

Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Taskforce Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2025

Attendees:

- Cece W.
- Jimmy J.
- Jane M.
- Barb H.
- Nancy H.
- Mariah
- Severah
- Collin H. – new member on behalf of STR
- Lori A.
- Janet B.
- Bridgett M.

1. Composting Seminar Recap (July 29 at Rec Park)

- ~10 attendees.
- 50 compost buckets given out; 40 remain (available at STR, TILT, and Village offices).

2. Composting at Clayton Transfer Site

- Lori suggested a ribbon cutting + pumpkin composting event after Halloween (possible “pumpkin smash” for kids).
- Nancy suggested inviting Scott Gray or Mark Walcyk’s office.
- Concerns about winter placement/safety of compost area.
- Options: maintain better in winter or relocate.
- Cece emphasized recycling education.

3. Outreach & Events

- Cece tabling for JCHPS at Pumpkin Chunkin & Suicide Prevention Walk (can bring CSC materials).
- Autumn Fest (Oct. 11, Nature Center) – food waste/recycling stations, volunteers needed.
 - Cece (JCPHS) + Bridgett (TILT) will be there and can assist and bring CSC materials.
- Recap: Mary Gilmore & Lori tabled at TILT’s Farm Yard Fun Day with composting game for kids.

4. Walking School Bus

- Not launched this fall; hope to restart in spring with parent/PTO support.

5. Pollinator Garden

- Postponed until spring.
- Proposed at transfer site (draw bees away from trash).
- Lori suggested consulting CCE (helped with Zenda's garden).
- Action: Jimmy to connect with Jean.

6. Spring Fest 2026

- Proposed at Cerow Rec Park (indoor tables, healthy food, tree planting outside).
- Aim for early May; tie in with Truck Stop Weekend for larger crowd.
- Seek donated trees.

7. Long-Term Project: Bike Path (Alex Bay → Cape Vincent)

- Idea: model after Canadian Parkway, reduce traffic emissions, promote healthy communities.
- Concerns: land use, property disruption.
- Highlight: TILT's Rivergate Trail extends to LaFargeville.
- Requires collaboration among Clayton, Cape, Bay + grant funding.
- First steps: encourage Cape/Bay to become CSC communities, identify local leaders, build partnerships.
- Nancy willing to engage key players; aligns with Clayton's ecotourism CAP.

8. Miscellaneous

- Barbara: engage schools/SAFE Club.
- Cece: Wild Center example of child-led climate action.
- Janet: Guardino lawn space could be pollinator garden/outdoor classroom.
 - Nancy: suggested engaging Lisa Ingerson.
- Explore Zoom/Teams option for future meetings.

9. CSC Communications

- Social media updates → Bridgett McCann (bmccann@tilandtrust.org).
- CSC webpage updates → Amanda Cantwell (deputyclerk@villageofclayton.org).

10. Next Meeting

Wednesday, October 8, 2025 – 12:30 PM

