



Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board

126 N. Salina Street, Suite 200, Syracuse, New York 13202 • Tel. (315) 422-8276 • Fax: (315) 422-9051
Paul W. Pinckney, Chairman David V. Bottar, Executive Director

October 16, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board

FROM: David Bottar, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Board of Directors Meeting – October 29, 2025

The Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board will hold its next meeting on October 29, 2025. Amanda Mazzoni, Energy Program Manager at the CNY RPDB, will present and solicit feedback on the state's Comprehensive Climate Action Plan, funded through the [EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program](#).

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 29th from 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. at the CNY RPDB's office at 126 North Salina Street, Syracuse, New York, 13202 (100 Clinton Square Building – lower-level conference room). **Please note that lunch will be served at this meeting.**

The following items have been enclosed for your review. This information will also be posted on the agency's website at <https://www.cnyrpdb.org/BoardMeetings/10-29-25>.

- Cover Memorandum and Agenda
- [Board Meeting Minutes – August 27, 2025](#)
- [Board Meeting Schedule 2025](#)
- [Background on the state's Comprehensive Climate Action Plan and CNY RPDB's involvement](#)
- [Paper Copy of DEC's Stakeholder Engagement Survey](#)

Please note that in-person attendance is strongly encouraged for this meeting. However, for anyone unable to attend the meeting in person, a virtual Zoom video conference platform will be available at the Zoom link shown on the meeting agenda.

Please contact David Bottar by email: dbottar@cnyrpdb.org if you have any questions and to confirm your attendance. Thank you.



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**CNY RPDB
Board Meeting**

**October 29, 2025
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

**126 N. Salina Street
Syracuse, New York 13202
(Lower-Level Conference Room)**

AGENDA

- | | | |
|----|---|----------------|
| 1. | Lunch and Call to Order | Paul Pinckney |
| 2. | Approval of Agenda and August 27, 2025 Meeting Minutes | Paul Pinckney |
| 3. | NYS Comprehensive Climate Action Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amanda Mazzoni, Energy Program Manager
Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board | Amanda Mazzoni |
| 4. | Executive Director's Report | David Bottar |
| 5. | Old/New Business | Paul Pinckney |

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82595190982?pwd=2jbNOv81eMaJXracqJEMHezHa4FTn3.1>

Meeting ID: 825 9519 0982

Passcode: 886968

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MINUTES

**Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board
Board of Directors Meeting
August 27, 2025**

ATTENDANCE

Board members: Julie Abbott, Pamela D. Caraccioli, Emanuel Carter, Mary Ellen Chesbro, Reed Cleland, Patrick Clune, Beau Harbin, Kipp Hicks, Trisha Hiemstra, Scott Ingmire, Cydney M. Johnson, Mary Ann Messinger, Paul W. Pinckney, Tim Stahl, Scott Steve, Kari Terwilliger, and Austin Wheelock

Staff: Michael Boccuzzi, David Bottar, Erica Herman, Carrie Hollis, Bruce Keplinger, Aaron McKeon, Aaron Otis, Lindsay Speer, Isabel Willson, Patricia Wortley, and James D'Agostino

Guests: Julie Fleck, Mark Meyerhofer, Fay Mychesky, and Morgan Spaulding

1. CALL TO ORDER

Paul Pinckney called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm at the offices of the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board in Syracuse, New York. Mr. Pinckney noted the meeting included a zoom meeting link and that several members were participating in the meeting via the link.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

A motion was introduced and seconded to accept the agenda and summary of the July 2, 2025 Board meeting as presented; the motion was approved unanimously.

3. MADISON COUNTY REPORT

Scott Ingmire, Director of the Madison County Department of Planning and Workforce Development was introduced and provided a power point presentation summarizing developments in Madison County and work being done by the Planning Department. Mr. Ingmire began his remarks by referencing the Planning Department's website and noting the department areas of focus which include land use planning, environmental protection, open space preservation, agriculture protection and promotion, economic development, public transportation, main street revitalization and façade improvement, recreation and trails, energy, and broadband network development. It was noted that the department has 5 full-time staff members and is housed in the County's main office building in Wampsville, NY.

Mr. Ingmire continued his remarks by referencing several major projects his office has been engaged in over the past several years. These projects included planning and securing grant funds through the NYS Reimage the Canals Competition for a major canalside pocket neighborhood redevelopment project in the Village of Canastota. Also referenced was worked completed on planning, securing grant funds, and managing the Delphi Falls County Parks Improvement project. Several images were presented of this very successful \$6.8 million park development and building project that was completed in summer 2025.

Mr. Ingmire continued his remarks by providing detailed information regarding the County's broadband deployment program which is currently underway and involves a public/private partnership between the County and Empire Access to construct in Phase I a 269 miles open-access fiber network in the county providing service to 1,087 unserved addresses and bringing internet choice to 6,500 additional addresses in the county. Funding for the first phase includes a \$12 million USDA Reconnect grant to the county and additional financial resources provided by Empire Access and Madison County. Mr. Ingmire noted that as phase I is nearing completion in 2025, the County is embarking on Phase 2 with a NYS CAO MIP grant of \$9.9 million to build 120 miles of additional fiber network to serve 2,600 additional addresses in the County. It was noted that Phase II must be completed by December 2026.

4. NYS CAO MIP – CNYNET BROADBAND PROJECT

Mark Meyerhofer, Director of Broadband for ECC Technologies, Inc. was introduced and presented a power point presentation summarizing plans for development of the CNYNET broadband project that the agency has been working on for the past several years. Mr. Meyerhofer began his remarks by noting the project currently entails the construction of a 258 mile open-access broadband network that will cost \$26.1 million and is being financed by a NYS ConnetAll Office Municipal Infrastructure Program (NYS CAO MIP) grant of \$26.1 million to the CNY RPDB. Mr. Meyerhofer noted that ECC is under contract with the CNY RPDB to design and manage the entire construction and initial operations process.

Mr. Meyerhofer continued his remarks by reviewing information which outlined the steps which are underway to construct the projects. It was noted the major steps include design engineering, the utility pole make field engineering make-ready review review process, procurement, permitting, construction – both pole make ready and installation of the fiber to utility poles along designated roadways in each county, fiber hut building construction, fiber line drops to homes and businesses, and initial electronics activation and system operations. Mr. Meyerhofer concluded his presentation with the presentation of a detailed project budget and the overall project milestone schedule from July 2025 through December 2026.

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The next item discussed on the agenda was a brief program status report as presented by Mr. Bottar. Mr. Bottar noted that staff remain actively engaged in the full range of program activities as outlined in the agency's planning work program for 2025.

Mr. Bottar referenced Mr. Meyerhofer's presentation and noted the agency's NYS CAO Municipal Infrastructure Program – Phase 3 broadband project is continuing to progress. It was noted that

the agency is still waiting for the State to fully execute the final execution of the NYS CAO MIP Grant Disbursement Agreement (GDA) for the \$26.1 million grant awarded to the CNY RPDB via an Incentive Proposal that was issued in January 2025. Mr. Bottar noted that the disbursement of the county interim financing of \$10 million to the CNY RPDB will be executed once the State's GDA agreement is fully executed by 10/31/25.

Mr. Bottar continued his remarks by noting the agency has successfully established CNYNET, Inc. as a new non-profit local development corporation, that will be the legal entity to own the broadband network being built in Cayuga and Cortland Counties. It was noted that a meeting of the CNYNET, Inc. initial board of directors took place earlier today and additional meetings are being scheduled in September.

5. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Pinckney noted there was no old or new business presented to the Board for discussion. It was noted that the next Executive Committee is scheduled for September 24th and the next Board meeting is scheduled for October 29, 2025.

6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was introduced and seconded to adjourn the meeting; the motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary A. Messinger, Secretary



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Paul W. Pinckney, Chairman

David V. Bottar, Executive Director

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

2025

February 5 th	Executive Committee
February 26th	Full Board (organizational meeting)
March 26 th	Executive Committee
April 30th	Full Board
May 28 th	Executive Committee
July 2nd	Full Board
August 6 th	Executive Committee
August 27th	Full Board
September 24 th	Executive Committee
October 29th	Full Board
December 3 rd	Executive Committee

*** All Board meetings will be held in person with a video conferencing format option available. Executive Committee meetings will also be held in-person with a conference call option available. All meeting times are tentatively scheduled for 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm.*

Background on the state's Comprehensive Climate Action Plan and CNY RPDB's involvement

The [Climate Smart Communities](#) (CSC) program began in 2009 as an interagency initiative of New York State, with DEC acting as the main administrator of the program.

CNY RPDB staff have been supporting municipalities in CNY in completing climate smart planning and implementation projects through our roles as CSC coordinator through the CSC Pilot Program (2012-2015) and statewide CSC Coordinator Programs (2022-2024 and 2025-2028), with support provided in the interim through NYSERDA's regional [Clean Energy Communities](#) program.

Over this timeframe, CNY RPDB staff have assisted with:

- roughly 30 greenhouse gas inventories and 25 climate action plans,
- 85 communities in becoming Designated Clean Energy Communities,
- 10 municipalities in achieving Bronze Certification in the CSC program,
- earning CNY municipalities \$3.63 million in Clean Energy Communities grant funds for various energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, and
- securing \$4.78 million in CSC grant funding for sidewalk and resiliency projects in CNY communities.

Because of our established relationships with municipalities in the region, through our current DEC CSC Coordinator contract, DEC has requested CNY RPDB and our subcontractors host meetings with municipal officials to present and solicit feedback on the state's Comprehensive Climate Action Plan, an effort which is funded through the [EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program](#).

In 2023, DEC was awarded a nearly \$3 million planning grant through EPA's CPRG Program. The planning grants require awardees to complete three deliverables: a Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP), a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP), and a Status Report.

The PCAP was submitted in March 2024 and outlined near-term, high-impact greenhouse gas emission reduction measures. The PCAP was intended to leverage \$4.6 billion for competitive implementation grants from EPA. While New York State was not awarded implementation funding, the state's PCAP enabled [Hudson Valley Regional Council's \\$3 million implementation grant award](#) to reduce fugitive methane emissions from closed landfills, promote the installation of solar arrays, battery storage systems, native pollinator gardens, and create long-term ecosystem stewardship plans for former landfills.

The CCAP is due in late 2025 and will further touch on all significant GHG emissions sources from all sectors, establish near and long-term GHG emission goals, and provide strategies to achieve those goals. These two planning activities are drawing heavily on the [Scoping Plan](#) from the Climate Action Council, which was developed to implement the 2019 [Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act](#).

Stakeholder Engagement Survey on State and Local Climate Plans

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Office of Climate Change (OCC) is seeking to learn from local governments, planners, and community organizations about aspects of their climate change planning efforts, including:

- Knowledge of New York State-developed climate plans, including the Climate Action Council Scoping Plan
- How these plans are assisting local communities with climate action
- Successes, challenges, and barriers in implementing local climate action

This survey is optional and will be used for informational purposes only. Responders may choose to remain anonymous, and any identifying information will not be published. DEC will use this information to guide future outreach and education efforts related to climate planning and plan implementation.

Climate action can be described as any effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or adapt to the impacts of a changing climate.

The **Climate Action Council Scoping Plan** serves as an economywide framework for how New York State will meet the directives of the Climate Act. The Scoping Plan includes nearly 600 recommendations from advisory panels and working groups and was informed by an extensive public comment and review process.

1. Your name (optional) _____
2. Your affiliation
 - a. Government entity
 - b. Community group or non-government organization
3. (If you responded a. to question 2.) Type of government entity
 - a. County
 - b. City
 - c. Village
 - d. Town
 - e. Borough
 - f. Special district
 - g. Other Community group or non-governmental organization
4. (If you responded b. to question 2.) Type of community group or non-governmental organization
 - a. Regional planning or development organization
 - b. Community organizer (e.g., grassroots organization, volunteer group)
 - c. Not-for-profit organization
 - d. Faith-based organization
 - e. Other (please describe)
5. (If you responded a. to question 2) Does your government entity, or any municipality within your government entity, participate in the Climate Smart Communities or Clean Energy Communities programs?
 - a. Yes, Climate Smart Communities
 - b. Yes, Clean Energy Communities
 - c. Both
 - d. Neither
 - e. Unsure

6. Select the region(s) where your municipality is located, or organization serves

- a. Western New York
- b. Finger Lakes
- c. Southern Tier
- d. Central New York
- e. Mohawk Valley
- f. North Country
- g. Capital Region
- h. Mid-Hudson
- i. New York City
- j. Long Island



7. Has your government entity or organization developed any of the following plans or resources specific to your region? *Please select all that apply.*

- a. Government operations greenhouse gas inventory
- b. Government operations Climate Action Plan
- c. Community greenhouse gas inventory
- d. Community Climate Action Plan
- e. Climate change vulnerability plan
- f. Climate change adaptation and/or resilience plan
- g. Sustainability Plan
- h. Hazard Mitigation Plan with climate elements
- i. Other climate change plan
- j. Unsure

8. Has your government entity or organization implemented any climate change mitigation or adaptation programs or projects that you'd like to highlight?

- a. Yes (*please describe*)

- b. No
- c. Unsure

9. Are you familiar with the New York State Climate Action Council Scoping Plan? *Please select all that apply.*

- a. Yes, I have read the plan
- b. Yes, I am aware of key recommendations that are relevant to my government's (or my organization's) climate action plans and goals
- c. Yes, I use or have used it as a reference document and/or are aware of the key recommendations
- d. Yes, I have heard of it
- e. Unsure, or it sounds familiar
- f. No, I am not familiar with it

10. Have you or has your government entity or organization used the Scoping Plan in any climate-related work?
- Yes (*please describe*)
 - No
 - Unsure
11. What aspects of the Scoping Plan are helpful in facilitating or implementing climate action in your community or organization? *Please select all that apply.*
- The compilation of relevant state laws, resources, guidance, and existing programs
 - Detailed analysis on public health impacts
 - Detailed analysis on emission reduction scenarios
 - Greenhouse gas mitigation and adaptation recommendations broken out by economic sector
 - Information on existing challenges or barriers
 - Other (*please describe*)
12. What barrier or barriers does your government entity or organization face in implementing Scoping Plan recommendations at the local level? *Please select all that apply.*
- Staff capacity
 - Funding constraints
 - The recommendations are not relevant to my community
 - The Scoping Plan lacks detail on how to implement the recommendations
 - Community members do not believe that climate change is happening
 - Local officials do not believe that climate change is happening
 - Community members do not believe that climate change will impact them
 - Local officials do not believe that climate change will impact them
 - Community members are worried about the potential impacts of implementing climate action recommendations
 - Local officials are worried about the potential impacts of implementing climate action recommendations
 - Other (*please describe*)
13. What elements would be helpful to include in state climate plans to guide implementation of climate actions in your community or organization? *Please select all that apply.*
- Case studies that highlight successful projects
 - Greenhouse gas inventory tools and information
 - Frameworks for local climate action
 - Policy guidance
 - Identification of potential funding sources
 - Best practices
 - Other (*please describe*)

14. What other climate change-related plans, reports, or tools are you familiar with? *Please select all that apply.*

- a. New York State Energy Plan
- b. New York State Extreme Heat Action Plan
- c. New York State Climate Impacts Report
- d. New York State Hazard Mitigation Plan
- e. New York State Disadvantaged Communities Barriers and Opportunities Report
- f. Disadvantaged communities criteria and/or map
- g. Community Risk and Resiliency Act implementation guidance and/or model laws
- h. Community Air Monitoring Initiative

15. Are there other state or non-state resources your government or organization uses for climate planning? This can include other guides, reports, toolkits, etc.

a. Yes (*please describe*)

b. No

c. Unsure

16. OCC is seeking to continue engagement with local communities on state and local climate plans. What are the best, or most effective, ways to engage with representatives of your government entity or organization for outreach and education efforts? *Please select all that apply.*

- a. Hosting in-person meetings or events
- b. Hosting virtual meetings or events
- c. Joining existing standing meetings or events
- d. Mailers (e.g., fliers, newsletters)
- e. Digital resources (e.g., email newsletters, website fact sheets, online surveys)
- f. Other (*please describe*)