

# Town of Jay Climate Smart Communities Taskforce

## Mid-Year Progress Report – August 2025

### Introduction:

The Town of Jay Climate Smart Communities Taskforce continues to make meaningful progress in its sustainability and climate resilience efforts. Building on the momentum from 2024 and the first quarter of 2025, the taskforce has expanded its initiatives, secured new funding, and advanced several key projects. The taskforce remains committed to achieving Silver Certification by 2027.

We are looking for additional community members to join the taskforce. If interested, please reach out to us by emailing [k.sauer@townofjayny.gov](mailto:k.sauer@townofjayny.gov).

### Key Updates Since Q1 2025:

- Climate Smart Certification:

Following the Bronze Certification awarded earlier this year, the taskforce has committed to achieving Silver Certification by 2027, aligning with long-term planning and infrastructure goals.

- Solar Installation Project:

The solar installation on the Highway Garage roof is on track for completion in September 2025, marking a major step toward renewable energy adoption.

- EV Charger Installations:

EV chargers in Jay and Upper Jay are progressing, with installation expected to be completed in Fall 2025.

A \$206,000 grant was successfully awarded for Au Sable Forks, funding one Fast Charger and one Level 2 Charger. The project is scheduled for implementation in 2026.

- Residential Compost Drop-Off Pilot Program:

Great news: the Town was awarded a \$22,000 grant for the compost pilot program, pending Office of State Comptroller approval and release. The program is expected to launch by the end of 2025, supporting waste reduction, sustainable materials management, and turning food scraps into valuable compost.

- Streetscapes and Complete Streets Planning:

The Taskforce has applied for a certification grant to develop a Complete Streets Policy and plan for bike and pedestrian infrastructure. Notification is expected in late 2025.

- **Community Campaigns:**

Ongoing campaigns in Community Solar, Heat Pumps, and EVs were actively promoted during the successful Jay Day event, engaging residents and raising awareness.

- **NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Program:**

Status remains unchanged; the Town continues to participate while awaiting potential re-funding opportunities.

#### **New Initiatives and Achievements:**

- **Salt Shed Grant and Construction:**

The Town of Jay Highway Department secured a \$600,000 grant for a new Salt Shed, with construction currently underway, improving winter road maintenance and environmental protection, while reducing the cost of salt.

- **Flood Resilience and Hazard Mitigation:**

The Town has adopted the new FEMA Flood Insurance Maps and the Essex County Hazard Mitigation Plan, enhancing preparedness and resilience.

- **Community Solar Expansion:**

The Town is in the process of enrolling additional electric meters (municipal facilities) in Community Solar, aiming to reduce utility costs and carbon emissions.

- **Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant:**

In August, the Taskforce was awarded a \$603,000 NYSERDA grant under the Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant program. The first step is a comprehensive energy audit of the Community Center, which will guide future upgrades and result in significant utility cost savings for taxpayers.

#### **Ongoing Engagement and Planning:**

The Taskforce continues to play an active role in the Town of Jay Comprehensive Plan Update, leading the Climate Smart, Infrastructure, and Transportation working group. Monthly taskforce meetings are held regularly, with minutes available on the Town of Jay website.

#### **Conclusion:**

The Town of Jay Climate Smart Communities Taskforce remains committed to sustainability, resilience, and community engagement, while reducing town operating costs. With multiple projects underway and new funding secured, the second half of 2025 promises continued progress toward a greener future.

For more information, visit: <https://www.townofjayny.gov/climate-smart-task-force/>