of residential and business solar and air-cooled heat pumps. At the state level, we also saw Governor Hochul propose rolling back the timeline for statewide GHG reductions, as required by the groundbreaking state climate law, to 2030, with full implementation in 2040.

For over a decade, Woodstock residents have been frustrated by electricity and natural gas rates of the local utility Central Hudson. Owned by a Canadian company, Fortis, in 2025 they sought and successively obtained electricity and gas rate increases from the state public service board. In 2025, electricity rate increases were 3.12% and delivery charges increased 5.09%. For gas customers, kwh increases were 5.19% and gas delivery charges increased 6.60%. This cost escalation combined with the end of subsidies is putting a damper on the adoption of mini splits in the region.

In addition, neither the federal nor the state government have plans for what is known as the mid-energy transition – the time period when gas powered vehicles decrease and electric vehicles increase, and when natural gas and oil for heating decreases and electrification increases. As this transition happens, availability of fossil fuels will decrease, and prices will likely increase. Today, the green transition is primarily being undertaken by wealthier people who can afford solar PVs, electric vehicles and battery storage systems. What happens to those who are left behind?

Woodstock is entirely located within Catskill State Park, a 700,000-acre state protected area, and comprises forested mountains, unique wetlands, and at least two sub-watersheds of the Esopus River. The Sawkill, a major tributary of the Esopus runs through Woodstock's town, and multiple residential areas. It is well documented that global warming is increasing the amount of moisture storms carry. As storms reach mountainous areas around the world with increased moisture, storms sometimes are unable to rise above and drop the moisture in what is known as cloudburst events. These events typically drop several inches of rain in a short period of time, sometimes leading to flash flooding and/or landslides. During both 2024 and 2025 summers, the region experienced extreme droughts, and forest fires took place within the greater Hudson Valley. Additionally, the town's proximity to the coast means larger tropical storms that make their way inland will also pose a flood and wind threat.

It is our hope that this plan can serve as a starting point for a more holistic approach to community climate resilience efforts. We believe enabling residents and businesses to move towards energy independence will help insulate the community from energy shocks, increase energy affordability, and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

Transportation GHG Reduction Objective

By 2035 reduce 10,760 MTCO₂e annually (33% reduction) based on enhanced public transit options to/from NYC, within Ulster County, Complete Streets, & EV adoption.

Woodstock's GHG emissions from transportation derive primarily from two sources, local on-road vehicle traffic and NY State Thruway emissions. The CSC Task Force is taking a two-prong approach to reducing overall GHG emissions. The first is public education regarding the benefits of EVs for reducing CO₂e into the atmosphere. The second is a mix of initiatives to expand and encourage the use of public transit within Woodstock and Ulster County, as well as between Woodstock and NYC. Over half of Woodstock residents are part-time, encouraging them to use public transit when traveling between Woodstock and the city could have a significant impact on the overall GHG emissions of the Hudson Valley.

Woodstock's Complete Streets Committee has also taken multiple steps to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety. CSC recently worked with the town and the state to propose lower speed limits between downtown Woodstock and the Bearsville complex. In March of 2026, they applied for a state Transportation Alternatives Grant to build a bike path between the post-office in Woodstock and the one in Bearsville Center. This will enable residents and visitors to safely travel between the two densely-populated areas of the community, hopefully reducing short-duration car trips.

Escalating gas prices due to the war with Iran have also reinforced the idea that reliance on fossil fuels is less of a safe bet than it once may have been. While EV subsidies at the federal level have been rescinded, we believe, when people need to purchase a new vehicle, those with the means will make the switch to EVs.

To arrive at the 10,760 MTCO₂e reduction annually by 2035, we believe EV adoption and increased public transit options between New York City and the Catskills region will result in a 5000 MTCO₂e reduction annually. At the local level, we believe the adoption of EVs by both residents and Onteora Central School District, safe pedestrian and cyclist initiatives led by Complete Streets Committee, plus expanded local public transit options will contribute to a 5,760 MTCO₂e reduction annually.

Transportation Priorities:

Phase	Initiative	Key Result	Implementation Details
2026-2027	Educate residential car buyers to choose EVs.	Increase EV adoption by 700 additional vehicles by 2035.	Host electric demo day annually to showcase cars, lawn equipment, kitchen appliances, plugin solar etc.
	CSCTF to keep residents informed about efforts to increase public transit options to/from NYC and opportunities to give input.	Increase public transit options to/from NYC.	Congressman Ryan & Gov Hochul are partnering to increase public transit options to NYC especially for single seat riders . CSCTF will keep tabs on these efforts and work to inform Woodstock residents of new opportunities.
2028-2029	Expand Ulster County public transit options through Woodstock.	Extend UCAT bus route through Woodstock & either Bearsville or Mt Tremper. Increase Woodstock UCAT ridership.	Today UCAT provides access to Kingston and Pine Hill by coming into downtown and leaving via Rte375. Hope is to work with UCAT to continue the bus through Woodstock to Bearsville Ctr. The route could then extend to Mt. Tremper, or Glenford back to 28.
	Increase pedestrian and cyclist access across Woodstock.	Lower speed limits to make cyclists more comfortable. Create bike-pedestrian path along Tinker St.	Woodstock Complete Streets is working with DOT to lower speed limits. Woodstock Complete Streets has applied for a TAP grant to pay for the Tinker St. bike-pedestrian path extension
	<i>OCSD School Bus Electrification</i>	<i>Lead to a reduction in local GHG emissions.</i>	<i>This initiative of OCSD will help reduce Woodstock's GHG emissions.</i>

Green Energy Transition Objective

Woodstock to move towards energy independence through various initiatives (solar, district heating, battery storage facilities, etc.). Build energy resilience in Woodstock so residents have reduced exposure to external energy market fluctuations.

For over a decade, Central Hudson customers have raised concerns about the cost of electricity and natural gas delivery. Woodstock residents only receive electricity from Central Hudson, however the business model of for-profit utilities involves building infrastructure and charging the costs of that build out back to ratepayers with 6-8% interest as determined by the Public Service Board. Wages in the region have not kept pace with inflation nor with these utility rate increases, forcing some residents to choose between electricity use and other basic needs like food or medical costs.

While some Woodstock residents have solar PV (369) and residential battery backup (39) installations as of March 2026, President Trump rescinded subsidies for solar PV installations in the US in 2025. New York state via NYSEERDA still offers rebates for solar, however, the cost of solar photovoltaic (PV) installation in the US is two to three times the cost of what residents pay in Australia.

The CSC TF is interested in exploring options for municipal or county ownership of green energy production as a means of decreasing costs for local residents while expanding renewables in the region. We believe the affordability promises of minisplits are decreasing because the NY Public Service Board continues to approve rate increases for Central Hudson.

Solar PV Cost Background

The high cost for solar PV in the US exists on both ends of the installation process. In the US, NY state, and even Woodstock, permitting for solar installations lacks standardization. This lack of standardization means contractors need to draft unique building permit requests for each home, evaluate each home individually, and then respond to different feedback for every permit. This adds on average \$7000 to the front-end of the process according to Permit Power, a non-profit focused on expanding access to solar power in the US through permit reform. Software exists to safely streamline the permitting process and help inspectors evaluate the installed solar.

A second permitting challenge involves the lack of standardization across the region. Installers need to remember and manage the nuances for the various communities in the Hudson Valley. This project management overhead is then passed onto the solar buyers. Woodstock via the Ulster County Environmental Council is interested in working across the county to standardize solar permitting for the county with the goal of expanding it across the Hudson Valley. Streamlining permitting reduces the need for project management overhead, which lowers cost and thus increases the number of solar panels installed. Delays in permitting lead to a 10% dropout rate for solar PV installations by homeowners who can't afford to risk \$30k on an uncertain permitting process.

As a first step in Woodstock, the CSC TF will partner with the building department and local installers to map challenges in the existing process and identify potential solutions for streamlining permitting.

Streamlining this process is estimated to lower costs per kwh installed from their current price of ~\$3.56 to under \$1 kwh, dramatically expanding the appeal of solar for many utility customers - not only with cost but also improved ease of installation.

On the other side of the installation process is connecting to the grid. Many homeowners who install solar are forced to wait weeks if not months for this connection. A few years ago, concerns about disrupting grid stability were reasonable. Today, solar installations can include an AC to DC converter which would hold energy back if the grid could not accept it. Woodstock (and likely other towns working with the Ulster County Environmental Council) will try to work with Central Hudson to streamline connectivity when the right technology is in place to maintain grid stability.

In some parts of Woodstock, the distribution lines for additional renewables are at capacity. However, there are still spots within Woodstock where large scale solar installations could be possible. Through solar mapping we will identify the best locations for those installations.

Bulk Buy Community Solar Programs and Plugin Solar

Streamlining the permitting and connectivity process may take a few years. In the meantime, Woodstock residents need energy cost relief. Many communities around the US have experimented with bulk buy solar programs. The CSC TF will research those programs, assess resident interest, and talk to local installers to see if we can set one up in Woodstock.

For years, residents in Germany and other European countries have been able to visit their local hardware store and purchase plugin solar to install on balconies or backyards. Utah passed legislation in 2024 to enable plugin solar. And, here in NY, Senator Liz Krueger has introduced the SUNNY act to allow plugin solar to be sold and used in NY. For homeowners with some sun but not enough to justify a full PV installation, plugin solar is a great option to get a bit of relief while greening your electricity bill. In 2026, the CSC TF will encourage residents to contact elected officials to urge passage of the SUNNY act.

Lowering Utility Bills

For homeowners without adequate sunlight and for those who want to continue to lower their utility costs, Central Hudson offers a couple of programs including:

Community Solar: Customers sign up for a community solar program to “buy” power from a regional solar installation. Customers receive a 10% discount on their overall utility bill and support local solar at the same time. Nexamp is the provider that works in the area.

Demand Generation: For households with smart thermostats and a willingness to use less power during peak demand periods, there is an option to sign up for the Peak Perks program that can save you \$25-50 per month. This program allows Central Hudson to turn your thermostat up or down depending on the need during peak energy use times 2-7pm M-F but gives residents the option to override the change.

The CSC TF will work on educating residents in these options that not only lower utility bills but also reduce GHG - while not necessarily having to invest in solar panels, battery storage units, etc.

Replace generators with back-up battery storage and/or Microgrids

Woodstock has nearly 800 fossil fuel backup generators installed at homes. On average, homeowners in the area experience ~36 hours of power outages annually, which generates 602 MTCO_{2e}. During power outages in the summer, generator owners either need to keep their windows closed or risk inhaling significant amounts of polluting gases.

Presently lithium-ion batteries are being used for storage. They do have the potential for igniting if they get wet. However, twice in the past year we've seen propane gas explosions at two homes on the south side of the Ashokan Reservoir. One leading to two deaths and another resulting in injuries.

The good news is battery technology is rapidly evolving. Solid state batteries are now in production for motorcycles and are being tested for battery storage. In the latter case, the batteries are sodium ion batteries which have a much lower likelihood of ignition. As a bonus, these new batteries are made from readily available material—salt, reducing the overall impact of mining and transporting rare earth minerals. We believe that, by 2030-2032, this new solid-state technology will be readily available for home battery storage solutions. With these improvements, the CSC TF will work with the Town of Woodstock to pass legislation that mandates adoption of battery-powered generators.

Explore the Creation of Neighborhood Microgrids

With increased storm intensity, heatwaves, and the proliferation of AI data centers, blackouts are likely to become a more frequent occurrence. Neighborhood microgrids are networks of solar panels and battery storage that connect to keep a community powered when the larger grid goes down. NYU was able to remain powered during Hurricane Sandy because they established their own microgrid and were able to disconnect from the main grid when the transformer flooded on the Lower East Side. The Climate Smart Communities Task Force will investigate the feasibility of setting these up.

Investigate creation of our own public utilities

The City of Ann Arbor Michigan has formed a Sustainable Energy Utility where they place both solar and battery storage in people's homes and then sell that excess energy back to the grid. Homeowners get free solar panels and battery storage while paying reduced utility rates to SEU for the energy they use from those items. When solar is not available, their homes remain connected to the grid, and the homeowners pay grid rates for those hours of use. This approach combines a couple of ideas mentioned above to enable an affordable green energy transition for most residents. The existing Ann Arbor utility (Central Hudson equivalent) is happy with the partnership because it requires them to build out less capacity on the grid, while enabling them to quickly support increased data center demand.

The Hudson Valley region is experiencing an influx of requests for permitting large scale battery storage projects. Because of the region's transmission lines and location between Rochester's RE Gina Nuclear Power Plant and Hydro Quebec, it is an ideal location to hold and store this non-fossil-fuel energy temporarily as it makes its way downstate to NYC. The battery storage companies are independent of the utilities and are in the business of arbitrage—buy low, sell high. One idea for Ulster County in particular and the region in general is to bond our own

battery storage facilities rather than allowing outside companies to make that money while our communities face the risk. The money made from these storage facilities after the bond / loan is paid off can then be used to invest in the area's green energy transition.

For the Sustainable Energy Utility to be effective in this area, we believe it would need to be a consortium of towns or at the county level. We are also interested in exploring partnerships with other towns to bond battery storage facilities.

Green Energy Transition Priorities:

All items in italics are nice to have, and not required to meet the objective ghg reduction targets.

Phase	Initiative	Key Result	Implementation Details
2026-2027	<p>Streamline building permits for solar PV installations to reduce cost (for residential and commercial—including covered parking lots)</p> <p>Work w/ local installer to bulk buy solar panels to reduce costs. Investigate other Hudson Valley towns w/ high solar adoption.</p> <p>Educate residents on NYSERDA's rebates for solar installs</p>	<p>25% (878) solar PV adoption by 2035 (assumes tree cover will prevent larger adoption)</p>	<p>Permitting adds \$5-10k per solar install. Work with town and ideally Ulster County to create a streamlined permitting process for solar possibly using the Solarapp+</p> <p>Survey residents about solar interest and work with local installer(s) for bulk buy discount.</p> <p>Use social media / other efforts to let residents know about rebate options.</p>
	<p>Support passage of SUNNY legislation for plugin solar</p>	<p>25% (878) balcony (plugin) solar adoption by 2035</p>	<p>Encourage Woodstock residents to contact state officials to pass plugin solar legislation in 2026</p>
2028-2029	<p>Educate residents on Central Hudson's Peak Perks program to reduce their electricity bills.</p> <p>Educate residents on Community solar purchasing programs available through Central Hudson which result in a 10% savings on utility bills annually.</p> <p>Educate residents about phantom energy use of small appliances.</p>	<p>Increase Town participation in Peak Perks program and community solar programs to 80%.</p> <p>Decrease local residential energy use by 10% annually</p>	<p>Residential customers w/ smart thermostats can receive a \$25-50/ monthly reduction on their bills for participation.</p> <p>Legislation is pending to give customers in demand generation programs grid prices for participation which could save them even more \$\$.</p> <p>Small appliances when not in use often continue consuming energy. Plugging these into power strips that can be turned off can save residents 10% on household electric bills. This education will be included in the annual demo day.</p>

2030 & Beyond	CSC TF partners with the Town Board to pass legislation to discourage installation of fossil fuel generators.	No new fossil fuel generator installs by 2030. New and replaced generators should opt for battery backup systems or microgrid options.	With ~36 hrs. of lost power annually, Woodstock's existing generators produce 608 MTCO2e annually. Work with Town to discourage additional propane generator installs and instead incentivize battery storage.
	CSC TF educates residents about fossil fuel generators vs battery backup. Investigate possible partnerships for low-cost battery distribution.	25% (1,000 homes) battery backup systems installed by 2035 (50% reduction of fossil fuel generators)	Companies are distributing batteries at low / no cost as backup systems. Investigate bringing this type of company to Woodstock.
Investigate	<i>Investigate creating a Sustainable Energy Utility for Woodstock or in partnership with Ulster County.</i>	<i>Increases solar adoption by another 878 households on top of the above goals.</i>	<i>Read about Ann Arbor's program. Conduct a solar mapping of Woodstock to identify best locations for both residential and large scale projects.</i>
	<i>Work with the Town to establish a building permit process for creating microgrid alternatives to generators.</i>	<i>Building permit process to establish microgrids for alternatives to generators</i>	<i>Microgrids enable neighborhoods to island themselves from the larger grid during power outages to continue providing power w/o generators. Use solar maps to identify neighborhoods best suited for microgrids.</i>
	<i>Investigate municipal / county ownership of battery storage facilities, instead of having outside companies come in to run them.</i>	<i>Enables the municipality to fund future energy transition and climate resilience efforts by making money on the transition. Note this money would not be from local taxpayers. Profits from these efforts could then be used to fund green energy transition initiatives.</i>	<i>Coordinate with other members of Ulster County's Climate Smart Communities Group to research this as an option. Woodstock's distribution lines are nearly at capacity. Researching possible locations & benefits of local battery storage for increasing distribution line capacity.</i>

Residential Heating GHG Reduction

Reduce heating oil emissions by 7026 MTCO_{2e} annually by 2035

Residential heating makes up the second largest source of Woodstock's greenhouse gas emissions. 87% of residential energy use is for heating and the majority of that is from oil heat. The Trump administration discontinued subsidies for air-supplied heat pumps in 2025, however state incentives still exist from NYSERDA and some utilities. Even with subsidies, the transition to electric minisplits is often double the cost of replacing propane or oil furnaces. This is primarily a result of labor to install new wiring between the indoor units and outdoor units. Unlike a furnace replacement, minisplits typically involve the installation of 3-4 units inside and one to three outside. Additionally, the ever-increasing rates from Central Hudson are discouraging some homeowners from making the switch.

We believe that mini split adoption will primarily come from residents who have made or will make the switch to solar, and can shield themselves from uncertain price hikes by Central Hudson and the Public Service Board. The CSC TF will focus on education to encourage adoption while also working with the Town of Woodstock to make it less onerous, tax-wise, to move to fossil-free heating options.

District Heat in Downtown Woodstock

In 2023, Woodstock participated in a District Heating Feasibility Study with NYSERDA to evaluate the installation of a geothermal district heating system that would cover Rock City Road, Tinker Street, and Mill Hill Road. The financial feasibility is based on the presence of both federal subsidies and tax credits for switching to geothermal. Given the precarity of these programs under the Trump administration, we have not factored district heat into overall heating reductions. However, the feasibility study is an excellent baseline for evaluating other options such as a Sustainable Energy Utility.

Residential Priorities:

Phase	Initiative	Key Result	Implementation Details
2028-2029	<p>Encourage the switch to mini splits, especially for those who have switched to solar.</p> <p>Educate residents on benefits of mini splits, geo-thermal, passive solar homes etc.</p> <p>Eliminate property value/tax increases after properties retrofitted with geothermal, mini splits, etc.</p>	<p>Eliminate oil heat at 1346 or 35% of housing units by 2035</p>	<p>Include minisplits in demo days.</p> <p>Work with the town to eliminate property tax increases for electrification efforts.</p> <p>Work with County to identify opportunities for lowering the cost of minisplit transition from double fossil fuel replacement to more equivalent price point.</p>
<i>Investigation</i>	<i>Implement district heat in downtown Woodstock</i>	<i>170 buildings in downtown Woodstock would switch from oil to geothermal district heating.</i>	<i>Woodstock received a grant to conduct a district plan feasibility study. The study is presently in review by NYSERDA and should be available in summer 2026 for next steps.</i>

Solid Waste GHG Reduction

Woodstock diverts 33 tons of organic waste annually from landfills by 2035. With an annual reduction in methane emissions of 1.24 metric tons or 30 metric tons of CO2 equivalent

Reducing methane emissions from Woodstock's Capped Landfill

Woodstock signed an MOU with the Hudson Valley Regional Council to install biofilters on the capped landfill to reduce methane emissions. Methane traps 80-85% more heat in the atmosphere than CO2. This means any efforts to reduce methane emissions have a profound impact on lowering global temperatures.

As part of the project, HVRC will determine the baseline methane emissions during the summer / fall of 2026. As a result, we have not included specific reduction targets in our Solid Waste goal from this project, however, we wanted to bring awareness to the work that is in progress.

Composting

One of the most effective actions individuals can take to reduce global temperature rise is to compost their organic food and yard waste. Removing organic food and yard waste from landfills, can reduce landfill methane emissions by 58% while also building healthy soil, which acts as a carbon store.

Woodstock is presently exploring a partnership with the town of Hurley to participate in their 100 tons of organic waste diversion program. The Town of Hurley is working with Greenway NY to establish the composting program. Greenway is securing a grant to divert 100 tons of food waste annually from the transfer station through three residential programs:

- Community compost drop-off at the Hurley Transfer Station
- Backyard composting for one hundred households using Earth Machines
- Establishing three additional community compost sites in the area.

As part of this work, we will survey residents about their composting habits and interest in participating in the three programs. The survey will enable us to understand how much composting is already taking place in the community.

Woodstock residents will have the opportunity to compost through the program as follows:

- Woodstock residents who use the Hurley Transfer Station for garbage disposal can automatically use the compost option.
- In addition, the CSC TF will be recruiting 20-25 households to participate in the backyard composting program.
- We are also in the process of exploring Woodstock locations for Community Composting sites. Each site will support 80-100 households.

We estimate through these efforts that we can divert an average of 33 tons of organic food waste from landfills annually.

Local Business Composting

In addition to residential composting, the CSC Task Force will work with local businesses and compost companies to encourage more restaurant composting in town. This initiative will be a bonus and is not included in the 33 tons amount.

Explore viability / feasibility of Town Yard Waste Mulching Operation

The town of Rhinebeck set up a town yard waste mulching operation. We will tour the operation to learn about it and then consider it for implementation in Woodstock.

Solid Waste Priorities:

Phase	Initiative	Key Result	Implementation Details
Completed	Woodstock in partnership with Hudson Valley Regional Council will be installing biofilters on its capped landfill to reduce methane emissions.	% GHG reduction TBD—dependent on initial baseline assessment of active landfill gas vents.	MOU between town and HVRC was signed on Feb 2, 2026.
2026-2027	<p>Town partners with Hurley to implement community composting, backyard composting, and Hurley Transfer station composting.</p> <p>CSC TF will educate residents on composting best practices and locally available options through a series of workshops and an online resource.</p>	<p>33 tons of organic waste is diverted from landfills annually by 2035</p> <p>The town website contains information on composting options including Hurley & Saugerties transfer station, backyard, and other options as they become available.</p>	<p>~20 households participate in backyard composting via Greenway</p> <p>~100 households measure their existing backyard composting efforts</p> <p>~50 households use community composting at Hurley Transfer Station</p> <p>~50 households use composting at Saugerties transfer station</p> <p>~100 households use Woodstock community composting</p>
2028-2029	Ulster county mandates businesses that produce more than ½ ton of organic waste weekly must compost. CSC TF will work to educate businesses about compost options in the region.	By 2035 all businesses are composting in Woodstock.	Survey businesses to understand their food waste disposal process and needs as it relates to composting
2030 & Beyond	CSC TF works with Town to research feasibility / viability of establishing a local yard waste / mulching effort		Rhinebeck has a yard waste program Woodstock can investigate.

Industrial GHG Reduction

We do not have enough data on business practices to make recommendations and will prioritize research to learn more as well as showcase any local businesses who are making efforts to reduce their emissions.

Industrial Priorities:

Phase	Initiative	Key Result	Details
2026-2027	CSC Task Force to survey local businesses on their green energy initiatives		
2028-2029	Partner w/ local businesses who are doing good green work to showcase their efforts	This could result in the creation of a Woodstock Green Star program for local businesses.	

Agricultural GHG Reduction

Woodstock's forests serve as a carbon sink for CO2. The Catskills are home to some of the highest carbon storage forests in NY State, including many in the Mt. Tremper, Overlook, and Willow areas. The CSC TF, in partnership with the Woodstock Environmental Commission and the Woodstock Land Conservancy, will advocate for enhanced and continued protection of these critical forested lands.

At the CSC's public CAP feedback session on April 9, 2026, several comments and discussions involved the need for the town to update the existing Comprehensive Plan to include Open Space Laws, zoning density updates, forest protection initiatives, and solar / green energy siting locations. This is a recommendation we are making to the Town Board.

Agricultural Priorities:

Phase	Initiative	Key Result	Implementation Details
2028-2029	Establish local zoning laws to preserve forest cover	Maintain Woodstock's forest canopy.	CSC TF will work with Zoning board to update zoning laws to insure forest canopy protection.
2030 & Beyond	Talk to our local farms (~30-mile radius) and try to source food from them for public facilities and Meals on Wheels and the Food Pantries	Reduce food miles traveled.	Talk to four nearby farms and work with UlsterCorps Glean Team to source food for local programs.

Public Comment

These comments were collected during the April 9, 2026 public feedback event about the CAP that was held in person at the Woodstock Community Center. The goals for each sector were printed on poster size paper and hung around the room. When participants arrived they were given sticky notes and asked to write comments / add suggestions to any items. We then reviewed all the comments as a group which spurred additional insights. All stickies and conversation insights are captured below.

Sector	Comment	Next Steps
Solid Waste	Educate residents about proper composting techniques for reducing smell and keeping bears and rodents away	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Add education component to goals
Solid Waste	Publicize compost availability at Saugerties Landfill	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Add Saugerties landfill as an option to all education materials 2. Add compost section to the town website for residents to obtain info on composting options
Solid Waste	<p>Educate businesses / restaurants on compost pick-up options.</p> <p>Talk to Sunflower about their compost practices</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Survey restaurants and businesses in town about their food waste and compost practices 2. Based on results, develop an outreach plan to increase business composting efforts
Solid Waste	Research subscription compost programs for residents	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Survey residents on the type of compost programs they would like to use 2. Research residential compost pick-up options
Solid Waste	Site a recyclable pick-up in Woodstock for returnables	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Survey residents and local businesses on interest in this type of service
Solid Waste	Youth Center is seeking safe areas for trash pick up.	Post request on social media
Green Energy Transition	Push for adoption of SolarApp+ for solar permitting in Woodstock, Ulster County, Hudson Valley	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meet with bldg inspector to explain the app and process. 2. Survey local installers to verify the

		differences in regs is increasing costs
Green Energy Transition	See if Central Hudson will provide low cost energy efficient power strips	1. Reach out to CH about these as an option for residents.
Green Energy Transition	Lease vacant land for solar generation	1. CSC TF will undertake a solar mapping exercise to identify good locations or solar installations
Residential Heating	Are low / no interest loans available to incentivize the up front costs of heat pumps?	1. Research options with state / local non-profits and banks. 2. Research other means of lowering the cost of heat pump transition
Residential Heating	[Re District Heating] What happens to residents who already have propane furnace.	Similar to the district water and sewer, everyone in the District Heat area would need to make the switch.
Transportation	Create a central location to publicly inform residents and tourists about transportation to and from NYC and NYC airports	1. Investigate this option for the town website
Transportation	Rethink zoning and lot size to bring buildings closer together.	Pass this info to the zoning board
Transportation	There is a serious conflict between large lot land use and non-car mobility. We need a discussion about rethinking land use	Recommend the town update the Comprehensive plan to incorporate climate smart approaches to development, mobility, resilience.
Transportation	25MPH maximum speed limit in Woodstock	Continue to work with DOT to lower speed limits in residential areas across the town
Transportation	Map home locations for schools to optimize bussing of kids	OCSD is already doing this work.
Transportation	Increase signage & educate residents on bike + pedestrian road share	1. Inform residents that they can obtain signage from DOT for encouraging people to slow down 2. Consider hosting an annual part-time resident day to connect with second home owners about a variety of climate issues

Agricultural	Establish an Open Space Law for Woodstock	1. Talk to WEC about pursuing this
Agricultural	Apply for state grants to have forest monitoring and make the findings available	1. CSC TF to research this option
Agricultural	Create a master plan to maintain / increase forest coverage	Recommend the town update the Comprehensive plan to incorporate climate smart approaches to development, mobility, resilience.
Agricultural	Deadwood Clearout to prevent forest fires similar to CA.	The Catskills is a different climate region than CA. CSC TF will work with DEC to identify forest health best practices to improve the resilience of our forests through invasive species removal, protection / planting of native species.
Industrial	Hand out green stars for restaurants who compost	CSC TF will consider this once we've completed the compost / food waste survey of local businesses.
Industrial	What about businesses who are not doing green work? Can they be given incentives to change their behavior & those in compliance given rewards (tax breaks)	For all sectors, CSC TF will collect grant and incentive opportunities for businesses to green their practices and share those with local businesses.
Misc	<p>Several attendees noted that it is difficult to plug into the Woodstock Community. It's challenging to find out what is happening when and where and how to get involved.</p> <p>In trying to post flyers around town for the April 9 event, we discovered that the majority of Woodstock businesses do not have bulletin boards for public announcements.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Talk to local news outlets about a weekly environmental roundup 2. Social media is no longer a viable outreach option. Work with town to set up a listserv or Front Porch Forum like service to enable more community connection.

