

# Town of Jay Climate Smart Communities Taskforce

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## *2025 Annual Progress Report*

### **Introduction**

The Town of Jay Climate Smart Communities Taskforce has made significant strides in advancing sustainability and climate resilience throughout 2025. Building on the momentum from earlier this year, we have completed major projects, secured new grants, and laid the groundwork for future initiatives. Our commitment to achieving Silver Certification in 2027 remains strong.

We invite community members to join the taskforce or volunteer for individual projects such as the Complete Streets Policy and Planning for Biking and Walking or the Residential Compost Pilot Program. If interested, please email [k.sauer@townofjayny.gov](mailto:k.sauer@townofjayny.gov).

### **Key Achievements in 2025**

- **Climate Smart Certification:** Following the Bronze Certification awarded earlier this year, the taskforce continues working toward Silver Certification in 2027.
- **Solar Installation Project:** The solar array on the Highway Garage is now fully installed and operational, reducing energy costs and supporting renewable energy adoption.
- **EV Charger Installations:** EV chargers in Jay and Upper Jay are currently being installed and will be online in early 2026. The new parking area and Town of Jay welcome area featuring an information sign in Upper Jay is complete and hosts the EV chargers in Upper Jay. A \$206,000 grant for EV chargers in Au Sable Forks is in the contract stage with DEC, with installation planned for mid/late 2026.
- **Residential Compost Drop-Off Pilot Program:** The \$22,000 grant for the compost pilot program is in the contract stage with DEC. The program is expected to launch in April 2026, starting with a community outreach phase, followed by onsite training and demonstrations managed by Compost for Good and Rivervalley Regeneratives.
- **Complete Streets Policy and Planning for Biking and Walking:** The Town was awarded a planning grant in December 2025. Work will begin mid to late 2026 to develop a Complete Streets Policy and prioritize pedestrian and biking infrastructure, supporting future grant applications for such projects.
- **Salt Shed Project:** The new Salt Shed is completed and fully operational, improving winter road maintenance and reducing environmental impact. This was a \$600,000 grant applied for and managed by our Town of Jay Highway Department.
- **Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant:** The comprehensive energy audit of the Community Center, based on PHIUS principles, was completed on December 23, 2025. The audit is under review to determine priority projects with the best return on investment for energy efficiency improvements, utilizing the \$603,000 NYSERDA grant awarded earlier this year.

### Community Campaigns

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

### Flood Resilience and Hazard Mitigation Maps

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.

### Ongoing Engagement

The taskforce continues to lead climate-related efforts in the Town of Jay Comprehensive Plan Update, focusing on infrastructure and transportation. Monthly meetings remain open to the public, with minutes posted on the Town website.

### Call for Volunteers

We need community volunteers to join the taskforce or assist with projects such as:

- Complete Streets Policy and Planning for Biking and Walking
- Residential Compost Pilot Program

Your involvement is vital to building a sustainable future for the Town of Jay.

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

### Looking Ahead to 2026

- EV Chargers in Au Sable Forks: Complete installation of one Fast Charger and one Level 2 Charger funded by the \$206,000 DEC grant.
- Residential Compost Drop-Off Pilot Program: Launch community outreach in March, followed by onsite training and demonstrations in April, managed by Compost for Good and Rivervalley Regeneratives.
- Complete Streets Policy and Planning: Begin mid-year planning to prioritize sidewalks, pedestrian, and biking infrastructure, supporting future grant applications.
- Energy Efficiency Upgrades: Implement priority projects identified through the PHIUS-based energy audit to improve efficiency at the Community Center and reduce utility costs.